

August 12 2005

## BP switches cargo after Turkish port rejects tanker with Cyprus links

By Nigel Lowry in Athens- Friday August 12 2005

**O**IL major BP last weekend had to switch a gasoline cargo from a German controlled chemical tanker in the Mediterranean after it was warned that Turkey would not accept the vessel due to Ankara's long-running attrition against Cypriot-linked ships.

Turkey has applied a port embargo against Cyprus-flag ships since 1987, but authorities have also been imposing a semi-official ban on vessels with other types of connection with the island, in some cases going so far as to warn off those that call in Cyprus.

### Rejected

In the latest incident, BP reportedly arranged for a ship-to-ship transfer of the cargo to a second vessel off Malta after its first tanker, the 40,000 dwt Hans Scholl, was rejected by the destination port of Dortyol.

The one-year-old chemical-product tanker is Liberian flagged and owned but controlled by prominent German tanker owner Chemikalien Seetransport GmbH. It is understood to be employed through Maersk's handy tanker pool.

The source of the Turkish objection appears to have been that the tanker was managed by Chemtrans Overseas (Cyprus) Ltd, a Limassol offshoot of CST established two years ago.

Confirming the incident, Chemtrans managing director Philippos Antoniadis said: "It seems that instead of easing the embargo they are tightening it."

He said that any response would be decided by the mother company in Hamburg.

Chemtrans was unable to confirm third party allegations that officials in Dortyol had threatened to arrest the Hans Scholl if it had proceeded to the port.

Turkey and the Republic of Cyprus have no diplomatic relations and have existed in a state of tension since Turkish troops occupied the northern part of the island in 1974.

### Ban

Evidence that Turkey is continuing its ban on Cypriot linked tonnage emerges just two months before Ankara is due to begin talks on Turkish membership of the European Union, which may last 10 years.

Turkey recently extended its customs union with the EU to the 10 new member states, including Cyprus, that became full members last year.

Only last week, France declared that Turkey could not hope to join the EU unless it recognises Cyprus, although EU president Britain and the European Commission have said that it is not a specific precondition for talks to start.

"There was some relaxation of the embargo some six months ago," a Cypriot maritime official said. "But now it appears they [the Turks] have gone back to their former policies."

### Poised

Hopes that Turkey was poised to end the port ban were also raised last year when former European Commission Vice-President Loyola de Palacio publicly said that Turkey had promised to act on the issue.

But shortly afterwards, a number of international shipping bodies registered their concern at treatment of a Cyprus-flagged bulk carrier that was controversially intercepted during a transit of the Bosphorus.

The bulker, Trinity Sierra, was stopped in connection with a commercial dispute with a Ukrainian company and was subsequently refused diesel oil and other supplies while it was held at anchorage near Istanbul.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>AGIOS EFSTATHIOS</i>	ro-ro	GRC	—	6,753	4,462	1975	Developed a list Aug 3, shortly after departing Keratsini. Tugs and Coast Guard vessels proceeded to assist. Proceeded to Drapetzona, where passengers, crew and trucks were disembarked. Still at quay, listing 13 deg.
<i>BEHICE</i>	general	MLT	BV	6,065	8,720	1989	Reported in lat 21 16.4N, long 113 13.4E, listing 30-deg or more & drifting SW at about 1.5 knots Jul 29. LOF agreed & assistance being sent. Tug proceeding, ETA Jul 30. Located aground in lat 21 40.393N, long 112 24.291E, Jul 31.
<i>DOGGER</i>	general	BHS	LR	1,092	1,585	1976	In collision with c.c. <i>Sierra Express</i> in lat 49 23N, long 04 29W, Aug 2. Substantial bow damage. To proceed to Falmouth under own power, with lifeboat escort. Berthed at Falmouth Aug 2.
<i>EUGENIA P.</i>	general	HND	—	721	1,010	1977	Reported listing in rough seas off Mormugao Jul 27 after a transformer on board shifted. Recovered by port trust, Navy and Coast Guard.
<i>FETISH</i>	bulker	CYM	NV	17,825	28,786	1984	Grounded at KM 153, River Parana, Jul 31. Not obstructing navigation. Salvage contract signed with local tug company. Still aground Aug 3. Tugs on scene assisting vessel.
<i>GOLIATH</i>	general	DNK	BV	386	564	1964	Anchored in Loch Shell, in lat 58 00.2N, long 06 31W, Jul 27 with engine trouble. Still anchored Jul 29. Cargo vessel <i>Vitin</i> arrived on scene Jul 30 and towed vessel to Stornoway. Sailed in tow same day bound Faroes, ETA Aug 1.
<i>IRKUTSK</i>	tanker	RUS	—	—	—	—	Struck the pier of the Troitsky Bridge, St. Petersburg, Jul 30, reportedly due steering problems. Bow badly damaged. Approximately 1 ton of fuel oil spilled into Neva River. Emergency teams sent to the scene.
<i>LUCIA BULKER</i>	bulker	PAN	NK	38,526	73,807	1999	Grounded off south-east tip of Borneo in May 2005. Salvors responded May and worked with chartered vessels to lighten cargo. Refloated and proceeded to repair facility in Vietnam. Subsequently arrived Singapore Jul 7.
<i>MORINGEN</i>	ro-ro	NOR	—	547	—	1962	Grounded off Fjortoft Island Jul 30. Damaged below waterline. Refloated same day and moored to quay. Some water ingress, but situation under control. Under repair at Aker Brattvaag Aug 2, ETC unknown.
<i>ORYONG NO.727</i>	fishing	KOR	—	436	492	1979	Grounded on Roncador Reef, in lat 06 13S, long 159 23E, Jul 20. Bunker oil, pollutants and valuable equipment removed by salvors. Vessel considered beyond salvage and left "as lies".
<i>OSTRIA I</i>	chem tanker	PAN	BV	961	4,215	1974	Broke down at exit to Canakkale Strait Aug 1. Tug dispatched and towed vessel to Doganaslan region. Repair efforts under way.
<i>SIERRA EXPRESS</i>	container	GRC	GL	27,970	27,802	1977	In collision with general cargo <i>Dogger</i> in lat 49 23N, long 04 29W, Aug 2. Sustained 5-metre crack in bow. Tug tasked to proceed. Proceeding to Falmouth with tug escort. Anchored in Falmouth Bay Aug 2.

# CONTENTS

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

<b>Marine, including Overdue &amp; Missing Vessels</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Piracy</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Port State Control</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Seizures &amp; Arrests</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Pipeline Accidents</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Pollution</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Weather &amp; Navigation</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Earthquakes</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Volcanic Activity</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Political &amp; Civil Unrest</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Labour Disputes</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Awards &amp; Settlements</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Railway Accidents</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Robberies &amp; thefts</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Fires &amp; Explosions</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Aviation</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Space Vehicles</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Product Recalls</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Port Conditions</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Port Conditions charts</b>	<b>36</b>

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



The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



## ABG KESHAVA

See "South-east Asia" under "Earthquakes."

## AGIOS EFSTATHIOS (Greece)

London, Aug 3 -- Lloyd's Casualty Representatives in Piraeus report: During the early hours Aug 3, ro/ro Agios Efstathios (6753 gt, built 1975) sustained a list shortly after departing from Keratsini for Chios-Mytilene-Limnos-Kavala. Five tugs and patrol boats of the Coast Guard proceeded to the area to assist. Following the incident the vessel returned to Drapetsona New Mole where the five passengers, their trucks and the 23 crew members were safely disembarked. Agios Efstathios remains at the quay with a list of 13 degrees.

## ALKISTIS (Greece)

Piraeus, Jun 22 -- As of Jun 1, ferry Alkistis was still laid up at Eleusis. -- Lloyd's Agents.

## ALLIANCE (Germany)

London, Jul 29 -- Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 0934, UTC: Research Alliance arrived Genoa at 0500, UTC, this morning.

Genoa, Aug 2 -- Research Alliance is currently in dry dock at Genoa undergoing repairs, ETC one month. -- Lloyd's Agents.

## AMBITIOUS F. (Cyprus)

London, Jul 30 -- Following received from Port Louis, Mauritius, Port Authority, dated Jul 29: C.c. Ambitious F. started discharging 380 containers and loading 40 containers at berth MCT 1 today with ETD Jul 30.

Port Louis, Aug 4 -- C.c. Ambitious F. is still under repair. The vessel will probably sail next week. -- Lloyd's Agents.

## AQUA JEWEL (Greece)

London, Aug 1 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: While passenger ro/ro Aqua Jewel (4300 gt, built 2002) was making departure manoeuvres at the port of Andros vessel was in contact with general cargo Super Georgia (1135 gt, built 1974) and additionally fouled the anchors resulting in their temporary loss during the evening of Jul 30. From the incident both vessels sustained minor damages and there were no injuries to the crew. At the time of the incident the winds in the area were north-north-east Beaufort 7 (near gale). Aqua Jewel was permitted to sail for Tinos with 622 passengers. During the early hours today, the vessel's classification society inspected the vessel at Lavrion, issued a class maintain certificate and certified correct operation of the anchors. Following the inspection vessel

departed for Rafina in order to perform the schedule of 0720 hrs with calls at Andros-Tinos-Mykonos-Paros.

## ARNGAST (Germany)

London, Aug 4 -- General cargo Arngast (833 gt, built 1958) in collision with bulk Atlantic (39017 gt, built 1996) in lat 54 43.2N, long 10 46.9 E at 1100, local time, today. Atlantic had a Danish pilot on board on voyage from outbound from the Baltic for China. Arngast was on a voyage to Kalundborg and was given permission to sail to Marstal for repair. Arngast is now detained by the Danish Maritime Authorities. Atlantic is also detained on Anchorage 2 south of the Great Belt Bridge while being inspected by Danish Maritime Authorities. (Note -- Arngast sailed Bremen Aug 3 for Kalundborg.)

## ATLANTIC (Marshall Islands)

See Arngast.

## AZURE (Panama)

Cape Town, Aug 3 -- Bulk Azure completed repairs and sailed Cape Town Aug 2 for Indonesia, to deliver its cargo. -- Lloyd's Agents.

## BALTIMORE LADY (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Baltimore fire officials say one person was injured during a fire this morning that caused moderate damage to passenger Baltimore Lady (96 gt, built 1985) docked in Baltimore Inner Harbour. The fire was reported just before 0500 hrs and was extinguished in about 30 minutes. Fire Department spokesman Kevin Cartwright says the fire broke out in the rear on the first level and spread to the forward area. He says the injured person may be employed by the vessel's owner, Harbour Cruises. Cartwright could not confirm an earlier report that an onboard generator was the source of the fire. He says fire investigators are on the scene. The vessel is 111-feet long, has two fully enclosed decks and can carry up to 450 guests.

## BANGA BONIK (Bangladesh)

See Marissa Green.

## BARATZ (South Africa)

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Mystery surrounds the collision of fishing Baratz (183 gt, built 1974) and an unidentified ship between Port Elizabeth and St Francis Bay early on Sunday (Jul 31). Baratz, a cray fishing vessel with more than 20 crew members, was badly damaged when it collided with the ship at 0200 Sunday. SA Maritime Safety Authority principal officer Brian Colenutt said yesterday speculation was that the fishing boat had collided either with a bulk carrier or a tanker. He said details of the incident were not clear and surveyors were still investigating the incident. "The report we've received so far is that the ship was travelling east, but it was too dark to see what type of ship it was." "We're

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

not sure if they knew whether they'd hit the vessel or not," said Colenutt. He said he did not know where the ship was now, but the investigating team would look into that. He said the bow of Baratz had been pushed in by about a metre in the collision. No one was injured. If both ships had abided by the basic shipping rules of keeping an "adequate lookout" and "taking all precautions to avoid a collision", the incident would not have occurred, said Colenutt. Apparently Baratz had seen the ship when it was about six nautical miles away but it was not clear why it did not take evasive action. An investigation into the cause of the collision is under way.

#### **BEHICE (Malta)**

London, Jul 29 -- Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0651, UTC: General cargo Behice (6065 gt, built 1989) reported at 0340, UTC, in lat 21 16.4N, long 113 13.4E, listing 30 degrees or more and drifting southwest at about 1.5 knots. All 17 crew rescued. (Note -- Behice sailed from Hong Kong at 0039, Jul 29 bound for Kandla.)

London, Jul 29 -- Following received from SvitzerWijmsmuller Salvage B.V., dated today: SvitzerWijmsmuller Salvage B.V. and Hong Kong Salvage & Towage have agreed LOF-SCOPIC to assist general cargo Behice. Tug and teams from Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and The Netherlands are being sent in to assist.

London, Jul 30 -- Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0140, UTC: Tug Hunter is proceeding to general cargo Behice and should be on scene at approximately 1000, local time, today.

London, Jul 31 -- Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0215, UTC: Tug Hunter reports it has located general cargo Behice aground off China.

London, Aug 1 -- Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0245, UTC: General cargo Behice is aground in lat 21 40.393N, long 112 24.291E.

London, Aug 3 -- Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 1429, UTC: General cargo Behice is still aground.

#### **BEI LUN HAI NO.5**

See Ocean Blossom

#### **BHN PRODUCTION PLATFORM**

London, Jul 28 -- Following notice to mariners issued at 0116, UTC, today: Support Samudra Suraksha struck an oil platform causing fire in lat 19 31.4N, long 71 18.3E, at 1700, UTC, Jul 27.

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from a fire at the BHN oil platform off the Mumbai coast has risen to 12 with 15 people still reported missing, the Press Trust of India reported yesterday.

London, Jul 29 -- Rescue operations continued yesterday at the scene of India's worst offshore oil incident where 12 oil workers are confirmed dead and six remain missing, writes

Martyn Wingrove. A fire on Wednesday (Jul 27) ripped through the Bombay High North production platform on the country's largest offshore oil field destroying the platform and a supply vessel, while Noble's drilling rig was damaged. Navy and contracted vessels working in the area have rescued 358 workers with some survivors treated for burn injuries. Many of the survivors are back on shore while the naval vessels continue the search for more bodies. The fire on the platform, operated by state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation 160 km off Mumbai, destroyed the topsides in less than two hours. "The accident took place when support vessel Samudra Suraksha, under Shipping Corporation of India operation, was engaged in a medical evacuation," said Mani Shankar Aiyar, minister of petroleum and natural gas. "The vessel lost control, drifted and collided with the platform, causing a major fire which also engulfed the support vessel." The adjacent drilling jack-up rig Charlie Yester, owned by Noble, was also involved and two of Noble workers are feared dead as well as 10 ONGC employees. ONGC thinks prompt action by its workers and continued training in health and safety saved many of its offshore workers during the accident, which coincided with a severe flood in Mumbai that hampered rescue attempts. "The casualty figure would have been much worse had proper training of the offshore people not been imparted as to how a person should fight such a situation," said an ONGC executive.

London, Jul 30 -- A press report, dated Jul 29, states: Failure of the computer systems that control the functioning of the rig complicated matters when a massive fire destroyed BHN Production Platform in Bombay High, Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar said today. Talking to reporters after a meeting on rural business hubs at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) here, he said what was highly unusual was that the back-up system that was in place also failed at the same time. A three-member panel headed by former Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) chief S.K. Manglik is probing Wednesday's (Jul 27) fire at ONGC's offshore oil platform, which killed 12 people. Aiyar praised rescuers for the way they worked against adverse conditions and managed to save over 350 lives. The minister said the affected ONGC employees would be compensated according to company policy. As for victims who were not ONGC employees, a compensation package would be worked out in a compassionate manner.

London, Jul 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) had given two more years of operational life to support Samudra Suraksha that struck the state-owned ONGC's offshore platform at Bombay High on Wednesday. In a Jul 30, letter, SCI had told ONGC that Samudra

Suraksha, was fit for operations till Nov 30, 2007. All Class and Statutory certificates pertaining to Samudra Suraksha are valid till Nov 30, 2007, the letter said. SCI had cleared Samudra Suraksha as fit for two more years on 15 counts of statutory and vessel class requirements. SCI officials said Samudra Suraksha has completed only 22 years whereas the age limit for these kinds of supply ships is taken as 25 years which can be extended by another five years, depending on the vessels condition. The officials said the ship's thrusters, which provide power to keep it stationary in choppy seas, were fully functional when the accident occurred. These had been overhauled during October-December 2003 at Dubai under supervision of Rolls Royce Service Engineers, the original equipment manufacturers. ONGC officials said the ship was being towed to Mumbai for investigation. At the time of the accident, its engines had enough surplus power and there was no engine or other systems failure.

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Support Samudra Suraksha which was in collision with BHN Production Platform at Mumbai High last week, has sunk, Shipping Corporation of India official said in Mumbai today. The vessel sank at around 0100 hrs, about 8.5 nautical miles from the Mumbai coast, official added saying that it sunk in "stormy conditions." At least 11 persons were killed and 11 went missing as a result of the collision.

London, Aug 3 -- A Noble Drilling press release, dated today, states: Noble Corporation previously reported on the status of its Noble Charlie Yester jackup rig, which was operating approximately 1,000 feet from the fire that began on and destroyed Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) BHN Production Platform in the Bombay High field. As reported by Noble on July 27 two of the Noble employees assigned to Noble Charlie Yester were then unaccounted for with search and rescue efforts ongoing and the extent of any damage to the rig was unknown. A total of 73 persons onboard Noble Charlie Yester evacuated the rig after the fire began on ONGC's platform. In the search and rescue efforts, one of the two unaccounted for Noble employees died and one was safely rescued. One additional crew member, who was an employee of Discovery Hydrocarbons (P) Limited, died in the incident. Noble Charlie Yester escaped any significant damage as a result of the incident, according to a report of MatthewsDaniel, an independent loss adjusting firm. The loss adjusting firm conducted an onboard survey of the rig on July 30 and has issued to Noble's insurance underwriters its report dated Aug 1 of initial observations. MatthewsDaniel's surveyor observed pockets of localized heat and fire damage and some areas of paint blackening/soot deposits. Based on the absence of paint blistering or cable damage, the surveyor reported that

the rig was not exposed to significant radiant heat from the fire on ONGC's platform. Continuing poor weather conditions in the area have delayed the deployment of personnel on board the rig to complete the company's assessment of damage and testing of systems and equipment. The company expects the rig will be able to return to work for ONGC following repair or replacement of life-saving and other safety equipment lost or damaged in the incident.

London, Aug 4 -- A press report, dated Aug 3, states: The Internet, broadband and voice call services remained affected in more than 700-800 companies, including business process outsourcing (BPO) units, following the severance of two major undersea cables by ONGC support Samudra Suraksha, which sank Monday. Sea-Me-We 3 and Flag, the two undersea cables operated by Tata and Reliance Infocomm respectively, were cut by the multi-purpose support vessel. Both undersea cables provide a crucial link between BPO companies in India and the US. More than 50 synchronous transport modules (STM) were destroyed by the vessel. STM is a data transport and switching system that can provide a speed of 50 million bits per second regardless of the number of users. VSNL sources said, "About 23 STMs in the Sea-Me-We 3 have been destroyed near Mumbai. About 27 STMs of Flag were also hit. We have diverted the traffic to the back-up systems, but the pressure will be felt since we have to route the calls through Singapore and Europe." The traffic has been routed through Cape of Good Hope using the SAFE, another undersea cable system connecting the US through South Africa and the Far East, sources said. BPO companies like HCL, HP, Infosys, GE and Efund in Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore have denied any adverse impact of the cable cut on their networks. However, executives working in these firms have complained of latency and echo in calls. If a call is delayed by 400 milliseconds, persons on either side experience a delay in the words spoken. This is described as latency. "Yesterday the latency went down to 150-200 milliseconds at many BPOs. We too experienced it for a few hours," said a technical executive at HCL. The VSNL spokesperson, while acknowledging that the ship has cut the undersea cable, said the impact was minimal and full capacity will be restored soon. A Reliance Infocomm spokesperson has also acknowledged that Flag has been hit. "It is too early to state the extent of the damage, but we can confirm there is a cut some 31 km off Mumbai, which we will repair as quickly as possible." The cable cut has affected Flag customer traffic heading East between Mumbai and Satun/Penang. "Our main priority is now to support our customers," said the company spokesperson. "Pre-booked restoration for all Flag customers has been implemented. The

company is also working with the VSNL Mumbai landing station party colleagues to provide ad-hoc restoration to customers without pre-planned restoration," he added. The company also said Flag's marine contractor for this cable segment has been mobilised and it would not be possible to assess the exact cause of the damage until the cable repair is undertaken.

#### **BLUE DREAM (Bahamas)**

London, Jul 29 -- Lloyd's Casualty Representatives in Piraeus report: During the afternoon of Jul 27, while passenger Blue Dream (30277 gt, built 2000) was making berthing manoeuvres at the port of Rhodes, the vessel collided with the quay. As a result of the contact the vessel sustained damages to the port side. There were no injuries to the 790 passengers or the crew, neither were there fractures to the hull or ingress of water. Departure was prohibited pending survey of the damage by Class.

London, Aug 3 -- Passenger Blue Dream arrived at Venice on Aug 1 from Dubrovnik.

London, Aug 4 -- Passenger Blue Dream sailed Venice Aug 2 for Dubrovnik.

#### **BOKA STAR (Tonga)**

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

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

Anchorage, Jul 28 -- The Harbour Master's office in Kodiak advised that fishing Buccaneer left Kodiak on Jul 10. However, they were unsure of the ship's destination. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CARIBBEAN PRINCESS (Bermuda)**

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated Jul 30, states: Passengers report that Princess Cruises' passenger Caribbean Princess (112894 gt, built 2004) was experiencing a propulsion problem in the Caribbean after calling at St. Maarten. The vessel was sailing at a reduced speed until repairs are completed. Its engineers were working to correct the problem, but its arrival in Fort Lauderdale was expected on time.

London, Aug 4 -- Passenger Caribbean Princess arrived and sailed Ocho Rios Aug 2.

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

London, Jul 31 -- A Coast Guard Honolulu press release, dated Jul 29, states: The Unified Command continues to monitor pollution control vessel Casitas. The extraction team is now in place at Pearl and Hermes and is preparing to implement the Unified Command's extraction plan. Approximately 35 team members are working onboard the tugs American Contender, American Quest, and American Emerald; a 240-foot barge; and vessel Condor. Preparation to extract the vessel is expected to take several days. One of the first tasks will be to transfer the 33 drums of

gasoline from onboard Casitas to the barge. Weather permitting, the effort to remove the vessel from the reef should occur next week.

Honolulu, Aug 2 -- It is reported that all assets are on scene and pollution control vessel Casitas is being prepared for removal. The extraction is projected to be tomorrow or Thursday, weather permitting. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CEMSTAR (Sweden)**

London, Jul 30 -- Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: At 1900, local time, Jul 26, Cemstar (3998 gt, built 1977) grounded in Hornesvika near Forde. Vessel refloated by own means at 0430, Jul 27. No damage and no injuries to the crew.

London, Aug 2 -- Information received from Sandnes states: Cement Cemstar is back in normal service and passed Stavanger on Jul 31, southbound.

#### **CMA CGM ST.MARTIN (Marshall Islands)**

London, Aug 4 -- C.c. CMA CGM St.Martin sailed Las Palmas Jul 9, subsequently arriving and sailing Port of Spain Jul 18.

#### **DOGGER (Bahamas)**

See Sierra Express.

#### **DREPANO (GREECE)**

Piraeus, Jun 22 -- As of Jun 1, general cargo Drepano was still laid up at Eleusis. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **EISHO MARU 1 (Panama)**

Busan, Aug 1 -- Wreck removal of general cargo Eisho Maru 1 is being carried out at the collision site. After discharging cargo at Donghae, product tanker Joyang Sunshine drydocked at Sunjin Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., Busan, Korea on Jul 29. Permanent repairs are expected to be completed on/about Aug 10. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **ELTSEN**

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

Taranto, Aug 3 -- General cargo Eltsen sailed Taranto Jul 22 for Piraeus, with Class limited to one transfer voyage for repairs at Piraeus. Repairs are expected to take five to six days. Bulk Yong Tong is still in Taranto roads, waiting to berth and commence discharge, which is expected around Aug 5. The vessel sustained denting which is not reported to be serious and will be repaired during the vessel's next dry-docking, in September or October. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **EUGENIA P. (Honduras)**

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Customs authorities have detected about 300 tonnes of armaments besides huge quantity of explosives and a variety of military hardware in Jakarta-bound general cargo Eugenia P. (721 gt, built 1977) that was saved from sinking off Mormugao port two days ago. The vessel, from Yugoslavia, was rescued

in a joint operation by the Port Trust, Navy and Coast Guard after receiving an SOS from the ship which had reportedly developed a technical snag when a transformer tilted in the rough seas. Customs inspection of the ship revealed that the consignments were bound for Indonesia and Bangladesh while the carriers were holding all supportive valid documents. Deputy inspector general of police Ujjwal Mishra said that the state police has been informed about the presence of a foreign vessel with arms and ammunition and was likely to sail off to Jakarta anytime now. The ship had left Mumbai port with some transformers consignment from L&T in Mumbai and sailed through the rough sea when it developed the snag off Mormugao port, authorities said. (Note -- Eugenia P. sailed Bar Jun 20 and was last reported to have arrived Mumbai Jul 20.)

#### **FETISH (Cayman Islands)**

Buenos Aires, Aug 1 -- Bulk Fetish (17825 gt, built 1984) ran aground at km 153, Parana de Las Palmas, at 0400, Jul 31. Vessel is not obstructing navigation. Understand a salvage contract has been signed with a local tug company. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Buenos Aires, Aug 3 -- Bulk Fetish is still aground. Tugs Alianza Rosario and Buni are currently assisting the vessel. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **FISHERMANS DREAM (U.S.A.)**

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated Aug 1, states: Fishing Fishermans Dream (132 gt, built 1973) en route to New Bedford ran aground outside the channel leading to Westport harbour at 0430 yesterday. "It's unknown why it tried to come into the mouth of the harbour where it came to rest on a rock known as 'The Nubble,'" reported Sgt. Jeff Majewski, police spokesman. "It was quite foggy." Although the ship was carrying 4,000 gallons of diesel fuel, Majewski said the vessel's hull was not compromised and none of the hazardous fluid leaked. Majewski said a diver from Lynch Marine Services of South Dartmouth checked the hull for any leaks for insurance purposes, and found it not to be compromised. That was confirmed by the Coast Guard, which had its marine safety officer monitoring the situation until the fishing boat eventually was freed from the huge rock late yesterday afternoon. About mid-afternoon, Majewski reported from the scene that a tug out of Fairhaven was about to free the fishing vessel. Viewing the situation from shore about 1545 hrs, he said, "I'm now looking at 65-foot tug Jaguar. The scallop boat seems to be more stable than it was earlier. It was listing a lot to the right earlier. I believe it's more stable because the tide is coming in. The tug is getting ready to hook up to the fishing vessel to free it off the rock." Majewski also said that Fishermans Dream was loaded with about 18,000 pounds of scallops. The Coast Guard reported about 1700 hrs. that the vessel was

free and en route to New Bedford, its original destination. A Coast Guard cutter accompanied the fishing boat and personnel planned to board the vessel once it was dockside to determine how it got so far off course.

#### **FLYING DOLPHIN XV (Greece)**

London, Aug 2 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Hydrofoil Flying Dolphin XV (142 gt, built 1981) sustained damage to the main port engine while making departure manoeuvres at the port of Aegina, evening Aug 1. The vessel had 25 passengers bound for Piraeus who will be forwarded to their destination on another vessel of the same shipping line.

#### **FLYING DOLPHIN XVIII (Greece)**

London, Jul 29 -- Lloyd's Casualty Representatives in Piraeus report: Hydrofoil Flying Dolphin XVIII was permitted to sail Jul 26 by Perama Port Authority, following a Marine Inspectorate survey of the repairs.

#### **FREITIND (Norway)**

Trondheim, Aug 4 -- Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra, inform no decision made regarding general cargo Freight final disposition. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **FROHAVET**

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

Trondheim, Aug 3 -- Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra, inform that they estimate completion of repairs to general cargo Frohavet tonight. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Trondheim, Aug 4 -- Livestock Frohavet: ETD Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra, today. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **FU HENG STAR (Panama)**

Port Moresby, Aug 4 -- Round logs were discharged from general cargo Fu Heng Star on July 26 to a barge in order to lighten the vessel. At 1500 same day the vessel was floated free and proceed to Kimbe. Vessel arrived Kimbe 1300, July 27 and departed for China. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GOLDEN CLOUD (Hong Kong)**

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

#### **GOLIATH (Denmark)**

London, Jul 29 -- Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 2046, UTC: General cargo Goliath (386 gt, built 1964) ex Von, four crew members, cargo 140 tonnes fish feed, at anchor in lat 58 00.2N, long 06 31W with engine trouble. Vessel has been anchored at Loch Shell since midnight Jul 27. Cargo vessel Vitin proceeding to Loch Shell, ETA 0800, Jul 30 to commence tow to the Faroes. There may be a possibility of a cargo transfer prior to tow.

London, Jul 30 -- Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1403, UTC: General cargo Vitin arrived at Loch Shell, at 0729, today and proceeded to tow Goliath to Stornoway for cargo operations. The vessels arrived at 1400, UTC.

London, Jul 30 -- Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 2114, UTC: General cargo Goliath, under tow by general cargo Vitin, now departing The Minch on passage to the Faroes, ETA 0530, UTC, Aug 1. Stornoway MRSC and Thorshavn MRCC keeping listening watch.

#### **GUAN GUANG**

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Passenger Guan Guang carrying 138 passengers and crew members caught fire and sank off the coast of Pingdong County yesterday, killing four people and leaving another in critical condition. The fire broke out at 1250 hrs, about 10 minutes after the privately run ferry, set off from the fishing port of Donggang, Pingdong County to the offshore islet Xiaoliuqi. The ferry was carrying 110 adults and 22 children along with six crew members, the Pingdong County fire department said later yesterday. The fire department said preliminary investigations indicate the fire started in the engine-room on the top deck of the ferry. Ten coast guard patrol boats and fishing boats operating in the area rescued the 134 survivors. The ferry sank three hours after the fire took hold. Four people, including the vessel's owner, drowned before rescuers reached them. The three dead were tourists from Yunlin County, according to police. Pingdong County fire department confirmed 35 passengers were injured after jumping into the sea. Although the ferry was fully equipped with the sufficient number of lifejackets, most passengers did not wear the safety gear when they leaped into the sea. Police said they are still investigating the cause of the fire, which was the first case ever on the route plied by seven ferries daily. According to the Ministry of Transportation & Communications, the ferry was capable of carrying 180 persons, and therefore, the accident was unlikely to be linked to overloading. The MOTC added that the ill-fated ferry had just passed a safety inspection on May 18 this year.

#### **HILL (Liberia)**

Taipei, Jul 29 -- General cargo Hill is still moored at B05 buoy in Keelung awaiting a replacement camshaft for the main engine. After liaising with the local agency in Taiwan, the vessel will be tested and depart around Aug 1, destination Dubai. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Taipei, Aug 3 -- General cargo Hill is currently undergoing sea trials and is due to sail Keelung tonight for Dubai. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **INDEPENDIENTE (Panama)**

Freeport, Bahamas, Jul 29 -- Bulk Independiente is still lying at Freeport harbour awaiting, apparently, a decision by the owners. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **IRKUTSK (Russia)**

London, Jul 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Russian oil tanker

Irkutsk today slammed into a St. Petersburg bridge, leaking diesel oil into the Neva River, officials said. The tanker, loaded with diesel oil, hit the pier of the Troitsky bridge less than a half a mile away from the Hermitage Museum. Fuel spilt from the upper hatches as a result of the collision, and part of the fuel spread over the upper deck and part spilt into the water. The tanker belonging to the Alfamarin company carried fuel oil from Yaroslavl to St. Petersburg. The local branch of Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry said that the vessel badly damaged its bow, and leaked "not a very big amount" of diesel into the river. Emergency teams were sent to the area to mop up the spill, it said, adding that there was no danger to the environment.

London, Jul 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tanker Irkutsk, loaded with over 3,300 U.S. tons of diesel, struck a St. Petersburg bridge today, leaking diesel oil into the Neva River, officials said. The tanker hit the pier of the Troitsky bridge less than a half a mile away from the Hermitage Museum. The local branch of Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry said that the ship badly damaged its bow, and leaked "not a very big amount" of diesel into the river, but gave no further details. Emergency teams were sent to the area to mop up the spill, it said, adding that there was no danger to the environment. The accident occurred on the eve of Russia's Navy Day, celebrated by a navy show on the Neva River. Officials said it would not affect the festivities.

St. Petersburg, Aug 2 -- Oil tanker Irkutsk, built 1956, en route from Yaroslavl, cargo 3071 tons of fuel oil, struck Troitsky bridge on the River Neva, at 0400, local time, Jul 30. As a result the spillage of approximately one ton of fuel oil into the water was noted. According to officials the cause of above mentioned casualty is steering problems. Two oil-sweepers worked at the place of accident. Consequently the vessel's "rostrum" was damaged. The Troitsky bridge did not sustain significant damage. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ISARGAS (Liberia)**

London, Jul 29 -- Lpg Isargas, now renamed Gaschem Isar arrived at Tees on Jul 21. Vessel departed on Jul 22 for Wilhelmshaven, where it arrived on Jul 23.

#### **JAVA SEA (Singapore)**

London, Aug 1 -- General cargo Java Sea arrived Singapore 0925, Jul 29 for repairs.

#### **JO SPIRIT (NIS)**

Montreal, Jul 28 -- Chemical/oil carrier Jo Spirit: Temporary repairs at Montreal will be complete today and the pilot is fixed for 1900 today. Next port is Hamburg. Bulk Orla is undergoing permanent repairs at Montreal and will complete early next week. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Montreal, Aug 2 -- Chemical/oil carrier Jo Spirit sailed Montreal Jul

29 for Hamburg. Bulk Orla is expected to complete repairs and sail Aug 3 for Italy. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **JOYANG SUNSHINE (South Korea)**

See Eisho Maru 1.

#### **KIPEROUSA (Malta)**

London, Aug 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: Barge GC 55 which salvors SvitzerWijmsmuller intend using to salvage 7000 hardwood logs off the stranded bulk Kiperousa, just off the coast near Wesley, is already en route to the site from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Company spokesman and salvage master Captain Nic Sloane yesterday said the second barge would leave Durban within the next few days after a cargo of oil had been discharged. The barge GC 55 has a dwt of 5,500 tonnes, enabling SvitzerWijmsmuller to load up to 2,000 - 3,000 tonnes of logs depending on the condition of the logs and prevailing weather. This barge will only arrive on location at the end of the month. The smaller barge Jumbo has a dwt of 1,400 tonnes - arriving from Durban next week - and we may be able to load 500 - 600 tonnes of logs per trip. The tugs bringing the barges to the Sunshine Coast will also be used to tow them in a "shuttle-service" between the stranded Kiperousa and East London where the logs will be landed. Sloane said he was hoping to have a 16-man salvage crew on site by last night. Most were expected to arrive at the company's "site base" at the Fish River hotel aboard a twin-engined Bell 212 helicopter from Cape Town. The salvage master expected the operation, "depending on the weather", to take between 50 and 60 working days. A South African Maritime Safety Association (Samsa) spokesman, Captain Peter Kroon, had by the end of business yesterday not yet met the new salvors. Any salvage plan they come up with will first have to be approved by Samsa, which is holding in trust a \$25 million guarantee from French underwriters AXA for the removal of cargo, wreck removal and clearing of any pollution.

#### **LAKE TEGA (Panama)**

Kolkata, Jul 30 -- Yesterday morning we attended onboard bulk Lake Tega at Haldia Port and met the vessel's master Captain Olegario E. Cardeno, who advised that his vessel did not experience any mechanical problem. According to him the cause of shipping traffic at the port being affected was as a result of a fault on the Lock Gate of Haldia Dock Complex and not to any vessel fault. This was duly verified by the office of the Marine Department of the Haldia Dock Complex. Further Lake Tega is now waiting at "off" Berth No. 3 to load iron ore and was expected to berth yesterday afternoon. It may take 3/4 days to complete the loading operation. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 4 -- Bulk Lake Tega sailed Haldia Aug 1.

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

London, Aug 4 -- Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1005, UTC, today: General cargo Lian (1547 gt, built 1975) ran aground in approximately lat 58 03.4N, long 19 21.5E at about 1220, UTC, yesterday. Vessel refloated about one hour later and is now at Storugns.

#### **LINDSAY (South Africa)**

See Ouro do Brasil.

#### **LOK RAJESHWARI (India)**

Tunis, Jul 29 -- While bulk Lok Rajeshwari (16816 gt, built 1988) was manoeuvring to berth at La Goulette, at midnight, Jul 28, vessel was struck by vehicle Pacific Runner (38754 gt, built 1977) also manoeuvring in the port. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 2 -- Vehicle Pacific Runner was reported arriving Algiers Jul 30 and sailing Aug 1, bound for Bristol, where ETA Aug 5.

Tunis, Aug 4 -- Bulk Lok Rajeshwari is still at La Goulette under arrest by grain Governmental Receivers (Office de Cereales). Vessel has sustained some damage to a lifeboat with all accessories following contact with vehicle Pacific Runner. Vessel will proceed with repairs prior sailing from La Goulette. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **LUCIA BULKER (Panama)**

London, Aug 2 -- Understood bulk Lucia Bulker (38526 gt, built 1999), laden with 80,000 tons of coal, grounded off the southeast tip of Borneo in May. On May 11 Titan Maritime responded with a salvage team from Titan's Batam, Indonesia, salvage depot and worked with chartered vessels to lighter the 80,000 tons of coal cargo. Upon completion of the lightering operation, Lucia Bulker proceeded under its own power to a repair facility in Vietnam. (Note -- Lucia Bulker had sailed Guangzhou May 3, for Indonesia, and next reported to have arrived Singapore 0528, Jul 7, for bunkers, sailing same day.)

#### **MAGALLANES III (Chile)**

See "Mutiny on Chilean Flagged Vessel in the South Pacific" under "Miscellaneous."

#### **MAHARDI (Indonesia)**

London, Jul 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Mahardi (3287 gt, built 1970) was blown by strong winds into one of the small islets off Sentosa Island's Siloso Beach at noon today. It is believed the ship was stationary and anchored when a storm blew it towards the islet. Singapore's Maritime and Port Authority says the ship was empty at the time. It had travelled from Port Klang and was heading to the Singapore Port when the incident occurred. No injuries were reported and damage to the vessel appears to have been small. A tug arrived some three hours later to pull the vessel free. Singapore's Maritime and Port Authority is investigating.

London, Jul 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Strong winds blew general cargo Mahardi onto a small sandy islet off Sentosa's Siloso Beach at noon today. The vessel had been moored at the Western Anchorage, just next to Sentosa. Some 20 crew members were on board, a Maritime and Port Authority spokesman said, but no one was hurt. At 1445 hrs, two PSA tugs towed Mahardi back to the Western Anchorage for checks.

#### **MAINEBORG (Netherlands)**

London, Jul 30 -- General cargo Maineborg sailed Bremerhaven 0235, Jul 29, bound Kotka.

#### **MARISSA GREEN (Netherlands)**

Karachi, Jul 31 -- Understand from Bangladesh Port Authority and HRC Shipping Ltd, the owners of c.c. Banga Bonik, that general cargo Marissa Green sailed from Chittagong port on Jul 28-29 following submission of bank guarantee. Marissa Green was detained at Chittagong Port for damaging c.c. Banga Bonik. It is said that, as per direction by the Honourable Court, local agents of Marissa Green submitted the bank guarantee for Taka 3.5 million (\$0.053 million) in court and accordingly the court directed the release of the vessel. However, in order to ascertain the actual amount, court has noting to submit the findings of the Underwater Survey/Dry Dock of Banga Bonik as the owners have a claim amount of Taka 120 million (USD \$1.85 million). -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Chittagong, Aug 1 -- According to the local agents of general cargo Marissa Green, the vessel did not sustain any damages in the collision with c.c. Banga Bonik at Jetty No.10, Chittagong on Jul 19, and it sailed for Singapore on Jul 28. However, Banga Bonik is reported to have sustained some minor damages. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Singapore, Aug 3 -- General cargo Marissa Green arrived Singapore at 1235, Aug 1 and sailed at 0800, Aug 2. -- Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Aug 3 -- Catamaran tug Mobile arrived at Port Everglades on Jul 28.

London, Aug 4 -- Catamaran tug Mobile sailed Port Everglades Jul 30.

#### **MOL DISCOVERY (Panama)**

London, Aug 3 -- Following received from Coastguard Seattle, timed 2015, UTC: C.c. MOL Discovery (42812 gt, built 1991) is currently anchored in Puget Sound with propulsion problems. A tug has been tasked to standby vessel while crew effects repairs.

#### **MOLODOZHNYIY (Russia)**

Vladivostok, Jul 29 -- Ref Molodyozhnyy arrived at Vladivostok on Jul 28, from "the Bering Sea". -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MORINGEN (Norway)**

London, Jul 30 -- Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: At 1130, local time, today, ro/ro

Moringen (547 gt, built 1962) grounded hard on rocks outside Fjortoft Island. No injuries to the 32 passengers and no damage to the 16 cars. Vessel damaged beneath waterline. Vessel refloated at 2000, local time, today and moored to quay. Vessel is taking some water but the situation is under control. Ro/ro Smola replaced Moringen.

London, Aug 2 -- Information received from Sandnes states: Ro/ro Moringen is now at Aker Brattvaag undergoing repairs. ETC unknown. (See issue of Aug 2.)

#### **MR-I (Indonesia)**

See NCC Madinah.

#### **MYCONOS (Greece)**

London, Aug 4 -- Lloyd's Casualty Representatives in Piraeus report: Ro/ro Mykonos (7171 gt, built 1971) while making departure manoeuvres from Ikonion, the starboard anchor was lost following entanglement with the anchors of ro/ro Nicolas A. (8155 gt, built 1978), evening of Aug 2. Following the incident, vessel returned to Ikonion and after inspection by the Marine Inspectorate was permitted to depart for Syros-Tinos-Mykonos.

#### **NCC MADINAH (NIS)**

London, Jul 29 -- An Odfjell press release, dated today, states: Chem.tank NCC Madinah operated by Norwegian ship managers Odfjell ASA, was involved in a collision with wine tank Mr-I, at the port of Gresik, Surabaya, Jul 6. Odfjell are conducting a full and urgent investigation into the circumstances of the accident, which took place in the busy entrance channel to the port. Yesterday, the Court of Maritime Affairs at Surabaya issued their initial opinion on the collision, based on the local authorities' preliminary examination of the incident. The Court found that the accident was caused by faults in the navigation of both vessels. It is too early to determine fully the causes of the collision. However, Odfjell are considering the Court's findings very carefully, as part of the company's overall investigation into the accident. (See issue of Jul 15.)

Jakarta, Aug 3 -- Chem.tank NCC Madinah and wine tank Mr-I are still berthed at Tanjung Perak. Repairs have been carried out to NCC Madinah, but not to Mr-I. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NEVSKIY 22 (Russia)**

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Nevskiy 22 (2198 gt, built 1983) struck a River Neva bridge in St. Petersburg early today. The contact with the Tuchkov Bridge in the city centre damaged the vessel's superstructure.

St.Petersburg, Aug 2 -- General cargo Nevskiy 22 struck left wing of Tuchkov bridge on the River Neva at 0640, local time yesterday. In accordance with preliminary information the cause of accident is steering breakdown. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NICKOLAOS (Panama)**

Montreal, Jul 28 -- General cargo Nickolaos sailed (Sorel) am Jul 28 for Mobile. Vessel was delayed due legal problems. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NICOLAS A. (Greece)**

See Mykonos.

#### **NIL DERYA (Turkey)**

Messina, Jul 29 -- General cargo Nil Derya is still under arrest at Crotone. Understand the Court will eventually give permission for the vessel to be broken up, but this is not expected to happen for some time. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NOBLE CHARLIE YESTER (Liberia)**

See BHN Production Platform.

#### **NONA MARY (Greece)**

London, Jul 30 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1020, UTC: Passenger ro/ro Nona Mary (2206 gt, built 1972) diverted to Piraeus, arriving this morning, to effect repairs, following a mechanical failure in the engine-room. Repairs are expected to take approximately one day.

#### **NORASIA TAURUS (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Aug 1 -- On Jul 16 a fire occurred in the stow of the deck cargo in way of No.3 hold on board c.c. Norasia Taurus while in the course of a laden voyage from Shanghai, Ningbo, Keelung, Chiwan, Port Klang and Jeddah to Europe. The incident happened off Damietta. The vessel was reportedly carrying approximately 1,600 laden containers. A Lloyd's Form 2000 contract was agreed with Smit Salvage BV. The fire apparently started in two containers IMO class 5.2 organic peroxide in solid and liquid format UN code nos. 3100 and 3105. Smit chartered the fire-fighting tug Boa King which came up with the casualty on Jul 17 and commenced fire-fighting. The fire was extinguished on or about Jul 25.

Limassol, Aug 3 -- C.c. Norasia Taurus arrived Larnaca Aug 1 from Damietta. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NORDIC AMANDA (Netherlands)**

Hull, Jul 28 -- General cargo Nordic Amanda arrived at Hull on Jul 27 from Kristinehamn. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NORWAY (Bahamas)**

London, Aug 2 -- Reported passenger Norway sailed from Cape Town, under tow of tug De Da on Jul 2.

#### **OCEAN BLOSSOM (Panama)**

Dalian, Jul 27 -- Acid tanker Ocean Blossom was in collision with vessel Bei Lun Hai No.5. At present no dockyard is available at Dalian for repairing the vessels, so the concerned are arranging for repair at some appropriate place. The owners of both vessels are now negotiating about exchange of security. -- Lloyd's Agents.



**OCEAN TOR (Canada)**

London, Jul 28 -- On Jul 26, fishing Ocean Tor capsized 30 miles west of Cape Flattery, in lat 48 20.20N long 125 31.36W.

Victoria, BC, Aug 3 -- Fishing Ocean Tor has sunk. There are no salvage plans. It is not recoverable. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**ORIENT PROSPERITY (India)**

Kandla, Jul 30 -- Repairs to c.c. Orient Prosperity were reportedly completed on Jul 28, at Kandla port outer anchorage, and the vessel sailed on Jul 29, for drydocking at Goa. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**ORLA (Malta)**

See Jo Spirit.

**ORYONG NO.727 (South Korea)**

London, Aug 3 -- Understand there is no chance of salvaging fishing Oryong No.727 (436 gt, built 1979). On Jul 20 longliner Oryong No.727 ran on the Roncador Reef (lat 06 13S, long 159 23E), north-east of the Solomon islands. On behalf of the owners Switzer Wijsmuller Salvage BV removed 100 tons bunker oil, a ton of other pollutants as well as valuable equipment. The ship lay, carried by the surf, high on the rock, beyond any salvage possibility on the reef between other wrecks. On Jul 30 tug Celeste, which had been chartered by a partner shipping company in Papua New Guinea, left the stranding place with the 25 crew of Oryong No.727 on board and was expected at Rabaul on Aug 1.

**OSTRIA I (Panama)**

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Chem.tank Ostria I (2272 gt, built 1974), Greece for Romania, in ballast, broke down at the exit of Canakkale Strait yesterday. Officials said that when the ship broke down, its master cast anchor and asked for help. A tug was sent to the scene and it pulled the ship to the Dogaşlan region. Efforts are underway to sort out the failure in the ship, officials added. (Note -- Ostia I sailed Piraeus Jul 30 for Constantza, and passed Dardanelles 2303, Jul 31.)

**OURO DO BRASIL (Liberia)**

London, Aug 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: Transport Minister Jeff Radebe has approved the convening of a court of marine inquiry on the collision of trawler Lindsay and fruit juice tanker Ouro do Brasil, which claimed the lives of 14 Lindsay crew members in early May. Ministerial spokesman Collen Msibi said this followed the preliminary inquiry findings that the conduct of both Lindsay and Ouro do Brasil "was apparently not consistent with international regulations for prevention of collisions at sea, as well as the merchant shipping safe manning regulations. The preliminary report is the outcome of the investigation that was led by the Institute for Maritime Technology and the SA Maritime Authority whereby remote-operated vehicles were sent to

photograph the wreck of the Lindsay," said Msibi. Only the skipper and one other crew member of Lindsay survived. The victims' families have been waiting for almost three months to learn what is going to be done about their appeals to the authorities to make some attempt at retrieving the remains of their loved ones. (See issues of May 20 and 23.)

**PACIFIC RUNNER (Marshall Islands)**

See Lok Rajeshwari.

**PRINCESS OF THE WORLD (Philippines)**

Manila, Jul 29 -- The Philippine Coast Guard has turned down a request by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) to convene a Board of Marine Inquiry to determine the cause and pinpoint responsibility in the fire which destroyed passenger ro/ro Princess of the World. "The Coast Guard is no longer responsible for investigating maritime accidents. This is now the MARINA'S function" Coast Guard spokesman Lt.Armand Balilo said. The refusal of the Coast Guard reveals the deep divisions and rivalries between the various state agencies regulating the Philippine maritime industry. Last year, the MARINA lobbied to have all safety functions transferred from the Coast Guard to its office. Despite opposition from the Coast Guard, Congress passed a new law called the "Domestic Shipping Development Act of 2004". The new law practically stripped the Coast Guard of most of its functions. With not enough manpower and expertise, however, the MARINA as been unable to effectively carry out its new mandate and has been forced to turn to the Coast Guard for help. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**PROVIDENCE II (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

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

**RESERVE (U.S.A.)**

London, Jul 29 -- Bulk Reserve arrived Silver Bay Jul 18, for repairs. Vessel then arrived Duluth Jul 21, sailing later the same day.

**RICKMERS GENOA (Marshall Islands)**

London, Jul 29 -- Following received from the operators of general cargo Rickmers Genoa, dated today: Rickmers Genoa is still under repair at Shanghai, ETC unknown.

**RODANTHI (Greece)**

London, Jul 29 -- Lloyd's Casualty Representatives in Piraeus report: During Jul 28, while passenger ro/ro Rodanthi (6710 gt, built 1974) was sailing from Rhodes to Kos, damage was sustained to the starboard main engine. Following the incident the vessel arrived safely at Kos and was later permitted to sail to Piraeus, without passengers, for repairs. At the time of the incident the vessel was performing the schedule Kos-

Kalymnos-Leros-Patmos-Piraeus. The passengers were forwarded to their destinations on passenger ro/ro Blue Star 2. (See also Romilda.)

**ROMILDA (Greece)**

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated Jul 30, states: Some 2,500 holidaymakers were stuck in the port of Piraeus yesterday when two ferries, passenger ro/ros Romilda (4985 gt, built 1974) and Rodanthi were forced to remain docked due to mechanical failures. The two vessels usually serve a range of popular islands, such as Paros and Santorini, as well as ones off the beaten track, such as Anafi and Leros, but had encountered problems on their way to Piraeus on Thursday night (Jul 28), operator GA Ferries said. On one of the busiest days of the year for travellers, all the company's other ships leaving Piraeus were fully booked.

**ROYAL IRIS (Panama)**

London, Jul 29 -- Passenger Royal Iris arrived Haifa Jul 24, and sailed later that day.

**ROYAL QUARRY (U.S.A.)**

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fishing Royal Quarry (96 gt, built 1969) ran aground Saturday (Jul 23) because its helmsmen fell asleep, said Bob Coster, civilian search and rescue controller at U.S. Coast Guard Group Astoria, today. The 67-foot Royal Quarry, owned by Warrenton businessman Dennis Sturgell, ran aground at 0256, Saturday at the south jetty entrance of the Columbia River while fishing for black cod. All five crew members were hoisted to safety by a helicopter crew from Air Station Astoria. No one was injured and there was no pollution, Coster said. He said Royal Quarry was towed to American Marine Construction Company, a local boat yard, for repairs.

Portland, OR, Aug 3 -- Fishing Royal Quarry has been hauled out at Astoria Marine Shipyard. Understand inspection of the vessel indicated that the damage sustained is substantial and hence the vessel might be considered a Constructive Total Loss. - Lloyd's Agents.

**SAMUDRA SURAKSHA (India)**

See BHN Production Platform.

**SARA EXPRESS (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Miami, Jul 28 -- Antillean Marine Shipping Co report the damage to general cargo Sara Express to be some dented plates starboard side bridge wing. They have not made repairs yet but will do it themselves. The vessel is due back in Miami at 1600 today. They did not know the extent of damage to the bridge other than to state it was in working condition. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**SARAH SPENCER (Canada)**

London, Jul 28 -- At 0534 hrs, Jul 27 barge Sarah Spencer (14708 gt, built 1959) pushed by tug Jane Anne IV struck and damaged the ship arrester

cable and machinery at Lock 3, Welland Canal (lat 43 10N, long 79 15W). Navigation was suspended.

London, Jul 29 -- Barge Sarah Spencer, under tow of tug Jane Ann IV arrived at Hamilton(CAN) on Jul 27 and sailed on Jul 28, bound for Superior.

#### **SCAN BALTIC (NIS)**

London, Jul 29 -- Ro/ro Scan Baltic arrived Mobile Jul 8 and sailed Jul 9.

#### **SCHIEHALLION (U.K.)**

London, Jul 29 -- A press release, issued by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated today, states: At 0530 hrs, this morning, Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC were alerted by floating production Schiehallion (85000 gt, built 1998) of a fire in the machinery area. Aberdeen immediately scrambled a coastguard helicopter Rescue 'Oscar Charlieø and requested a second helicopter from ARCC (Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre). They scrambled R137 and also scrambled an RAF Nimrod to provide top cover for the helicopters. There are 91 persons on the platform which is owned by British Petroleum. The fire has now been extinguished by fire fighting teams on the platform. The Coastguard helicopter is evacuating 30 non essential personnel from the Schiehallion to other platforms in the area as a precaution. The platform is in a position 150 miles west of Shetland.

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thirty workers have been airlifted from a floating oil production vessel west of Shetland after a fire on-board. The blaze broke out early this morning on BP's Schiehallion. No-one was injured in the incident. The fire was discovered in the machinery area of the Schiehallion, a floating production storage vessel around 0500 hrs, this morning. BP say the blaze was quickly extinguished by an on-board emergency team. All ninety-one workers were called to muster stations.

A coastguard and RAF helicopter and a Nimrod were scrambled to the scene one hundred and fifty miles west of Shetland. They stood by in the Foinaven field. Thirty non-essential personnel have now been transferred by the helicopters to a nearby floating oil production vessel and a mobile drilling rig. A spokeswoman for BP said production has been shut down and there is no danger to the environment. Efforts to assess the damage to the installation have begun. It's not clear how the fire started. The Health and Safety Executive have been informed.

#### **SIDER MARLEEN (Italy)**

London, Jul 31 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1700, UTC: General cargo Sider Marleen (2829 gt, built 2002), Volos for Malaga, loaded with 5,660 tons of cement, reported aground in approximately lat 39 07N, long 23 09E, at 1900, UTC, Jul 30.

Vessel is aground on sand and has been inspected by divers. No leakage reported. A tug is on scene and refloating attempts are expected to start tomorrow morning.

London, Aug 1 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0930, UTC: General cargo Sider Marleen is still aground and tugs are on scene. Understood that negotiations between tug companies and the vessels' owners regarding assistance, are still in progress, but it is anticipated that an attempt to refloat the vessel will be made sometime later today.

London, Aug 1 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the evening of Jul 30, general cargo Sider Marleen grounded in sandy, shallow waters in the area of Marathias in the Pagasitic Gulf. Nearby vessels were immediately informed and rushed to assist. A Coast Guard patrol boat remains nearby offering assistance. There was no pollution or ingress of water. The vessel had earlier departed from AGET terminal at Volos with 5,500 tons cement on board, destination Malaga. The eight crew members remain in good health. Volos Port Authority is carrying out an investigation into the incident.

London, Aug 2 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0515, UTC: General cargo Sider Marleen is still aground.

London, Aug 2 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0940, UTC: General cargo Sider Marleen has been refloated and is at anchor, awaiting Volos Port Authority inspection.

#### **SIERRA EXPRESS (Greece)**

London, Aug 2 -- Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0554, UTC: C.c. Sierra Express (27970 gt, built 1977), laden with 3,289 tonnes of containers and general cargo Dogger (1092 gt, built 1976), laden with 1,000 tonnes of fish meal, were in collision at 0424, UTC, today, in lat 49 23N, long 04 29W. Coastguard have tasked tug/supply Anglian Princess, ETA on scene 0815, UTC. Lizard lifeboat also requested to proceed, ETA on scene 0755, UTC. Sierra Express has a five metre crack in its bow, two metres above the waterline. Authorities are presently assessing whether the vessel can effect repairs on scene or whether it will have to put into port, either under its own power or under tow. Dogger will proceed towards Falmouth, under its own power, but with a lifeboat escort. Co-ordination now being undertaken by Corsen RCC. (Note -- Sierra Express is understood to be on passage Rotterdam for Le Havre. Dogger is on passage Egersund for Santander.)

London, Aug 2 -- Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0902, UTC: Both c.c. Sierra Express and general cargo Dogger sustained damage to their respective bow areas. Sierra Express, with 30 persons on board, initially had rudder problems and was not under command. This now apparently fixed.

Tug/supply Anglian Princess will escort Sierra Express to Falmouth. Vessels are proceeding at 12 knots and ETA Falmouth Bay is 1200, UTC. Dogger, which has five persons on board, has a slow leak of diesel fuel from the forward generator. The tank holds 500 litres. The Lizard lifeboat is escorting Dogger to Falmouth, where ETA alongside South Queens Jetty is 1900 hrs.

London, Aug 2 -- Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 2210, UTC: C.c. Sierra Express anchored in Falmouth bay at 1237, UTC. Vessel is still at anchor with a hole starboard forward. General cargo Dogger entered Falmouth harbour at 2040, UTC, and is now alongside Queens Wharf with substantial bow damage.

#### **SILVA (Cambodia)**

Esbjerg, Aug 2 -- General cargo Silva is still in port at Esbjerg. -- Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Jun 9.)

#### **SINAR ANDALAS (Singapore)**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes."

#### **SP-FORTUNE**

London, Aug 3 -- A press report, dated Aug 2, states: Two men were missing as lighter vessel SP-Fortune capsized with 15 crew and 1,450 tonnes of cement clinker in Chittagong Bay in the port area today. Sources said. SP-Fortune sank in the bay as a huge wave hit it as it pulled out its anchor.

#### **STRILEN**

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

Copenhagen, Aug 3 -- Cement Strilen is still in port in Middelfart, and has been detained by the Danish Maritime Authorities. Minor repairs have been carried out. The vessel is scheduled to leave for a dock at Marstal, but its ETD is presently unknown. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SUPER GEORGIA (Greece)**

See Aqua Jewel.

#### **TAKIS (Panama)**

See "Somalia" under "Piracy".

#### **TRANSMODAL (Argentina)**

Buenos Aires, Jul 28 -- On Jul 9, ro/ro Transmodal, loaded with 198 containers, sustained a fire and subsequent explosion in its engine-room, while sailing from Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) to Buenos Aires. The injured crew was evacuated by a helicopter and after anchoring the vessel, the rest of the crew abandoned the vessel and were rescued by c.c. MOL Strength, which was sailing close to the area. A Brazilian marine vessel anchored next to Transmodal, in order to control the fire which was spread through the funnel. On Jul 10, tug Atlas sailed to the area to assist in extinguishing the fire. At 1030 hrs, the fire was finally extinguished. On Jul 12 Transmodal resumed its voyage to Buenos Aires, under tow, and was berthed at Buenos Aires Port Terminal 1 & 2. General Average was declared

by the owners. Unloading operations will probably commence this afternoon or tomorrow. The fire did not affect cargo. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**URSULA LEONHARDT (Malta)**

London, Jul 29 -- General cargo Ursula, ex Ursula Leonhardt sailed Mali Losinj Jul 13, bound for Rijeka, where it arrived Jul 14.

**VB 53 (U.S.A.)**

Norfolk, VA, Jul 28 -- Tank barge VB 53 commenced repairs at Colonna Shipyard, Norfolk, on May 14. Repairs were completed and the barge was towed from the repair facility on or about May 31. After repairs, the barge reportedly remained in the Norfolk / Hampton Roads area of Virginia for several weeks prior to sailing for Philadelphia in mid June. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**VILLA (Turkey)**

London, Jul 29 -- Bulk Villa arrived Singapore Jul 26 and sailed same day for Pointe Noire.

**WALNUT EXPRESS (Panama)**

London, Jul 29 -- Product tanker Walnut Express arrived Port Everglades Jul 25, from Amuay Bay.

**WAVE SENTINEL (U.K.)**

Hull, Aug 3 -- Cable Wave Sentinel is presently in dry dock at Teesport, undergoing repairs. The vessel is expected to sail Aug 8. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**WHITE STAR (Cayman Islands)**

Genoa, Jul 29 -- Sea trials for yacht White Star were scheduled for today. Date of departure and destination, are not yet known. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Genoa, Jul 29 -- Yacht White Star has completed repairs and has been launched. The vessel is afloat at Genoa undergoing some recommissioning work before departing for a cruise in the Mediterranean. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**X-PRESS PUMORI (Singapore)**

London, Aug 2 -- C.c. X-Press Pumori arrived Singapore 1705, Jul 29 for repairs.

**YONG TONG (Hong Kong)**

See Eltsen.

**YUNG CHANG (Taiwan)**

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

**ZAHARA (Tanzania)**

See "Tanzania" under "Port State Control".

UTC: Chem.tank Takis (6100 gt, built 2005) attacked by armed pirates in lat 13 24N, long 49 25E, yesterday evening. Pirates fired at the vessel but no damage reported. British warship proceeded to the area and the pirates fled the scene.

**Port State Control**



**TANZANIA**

London, Aug 4 -- A press report, dated Aug 1, states: Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) is removing passenger ro/ro Zahara (1369 gt, built 1965) from its territorial waters. The passenger vessel has been lying at Dar es Salaam port since it was barred from sailing Tanzanian coastal waters in 2001. Franklin Mziray, the TPA public relations manager, said in Dar es Salaam last week that the port would remove the dilapidated vessel this week subject to upon availability of necessary equipment for the work. Owners of the vessel have failed to comply with orders for its removal over three years now. "We will remove the vessel but the owners will have to incur the costs of removing the ship. If they fail to co-operate, we will dispose of it as scrap," Mr Mziray said, but would not disclose how much money would be required to remove the vessel. Zahara, owned by Victoria Marine Passenger Services, was involved in an accident in April 2001 while sailing from Dar es Salaam to Mtwara. On Jul 17, 2001, a four-man probe committee was appointed to investigate the matter. Its findings were submitted to the government on Aug 28. The committee, headed by High Court Judge Stephen Ihema, recommended that stern measures be taken against all parties involved in letting the vessel set sail from Dar es Salaam port to Mtwara while knowing it was defective. The ship was built in 1965 in Greece as a military cargo ship before it was brought into Tanzania in 1999 as a passenger ship plying the Dar-Mtwara route. Its purchase did not involve any government surveyors to inspect its safety and building standards. Samson Luhigo, TPA chief executive officer issued a notice last week alerting the vessel's owners to remove the ship and dispose of it as appropriate at the owners' risk. Mr Luhigo said TPA will further recover any outstanding port dues by disposition of Zahara, including the disposition as scrap of any valuable part. TPA will remove the vessel under the powers conferred on it by the Ports Act 2004

**Seizures & Arrests**



**AGIOS ARSENIOS (Greece)**

See under "Tsoukalas Naftiki Eteria".

**AGIOS DIONYSSIOS (Greece)**

See under "Tsoukalas Naftiki Eteria".

**LOK RAJESHWARI (India)**

See under "Marine".

**MARISSA GREEN (Netherlands)**

See under "Marine."

**MAWASHI AL-GASSEEM (Kuwait)**

Adelaide, Aug 3 -- Livestock Mawashi Al-Gasseem (30435 gt, built 1973) has been at anchor since its arrival at Adelaide Mar 23. The vessel has been arrested for non payment of bunkers. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**NIL DERYA (Turkey)**

See under "Marine."

**SEA PUMA (Vanuatu)**

Limassol, Aug 1 -- Tug/supply Sea Puma (856 gt, built 1976), which arrived Limassol Jun 29 from Skikda, was arrested Jul 26. The vessel was released Jul 28 and sailed Jul 30 for Ashdod. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**SIAM CRUISE CO LTD**

London, Aug 3 -- Passengers have been left stranded following the collapse of Siam Cruise, which operates passenger Andaman Princess (5145 gt, built 1962), according to local press reports. The Tourism Authority of Thailand and the Association of Domestic Travel have said they will assist passengers after the cruise company announced it was ceasing operations at the weekend, according to the Bangkok Post. TAT governor Juthamas Siriwan was quoted as saying that the tourist authority would be looking to offer alternative holidays to tourists who had booked cruises on Andaman Princess and that Siam Cruises had promised to refund passengers, to whom the cruise company was reported to owe Baht6 million (\$145m). A financial adviser to Siam Cruise was quoted as saying the company was seeking new business partners and bank loans to restructure its debt. It is also reported to be considering a sale of the ship, valued at Baht133m. The company had been hit by the aftermath of the Boxing Day tsunami as well as rising fuel costs. According to the Bangkok Post, the company is also facing legal action from passengers who had paid deposits or service fees that have not yet been refunded, as well as court action from employees.

**Piracy**



**SOMALIA**

London, Aug 4 -- Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 0940,

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

**TSOUKALAS NAFTIKI ETERIA**

London, Jul 29 -- A report in the Jul 29 issue of "Newsfront" states: General cargo Agios Dionyssios and general cargo Agios Arsenios have been seized again by Thessaloniki Port Authority in pursuit of claims of Euros 513,003.72 and Euros 21,550 against the vessels' owners, Tsoukalas Naftiki Eteria.

**WIN EAGLE (Malta)**

London, Jul 30 -- Bulk Win Eagle sailed Bristol Jul 29, bound for Rotterdam.

**Pipeline Accidents****MONTGOMERY COUNTY, HOUSTON, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: A pipeline caught fire east of a country club in southern Montgomery County yesterday afternoon. The fire broke out at about 1000 hrs near Cypresswood Road at Humble Westfield, east of the Cypresswood Country Club, in a large wooded area near the Harris County line. The pipeline, owned by Williams Energy, produced a large flame. The company said that a crew was venting natural gas from a 30-inch section of its Transco pipeline when it inadvertently ignited. That section of the pipe was isolated, which means that natural gas was not flowing in the line at the time of the fire, according to officials. The fire burned itself out by 1430 hrs. There were no injuries.

**Pollution****COOK INLET, ALASKA, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 3 -- A press report, dated Aug 1, states: An estimated 84 gallons of crude oil spilled into Cook Inlet last week from a Unocal oil platform. The spill Thursday (Jul 28) morning is the largest in the inlet this year. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation says the spill was caused by a valve failure on the Anna Platform ten miles northwest of Nikiski. Unocal reported the spill within ten minutes. Unocal spokeswoman Roxanne Sinz says the platform will be shut down until the problem that caused the spill is fixed. DEC environmental specialist Bob Petit describes the spill as a mist that was pouring out of a vent. He says the oil spilled was not in a big pool, making it more difficult to clean up, and that it should not have significant impacts to the environment.

**Weather & Navigation****GERMANY**

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated Jul 30, states: Powerful storms lashed much of Germany overnight, killing at least two people, injuring dozens more and disrupting road and rail traffic, emergency services said today. They said a 43-year-old man was killed and a 15-year-old girl seriously injured by falling trees during a local festival in the southern town of Forchheim. A man was also killed when he lost control of the car he was driving during heavy rains in the southwestern state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. In the eastern town of Hohenstein-Ernstthal, 41 people were injured by flying objects at the German motorcycling Grand Prix. Three men were also injured after being struck by lightning in the southwestern town of Karlsruhe. High winds, which reached 191 kilometres per hour in the northern Saxony region, downed trees and damaged houses. Heavy rain also forced authorities to close some major roads, while rail services were also affected. In the southwestern town of Muenstertal, a mini-tornado damaged about 50 houses, 14 of them severely. In the eastern town of Hohenleipisch-Hochschwarzwald, some 90 people were forced to spend the night on a high-speed train that was blocked by a mudslide. Twelve of Germany's 16 states were affected by the bad weather.

**HURRICANE "DENNIS"**

London, Jul 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: The pandemonium stirred up by Hurricane "Dennis" spawned \$900 million worth of property losses in four states. And that's just insurance claims caused by the hurricane's winds - damage from Dennis' mighty storm surge and flooding on Jul 10 have yet to be tallied. Florida, at \$640 million in wind-produced damage, was hit the hardest, with about 85,000 claims filed. Alabama was second at \$155 million, Georgia was at \$85 million; and Mississippi was at \$60 million. While this is the first estimate of the havoc that "Dennis" did to homes, businesses and vehicles, it definitely is incomplete. "That doesn't include flood damage or flood claims," explained Sam Miller, executive vice president of the Florida Insurance Council, which released the wind-damage estimate.

Freeport, Bahamas, Jul 28 -- General cargo Providence II was successfully refloated on the spring tide, on Jul 23. Some contracted assistance was provided by a local 50 foot utility vessel. The ship was taken into Freeport harbour where it is presently berthed and undergoing patching repairs to several holes in the bottom.

The owner's intentions are not known but it is understood that they will probably seek suitable repair facilities for full-style repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**INDIA**

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Banks and stock markets will be shut in India's commercial capital tomorrow as the city recovers from India's heaviest ever day of rain which left dozens dead. A notice sent to brokers from the Mumbai and National stock exchanges said the market would be closed tomorrow. The Reserve Bank of India also notified brokers that money markets, foreign exchange dealing and banks would be closed because of the rains, a central bank spokesman said. Mumbai is home to the country's two largest equity markets, the Mumbai and National stock exchanges, and the Reserve Bank of India. Schools in Mumbai and some neighbouring suburbs will be closed, according to a statement from the state chief minister's office. At least 99 people were reported killed and more than 100 trapped as India's worst-ever recorded day of rainfall triggered landslides and building collapses in the western state of Maharashtra, the chief minister's office said today.

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated Jul 27, states: Nearly 100 people were killed as the monsoon fury in Maharashtra in the past 24 hours left a trail of death and destruction with Mumbai, the country's financial capital recording the highest rainfall in the last 100 years. Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh, who was personally supervising the rescue and relief operations in the affected regions, made an aerial survey of Santacruz and other affected areas of the city but bad weather prevented him from undertaking a survey of neighbouring Raigadh district. Estimating the damage in the state due to rains at Rs 500 crore, Deshmukh said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had talked to him and assured him of all assistance. Dr Singh would also make an aerial survey of affected areas tomorrow, he said.

Mumbai, Jul 28 -- Loading and unloading operations at Jawaharlal Nehru and Mumbai were severely affected by the heavy rains that hit the country's commercial capital on Jul 26 and 27. Officials said operations at Jawaharlal Nehru were suspended for some time during the night of Jul 26 due to poor visibility. The port was operating at 50% of its capacity yesterday, as employees were unable to get to work due to disruptions in bus and rail services. According to port officials, steps have been taken to restore normal operations. Mumbai port operations were also hit, affecting eight vessels. Only one vessel could be cleared yesterday as private operators were not able to deploy vehicles, hence cargo clearance from the port was paralysed, leading to the port stockyards getting full. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Floods, landslides and building collapses caused by India's heaviest-ever recorded rainfall have killed at least 786 people and brought the financial capital Mumbai to a near-standstill, police said. Weather officials predicted more heavy rain for the city of 15 million, where schools, banks and stock markets were closed and public transport barely operating.

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: The freak monsoon floods that have crippled Bombay, India's financial capital, have killed an estimated 786 people, leaving thousands stranded and financial losses estimated at £130 million. As the rain eased slightly yesterday, the scale of the destruction became clear. In a slum suburb of Bombay 45 people were missing, presumed dead, in a landslide that submerged an entire encampment of huts. In many places - such as the village of Jui, 105 miles south of Bombay, where a landslide covered 20 houses on Monday (Jul 25) night - rescuers were too late. Here 100 people are thought to have died, but without mechanical diggers to excavate the rubble the figure is only an estimate. In Saki Naka, another Bombay suburb 45 died. Lorries and private cars were commandeered to cart the bodies of the dead to a morgue as it was disclosed that city authorities had twice warned inhabitants of the dangers of living under the shadow of the unstable hill. Beyond the immediate circle of the bereaved, life slowly began to return to normal yesterday as the airport reopened and many workers, stranded in offices for two days, managed to reach home. However electricity remained mostly cut off as a safety precaution. Offices, banks and the stock market were closed, and some particularly badly affected northern suburbs of Bombay were receiving military food aid. Thousands of cars and motorcycles remained abandoned on impassable dual carriageways. The cost of the rain - the heaviest since Indian records began in 1910, according to the Bombay weather bureau - was still to be counted. However, the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry put the preliminary estimate for the whole Maharashtra State at 10 billion rupees (£130 million). In the United Arab Emirates, a number of airlines operating from Dubai and Sharjah to Mumbai have expressed hope that flights would resume to the Indian financial capital sometime today. Hundreds of passengers in the UAE were left stranded yesterday as most flights to Mumbai remained suspended for the third consecutive day. A part of the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, the main runways of which were flooded for two days, started operations after an instrument landing system was made operational on an alternate runway earlier yesterday. Beginning with an Indian Airlines flight that took off

from Mumbai at 1320 hrs, the airport was limping back to normalcy, and flights, including three carrying relief material, were able to land with the airport's limited navigational aids. Vivek Sharma, Sales Manager, Indian Airlines, said that the situation was expected to improve by 2000 hrs, yesterday, but a definite word on resuming of flights to Mumbai was still too early. He revealed that one additional Indian Airlines flight was pressed into service to Calicut yesterday evening. He asserted that so far the airline is not sure if additional flights would be required on the Mumbai route once service resumes. Air Arabia is expected to resume its service from today. The airport in Mumbai is partially operational, and it is expected to open by tomorrow. We expect to resume services with our scheduled flight tomorrow, Jyothsna Habibullah, Marketing Communications Manager, Air Arabia, said. Habibullah added that owing to the circumstances the airline has allowed passengers to cancel and re-book their tickets, irrespective of the required advance time limit. Replying to a question she said that the airline was open to the idea of adding additional flights to Mumbai, but added it would depend on passenger demand. A statement issued by Gulf Air yesterday stated that no timeline has been given as to when services can be resumed. Due to the exceptional weather conditions impacting the Mumbai area, Gulf Air has been advised by the local Indian Civil Aviation authorities to suspend all flights from and into the airport until further notice, the statement said.

London, Jul 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Air India plane with more than 300 passengers on board skidded off the runway at Mumbai today, an airline spokesman said, adding that all passengers were safe. Flight AI 127 from Bangalore overshot the runway at Mumbai's international airport and got stranded in soft ground, Air India spokesman Jitender Bhargava said. "All 333 passengers on board are safe. They have been taken off the aircraft," he said. The flight was en route to Chicago via Frankfurt, he said. Equipment to tow the Boeing 747-400 off the runway area had been pressed into service but "it would take some time to clear the runway," he added. Bhargava attributed the incident to the unprecedented monsoon rains that have been lashing the city and the western state of Maharashtra since the beginning of this week, claiming nearly 900 lives. Heavy rains accompanied by strong winds continued to lash the city today. The city's weather bureau said Mumbai received 944.2 millimeters of rainfall in a 24-hour period ending mid-morning Wednesday (Jul 27), the most rainfall ever recorded in a single day in India. The rains brought Mumbai to a near-halt with rail, road and air traffic in disarray. Mumbai airport was closed for two days this

week but flights resumed late Thursday (Jul 28), an airport official said.

London, Jul 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Torrential monsoon rains have returned to the city of Mumbai as it tries to recover from flooding that has left nearly 900 dead. Police urged people to stay at home and meteorologists warned the downpours would continue, hampering relief work. Much of the transport system has again ground to a halt and thousands have protested on the streets at what they say is government inaction. Rescuers elsewhere in Maharashtra state are still finding bodies in landslides. Officials say the final death toll could top 1,000. A BBC Correspondent said heavy rain returned this morning and, despite warnings from the police to stay at home, panicked residents of densely-populated suburbs came out on to the streets as the water levels rose. He said there was widespread anger at government inaction, particularly with animal carcasses and human bodies floating in the streets, causing fears of epidemics. Thousands of residents protested against power blackouts and the lack of drinking water. In central Mumbai, some citizens say they have been without electricity for five days. Municipal commissioner of Mumbai, John Joseph, said the administration was doing its best and all holiday had been cancelled. But he admitted: "The administration is stretched... The latest spell of rain will definitely hamper our efforts. But we hope to clear tonnes of garbage piled on the roads by the end of Sunday." About half of those killed in Maharashtra have died in Mumbai - drowned, electrocuted or buried in landslides. Mumbai's airport, closed for two days last week, again shut for a number of hours today before some flights could resume.

Bombay, Aug 1 -- Torrential rain again pounded India's financial capital Bombay today after severe floods triggered by a record downpour last week killed nearly 1,000 people in and around the city. Floods closed key roads and train services were disrupted in the city, but there were no reports of new casualties or damage. Dead bodies and animal carcasses were strewn around the city due to last week's floods, raising fears of disease, and clean water was scarce in parts as burst sewage pipes polluted supplies. Financial markets and banks were open but schools were shut as police urged people to stay off the roads. Before a renewed downpour yesterday, there were angry weekend protests in the parts of the city where people have been without electricity and water since flooding started last Tuesday (Jul 26). Weather officials are worried the rain might spread to Gujarat state to the north, already hit by floods last month that killed more than 200 people and left hundreds of thousands homeless. Heavy rains and strong winds are expected in and around Bombay over the next 24 hours, weather officials said. One

official said nearly 21 cm of rain fell over the past 24 hours at Santa Cruz, the north Bombay suburb that recorded an unprecedented 94 cm last Tuesday. "Reports of losses are still coming in. The revised sector-wide losses are projected to be 20 billion rupees (\$460 million)," Maharashtra state Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh told the Financial Express newspaper in an interview. Officials said 924 people had died in Maharashtra, of which Bombay is the capital, due to floods. More than 400 people have died in the city due to landslides, drowning and electrocution in flooded streets. -- Reuters.

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Monsoon rains lashed Mumbai again today, pushing the death toll closer to 1,000, as India's financial hub battled to recover from its worst-ever recorded deluge. The city's police chief appealed to residents to stay indoors as the Mumbai Meteorological Department forecast "heavy to very rainfall accompanied by strong gusty winds" over the next 24 hours in Maharashtra state, home to Mumbai. Rescue workers found the bodies of 24 more victims of floods and landslides, bringing the state death toll to 993 since the rains began on July 25, police said. Some 409 of them have died in Mumbai. But Mumbai officials said the city of 15 million people was limping back to normal even though some low-lying areas remained knee-deep in water. Flights out of Mumbai airport, India's busiest, were delayed but returning to normal, airline officials said. Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel urged visitors to avoid the city "unless absolutely necessary." "There are gusty winds making landings and take-offs difficult," a ministry spokesman added. Schools and colleges remained shut but India's leading stock market, the Mumbai stock exchange, banks and offices were open.

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The incessant rains in Mumbai has resulted in disruption of export-import cargo of Rs 10,000 crores in the last seven days. "About 40 per cent of the total trade comes from posts in and around Mumbai," President of Federation of Indian Export Organisations O P Garg, said. He said this should not be construed as loss of trade. However, there would be some loss to the exporters and importers in the form of loss of packaging, demurrage, detention and higher shipping charges. This loss would not exceed 10 per cent of the total disrupted value of consignment, Garg said.

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Heavy monsoon rain in and around India's financial capital, Mumbai, is estimated to have caused damage worth 30bn rupees (\$690m). Others say the cost to agriculture and industry is likely to be much higher. Indian officials say the number of people who have died could soon rise to 1,000. Rescue workers are still trying to recover bodies from

flooded areas. Meteorologists are still forecasting heavy rain and strong winds in the state of Maharashtra, of which Mumbai is the capital. The Indian Merchants' Chamber estimates that the total damage thus far is 30 billion rupees (\$690m), according to the Economic Times newspaper. The Mumbai Chamber of Commerce and Industry has given a figure of 40 billion rupees (\$888m), but it says this figure only represents the tip of the iceberg. Maharashtra is one of the largest producers of sugar and oilseeds, both major cash crops, and production is expected to take a big hit, but it is also a big base for the pharmaceutical and automobile industries. With many warehouses flooded, there are fears that any more rain could lead to a shortage of drugs. The rains have also led to record-breaking insurance claims. India's four biggest private insurers - ICICI Lombard General Insurance, Iffco-Tokio General Insurance, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance and Tata AIG General Insurance - have received claims for damages totalling 10bn rupees. The spread of waterborne epidemics remains a major concern. Mumbai city workers sprayed insecticide to combat malaria. About 200 medical teams have left Mumbai for affected towns and villages elsewhere in the state, while 30,000 health workers have been deployed in the city.

#### INDIA

Mumbai, Aug 3 -- Heavy rains and floods in India's western state of Maharashtra last week have caused losses of at least rupees 150 billion rupees (£1.95 billion), the Times of India newspaper said today, quoting early government estimates. The losses in Mumbai, the state's capital, alone could be as much as Rs100 billion, the newspaper reported. "These are preliminary estimates, they may vary after we receive actual reports from the district collectors," the paper quoted a senior revenue department official as saying. Rains and floods have let up and Mumbai airport was functioning normally today for the first time since the deluge started last Tuesday (Jul 26), when a record-breaking 94 cm of rain pounded the city. However, low-lying parts of the city of more than 15 million people remained under water and long-distance trains on some routes were still not running. Small businesses have lost an estimated Rs10 billion, an industry body said. Pfizer Ltd, the Indian unit of the world's largest drug maker, estimated its flood losses at Rs1 billion. Monsoon flooding in India kills hundreds of people every year across the densely populated country, but this year's rains have been estimated to be one of the worst and most deadly on record. At least 942 people drowned, died in landslides or were electrocuted in floodwater in Maharashtra, including 429 in Mumbai. Federal Home Minister Shivraj Patil said yesterday that some 100 people were missing.

About 300 cases of cholera, gastroenteritis and dysentery have been reported in the state. Hundreds of medical teams have been deployed across Maharashtra to treat the injured, distribute chlorine tablets for contaminated water and cremate the dead. Patil said 1,200 buffalos and 15,000 sheep and goats died in the floods in Mumbai. Disease remains a threat as many bodies and animal carcasses have not yet been cleared. Some water supplies were contaminated by sewage and power outages have prevented pumping stations from starting in some places. Patil told parliament that half of Maharashtra's 35 districts and more than 300 villages were affected. More than 52,000 people have been evacuated from their homes, many living near dams. Heavy rains in the western state of Gujarat and the central state of Madhya Pradesh have also killed dozens of people this week. About 15,000 people living in low-lying areas in Madhya Pradesh have been moved to relief camps. -- Reuters.

New Delhi, Aug 4 -- Gold buying in India, the world's largest importer, has slowed down as two key trading centres in the western part of the country are still recovering from monsoon floods, traders said today. The states of Maharashtra and Gujarat, major bullion importing and trading centres, have been battered by torrential rains last week. "People have suffered huge losses because of floods," Pawan Chokshi, a leading trader said from Ahmedabad, the main city of Gujarat. "Gold will be the least important thing on their mind." Record rainfall in Bombay set off flooding that killed nearly 1,000 people and caused damage worth billions of dollars across Maharashtra. The southern parts of neighbouring Gujarat state were battered after heavy rains caused flooding. Maharashtra is India's most industrial state and Gujarat is second on the list. Gold imports through Ahmedabad have fallen to 200 kg a day from peak buying of 1,200 kg, traders said. In Bombay, buying is down to 100 kg from an average of 1,000 kg. Gujarat accounts for one-third of India's gold imports because of lower local taxes. The country of more than 1 billion people imports nearly three quarters of 700 to 800 tonnes of the yellow metal it consumes every year. -- Reuters.

#### IRAN

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Iranian state radio reports that floods have killed 27 people in the country's north-east. It quotes a local governor as saying the people have been killed in the village of Galidagh in Golestan province, which borders Turkmenistan on the shores of the Caspian Sea. He says rescue teams are searching for more missing people and he has appealed for aid to be sent to the region. The floods have also damaged houses and bridges and cut electricity to some 30 villages in the area.

**TROPICAL STORM "FRANKLIN"**

London, Jul 29 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Franklin": Gale and storm force wind warnings issued by the Meteorological Service of Canada are in effect for the slope waters south of Nova Scotia and the Grand Banks south of Newfoundland. At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of the storm was located near lat 39.6N, long 64.8W. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north-east, or 45 degs, at 19 knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 997 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 50 knots with gusts to 60 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds: 25 nautical miles in the north-east and south-west quadrants, 30 nautical miles in the south-east quadrant and zero nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. Radius of 34 knot winds: 50 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, 75 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants and 30 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Jul 30, the centre is predicted to be near lat 44.2N, long 56.2W, becoming extratropical, with maximum winds of 40 knots and gusts to 50 knots.

London, Jul 30 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Franklin": Gale and storm force wind warnings issued by the Meteorological Service of Canada are in effect for the slope waters south of Nova Scotia and the Grand Banks south of Newfoundland. At 2100, UTC, Jul 29, the centre was located near lat 42.8N, long 58.9W. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles. The present movement is towards the north-east, or 55 degs, at 22 knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 1003 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 50 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, 75 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants and 30 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Jul 31, "Franklin" is predicted to have been absorbed by frontal system.

**TROPICAL STORM "HARVEY"**

Miami, Aug 3 -- Tropical Storm "Harvey" formed in the Atlantic Ocean on today and aimed for the British colony of Bermuda, the eighth tropical storm in an unusually busy hurricane season. Bermuda's government issued a tropical storm warning alerting the mid-Atlantic island's 62,000 residents to expect storm conditions within 24 hours. Harvey was a minimal tropical storm with sustained winds of 40 mph. Forecasters at the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said it could strengthen as it approached Bermuda, where sturdy homes and buildings have weathered much worse. At 1100, EDT, "Harvey" was centred about 215 miles west-southwest of Bermuda and moving north-northeast. It was expected to turn north-east and cross over Bermuda, drenching the island with up to 3 inches of rain

tomorrow. After that, its projected path would keep it well away from land. -- Reuters.

London, Aug 4 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Harvey": The hurricane watch for Bermuda has been discontinued. A tropical storm warning remains in effect for Bermuda. Storm centre located near lat 31.8N, long 64.6W, at 0900, UTC, Aug 4. Position accurate to within 20 nautical miles. Present movement towards the east-north-east, or 070 deg, at 11 knots. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots with gusts to 60 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 45 nautical miles south-east quadrant, nil elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 75 nautical miles south-east quadrant, nil north-west quadrant, 45 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Aug 5: Position lat 32.6N, long 60.8W. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots with gusts to 65 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 50 nautical miles east semicircle, nil elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 75 nautical miles east semicircle, 60 nautical miles elsewhere.

**TROPICAL STORM "WASHI"**

London, Jul 30 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Washi" was located near lat 19.4N, long 109.1E. The movement over the past six hours is 295 degs at ten knots. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 35 knots with gusts 45 knots. At 0600, UTC, Jul 31, the centre is predicted to be near lat 21.0N, long 106.0E, with maximum sustained winds of 30 knots and gusts to 40 knots.

London, Jul 31 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Washi" was located near lat 20.3N, long 105.9E, approximately 45 nautical miles south of Hanoi and has tracked northwestward, or 310 degs, at 10 knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 35 knots with gusts 45 knots, and dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over land. Maximum significant wave height is 12 feet. At 0600, UTC, Aug 1, the centre is predicted to be near lat 21.3N, long 103.5E, with maximum sustained winds of 20 knots and gusts to 30 knots. This is the final warning on this system by the joint typhoon warning centre, although it will be closely monitored for signs of regeneration.

**TURKEY**

London, Aug 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from floods and landslides in northeastern Turkey rose to six today after rescuers recovered the bodies of two missing women, officials said. The bodies were found in a village in the

province of Trabzon, the local deputy governor, Mehmet Ozmen, told Anatolia news agency. A search-and-rescue team continued to look for three other people missing after the disaster, he said, adding that work was also under way to clear blocked village roads. Heavy rains triggered flooding and landslides yesterday in the mountainous provinces of Trabzon and Rize on Turkey's Black Sea coast, inundating houses, sweeping away bridges and blocking roads. The region, where many people live in traditional wooden houses perched on hillsides, is prone to seasonal floods and landslides. Yesterday, three people from the same family, including two children, perished when their wooden house in a village in Trabzon collapsed in a landslide.

**TYPHOON "HAITANG"**

London, Jul 29 -- A Cesam report, dated today, states: General cargo Golden Cloud is reported to have lost 130 containers when approaching Kaohsiung because of its meeting with typhoon "Haitang." Important particular average is to be feared in addition.

Taipei, Aug 3 -- General cargo Golden Cloud is still lying in Kaohsiung harbour as the port authority and the slot charterers, Evergreen, OOCL and Yangming Lines, have detained or arrested the vessel until an investigation is concluded or a proper security deposit obtained. There is no significant damage to the vessel's hull plating, but the container lashing gear and fittings were damaged. reportedly, approximately 60 of the 130 containers that were washed overboard drifted onto the beach in the Kaohsiung harbour area, and the removal and cleaning of those 60 containers and their cargoes is presently being arranged. The remaining containers were reportedly lost at sea in the vicinity of Kaohsiung harbour, and the vessel's owner is now preparing a search proposal for the port authority's approval. There is not reported to be any danger to shipping in the area. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Taipei, Aug 4 -- The salvage operation to refloat sand carrier Yung Chang is still under way and the vessel is expected to be refloated tomorrow. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**TYPHOON "MATSA"**

London, Aug 1 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Matsa" was located near lat 15.0N, long 131.8E, approximately 710 nautical miles south-south-east of Okinawa, and has tracked north-northwestward, or 330 degs, at 13 knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 50 nautical miles in all four quadrants. The maximum significant

wave height is 16 feet. At 0600, UTC, Aug 2, the centre is predicted to be near lat 18.7N, long 129.1E, with maximum sustained winds of 65 knots and gusts to 80 knots.

London, Aug 2 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Matsa" near lat 17.8N, long 128.5E, at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 325 degrees at 11 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots. Forecast position lat 19.4N, long 127.3E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots, gusts 85 knots. Forecast position lat 21.0N, long 126.0E at 0600, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots.

London, Aug 4 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Matsa" near lat 24.0N, long 124.7E, at 0600, UTC, Aug 4. Movement past six hours 350 deg at nine knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 80 knots with gusts to 100 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 40 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 60 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 170 nautical miles. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Aug 5: Position lat 26.6N, long 122.8E. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots with gusts to 110 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 40 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 65 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 145 nautical miles south-west quadrant over water, 150 nautical miles north-west quadrant over water, 165 nautical miles elsewhere.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Residents and businesses across Birmingham are counting the cost of the enormous clear-up operation which swung into action after yesterday's devastating tornado. Council workers and private contractors moved in this morning to start shifting debris, while structural engineers began to assess the astonishing level of damage. Many people evacuated from their homes following the freak twister, which hit the south of the city at 1445 hrs. A council spokesman confirmed earlier today that some buildings would be demolished after being damaged beyond repair by winds of up to 130mph. Local hospitals reported 39 people attending accident and emergency departments following the tornado, which ripped through the Kings Heath, Moseley, Sparkbrook and Small Heath areas of the city, stripping houses of their roofs, uprooting hundreds of trees and knocking down walls. Four patients were admitted to Heartlands Hospital and Selly Oak Hospital. Three were later discharged and one remains as an inpatient but officials were not releasing details about any injuries. West Midlands Fire Service declared a "major incident" after

receiving more than 240 calls in the first hour following the tornado. A brigade spokesman said up to 300 homes in 30 streets had been badly affected and some 25 fire engines, carrying more than 100 firefighters, deployed to assist with search and rescue as well as clean-up operations in an area of one square kilometre.

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Up to 20 homes may have to be bulldozed following the tornado which struck south Birmingham on Thursday (Jul 28). The sudden storm damaged buildings and cars, uprooted trees, and took entire roofs off some homes in an area south of the city centre. At least 150 residents are still being housed by the council and various roads remain closed because of the damage. The council has stressed to the government that there is an urgent need for financial aid. City council leader Mike Whitby called it an "unprecedented natural disaster" and said the council was doing everything it could to help residents. Yesterday, he met local government minister Phil Woolas to show him the work which needs to be done. Residents of 34 properties in Birchwood Road and another 20 in Taunton Road were allowed home over the weekend. Ladypool Road is expected to be closed for several days as is Alder Road, Birchwood Road, Brunswick Road, Woodstock Road, Church Road, Woodhurst Road, Clifton Road, Roshven Road, Kensington Avenue, Dennis Road and Chesterton Road.

## Earthquakes



#### INDONESIA

London, Jul 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake struck off the coast of the Indonesian island of Sumatra yesterday, but no damage or injuries were reported. The magnitude six temblor was centred off the coast of northern Sumatra, about 60 miles west-southwest of Banda Aceh, the Hong Kong Observatory said today in a statement. Hours earlier, the nearby island of Nias was hit by two earthquakes of magnitude five and 5.2 that occurred within minutes of each other, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Indonesian authorities said there were no injuries.

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale jolted the eastern Indonesian island of Ambon today, prompting panic but there were no reports of casualties or damage, an official said. The undersea quake struck at 1739 hrs and was located 96 kilometres south-east of the city of Ambon in the Maluku province, an official with the meteorological agency in Jakarta. Its epicentre was located some 33 kilometres under the floor of the Banda Sea, sending

tremors that were also felt on Seram island, the official said.

London, Aug 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: An intense earthquake occurred in eastern Indonesia yesterday but there were no reports of damage or casualties, officials said. The undersea quake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale occurred at 1941, local time, said Lukipto, of the Meteorology and Geophysics Bureau. He said the epicentre was in the Pacific Ocean 173 kilometres north of Halmahera island in North Maluku province.

#### JAPAN

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake struck Tokyo and the Kanto region yesterday night, the Meteorological Agency said. The earthquake struck at about 1915. The temblor registered an intensity of 4 on the Japanese intensity scale of 7. The earthquake was 5.1 on the open-ended Richter scale. The centre of the earthquake was some 50 kilometres below the surface of southern Ibaraki Prefecture. The temblor recorded an intensity of 4 on the Japanese scale in southern Ibaraki Prefecture, southern Gunma Prefecture and Saitama Prefecture. It registered 3 on the Japanese scale in Tokyo, northern Ibaraki Prefecture, Tochigi Prefecture and Kanagawa Prefecture, the agency said. Subways in Tokyo slowed down for safety, but services continued.

#### NEW ZEALAND

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Almost all of the east coast was rocked by a moderately sized earthquake tonight at 2100 hrs, the Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS) centre said. The quake measured 5.6 in magnitude and was based 30km south-east of Tauranga, at a depth of 220km. The tremor could be felt along the east coast of the North Island from Hastings around to Wellington, and in Blenheim, GNS said.

#### NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA

London, Aug 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: A magnitude 6.3 earthquake shook Nicaragua and northern Costa Rica before dawn today, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or major damage. The earthquake was centred 75 miles south-east of the Nicaraguan capital, Managua, according to the US Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Centre. It hit at 0503, local time. The quake was felt in northern Costa Rica but caused no major damages or injuries there.

#### RUSSIA

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.9 points on the Richter scale rocked the Kamchatka Peninsula overnight to today. According to the Far Eastern regional emergencies centre, the quake's epicentre was located in the Avachinsk Bay 120 kilometres from Petropavlovsk-



Kamchatsky. The earth tremor magnitude was three points in the city. There have been no reports about casualties or destruction. The earthquake was registered at 0120, Kamchatka time, Jul 26. The epicentre was located at a depth of 28 kilometres under the bed of the Sea of Okhotsk.

**SOUTH-EAST ASIA**

London, Jul 29 -- Unknown ABG Keshava arrived Singapore May 1 (? for repairs) and sailed on Jul 20 for Haldia, where it arrived on Jul 26.

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated Jul 12, states: Titan Maritime LLC is mobilizing a team and equipment from its Batam, Indonesia, depot to remove the wreck of cement Sinar Andalas from the port of Lhoknga. The ship was completing cargo operations at the port of Lhoknga on Dec 26. Later that day, the port bore the full brunt of an earthquake. While vessels in deep water were largely unaffected, those in port, bore the full brunt of the destruction and Sinar Andalas fared far worse than most. Of the 19 crew, just four were rescued. The vessel now lies capsized adjacent to the pier where it had just completed the loading of over 5,000 tons of cement. Titan Marine was awarded the contract to remove the wreck on Jun 28. Its team and equipment will be on site during the third week of July with full wreck removal operations scheduled for completion by October.

**TURKEY**

London, Jul 31 -- A moderate earthquake shook central Turkey today, but no damage or injuries were reported. The earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.3 shook the capital of Ankara, and residents could feel buildings slowly sway. The Istanbul-based Kandilli Observatory said the quake was centered in the town of Bala, some 40 miles south-east of Ankara.

**UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake struck in Alaska's Aleutian Islands but apparently caused no significant damage, officials said. The quake, with a preliminary magnitude of 5.6, was reported at 2101, yesterday, said geophysicist Guy Urban of the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer. No tsunami warning was issued. It was centred 25 miles east of Nikolski on Umnak Island, Urban said.



**Volcanic Activity**

**CONCEPCION VOLCANO, NICARAGUA**

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated Jul 28, states: A volcano on an

island in a lake in south-western Nicaragua erupted at least four times today, spewing ash that fell some 10 miles away, officials said. The 5,282-foot tall Concepcion Volcano is on the island of Ometepe on Lake Nicaragua that is popular with adventure tourists. No one was injured by the eruptions. Seismologist Virginia Tenorio said the explosions caused ash to rain down on the island's 10,000 residents. The volcano is one of two on the island, 60 miles south-east of Managua, the Nicaraguan capital. The other, Maderas Volcano, is dormant. Concepcion Volcano has registered 17 eruptions since 1883. The last was in 1999.

**MEXICO**

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Mexico's Volcano of Fire staged a spectacular, predawn explosion today, shooting incandescent rock, ash and steam nearly 9,000 feet into the air over western Mexico. The eruption sent ash raining down on nearby communities, but officials had no reports of major damage. The 12,533-foot volcano has had several strong explosions in recent months, but officials have said the activity is normal. The volcano straddles the border of Jalisco and Colima states and is located 430 miles west of Mexico City. It is considered among the country's most active and potentially most destructive volcanoes.



**Political & Civil Unrest**

**AFGHANISTAN**

Kabul, Jul 29 -- U.S. and Afghan troops killed six suspected militants in the latest spate of growing violence by Taliban insurgents ahead of parliamentary polls, the U.S. military said today. There were no casualties among Afghan or U.S. soldiers during the clashes in the Shinkai district of restive Zabul province near the border with Pakistan, a statement said. Ten suspected militant fighters were captured during the incident, it said, without releasing their identities. The militants were killed after "attacking Afghan and U.S. forces in the region where they were conducting security and stability operations," it added. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of rockets, mortars and anti-aircraft ammunition have been seized in central Afghanistan in the largest cache of militant weapons discovered in months, a government spokesman said today. The arms were to be used to subvert crucial legislative elections on Sep 18, Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Mohammed Saher Azimi said. The raid in Ghazni province's Khogyani district yesterday netted some 2,000 surface-to-surface

rockets, 3,000 mortar rounds, 500 artillery shells and 100 boxes of anti-aircraft bullets, he said.

Kabul, Aug 1 -- A United Nations convoy was ambushed in southern Afghanistan and two people were injured, a U.N. spokesman said today. A driver for the U.N. Population Fund and a policeman guarding the convoy were hurt in the attack, spokesman Adrian Edwards said. He did not have more details nor knew who may have carried out the attack in Sangin district of Helmand province. But Afghan officials said the ambush was set by Taliban guerrillas. -- Reuters.

London, Aug 4 -- A press report, dated Aug 3, states: Some 2,000 Afghan security forces rushed to an eastern province today after dozens of suspected Taliban rebels wearing army uniforms killed eight police and soldiers in an attack on a region that has been largely peaceful in recent months. As dozens of army trucks carrying reinforcements made their way to Nuristan province, a roadside bomb exploded, killing a soldier and wounding five others, Defence Ministry spokesman Gen Mohammed Saher Azimi said. By the time the troops reached the site of the attack in Nuristan, the militants had already fled into the nearby rugged mountains that stretch into neighbouring Pakistan, Interior Ministry spokesman Latfullah Mashal said. He said that dozens of rebels had assaulted a police post in the region yesterday, sparking a gun battle that lasted several hours and left four soldiers and four police officers dead. A local official said the attackers were wearing uniforms of Afghanistan's new US-trained army. Nuristan has been spared much of the violence that has killed more than 900 people since a major upsurge in attacks in March across other eastern provinces and the country's south, but Nuristan does border Kunar province, where militants killed three US commandos and shot down a special forces helicopter a month ago. Afghan and American officials have warned that attacks by Taliban-led rebels are likely to increase ahead of legislative elections on Sep 18. Elsewhere, gunmen shot dead an election official as he walked home in southern Helmand province's Lashkar Gah city yesterday, provincial administrator Ghulam Muhiddin said. Meanwhile, suspected Taliban rebels attacked Afghan forces in south-eastern Paktika province, sparking a gunfight that left one insurgent wounded and led to the seizure of a weapons cache, the US military said. Afghan forces also detained two of the militants, who had opened fire on them on Monday (Aug 1), the US military said in a statement. Afghan police pursued the attackers into a nearby compound, where they seized a cache of bomb-making materials, hand grenades, rocket-propelled grenade parts and machine gun and AK-47 assault rifle ammunition, it said. In neighbouring Zabul province, a local Taliban commander and 29 other guerrillas surrendered to Afghan authorities on

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

Monday as part of a government amnesty, said a spokesman for Zabul's governor, Ali Khail. The rebels also handed over ammunition and weapons, including AK-47 assault rifles, hand grenades and rockets, the spokesman said today.

#### **AFGHANISTAN**

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: US and Afghan forces say they have killed three militant fighters and arrested another 15 in the central Afghan province of Uruzgan. Two Afghan soldiers were injured in the clash, they say. The fighting took place near the town of Tirin Kowt, which had been the scene of heavy clashes with suspected militants earlier in the week. The 15 captured men are being questioned by US and Afghan officials, the US military says.

#### **BURUNDI**

Bujumbura, Jul 31 -- Burundi's last remaining rebel group has killed 300 civilians in the past two months, a radio station said, a blow to otherwise good progress in the plan to end the central African nation's 12-year civil war. The Burundian army says the Hutu rebel group, Forces for National Liberation (FNL), has killed 100 civilians in the past month. The Burundian station African Public Radio (RPA) quoted local officials and other sources for the toll of 300, and said three mass graves had been found in the western province of Bujumbura Rural, an FNL stronghold, and the northwestern province of Bubanza. The FNL said it had killed many people but most of them were its enemies. It also accused the army of killing many innocent civilians when carrying out raids against the rebels. "But there are also people who are sent by the army with a mission of eliminating our fighters by giving them poison," FNL spokesman Pasteur Habimana told Reuters. "Those are our enemies. We kill them when we catch them." Army spokesman Adolphe Manirakiza said the FNL had killed about 100 civilians over the past month. "Some of them are killed because the FNL accuses them of collaborating with national defence forces, and others are assassinated simply because they have deserted the movement," he said. The hardline FNL is the only rebel movement still fighting Burundi's government. The country has held a series of democratic polls this year that will culminate in the election of a president on Aug 19, part of a U.N.-backed plan to end an ethnic civil war that has killed 300,000 since 1993, but analysts say there will be no real peace until the FNL can be brought into the peace process. -- Reuters.

#### **COLOMBIA**

Bogota, Jul 28 -- Marxist rebel attacks have brought a southern Colombian province to a virtual standstill, leading President Alvaro Uribe to promise to move his government there if necessary to

restore order. In the past week, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia have blown up a bridge, knocked over electricity towers and ambushed military convoys in the jungle province of Putumayo. Gasoline prices have soared because truck drivers are too scared to venture onto its lonely highways. The government has sent additional troops to Putumayo, which borders Ecuador. An Air Force Hercules transport plane was due to arrive in the town of Puerto Asis, today with food and other supplies for the civilian population. The attacks by the guerrilla army, known by the Spanish acronym FARC, are aimed at opening up a route to bring cocaine produced in Putumayo's jungles to the Pacific Ocean, where it can be shipped to markets in the United States and elsewhere, military intelligence officials said. -- Reuters.

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A roadside bomb exploded as a police convoy travelled down a rural highway in northern Colombia today, killing at least 11 officers, President Alvaro Uribe said. Word of the bloodshed came hours after more than 2,000 right-wing paramilitary fighters laid down their arms in return for amnesty, as their commander -- an accused drug lord indicted on trafficking charges in the United States -- stood by and watched. Uribe appeared visibly shaken as he spoke on national television. He said reports from police commanders indicate the attack occurred near the town of Patillal in the mountains about 430 miles north of the capital, Bogota.

London, Aug 4 -- Four police officers were killed yesterday when leftist guerrillas attacked their barracks in south-western Colombia, authorities said. After the incursion in Piamonte, 980 kilometres from Bogota, the rebels fled into a mountainous area where they fought troops and police, a police spokesman said. "We have confirmed the death of four officers," the spokesman said. Some 500 rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia were involved in the attack against the police station where about 30 officers were working, authorities said. The attack took place two days after 15 police officers were killed in an attack blamed on Colombia's largest rebel group, with some 17,000 members.

#### **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

London, Jul 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: The UN Security Council has extended a two-year-old arms embargo on DR Congo and threatened to crack down on those who violate the sanctions. The resolution, adopted unanimously, says armed groups in eastern Congo "perpetuate a climate of insecurity in the whole region". The arms embargo applies to "any recipient" of weapons in the country. The embargo as well as a travel ban and asset freeze for those who break it has been extended until Jul 31, 2006. A panel of experts is also

due to draw up a list of people violating the embargo. A report by Amnesty International earlier this month warned that an international arms trafficking network was supplying arms to governments in Africa's Great Lakes region. The web involved brokers and transporters from countries such as the United States, Britain, Israel and Russia. Weapons ended up in the hands of militia groups in eastern DR Congo, fuelling violence, the human rights group said. DR Congo's five-year civil war, which involved six countries, was declared over in 2003, with the creation of a transitional government, but thousands of UN peacekeepers are struggling to contain violence in the east and north of the country. Rwanda and neighbouring Uganda are accused of continuing to fuel unrest by smuggling in arms and plundering the region's resources.

#### **INDIA**

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 10 people were killed and 50 others injured, five of them critically, yesterday in a powerful bomb explosion on a passenger train near Jaunpur in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, according to local media reports. The blast occurred at around 1715 near the toilet of a compartment of the Shramjeevi Express between Jaunpur and Sultanpur stations in Uttar Pradesh, the Press Trust of India reported.

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated Jul 31, states: Separatist rebels in north-east India have extended a ceasefire with the government but say they are concerned with the progress of peace talks. Rebels of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) extended the ceasefire by six months instead of the usual 12. A spokesman said they were no closer to a deal than when talks began in 1997. The Naga rebellion - India's oldest ethnic conflict - spanned 40 years before the negotiations started. The rebels have been campaigning for a separate homeland for the Naga tribe in the north-east. NSCN leader, Thuingaleng Muivah, said, from Amsterdam, where talks are being held, that "negotiations for the sake of it cannot continue". Nevertheless, the rebels and Indian government representatives did issue a joint communique at the end of their two-day talks, talking of the "need to extend the ceasefire and to intensify the peace process".

#### **INDONESIA**

Jakarta, Aug 1 -- Indonesia will grant amnesty to rebels from the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) by the end of this month after the signing of a peace agreement, the country's information minister said today. Indonesia is scheduled to sign the agreement with GAM on Aug 15 to end decades of bloody conflict that has claimed the lives of more than 12,000 people, mostly civilians. "Amnesty will be given by the latest 15 days after the signing," minister Sofyan Djalil told

reporters. This could mean thousands of convicted rebels would be released from jail in Aceh and other parts of Indonesia once the amnesty is announced. However, Indonesian officials have said they would not grant amnesty to GAM rebels jailed for pure criminal offences such as robbery and killings. Other details of the process remain sketchy but normally political prisoners must declare their allegiance to Indonesia before being released. -- Reuters.

## IRAQ

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Police in Iraq say a train carrying oil tanks has exploded, killing at least one person and injuring several others. The blast was said to have been caused by a bomb, but it was not yet clear if the train was the intended target. Meanwhile, the US military has said two soldiers were killed and one hurt by a bomb near Baghdad yesterday. Several Iraqi troops died in attacks elsewhere. Iraq's Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari has also condemned the killing of two Algerian diplomats abducted last week. A group claiming to be al-Qaeda in Iraq posted an internet statement yesterday saying it had killed Algerian envoys Ali Balarousi and colleague Azzedi. Mr Zebari complained that "neighbouring countries" were doing too little to stop foreign fighters crossing their borders into Iraq. The blast on a seven-tanker convoy carrying oil occurred in the Doura neighbourhood of southern Baghdad, police said. Witnesses reported a huge fire and a massive cloud of smoke over the railway line, but were unsure whether the train or a nearby police checkpoint was the intended target. Six Iraqi soldiers have been killed in clashes with insurgents in two towns north of Baghdad today, the Reuters news agency has reported. Security sources said fighters had fired mortars and guns at checkpoints in Baquba and Khan Bani. (See issue of Jul 29.)

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: A suicide bomber blew himself up among a group of Iraqi army recruits in northern Iraq today, killing 25 people and wounding 35, police said. They said the attack occurred outside a municipal building in Rabia, a town 50 miles northwest of Mosul, close to the Syrian border. No other details were immediately available.

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two U.S. Marines died in western Iraq when their unit came under small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire, the U.S. military said. The incident occurred yesterday in Cykla, about 200 kilometres west of Baghdad, the military said in a statement e-mailed today from the capital, Baghdad. The Marines were assigned to Regimental Combat Team-2, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, the military said. It gave no other details. The number of U.S. military personnel who have died in Iraq since the March

2003 invasion that toppled Iraqi President Saddam Hussein stood at 1,790 yesterday, according to the Pentagon Web site. In another statement e-mailed today, the military said that Ammar Abu Bara, also known as Amar Hussein Hasa, an al-Qaeda leader, was captured in northern Iraq on Jul 27. U.S. and Iraqi forces detained Bara during a "cordon and search operation" in a northern district of Mosul, the military said. Bara had replaced Abu Talha, a close associate of the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who was captured last month, according to the statement.

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Insurgents blew up an Iraqi train carrying petroleum products yesterday, setting off a huge blaze. The morning attack against the oil train was the first such in the country, railway spokesman Jawad Al-Kharsan said. The attack ignited a massive blaze extending down the railway line in southern Baghdad. The seven-tanker convoy was approaching the Dura oil refinery, less than a kilometre away, when it was attacked. An interior ministry official said the train struck a bomb on the line, but railway workers said the explosion could also have been caused by a rocket-propelled grenade. There were no initial reports of casualties and the five-man train crew escaped unhurt, officials said.

Hilla, Jul 31 -- A car bomb exploded at an Iraqi police checkpoint south of Baghdad today, killing seven people and wounding 12, police said. The attack occurred about 50 kms south of Baghdad near the town of Haswa, the police department in nearby Hilla said. The explosives-packed vehicle had been left by the side of the road, near the checkpoint, and was detonated remotely. All of those killed were civilians, the police said. Three of the wounded were policemen. Yesterday, a car bomb exploded at a police checkpoint near the National Theatre in central Baghdad, killing at least five people and wounding more than 20, police said. In southern Iraq, which has been more stable than central regions, a roadside bomb blew up as a British consular convoy was passing, killing two British security guards. -- Reuters.

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen assassinated a high-ranking police officer in southern Baghdad today, police said. "Unknown armed men opened fire at Brig. Salam Lutfy as he was driving his car heading to work in Doura neighbourhood, killing him and wounding two of his bodyguards," an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: An explosion damaged a pipeline today used for shipping fuel from the Beiji refinery to a power station in the Baghdad area, police said. The incident took place at 0500, today, police Capt. Sabah Mohammed said.

Baghdad, Aug 3 -- An American journalist has been found shot dead in Basra four days after he wrote an opinion piece in the New York Times criticising the spread of Shi'ite Islamist fundamentalism in the southern Iraqi city. Witnesses said Steven Vincent and a translator were kidnapped by gunmen shortly after leaving a hotel yesterday evening. His body was found later that night, a US diplomat said. A nurse said he had been shot repeatedly in the chest. Vincent's death appeared to mark the first targeted killing of a Western journalist in Iraq since the US-led invasion toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003. Other reporters have been killed after being swept up in the violence plaguing the country, but were apparently killed for being Westerners rather than because they were journalists. "An investigation has been launched to determine who was behind this," said the US diplomat. A nurse in a Basra hospital said Vincent, a freelance investigative journalist and art critic from New York City who had been working in Basra for several weeks, had been shot three times in the chest. His Iraqi translator, Nouriya Ita'is, was shot four times but survived. The nurse said she was in a serious condition. The New York Times opinion piece criticised the failure of British forces to clamp down on what Vincent described as a city that was "increasingly coming under the control of Shi'ite religious groups, from the relatively mainstream to the bellicose followers of the rebel cleric Moqtada al-Sadr". The article also focused on the Basra police force, quoting a police lieutenant as saying a few officers were perpetrating many of what he said were hundreds of assassinations of mostly former members of Saddam's Baath party each month. Iraqi Arab Sunni leaders have accused the Iraqi government of sanctioning Shi'ite hit squads that work alongside security and police forces. The religious Shi'ite-led government denies the accusations. Iraq has faced rising sectarian violence since January elections empowered Shi'ites for the first time and sidelined Arab Sunnis, who were dominant under Saddam and are now leading the insurgency. Aside from a few attacks on British soldiers and Iraqi police, Iraq's second city Basra has been relatively free of the suicide bombings and assassinations gripping other parts of the country. However, residents say Shi'ite fundamentalists have been gaining control over the city. -- Reuters.

Baghdad, Aug 3 -- Seven American Marines have been killed in fighting in Iraq's western Anbar province, the guerrilla heartland which keeps challenging US and Iraqi troops despite repeated security crackdowns. One of Iraq's most violent Islamic militant groups, Army of Ansar al-Sunna, claimed responsibility for the deaths, saying it had killed eight Marines. "The lions of monotheism succeeded in killing eight American

Marines, slaughtering some of them and shooting the rest after ambushing them in al Jazeera area, north of Haditha," it said in a statement posted on an Islamist Website. The attacks push the number of US troops to have died since the start of the war in March, 2003, to above 1,800, according to a count based on information provided by the Pentagon. Pacifying Anbar is a top priority for US and Iraqi officials who say the rest of the country cannot be stabilised unless guerrillas are rooted out of the region. In the northern city of Mosul, a suicide bomber rammed his car into a police vehicle, killing at least five policemen and a child yesterday, hospital and police sources said. The attack at a checkpoint on a road from Mosul to Baghdad also wounded eight people, the sources said. Anbar is a nerve centre for the two-year-old Sunni Arab-led insurgency, a loose alliance of mostly Arab Muslim militants who carry out suicide bombings and Saddam Hussein loyalists leading the guerrilla campaign. Six of the Marines were killed on Monday (Aug 1) near Haditha, a town on the Euphrates river 200 km north-west of Baghdad. They were engaged by insurgents with small arms. The seventh Marine was also killed on Monday by a roadside bomb near the town of Hit, about 70 km south-east of Haditha, the Marines said in a statement. Al Qaeda in Iraq, a group allied to Osama bin Laden, claimed responsibility for the attack in Hit in a Web statement. Aware that many Iraqi security forces are still not capable of fighting guerrillas on their own, Iraqi leaders hope to draw more Arab Sunnis into politics in a bid to tame the country. While they have won over some moderate Sunnis, drawing up a constitution and preparing for elections has little appeal for militants who believe they are fighting a holy war. In the past month, nearly 60 US troops have died, including five who were killed in two roadside bomb attacks in Baghdad at the weekend. Iraqi forces have suffered far worse casualties. Hundreds have been killed in suicide bombs, assassinations and ambushes. US and Iraqi officials say American troops can only pull out once local forces can take over security. That is not expected any time soon. US and British ambassadors met senior Iraqi ministers yesterday to discuss the transfer of security from foreign to Iraqi forces, a process that lays the groundwork for the withdrawal of foreign troops. It was the first meeting of a group which will decide over the coming months which parts of Iraq are safe enough for Iraqi forces to take over and let foreign troops pull back. Insurgents have mounted frequent attacks in the area around Haditha. US forces have launched at least two major offensives to try to quell the insurgency in the region. A US assault that crushed rebel bases in the city of Falluja in November raised hopes that heavy losses would demoralise insurgents in other parts of Anbar.

However, violence still rages across Iraq nearly every day. Five civilians were killed and one wounded when gunmen ambushed their car in western Baghdad yesterday, police said. A suicide car bomber targeted a US patrol as it passed a crowded central Baghdad square. Police said some people were killed but could not give a figure. They said 29 were wounded. A car bomb blew up near an Iraqi police patrol in al-Ummal district of Baquba, 50 km north-east of Baghdad. A child was killed; eight policemen and a civilian were wounded. A bomb detonated in a stationery shop in central Baghdad, killing two civilians, witnesses said. US and Iraqi officials say defeating insurgents in Anbar would help ease such attacks, minor incidents in a country where suicide bombs have killed more than 100 people at a time. -- Reuters.

London, Aug 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fourteen US Marines and a civilian interpreter were killed today in western Iraq, the US command said. The Marines, assigned to Regimental Combat Team 2, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), were killed in action early today when their vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device, the military said. One Marine was also wounded. The incident occurred during combat operations just outside of Haditha, which is 140 miles north-west of Baghdad.

#### **IRAQ-KUWAIT**

Rijeka, Aug 1 -- Ro/ro Star (ex Boka Star) is still laid up at Rijeka. According to creditors, it is expected the vessel will be sold at public auction, probably in September. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **IVORY COAST**

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: In the Ivory Coast, the former rebels known as the New Forces have announced they are not ready to move to the next stage of a disarmament programme. The New Forces say they will not disarm until promised legal reforms have been made to their satisfaction. The pre-regrouping phase was due to have begun yesterday as part of efforts to bring the country to peace. Ivory Coast has been in crisis since the New Forces seized the north of the country nearly three years ago. President Laurent Gbagbo made several legal reforms demanded by the New Forces by presidential decree on Jul 15. However, the New Forces say several of the new laws have been changed from the text agreed at the Pretoria summit in June. They have called on the mediator in the Ivorian crisis - the South African president Thabo Mbeki - to arbitrate. The head of the army loyal to President Gbagbo, General Philippe Mangou, said his side was ready for the next step in the disarmament programme. When a disarmament deadline was missed last autumn, the loyalist army attacked

the New Forces shortly afterwards. There is little time remaining if the presidential elections due at the end of October are to be held on time. Until the two warring parties disarm and the New Forces give up the territory they control, it will be impossible for the elections to take place.

#### **MAURITANIA**

Nouakchott, Aug 3 -- Gunfire rang out near the presidency building in Mauritania's capital Nouakchott today after soldiers surrounded state radio and blocked off streets in the city, a witness said. President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya was out of the country after attending the funeral of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd in Riyadh yesterday. "I heard a burst of gunfire near the presidency. I saw scared people running away. Civil servants have all left their offices," the witness said. He said state radio had been off air since the early morning. The French embassy in Nouakchott said it was monitoring the situation in the former colony but declined to make any further comment. A second witness on the border with Senegal said border guards were preventing people from leaving the country. Dissident soldiers came close to toppling Taya in June, 2003, during two days of street fighting in Nouakchott before loyalist forces regained control. The government says it foiled two more coup attempts in 2004. "All the army is in the streets. It's blocking the roads to the presidency and the main routes through town," a civil servant who lives near the presidency building said. "I went to my office but was told to go home, that there would be no work today," he said. Shops were closed and taxis were not stopping to pick up those trying to leave the centre of town. President Taya seized power in a 1984 coup. He has angered many Arabs in the country, which straddles black and Arab Africa, by shifting support from former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to Israel and Washington in the 1990s. Mauritania, which hopes to start pumping oil early next year, is one of only three Arab League member states that have established diplomatic ties with Israel. It is also one of the most repressive countries in the region towards Islamist movements, analysts say. Police have arrested scores of Islamic opposition leaders and activists since April, accusing them of colluding with the Algerian-based Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), a movement allied to al Qaeda. In May, security forces searched mosques around the capital, seizing Koranic texts and arresting mosque officials. Analysts have warned that Mauritania's attempts to stifle opposition groups by denouncing them as terrorists risks backfiring by radicalising moderate Islamists. Fifteen Mauritanian soldiers were killed in a dawn raid on a remote outpost near the Algerian border in June, an attack which the government blamed on the GSPC. -- Reuters.

London, Aug 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: A group of Mauritanian army officers announced the overthrow of the president today, hours after troops took control of the national media and the army chief of staff headquarters in the capital of the oil-rich Islamic nation. The group, which identified itself as the Military Council for Justice and Democracy, announced the coup against President Maaouya Sid'Ahmed Taya, who was abroad, through the state-run news agency. "The armed forces and security forces have unanimously decided to put an end to the totalitarian practices of the deposed regime under which our people have suffered much over the last several years," the statement said. The junta said it would exercise power for two years to allow time to put in place democratic institutions. Earlier today, Taya arrived in the nearby West African nation of Niger, apparently trying to return home from Saudi Arabia where he had travelled on Monday (Aug 1) for the funeral of King Fahd, according to officials in Niger's capital, Niamey. With his plane on the tarmac, Taya held talks at the airport with Niger's President Mamadou Tandja. Taya did not speak to reporters and security forces kept journalists at a distance. Taya, who has allied himself with the United States in the war on terror, has faced staunch opposition among Islamic groups in his impoverished desert nation of three million and has cracked down ruthlessly on opponents since a 2003 coup attempt. Heavily armed soldiers deployed in force around the presidential palace, ministries and other strategic buildings and on the streets of the capital of Nouakchott, blocking key roads and several entrances to the city. A short burst of automatic gunfire was heard near the palace, where three anti-aircraft truck batteries were set up at mid-morning. No casualties were reported. The presidential guard troops cut state media broadcasts and the nation has no private stations. In addition, the airport was closed to civilian flights, according to the military. Taya has survived several coup attempts during his 20-year reign, but only the 2003 effort to overthrow him had made it past the planning stage, marked by several days of street fighting in the capital. He implemented a crackdown after that against members of Islamist groups and the army, jailing scores of people accused of plotting to overthrow him. His government also has accused opponents of training with al-Qaida linked insurgents in Algeria. A Jun 4 border raid on a remote Mauritanian army post by al-Qaida-linked insurgents sparked a gunbattle that killed 15 Mauritanian troops and nine attackers. Algeria's Salafist Group for Call and Combat claimed responsibility for the attack, saying in a message on a Website that the assault was "in revenge for our brothers who were arrested in the last round of detentions in Mauritania." Mauritania is strictly regulated by

Taya, who took power in a 1984 military coup and tried to legitimise his rule in the 1990s through elections the opposition says were fraudulent.

#### **NEPAL**

London, Jul 31 -- A press report, dated Jul 30, states: Maoist rebels in Nepal have abducted seven government employees in an eastern district, officials say. Security forces in the region have already been alerted and a search operation is underway, a local official said, adding that the officials were headed to an area where the rebels had called a transport strike. This is the single largest incident of civil servants being abducted by the rebels in recent month. There has been no word from the insurgents regarding the latest abduction so far.

#### **RUSSIA**

London, Aug 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: Eight gunmen were killed in a special operation of Russian federal troops which was launched Monday (Aug 1) in Chechnya's Kurchaloi and Nozhai-Yurt regions, a source from the headquarters of Russian troops in the North Caucasus said today. Interior Ministry units and commandos take part in the operation against the unit of field commander Ali Tasuyev, killed back in March, the source said. Three federal troops were wounded and one was killed in a fight near the settlement of Alleroy this morning.

#### **SPAIN**

London, Jul 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two road bombings attributed to Spain's Basque separatist group ETA halted traffic yesterday along main highways, though no one was hurt. An anonymous caller 'phoned in a warning before the blast to the Gara newspaper, which often receives an advanced warning of ETA attacks. The highways, however, were packed with millions Spaniards heading for vacations, El Mundo reported.

#### **SUDAN**

Khartoum, Aug 1 -- Twelve people, including some police officers, were killed in rioting in Khartoum today, a police official told Reuters. A Reuters witness saw 12 bodies at a morgue in Khartoum Hospital. "All of the bodies died in the rioting. Some of the bodies are policemen," said one police official who did not want to give his name. Other police officials said they expected more bodies to arrive soon. -- Reuters.

Khartoum, Aug 3 -- At least 20 people were reported killed overnight in retaliatory violence against southern Sudanese in Khartoum, where residents said armed men roamed the streets despite a curfew. A UN security briefing this morning reported around 20 deaths overnight. Violence in the capital erupted on Monday (Aug 1) when angry southerners took to the streets after the official announcement that former southern rebel leader and

First Vice-President John Garang had died in a helicopter crash. Police said yesterday that 46 people had been killed in the violence. William Ezekiel, editor of the daily Khartoum Monitor with close ties to the southern community, said today that residents reported 47 people were killed overnight in the Khartoum suburb of Mamoura and 15 were killed in the district of Kalakla, in the south of the city where violence had also been reported yesterday. Ezekiel quoted residents as saying that gunshots and sirens could still be heard in some suburbs of Khartoum. Central Khartoum was quiet with traffic moving normally amid heavy security. Residents said it was also quiet overnight. -- Reuters.

Khartoum, Aug 4 -- At least 130 people have been killed and around 350 wounded in Sudan in three days of violence after the death of former rebel leader and First Vice President John Garang, the Sudanese Red Crescent said today. Residents reported the streets of the capital Khartoum were much quieter overnight than in previous nights, when gangs of armed vigilantes roamed the streets despite a curfew imposed since Monday (Aug 1) to curb the clashes. The Sudanese Red Crescent's director of disaster management said the death toll in the capital by yesterday evening was 111, with six killed in Malakal and 13 in the southern town of Juba, where Garang is to be buried on Saturday. "It was very quiet last night compared to the previous two nights," Hadi Ali al-Obeid said. Many of Khartoum's commercial districts were in ruins, with shops burnt and looted and cars wrecked following the clashes. President Omar Hassan al-Bashir issued a call for calm live on state television yesterday on the third day of rioting in the capital, the worst seen in many years. More than 300 people were wounded in Khartoum alone. Garang led the former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in a bitter struggle with the Islamist Khartoum-based government for more than 2 decades before signing a peace deal in January to end Africa's longest civil war. He returned to Khartoum to be sworn in as first vice president on Jul 9, and was working on forming a coalition government. The peace deal involved wealth and power sharing, democratic elections within three years and a southern referendum on secession from the north within six years. Salva Kiir, Garang's deputy, has been appointed as the new head of the SPLM and will be sworn in as first vice president in coming weeks. -- Reuters.

#### **THAILAND**

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least nine people have been killed, including two yesterday, in the deadliest 48 hours of violence in restive southern Thailand since February. The killings came as Thai Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphamongkhon, attempting to play down the unrest to regional partners

at an Asean meeting in Laos, said the situation in the Muslim-majority deep south bordering Malaysia had stabilised. The attacks, which included the shooting of a village chief, a former policeman, and a civil servant, started late on Tuesday (Jul 26) in three southernmost provinces, where a separatist insurgency and other violence has left more than 830 dead since January last year.

#### **TURKEY**

London, Jul 31 -- A press report, dated Jul 29, states: Unidentified gunmen opened fire today on an army recruitment office in the northeastern Turkish province of Gumushane, killing a soldier on watch outside the building, Anatolia news agency reported. The incident in the town of Torul followed an armed attack on a police vehicle in the central city of the province, also called Gumushane, on Monday (Jul 25), which left two people injured and which officials blamed on militants from the rebel Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). Gumushane is not a region where the PKK is usually active, but local officials said earlier that a group of PKK militants who came north from the mainly Kurdish southeast were trying to establish themselves in the province. The PKK has stepped up violence in the southeast over the past several months, after it called off a five-year unilateral ceasefire in June 2004 on grounds that reforms by Ankara to expand Kurdish freedoms were inadequate.

#### **UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Anti-terrorist officers arrested nine men in dawn raids today in connection with the botched Jul 21 attacks on London's transit system, bringing to 20 the number of people police have in custody, including one of the alleged bombers. With three of the suspected attackers still at large, Britain flooded the city with thousands of officers to reassure the public while also warning of more possible attacks. Scotland Yard said the nine men were arrested under the Terrorism Act at two properties in Tooting, in south London, early today. They were being held in a central London police station. One of the four men suspected of carrying out the failed attacks Jul 21 was arrested in Birmingham, central England, yesterday. Yasin Hassan Omar, 24, was being questioned at a top-security police station in London. A second July 21 suspect has been identified as Muktar Said Ibrahim, 27, also known as Muktar Mohammed Said. He came to Britain in 1990 from Eritrea, his family said. He was granted residency in 1992 and British citizenship in September 2004, the Home Office said. On a different matter the Irish Republican Army renounced violence as a political weapon today and said it will resume disarmament, taking a dramatic step designed to revive Northern Ireland peace efforts. Prime Minister Tony Blair called the move "a

step of unparalleled magnitude," while Prime Minister Bertie Ahern of Ireland said it heralded "the end of the IRA as a paramilitary organization." But local leaders in the British territory and some analysts warned that the IRA, which has previously fallen short on fulfilling its public promises, had left key questions unanswered and was not disbanding. The IRA said all its clandestine units had been ordered to dump arms and cease all activities, as of 1600 hrs, today. "The leadership has formally ordered an end to the armed campaign," the IRA said in a major advance from its opened-ended truce in place since 1997. The IRA statement said John de Chastelain, a retired Canadian general who since 1997 has been trying to persuade the IRA and other illegal groups to disarm, would be invited to decommission more hidden weapons bunkers soon. It said a Catholic priest and Protestant minister would be invited to witness the scrapping of weapons. The IRA also appealed to Britain and Northern Ireland's Protestant majority to accept its new position as sufficient to renew negotiations on power-sharing, the core goal of the 1998 peace accord. Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams said that as far as he was concerned, the IRA had declared its war over. Protestant leaders, deeply suspicious of IRA motives, stressed they would wait several months to test whether the IRA's words proved true. They noted the IRA was supposed to have disarmed fully by mid-2000 as part of the Good Friday accord, but did not start the process until late 2001 and stopped in 2003. Ian Paisley, whose hard-line Democratic Unionist Party represents most Protestants, said IRA commanders "have failed to explicitly declare an end to their multimillion-pound criminal activity, and they have failed to provide the level of transparency that will be necessary to truly build confidence that the guns have gone in their entirety." Security experts say the IRA retains much of its arsenal hidden in underground bunkers in the neighbouring Republic of Ireland. The IRA received more than 130 tons of armaments from Libya in the mid-1980s, and police say the group continues to smuggle modern weaponry into the country. All sides say they remain committed to resurrecting a joint Catholic-Protestant administration that would replace Britain as the primary government authority in Northern Ireland. But Protestants insist they won't work again with Sinn Fein, the IRA-linked party, until the IRA disappears as a threat to stability.

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Britain is set to lodge a formal request today for the extradition from Italy of a prime suspect in July's failed bombings on London's transport system. Osman Hussain was arrested in Rome on Friday (Jul 29). British police, who believe all four men they sought over the attempted bombings on three

underground trains and a bus have been captured, want to question Hussain as soon as possible. However Hussain's court-appointed lawyer Antonietta Sonnessa said the extradition process could still take two months. Hussein was traced from London to a flat in Rome where he was staying with one of his brothers, Remzi Isaac. It is thought Italian police, who tracked him through his mobile phone calls, will want to investigate his movements and contacts Italy before agreeing to an extradition request. Hussain has told his interrogators that the four bombings attempted on Jul 21 weren't intended to be deadly. In an interview on state TV yesterday night, Sonnessa insisted her client was not a fundamentalist, and suggested Hussain had somehow been drawn into the bomb attempts. She said her client does not consider himself a terrorist and would probably fight extradition. Hussain said his cell was not linked to either al Qaeda or the cell that carried out the deadly July 7 bombings, Italian media reported. The other three are in custody in London after an international manhunt for suspected Islamist militants culminated in a swoop on a housing estate in west London on Friday. British detectives will also further question a total of 18 people arrested as part of the probe into the July 21 attacks. More arrests are expected as police scour the country for anyone who may have helped the bombers. The government, working on new anti-terrorism laws, has also said it may consider extra passport checks after Italian police said Hussain had travelled abroad by train from London after the failed attacks. -- Reuters.

#### **ZIMBABWE**

Harare, Jul 28 -- Zimbabwe declared an end to its controversial demolitions of shantytowns today, a day after the author of a critical United Nations report on the operation briefed a sharply divided U.N. Security Council. Rights groups meeting in Harare said they would press regional and international governments, including ally China, to demand an end to alleged rights abuses by President Robert Mugabe's government. Vice President Joyce Mujuru's announcement that the blitz had ended is not the first time a government official pronounced an end to the "clean up" of urban areas by bulldozing thousands of illegal structures. Mugabe and some of his ministers have said recently the crackdown was over, but police continued demolitions amid rising international outcry. UN-HABITAT director Anna Tibaijuka, sent by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to assess the crackdown, said in a report made public last Friday (Jul 22) the campaign had destroyed the homes or jobs of at least 700,000 people and affected the lives of another 2.4 million. Mujuru, acting president while Mugabe is in China, told state media the campaign was finished and

asked help from international community including the United Nations to build new housing for thousands of homeless. "The national operation is now complete. We have achieved what we intended," Mujuru was quoted as saying. Local Government, Public Works and Urban Development Minister Ignatius Chombo confirmed the operation had ended, but said action would still be taken against residents breaching council by-laws. -- Reuters.

## Labour Disputes



### ARGENTINA

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated Aug 1, states: On Jul 29, Argentine Airlines maintenance workers and pilots shut access to Buenos Aires Aeroparque Airport, protesting 30 months of stalled negotiations and demanding higher wages and the reinstatement of laid-off workers. The actions at both of Buenos Aires main airports, Aeroparque and Ezeiza, resulted in the cancellation of flights affecting 2,000 passengers.

### BANGLADESH

Karachi, Aug 1 -- Export and import through Benapole land port in western Bangladesh remained suspended for the 11th consecutive day yesterday as Bangladeshi port users continued their indefinite strike for the 4th day in support of their 12-point demands. The five organisations at Benapole went on the strike Jul 28, demanding simplification of customs procedure, reducing harassment of importers going by PSI-based clearance and speedy delivery of consignments. They have threatened that association will call for a countrywide strike of customs agents if their demands are not met within a day or two. Earlier, on Saturday (Jul 30) Indian truckers called off their 10-day strike at Benapole after releasing of four Indian reconditioned trucks seized by the Benapole Customs and the Bangladesh Rifles on Jul 21. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

### CANADA

London, Jul 29 -- Revived negotiations have raised hopes that Vancouver port's five-week trucker strike is about to end. The conflict has left an estimated 25,000 containers, double the normal volume, stacked up at Vancouver's three container terminals and has forced shipping lines to divert some Canadian cargo to US Pacific Northwest ports. The peace talks began on Wednesday (Jul 27) in Burnaby, near Vancouver, and continued into yesterday morning, with the negotiators reportedly making progress. Taking part in the talks for the first time on behalf of the truckers was an experienced

negotiator, Ken Halliday, who has been hired by the Vancouver Container Trucking Association. The VCTA represents some 1,000 independent truckers, who have been on strike since Jun 27 in a bitter, violence-marred dispute with trucking firms over pay rates and a fuel surcharge. Negotiations had been in virtual limbo for two weeks. "It's a good sign to see the truckers now having a professional negotiator working for them," said Duncan Wilson, spokesman for the Vancouver Port Authority.

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated Jul 28, states: Negotiations to end a month-long strike by container truck drivers at Vancouver-area ports have adjourned until tomorrow. Mediator Vince Ready announced a break in the talks at midday today with no agreement on a rate increase and other issues between brokers and the Vancouver Container Truck Association. Industry Minister David Emerson has urged the two sides to find a short-term solution this week to their dispute to get the ports operating again at full capacity. Then larger issues between the port, truckers and brokers can be negotiated with the container facility in operation, something Emerson thinks could take 60 to 90 days to work out. Business leaders have said they fear having to lay off workers and they worry that those companies able to afford alternative shipping routes may not come back to Vancouver. Business groups say the strike is not a labour dispute, but a business to business quarrel. Most of the truckers are independent contractors who are not affiliated with any union. The truckers haul 40 per cent of the goods arriving at the city's ports. The remaining 60 per cent goes directly onto rail cars.

London, Jul 30 -- A press report, dated Jul 29, states: Ottawa is moving to end a strike by truckers that has tied up about 25,000 containers at the Vancouver docks and cost the Canadian economy about \$375-million since the walkout began on Jun 27. After a series of meetings with 1,200 short-haul truck drivers and their employers, federal facilitator Vince Ready issued a series of recommendations yesterday that aims to have the drivers back at work as early as Tuesday (Aug 2). Speaking to reporters in Burnaby, Mr. Ready said his overall aim is to end cutthroat competition and price undercutting, which is widely seen as being at the root of a dispute that has simmered since a strike in 1999, but he declined to speculate on whether the truckers will agree to return to work by Tuesday. "That's up to the truckers to decide," he said. Under the proposals, the truckers would be paid a minimum of \$200 for every container they deliver. A fuel surcharge would also come into effect if the price of diesel fuel exceeds an average of \$1.05 a litre in any quarter starting next year. Mr. Ready is pressing the Vancouver Container Truck Association and 75

per cent of the transport companies who employ them to ratify any agreement by tomorrow. Ottawa is moving to facilitate efforts to reach a settlement by approving action under the Canada Transportation Act that would allow the truckers to operate under an interim deal for up to 90 days without violating federal competition laws. It will also set up a joint task force with the B.C. government to look into some of the more complex issues causing friction between the container truck drivers and the transport companies that serve the port. "The idea is to get the containers moving and get the port normalised, and then get a long term solution," said Federal Industry Minister David Emerson. B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell stressed the importance of keeping the port system operating and maintaining the integrity of the Pacific Transportation gateway. "The province will work in co-operation with the Government of Canada to help solve the commercial dispute now seriously disrupting the Port of Vancouver," he said.

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Trucking companies involved in a dispute with truck drivers at Vancouver-area ports have unanimously rejected a mediator's proposal that would have ended the strike that has closed the port since Jun 27. The drivers voted 90 per cent in favour of the proposal earlier yesterday. Had both sides accepted the deal, the port could have been back in operation by tomorrow. The offer by mediator Vince Ready to end the strike by 1,000 truckers would see hauling rates at the port increase and would provide some relief down the road from rising diesel prices. The federal and provincial governments have also agreed to address larger issues such as waiting times at the port. The Vancouver Board of Trade says the five-week dispute is costing B.C.'s economy \$75 million a day. The truckers, represented by the Vancouver Container Truck Association, voted in favour of the agreement at a suburban hotel yesterday. They haul 40 per cent of the goods arriving at the city's ports. The remaining 60 per cent goes directly onto rail cars. The truckers' association said if the deal is not also ratified by the brokers on Sunday, they would not return to work.

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated Aug 1, states: Trucking companies involved in the dispute that has paralysed Vancouver's port are divided whether to accept an imposed licencing system that the port wants to get container traffic moving again. Port spokesman Duncan Wilson said today that anyone with a container tied up at the port now has to sign a licence agreeing to federal mediator Vince Ready's report to be able to move that container. "They will be compensating their truckers according to that schedule," Wilson said. "The companies and truckers have a 48-hour grace period . . . to get themselves in compliance with the

new requirements. Effective Thursday (Aug 4) morning, they will have to show proof that they're adhering to the agreement." Some of the companies said after a meeting today that they would accede to the licences, while others said they would challenge such a move in court. "It won't legally stand," said Don Jordan, a lawyer for several of the companies. He said his clients would begin legal proceedings "as soon as possible." Wilson said the imposed licence action is legal because Ottawa has invoked Section 47 of the Canada Transportation Act which allows the port to set prices that could otherwise be challenged under the federal Competition Act. "This is intended as an extraordinary measure, as a temporary measure," Wilson said. "It's intended to get goods moving for the next 90 days while we identify a long-term solution. It's not a negotiation; it's a decision by the port. Whether or not all the companies sign onto the agreement, this is the system that's going to be in place. It's their decision whether they're going to want to do business with the port for the next 90 days or not." Mike Bowman of Pro West Trucking said he was disappointed with the weekend's developments. He did not know if his company would be working tomorrow. Paul Campbell with TorVan Container Express Lines, however, said his company will accept the licence stipulation. Wilson had been hopeful container traffic would start moving again by tomorrow, saying the strike has cost the Canadian economy almost Can\$400 million. (See issue of Aug 2.)

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: A bold attempt to get 1,200 striking truck drivers back to work at Vancouver container ports fizzled yesterday evening just as it seemed the shutdown, which is costing the Canadian economy \$75 million a week, had ended. The attempt was made by the Vancouver Port Authority, which announced that, as of Thursday (Aug 4), companies will need a licence to enter the port to either deliver or pick up a container. And to get that licence, they must agree to be bound by the terms of an agreement proposed last Friday by facilitator Vince Ready and rejected by the companies on Sunday. "If they want to do business in the Port of Vancouver they will need to sign the licence," Vancouver Port Authority CEO Capt Gordon Houston said after a meeting with the companies yesterday. The interim licence would be for a term of 90 days, and the rates paid would be as per the agreement proposed by Ready, Houston said. Some companies have said they will be applying for the licence and by doing so, agreeing to the terms proposed by Ready. However, others will not because of what appears to be confusion as to what exactly has to be signed for the licence to be granted. The companies understood it was a 90-day licence, the companies' spokesman Richard Longpre said in an interview, but Ready and the Vancouver Container Truck Association, which represents

the truck drivers, say the companies must sign the two-year deal proposed by Ready before they can access the ports. "You can't enforce an agreement unless you sign it," Ready said. Vancouver Port Authority said that was not the intention. "It's supposed to be a 90-day interim agreement. We're not talking about a long-term agreement. That's the whole point, to give us some time to find a long-term solution," said Vancouver Port Authority spokesman Duncan Wilson. "It's not a negotiation; it's a decision by the port," Wilson said. "Whether or not all the companies sign on to the agreement, this is the system that's going to be in place. It's their decision whether they're going to want to do business with the port for the next 90 days or not." The move by the Vancouver Port Authority is the latest, and perhaps most imaginative, step in an effort to end the five-week-old work stoppage that has blocked \$30 million worth of goods from passing through the port daily. On Friday, Ready provided the parties with a non-binding memorandum of agreement in a last-ditch effort to resolve the dispute through negotiation. On Sunday, 90% of the members of the Vancouver Container Truck Association accepted the proposal. On the same day, the companies who hire the drivers unanimously rejected it. Lack of enforceability was the reason the companies gave Ready. "The trucking companies advised me that one of the prime issues in rejecting the agreement was that it couldn't be enforced consistently," Ready said in an interview. This led to yesterday's meeting between the trucking companies, the drivers and the Vancouver and Fraser River Port Authorities, where the licensing requirement was announced. "This solves that problem," Ready said in an interview after yesterday's meeting. "I think it is a very positive move." However, some of the companies say that imposing any deal, whether it be for 90 days or two years, is illegal and they will fight it in court. "The agreement itself is legally not going to stand muster and we think it's morally bankrupt," said Don Jordan, a lawyer for several of the companies.

London, Aug 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: Half of the container truck drivers involved in a strike at Vancouver's ports went back to work yesterday but a huge backlog of shipments continues to collect dust on the docks. The Vancouver Port Authority estimates it will take about six weeks to move 25,000 containers that stacked up at the port during the five-week strike. Ken Halliday of the Vancouver Container Truck Association said 25 out of 50 companies representing about 350 of the container truck owner-operators signed a two-year agreement to end the dispute late Tuesday (Aug 2) night. He expects competition will drive the remaining companies to sign a licence and the agreement ending the strike before tomorrow's 0800 hrs deadline. About 1,000 container

truckers have been off the job since the end of June in a strike that business groups estimate has cost the economy up to \$400 million.

#### NEW ZEALAND

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Striking baggage handlers returned to work at Auckland International Airport today confident they had sent a strong message to their employer over a wage claim. The 80 baggage handlers were on strike over the weekend over a failure to settle a wage claim with Menzies Aviation. International flights by several airlines, including Emirates, Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Pacific Blue, Thai Airways and Garuda were affected. The Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union Auckland director Mike Sweeney said baggage handlers had not had a wage increase for two years. He said they were being paid between NZ\$11 and NZ\$12 an hour and over a week were earning about \$100 less than Air New Zealand baggage handlers. The union was due to meet the employer later today to discuss the claim.

#### SOUTH AFRICA

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Around 2,000 workers at Highveld Steel ended their strike today after accepting their employer's six percent wage increase offer, trade union Solidarity said. "Members of Solidarity decided to accept the six percent wage increase and five percent increase in housing allowances, offered by the management of Highveld Steel," Solidarity spokesman Dirk Hermann said in a statement. The workers began striking on Wednesday (Jul 27) to demand an eight percent salary increase as well as a five percent housing allowance increase.

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: A strike at the supermarket chain Pick 'n Pay entered its 11th day today with no settlement of the dispute in sight. Pick 'n Pay employees began their action almost two weeks ago, demanding better salaries. Lucas Ramatlhodi, national administrative secretary for the SA Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union (Saccawu), said the union had met members yesterday to discuss the way forward. Wage talks between Saccawu and Pick 'n Pay management would resume today in Johannesburg, he said. The union is seeking a pay increase of R400 a month, while Pick 'n Pay is offering R310.

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: The 11-day strike by about 20,000 workers at Pick 'n Pay ended late yesterday, with the food retailer estimating total turnover losses at R73-million (£6.38 million), according to CEO Sean Summers. Announcing the wage agreement with members of the South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union (Saccawu) late yesterday, Summers said the



settlement would result in an overall increase in the company's labour bill of about 7.2%. The parties agreed on an across-the-board increase of R325 per month, back dated from Mar 1, 2005, with a special arrangement for an eight percent increase to apply to a small number of employees earning higher than R4 100 per month.

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Wage talks between Xstrata Chrome and the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (Numsa) failed today, as the strike at two processing plants near Rustenburg entered its third day. "The matter has not been resolved and today's discussions have failed," said Etienne du Preez, company spokesperson. "It is an extremely difficult situation and we feel the people losing the most are the workers." Du Preez said the company has no intention of moving from its offer of an 8.75% wage increase, with 6.5% to workers on the highest salary bands. Numsa spokesperson Bernard Mtyotywa confirmed that the talks have been going since 0900 hrs, without agreement. "The strike will continue until they change their mind," he said. "The workers feel the company is discriminating against them." The union and Xstrata will now go into negotiations over the terms of the strike, which could now continue for days. About 1 000 Numsa members embarked on the strike on Friday (Jul 29) following two months of unsuccessful wage negotiations. They issued the employer with the required 48-hour strike notice. At least seven striking workers were injured when security guards shot tear-gas grenades at protesters outside the Xstrata Chrome plant yesterday. Security guards took action after about 250 protesters attacked the vehicle of a non-striking employee, Du Preez said.

#### **SOUTH KOREA**

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Passengers inconvenienced by the pilots strike at Asiana Airlines can expect no compensation as the strike continues. Asiana cancelled 11 international flights among a total of 116 today, including flights to and from Jakarta, Matsuyama, New Delhi, Guilin, Sydney, Los Angeles and New York. Ninety-two domestic flights and eight cargo planes also stopped operating. Sixty-three international flights have been cancelled since the strike started on Jul 17. The airline plans to cancel 262 international flights on 11 routes this month, including 10 flights tomorrow. It will reduce the number of planes to L.A. and New York and suspend operations on several routes including Guilin and Chongqing, China. Those who reserved tickets for the cancelled flights are forced to find other ways to make their trips, or give up their vacation plans entirely. Airlines do not compensate for losses caused by labour disputes, as they consider them to be beyond their control, like the weather. According to the Korea Consumer Protection Board,

flight cancellations due to airline workers strikes are included in the escape clause for compensation. So passengers can get refunds for tickets but cannot receive compensation for the inconvenience. "In the case of flights to Sydney, we arrange seats on planes for Osaka, so passengers can transfer to other flights to Sydney from there. If we don't have additional seats on Asiana planes, we provide passengers with alternative flights on Qantas Airways and Japan Airlines," an Asiana official said. "If they don't want an alternative route, we refund the money," he added. The strike also places financial burdens on importers and exporters, as Asiana's cargo flights have all been stopped. Customer delivery time has been delayed for one to two days in some regions, as exporters have to find alternative airlines. If exporters use charter flights, the transportation cost increases by 10-50 percent, according to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy.

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Efforts to end a more than two-week long strike by unionised pilots at Asiana Airlines, South Korea's second largest carrier, have reached a standstill after negotiations failed over the weekend with no concrete plans for talks to resume. Representatives for the pilots and the airline haven't met since the latest round of talks broke down early Sunday (Jul 31), spokesmen for Asiana and the union said today. Union spokesman Lee Sang-jun held out the prospect for dialogue sometime later this week. "I think it takes a few days for the cooling (off) period to end," said Lee, who flies Boeing 747-400s for the airline. "Then we resume talks with management." The airline said today it is cancelling 262 international flights for the month of August and has entirely suspended service on some routes, including to and from Sydney, Australia. The airline estimates losses from the strike could total 201 billion won (\$197 million) by Aug 7, said Asiana spokesman Jason Kim. A total of 45,000 passengers will probably have been affected, Kim said. Asiana has been operating flights with non-union pilots and union members who haven't joined the walkout. About 500 of the airline's more than 800 pilots belong to the union, but not all have participated in the strike. The union says about 400 pilots have joined the walkout.

London, Aug 4 -- A press report, dated Aug 3, states: Striking pilots at South Korea's second-largest airline were defiant today, one day after the Labour Ministry warned them to end their walkout by this weekend (Aug 6-7) or face the prospect of government intervention. The strike by unionised pilots at Asiana Airlines entered its 19th day. The pilots have presented a wide range of demands, including more rest days, a greater say in management decisions and an increase in the retirement age. The airline has offered some concessions, but not enough to lure the pilots back

to work. "If the Asiana pilots' union does not reach an agreement by the weekend, the government plans to take special measures such as its emergency power to settle labour disputes," Labour Minister Kim Dae-hwan said yesterday. Kim's threat to halt the strike came as efforts to end the walkout reached a standstill after negotiations between the pilots and management failed over the weekend. The union and the airline said talks would probably resume today. "We think there is a very low possibility" the government would intervene, said Lee Hack-ju, an Asiana pilot and union spokesman, emphasising that even amid the strike, South Koreans have other ways to travel and companies have alternatives to ship goods, including on rival Korean Air, the country's largest carrier. Still, Kim's comments suggest the government has run out of patience and is prepared to take extraordinary steps it reserves to end labour disputes in critical industries. Under the emergency measures, Asiana's union would have to immediately stop the strike for a period of 30 days. Such measures are usually used to quell strikes in public service sectors like transportation considered critical to the national economy. The Asiana strike, which began on Jul 17, has been costly for the airline, forcing it to cancel all its cargo flights, about half its domestic flights as well as numerous lucrative international passenger flights during the peak summer travel season. The airline said on Tuesday it was cancelling 262 international flights for the month of August and had entirely suspended service on some routes, including to and from Sydney, Australia. The number of flight suspensions has steadily increased and the airline last week cancelled more than half its domestic routes for the first time. Asiana cancelled its first flights to New York and San Francisco over the weekend. Asiana estimates losses from the strike could total won 201 billion (\$199 million) through Aug 7. A total of 45,000 passengers will probably have been affected, the airline estimates. Asiana has been operating flights with nonunion pilots and union members who have not joined the walkout. About 500 of the airline's more than 800 pilots belong to the union, but not all have participated in the strike. The union says about 400 pilots have joined the walkout.

#### **TONGA**

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: The South Pacific island kingdom of Tonga has been paralysed for a sixth day by striking public sector workers. Civil servants and government employees started the industrial action, demanding pay increases of up to 80%. The strikes have now spread, with many teachers, doctors and nurses walking off the job and local media putting the numbers of protestors at about 3,000. The government said it cannot afford the higher wages. Tonga's finances have

been in trouble for years. According to local press reports, an attempt to reach a compromise between the strikers' representatives, the Public Servants Association (PSA), and the government failed. The government has said it is looking into the demands of the workers, but warned that a significant pay hike could damage the local economy by boosting living costs, local media reported. Finau Tutone, chair of the PSA, was quoted by the Matangi Tonga website as saying that the situation was tense and warned that it may turn violent. The strike has closed down large parts of the island, with schools having to close and goods not being delivered or loaded. "There is more and more cargo piling up on the wharf," said Sione Ngongo Kioa, president of the Tonga Chamber of Commerce and Industries. Tonga's main hospital has lost about 40% of its workforce and the president of the Tonga Medical Association, Dr Siale Akau'ola, said that the main hospital in the capital was only treating emergencies. "It's not only the doctors," he said. It's "other paramedical staff, like radiology, technicians and some of the laboratory staff, and the maintenance staff".

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tonga's airport and wharfs are remaining open despite a determined strike by more than 1,000 of the country's civil servants, who are seeking significant pay rises. The strike, which began 12 days ago, has not hit as hard as some people had expected. New Zealand's High Commissioner to Tonga, Michael McBryde, said about one-quarter of the country's 4,000 civil servants remained on strike. They tended to be support and administrative workers at the lower end of the pay scales. Senior staff remained at work, he said. The industrial action by the newly created Public Service Association was somewhat haphazard as Tonga did not really have experience with unions, bar a few professional groupings such as doctors and nurses, said McBryde. Earlier successful public protests this year had encouraged the strikers to believe they could make gains over the 12.5 per cent pay rise offer put on the table by the Government. A large public demonstration in mid-May succeeded in putting a power company back into Government hands, and another protest not long after had seen farmers succeed in gaining exemptions to a new consumption tax.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated Aug 1, states: Management for Asarco Corp. issued a letter to 1,500 striking miners at copper mines above Tucson, Arizona, warning them of the company's dire financial position should workers remain out on strike. "We ask that each of you consider what is best for the preservation of your job. Coming back to work while we continue negotiating towards an agreement on the labour contract is in the best interest of all parties involved." Asarco CEO Daniel

Tellechea and seven other company officials signed the letter. Asarco, which is owned by Grupo Mexico, is demanding a three-year wage freeze and cuts in medical and pension benefits at a time when the price of copper is at record heights, closing at \$1.69 a pound last week. The letter made reference to a recent Standard & Poor's downgrade of the mining company's credit rating, citing high exposure to environmental and asbestos liabilities, high production costs, and the recent strike.

### Awards & Settlements



#### INVESTMENT VIOLATION, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 4 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Harvard University has agreed to pay \$26.5 million to settle a civil complaint about investments a professor and a former staff member made while working on a federal contract to help privatize Russia's post-Soviet economy, prosecutors said today. The agreement also calls for economics professor Andrei Shleifer and former Harvard project manager Jonathan Hay to each pay up to \$2 million. Shleifer, who remains on Harvard's faculty, and Hay, a Harvard law school graduate now working as a lawyer in London, were top officials at the law reform project of the now-defunct Harvard Institute for International Development. At the same time Hay and Shleifer were advising the Russians on restructuring their economy, they and their families allegedly made several hundred thousand dollars in investments in companies they were helping the Russian government regulate. The Justice Department alleged the investments violated the conflict-of-interest policy in the contract between Harvard and the U.S. Agency for International Development. U.S. District Judge Douglas P. Woodcock ruled last year that Harvard had breached its contract with agency, but he dismissed a charge that the school knowingly deceived the government. Robert Iuliano, Harvard's vice president and general counsel, said the settlement is a "mutually acceptable resolution" to the 5-year-old case.

#### MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED KINGDOM

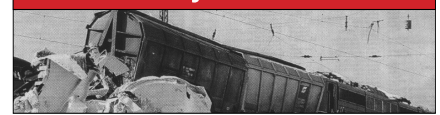
London, Aug 4 -- A bright schoolgirl whose life was "blighted" by brain damage during her birth was yesterday awarded £4 million in settlement of her High Court damages claim. A judge in London approved the agreed lump sum to be paid to Amie Morey, now 16, for injuries of "maximum severity" suffered during her delivery on Jul 22, 1989. Her counsel, Dennis Matthews, told Mrs

Justice Dobbs that "for no good clinical reason Amie was delivered by Caesarean section at 31 weeks". Amie, of Cowes, Isle of Wight, who suffers from cerebral palsy, was not present in court for the brief hearing. Paul Rees, QC, for Powys Local Health Board in Newtown, Powys, mid Wales, expressed the defendant's "unreserved apology" to Amie and "regret for the events which have so blighted her life".

#### OIL SPILL, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated Jul 27, states: Sunoco will pay the US government about \$3.6 million to settle a lawsuit over a massive oil spill that fouled plants and animals at a wildlife refuge, officials announced today. The spill, caused by a crack in a pipeline, leaked 192,000 gallons of crude oil into a pond and surrounding wetlands in February, 2000, at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge. The 1,000-acre refuge straddles Philadelphia and Delaware County and is home to numerous wildlife species, including the threatened red-bellied turtle and southern leopard frog. "Sunoco worked closely with the government to reach a fair and equitable settlement," company spokesman Gerald Davis said. Sunoco agreed to a penalty of more than \$2.7 million for violating the Clean Water Act and \$865,000 for damaging natural resources, according to a consent decree filed in federal district court.

### Railway Accidents



#### BHAIRAB AND MAINAMATI AREAS, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Jul 31 -- Bangladesh Railway said in railway accidents, eight bogies of two trains derailed on the busy Dhaka-Chittagong and Chittagong-Sylhet lines in southern Bangladesh yesterday. It is reported that five bogies of the Sylhet bound Parabat Express derailed near Bhairab station at 0930 hrs. According to local media reports, as a result, the Dhaka bound Subarna Express and the Mohanagar Provaty trains were stranded at Brahmonbaria. Movement of the trains resumed at 1415 hrs, after salvage of the derailed bogies. In another incident, three bogies of Noakhali bound Upakul Express skidded off the track near Mainamati station at 1418 hrs. As a result the Jalalabad Express was stranded at Comilla and the Karnaphuli Express at Alishahar station. Salvage work was continuing until the evening. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated Jul 27, states: The National

Transportation Safety Board said yesterday a failure by Canadian National Railway to properly maintain its track led to the derailment of an Amtrak train last year in Mississippi that killed one person and injured dozens. Amtrak's City of New Orleans, carrying 61 passengers and a crew of 12, was traveling northbound at about 78 mph on Apr 6, 2004, when it derailed off a trestle in a remote area near Flora. In a report issued yesterday, the NTSB said the train derailed when it passed over a section of rail that had bent out of line because of heat expansion. According to the NTSB, Canadian National welders removed a 12-foot, 11-inch section of rail in January, 2004. Because of low temperatures, when that piece was removed the remaining rail contracted, meaning the replacement section of rail had to be two inches longer than the piece that was removed, the board said. The extra two inches should have been removed before the rail expanded again in warmer weather, the board said. The NTSB also said about 50% of the rail anchors in the area that should have kept the rail from bending were ineffective. The board's report identified safety concerns with CN's continuous welded rail maintenance and inspection procedures, Amtrak's emergency response training of its employees and Federal Railroad Administration oversight of both. Since the accident, the railroad has focused on training employees on maintenance procedure and strengthening management oversight, a spokesman said. Steve Kulm, a spokesman for the Federal Railroad Administration, said today that the agency had begun an aggressive new national rail safety action plan this year.

**DAVIDSON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated Jul 28, states: Authorities in Davidson County say it could take days to complete the clean-up after a train accident yesterday near High Rock Lake. CSX officials said one of its trains derailed on its way from Wadesboro to Winston-Salem shortly before 1700. Neither of the two-person crew was injured during the derailment. Investigators said one of the cars contained limestone, and another contained ground glass. They said the limestone won't hurt the drinking water but it could hurt wildlife in the area. DSX sent an environmental contract to the scene to assess the damage. The accident happened near the Tuckertown reservoir.

**EASTERN TURKEY**

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

**EKLASHPUR AREA, BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Jul 30 -- Bangladesh railway said rail traffic was suspended for a few hours on the Laksam-Noakhali branch line in southern

Bangladesh after five bogies of the Noakhali Express derailed Thursday night (Jul 28). It is said that five bogies of the Dhaka-bound express train went off the track near Hafez Moinuddin mazar gate at Eklashpur at about 2100 hrs, half-an-hour after its departure from Noakhali station. No casualties or injuries were reported in the accident. A relief train from Laksam arrived on scene at about 0730 hrs, yesterday, for salvage work. Movement of all trains, including the inter-district Upakul Express, had been restored by late yesterday. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSOURI, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two freight trains collided, leading to a derailment yesterday afternoon in Jefferson County near the community of Imperial, authorities said. There was no word of any injuries, but more than 12 train cars left the tracks. It appeared from initial reports that northbound and southbound trains belonging to Burlington Northern sideswiped each other around 1530 hrs. One of the trains was hauling automobiles, and some of the vehicles were thrown from the train.

**JUNPUR, UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA**

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Nine people have been killed and 38 others injured in an explosion on a moving passenger train in India, a senior police official has said. The blast occurred when the train was near Jaunpur, in northern Uttar Pradesh state, about 640km east of the capital Delhi. The cause of the blast, which occurred in an unreserved compartment of the train, is unclear. Relief and rescue teams have been sent to the scene. The train was travelling from Patna in eastern Bihar state to Delhi. Uttar Pradesh police chief Yashpal Singh said nearly 40 people had been injured, some of them seriously. "We still can't say if it was a bomb that exploded in the toilet of an unreserved coach," he told Reuters news agency. "It could be that somebody was carrying an explosive." Railways Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav had earlier told reporters in the eastern city of Patna that it was unclear whether the explosion was caused by a bomb or by the gas cylinder of a cooking stove, sometimes carried by villagers on trains in India. Rajendra Singh, a senior railways official, told Reuters news agency: "There was a blast on an unreserved coach, but it wasn't a very big explosion. Luckily it was not very crowded. The coach didn't jump off the rail." Another railways spokesman, Geetanjali Kame, said the train had been able to continue to the nearest station.

Lucknow, Jul 29 -- Police in India said today that an explosion in a train that left 13 people dead and dozens wounded was caused by a bomb planted in a toilet. Indian railway

officials had earlier suggested the blast late yesterday near Jaunpur town in northern Uttar Pradesh state may have been caused by a cooking gas cylinder, sometimes carried by villagers on trains, but bomb experts discounted this today. "There is enough evidence to confirm the use of RDX explosive," a member of a police bomb squad, who did not want to be named, told Reuters from the site. Uttar Pradesh Home (interior) Secretary Alok Sinha said authorities did not have any specific leads on who was behind the blast which occurred in an unreserved coach. "It certainly is not an accident. It is some explosive planted in the coach," Sinha told Reuters. In yesterday's explosion, witnesses said some bodies were flung from the door of the moving train after the explosion. Police said at least 20 of the 46 wounded were in critical condition. -- Reuters.

**LALMAI AREA, BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Jul 29 -- Bangladesh Railway said one of its cargo and relief trains derailed in southern Bangladesh yesterday. As a result, the rail link between Dhaka and Chittagong was closed for quite some time. It is reported that the first five wagons of a Chittagong-bound goods train derailed in the Lalmai area at about 1230 hrs, Jul 28. Later, a relief train while trying to salvage the derailed freight train, came off the tracks, killing its driver. Railway Office sources admitted that train services along the Dhaka, Chittagong, Noakhali, Chandpur and Sylhet routes remained halted following the mishap. An inquiry is being ordered. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**LIAONING PROVINCE, CHINA**

London, Jul 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two trains collided today in the north-eastern province of Liaoning, leaving five carriages off the track and six passengers dead, according to the Ministry of Railways. At 1952 hrs, the K127 passenger train from north-western Xi'an city to north-eastern Changchun city collided into the tail of a cargo train from Changchun to north-eastern coastal city Dalian. Thirty passengers were injured and rushed to hospital, the ministry said.

Beijing, Aug 2 -- Theft of electrical wire caused a train crash in China at the weekend that killed five people and injured 30, a state-run newspaper said today. The China Daily said the Sunday (Jul 31) night crash in which a passenger train smashed into the rear of a cargo train between the northeastern cities of Changchun and Dalian happened after the electrical wire was stolen from a switching station. Other state media have said broken signalling equipment caused the crash. Theft of power lines in China has become rampant, with the copper wire sold for scrap. Global copper prices are at record highs, thanks to the appetite of China's rapidly developing economy. The China Daily quoted a survivor of the

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

train crash as saying it was lucky many people had disembarked in the city of Shenyang before the accident, otherwise more people could have been killed or injured. The crash halted services on the line for about 17 hours and stranded thousands of people at Shenyang, the paper said.

**MAXIE, MISSISSIPPI, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated Jul 26, states: Two rail cars carrying potentially deadly chlorine derailed about 1545, yesterday, in the Maxie community, but no leaks or injuries were reported. Forrest County Emergency Management Director Terry Steed said the train of more than 50 cars was headed north on the Kansas City Southern Railway Co. tracks when the two cars left the tracks. Steed said the train dragged the two Dupont cars more than three miles before it came to a complete stop. Railroad officials would not comment on the cause of the derailment because it is an ongoing investigation. The cars tilted but remained upright, and no leaks were found. Jon Templeton of the Biloxi office of the US Environmental Service checked for leaks. "Nothing was observed during the preliminary assessment," he said. Steed said he expected the tracks would be cleared late yesterday night, but he was not sure when they would be usable again.

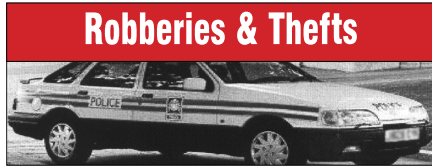
**MYMENSINGH, BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Aug 1 -- Bangladesh Railway has reported another railway derailment but this time in north east central part of country. It was reported that four bogies of a Mymensingh bound goods train derailed yesterday morning at Mymensingh road rail station on Mymensingh-Bahadurabad Ghat railroad suspending the train communications for two hours. A rescue team rushed to the spot and restored train communications at about 1200 hrs, repairing the rail line for two hours. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent

**WABAMUN, ALBERTA, CANADA**

Calgary, Aug 3 -- A Canadian National Railway Co freight train derailed west of Edmonton, Alberta, today, halting traffic on the company's mainline and causing oil to spill into a lake, CN said. Forty-three of 140 cars in a westbound train jumped the tracks near Wabamun, Alberta, including 26 tankers carrying bunker C fuel, CN spokesman Jim Feeny said. An unknown number of those were leaking the heavy fuel oil into Lake Wabamun, a popular recreation site about 50 km west of Edmonton, Feeny said. "We have not determined conclusively how much product leaked either, but product has leaked on to the ground and has leaked into the lake as well," he said. Traffic on CN's mainline between Edmonton and Vancouver, British Columbia, had been halted since the early-morning incident, and the railway said the normally busy corridor could be idle for another day and a half. One car carrying toxic toluene also derailed, prompting

authorities to evacuate nearby residents. However, that tanker was intact and people began returning to their homes later today. -- Reuters.



**JEWELLERY, GIFU, JAPAN**

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Forfeited jewellery, watches and other goods worth an estimated 400 million yen were stolen early yesterday from a public hall in Gifu, Gifu Prefecture, the police said.



**BREAKDOWN OF SHIP LOADER, SALDANHA BAY, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Kumba Resources, said today that ore exports at Saldanha Bay had resumed after repairs to a ship loader that broke down last week. "The latest update on the port stoppage is that the ship loader is up and running since Monday night," Trevor Arran, Kumba's Investor Relations Manager, said. "There has been no disruption to the rail schedule and the trains from Sishen to Saldanha have been running as per normal, feeding the stockpile." The interruption had given Kumba an opportunity to replenish its stockpiles at the port and the miner would make up for the shipping delays in coming weeks, he said.

**MUTINY ON CHILEAN FLAGGED VESSEL IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC**

London, Jul 29 --- A press report, dated today, states: Fishing Magallanes III (536 gt, built 1970) underwent 38 hours of fear and uncertainty when one of the crew locked himself in the bridge threatening the captain and chief officer with knives demanding the vessel returned him to Punta Arenas. The incident began last Tuesday (Jul 19) when one of the 39 crew members of the vessel belonging to Pesca Chile, in an apparent desperate state and holding two knives ordered the captain and chief officer to sail back. The vessel in the high seas since Jul 1, was fishing hake 700 kilometres north-east of Punta Arenas in the South Pacific. Although the mutineer ordered a communications blackout, the Chilean Navy received an alert of what was happening and ordered three units to be ready for when the vessel approached the Magellan Strait from the west, including a fast patrol vessel with a boarding team of twelve highly trained frogmen. However as time went on the mutineer became less aggressive and the Navy desisted of using the

boarding team as the trawler approached Punta Arenas. On docking the crew was evacuated and the rebellious fisherman gave himself up and is currently jailed pending an investigation into the incident. (Note -- Magallanes III arrived Punta Arenas Jul 28.)

**OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"**

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Japanese authorities say they have discovered a fresh outbreak of bird flu on a chicken farm in the east of the country. The farm is close to where several cases of the disease have been detected since late June. Officials say tests are under way to confirm the sub-type of the virus. All recent bird flu outbreaks in the region have so far been confirmed as less virulent than the deadly H5N1 strain of the disease, found in Japan early last year. The H5N1 strain first surfaced in poultry in Hong Kong and China eight years ago and is known to have killed more than 50 people in South-East Asia.

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Health authorities in Vietnam have reported the deaths of two more people from bird flu. More than 40 people have now died from the deadly H5N1 strain of virus in Vietnam since the epidemic began in 2003. A 24-year-old man is said to have died on Monday (Jul 25) in a hospital in Tra Vinh province. A 26-year-old woman from Ho Chi Minh City died on Wednesday in one of the southern business capital's main hospitals. Doctors say both had tested positive to the H5N1 virus.



**CHEMICAL PLANT, FORT WORTH, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: A series of explosions rocked a Fort Worth chemical plant today and set off a raging fire, injuring three people and sending up a pillar of black smoke that could be seen 30 miles away. The cause of the five-alarm fire was not immediately known. Workers at the Valley Solvents & Chemicals plant told authorities they heard an explosion and then noticed a fire near a tractor-trailer that had just pulled in to deliver chemicals, said fire Lt. Kent Worley. The driver suffered a burned leg, one employee had arm burns and another hurt his back trying to flee, Worley said. The fire raged in and around more than a dozen large metal and plastic tanks containing 2,000 to 4,000 gallons of methanol, sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid, ethanol and other chemicals. "This fire is so intense that we continue to have explosions coming from those containers," Worley said. "We can't get that close." The blaze was in a large industrial area not close to any

residential neighbourhoods. "It shook all the buildings here," Angela McCollum, who works at a cement plant about 100 yards away, told The Dallas Morning News.

London, Jul 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: The investigation into a Fort Worth chemical plant explosion that injured four people on Thursday (Jul 28) was focusing on a chemical delivery truck. Investigators said they were focusing on a vehicle that had been delivering methanol to the Valley Solvents and Chemicals plant when the complex exploded, NBC 5 reported. Fort Worth Fire Department Lt. Kent Worley said static electricity may have ignited methanol fumes. "Anytime you have any kind of transport vehicle, that is always a concern," Worley said. NBC 5 has learned that as recently as last week, city inspectors issued a notice of violation to Valley Solvents for what was described as an illegal discharge of an unknown substance into storm drains. Officials released no word on whether or not the leak had been rectified. The leak was just one lead investigators told NBC 5 they would follow during the investigation. Worley said investigators were interviewing suspects, but that not much more could be done at this time. He said the environmental clean up effort was the first priority at the scene.

#### **COAL MINE, LONGYEARBYEN, NORWAY**

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated Aug 1, states: A fire in a Norwegian coal mine was out of control today and a mining company says it could take weeks to put it out. Aftenposten reports the fire started on Saturday (Jul 30) in the Svea Nord mine in Longyearbyen on Svalbard in the Arctic Archipelago from sparks from drain pipe welding. More than 1,000 metres of Svalbard's largest mine was burning yesterday afternoon and emergency crews were working non-stop. Dams have been built in the mine shaft to direct water towards the blaze and special equipment to battle the fire was flown in from Germany yesterday night. Residents of Longyearbyen rely on the coal mining industry and are worried the fire could ruin their economy, Aftenposten said.

#### **FOREST, INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA**

London, Aug 3 -- A press report, dated Aug 2, states: Forest fires in Indonesia's Sumatra province covered Kuala Lumpur and 32 other areas of Malaysia with a smoky haze today, reducing visibility in some places to a half-mile. In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's biggest city and financial capital, traffic slowed to a crawl and the acrid smell of burning vegetation filled the air. The Department of Environment said air quality in an area in central Perak state was unhealthy, and it downgraded air quality in 32 other areas -- including Kuala Lumpur -- from good to moderate. It said satellite images showed 587 "hot spots," or fires, in

Riau and northern Sumatra in Indonesia. The province is separated from peninsular Malaysia by the Malacca Strait. Seventeen hot spots also were reported in Malaysia's Sarawak state, and 16 in Indonesia's Kalimantan province, both on Borneo island. The weather bureau said hazy conditions would persist for up to two days, so long as winds were blowing from Sumatra to Malaysia.

#### **FOREST, SLOVAKIA**

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Slovakian forest fire that broke out over the weekend in the northern High Tatras mountains, the worst blaze in 60 years, has not yet been brought completely under control, a fire official said yesterday. "Rain overnight helped us to control the fire even though there are still several places where there is smoke. It is still possible that during the day several small local fires may flare up," fire chief Adrian Takac said. About 20 firefighters, nearly 200 volunteers with three helicopters and several vehicles were mobilised to tackle the fire that has destroyed 250 hectares of woodland near the border with Poland.

#### **HYDROELECTRIC STATION, DONETSK, UKRAINE**

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire broke out at the fourth unit of the Starobeshevskaya hydroelectric station in the Donetsk region today, a source at the Ukrainian Emergencies Ministry said. The blaze broke out at about 0400, local time, today. There were no reports about victims.

#### **PREMISES AND VEHICLES, CEBU, PHILIPPINES**

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Smuggled luxury vehicles and other seized items valued at least R100 million (US\$1.87) and set for auction went up in smoke when a pre-dawn fire destroyed yesterday government offices and five warehouses at the Cebu International Port (CIP). The blaze, which broke out at 0355 hrs, destroyed the offices of Cebu Ports Authority, storage facility of the Bureau of Customs, and the office of the Maritime Police. Also damaged were the offices of the Oriental Ports and Allied Services Corp. and the Starlight Cargo Express. During a press conference held yesterday afternoon, Cebu Customs Collector Lourdes Mangaoang said that the total damage could reach R100 million as fire investigators and Customs personnel continued assessing the damage. Cebu City Fire Marshall Esmael Codilla said the fire broke out at the offices of Startlight Cargo located beside an area where the Customs stored seized items. The fire was declared under control after 55 minutes, but smoke and the fire were still visible until noon yesterday. Codilla said they were not able to immediately contain the fire because live ammunition at the Maritime Police Office exploded,

causing the blaze to spread to nearby offices. Mangaoang said the blaze destroyed 22 luxury vehicles, 36 luxury big bikes, and millions worth of other items seized by Customs for lack of documents. The vehicles and motorcycles alone can be sold for R20 million in auction, Mangaoang said. As of yesterday afternoon, the Cebu City fire department has not issued an official statement on the cause of the fire because investigators were still gathering evidence at the fire scene.

Manila, Jul 29 -- Cargo loading and unloading operations returned to normal at the Cebu International Port by noon, yesterday, after firemen were finally able to completely extinguish a fire which destroyed several warehouses and a building housing the Bureau of Customs, Cebu Ports Authority and Maritime Police. Customs operations, however, were affected because of the destruction of Customs equipment and files, causing delays in the release of imported cargo. Firemen declared that the fire was placed under control at 0445 hrs but it took them the whole morning to completely extinguish the fire. Firefighters said that it took time to put the fire out because of exploding ammunition stored at the Maritime Police office. "It was like a war zone when the explosions started. We had to duck for cover," Cebu City Fire Marshal Ysmael Codilla said. Acetylene tanks and seized vehicles inside the building also caused several explosions. The 10,000 square metre building which also serves as a warehouse contained 22 confiscated vehicles and 30 container boxes of assorted imported cargo being kept for customs processing. All these were lost in the fire. Damage to cargo was estimated to cost between Pesos70 to 100 million (US\$1.78 million dollars). -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **PREMISES, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 4 -- A press report dated yesterday, states: A raging fire damaged nine buildings this afternoon in New Jersey across the Hudson River from lower Manhattan, forcing dozens of people from their homes. Nine firefighters collapsed from heat exhaustion, authorities said. The fire broke out shortly after 1700 hrs in a residential area of the city and was declared under control about two hours later. Authorities were investigating whether the blaze might have been touched off by an electrical explosion, Fire Director Armando Roman said. All residents of the buildings escaped safely.

#### **REFINERY, TEXAS CITY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

Houston, Jul 29 -- A fire yesterday at BP's Texas City refinery, the country's third largest, forced it to shut a desulphurisation unit but did not disrupt production elsewhere in the plant, BP said. The cause of the blast at the 60,000 barrel-per-day (bpd) residual hydrotreating unit, which

caused no injuries, was not immediately known. The fire was extinguished at 0230 hrs, today, (0830, BST), less than 12 hours after it flared. The flow of residue, a heavy, gunky oil, to the unit was stopped shortly after the blast and the remaining fuel in the unit was left in a "a controlled burn". Safety inspections to assess the damage and when operations might resume could begin today at the earliest, BP said. -- Reuters.

London, Jul 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: A preliminary inspection has found a pipeline failure likely caused the explosion at a BP plant this week. BP said the failed line was located between a compressor and heat exchanger on the Resid Hydrotreating Unit at the Texas City refinery. The unit removes sulphur from heavy crude oil. A company spokesman said the unit where the blast occurred and two similar units have been shut down and will not be brought on line again until they can be operated safely. No one was injured in this week's blast. The Texas City refinery processes 433 thousand barrels of crude oil a day and 3% of the nation's gasoline.

Houston, Jul 31 -- BP Plc shut a gasoline-producing fluidic catalytic cracking unit today at its 460,000 barrel per day refinery in Texas City, Texas, for maintenance repairs, according to a notice filed with Texas environmental regulators. It was unclear from the notice filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality if the shutdown of FCCU No. 2 was related to an explosion at the refinery on Thursday (Jul 28) that forced the plant to cut production. A BP spokesman was not immediately available to discuss refinery operations. No one was hurt in Thursday's explosion at the third-largest U.S. refinery, but it cut crude oil processing by 70,000 bpd, reduced gasoline output by 35,000 bpd and boosted crude oil prices by 63 cents a barrel on Friday to \$60.57 a barrel on the NYMEX. Thursday's blast occurred in a residue hydrotreating unit that uses hydrogen to remove sulfur from gunky, heavy "bottom of the barrel" hydrocarbons and increase the amount of gasoline and distillate produced from a barrel of crude. BP said Thursday's blast was due to internal cracking in a thick steel pipe on the unit. -- Reuters.

#### **SHIPYARD, ARKHANGELSK, RUSSIA**

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: An explosion and a fire at a shipyard that decommissions nuclear submarines killed at least one person and injured another, an emergency official said today. The blast took place at the Zvyozdochka plant around 0832 hrs and the fire was extinguished around 0900 hrs, said the duty officer for the Emergency Situations Ministry in the White Sea region of Arkhangelsk, about 600 miles north of Moscow.

#### **WAREHOUSES, HALEYVILLE, ALABAMA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 30 -- A press report, dated Jul 29, states: A spokesman for Mays Wholesale Flowers estimate that \$5-6 million in merchandise was destroyed in a huge fire at the company's sprawling warehouse facility in Haleyville. More than two dozen firefighters from three counties battled yesterday's blaze which took several hours to bring under control. There were no serious injuries, but six people were treated for exhaustion and smoke inhalation. Haleyville Fire Chief Ralph Edwards said the fire gutted six warehouses. He said another seven warehouses were not damaged. Investigators with the state Fire Marshal's office are trying to determine how the fire started.

#### **WILDFIRE, ATHENS AREA, GREECE**

Athens, Jul 28 -- Firefighters managed to contain a blaze that swept through Athens' eastern suburbs today, injuring six people, destroying dozens of homes and factories and temporarily threatening the prime minister's seaside home. After more than nine hours, close to 500 firefighters and soldiers, 80 fire trucks, eight airplanes and six helicopters got the blaze under control. "The situation is good. There is no fire front any more and we are facing no major problem at the moment," Civil Protection General Secretary Panayiotis Fourlas told reporters. The blaze, that officials and locals blamed on arsonists, destroyed hundreds of acres of pine forest near the suburb of Rafina on its way to the populated coastal areas, forcing many residents to flee. A second fire started nearby less than three hours later and quickly spread, fanned by strong winds. At least six people, including two firefighters, were injured as they tried to contain the blaze that quickly gathered speed due to the winds and sizzling summer temperatures. Authorities in eastern Athens had to evacuate houses, summer camps, psychiatric asylums and orphanages as the blaze spread, and urged Athenians who own houses in the area to stay away. The wealthy area, 30 km east of the city centre, is scattered with small, green suburbs and thousands of holiday homes. Athens International airport, which lies some 10 km away, shut its western runway and redirected flights to its eastern runway. -- Reuters.

#### **WILDFIRES, GREECE**

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Scores of wildfires fanned by violent winds destroyed about 500 hectares of forests and crops in Greece over the weekend, emergency services said today. Firefighters battled and contained almost 100 fires across the country at the weekend, including one that burnt more than 250 hectares in Ipiros in the north-west and another that wiped out 150 hectares of forest and scrub in the Peloponnese in the southwest, the

emergency services said in a statement. A fresh fire broke out in Agii Theodori, 60 kilometres south of Athens yesterday and raced towards homes before it was brought under control a few hours later by firefighters supported by planes and helicopters. Early yesterday, firefighters contained a fire on the Ionian island of Zakynthos which swept through 100 hectares of scrub and crops in the mountainous Skopos area, firefighters said. Investigators were probing the cause of Thursday's fire that razed 60 homes, 500 hectares of forest and 200 hectares of crops near the port of Rafina, 30 kilometres north-east of Athens.

#### **WILDFIRES, RUSSIA**

London, Jul 29 -- Forest fires have expanded in the Russian Far East in the past 24 hours by 870 hectares, the Far Eastern forest protection airbase said today. Thirty-eight taiga fires have been registered as for today in Khabarovsk, Primorye, Amur regions, in Yakutia and Chukotka. The situation is most complicated in Khabarovsk region where four new fires broke out on yesterday. A major fire in the Komsomolsk nature preserve has been raging since the beginning of the month. The fire force fighting the blazes includes 316 men and 56 pieces of hardware, as well as 15 planes and helicopters. 101,200 hectares of taiga have burned down since spring in the Far East and the damage exceeds the 2004 figure several fold, according to the estimates of the forest protection services.

#### **WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: A wildfire believed to have started in a burning mobile home had grown to more than 950 acres by yesterday evening and threatened more than 140 homes, fire officials said. Residents of 73 dwellings were ordered to evacuate and occupants of another 70 scattered homes in the area remained under notice they also may have to leave, Forest Service spokesman Robin DeMario said. The blaze started late Saturday (Jul 30) as a structure fire on private land and eventually spread to parts of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in central Washington. The fire was reported 10 percent contained yesterday evening, according to the Central Washington Area Incident Management Team. No other homes had been damaged as of yesterday and no injuries were reported.

London, Aug 3 -- A press report, dated Aug 2, states: Nearly 5,000 people were ordered to evacuate their homes and the only road connecting the town of Waikoloa to the rest of the Big Island was closed as a spreading brush fire approached, officials said. No injuries were reported and officials had not confirmed whether any structures had burned, Hawaii County Fire Capt. Felix Asia said. The evacuation order was in effect for 75%

of the town's 6,500 residents, Hawaii County Civil Defence Agency acting administrator Lanny Nakano said. Officials turned a community centre and elementary school into evacuation centers, while a local resort opened its ballroom to evacuees and another school offered dorm rooms. The fire was burning out of control this evening, consuming more than 25,000 acres along the Kohala Coast on the west side of the island. The only road connecting the village to the rest of the island was closed and parents were asked to pick up their children from school because buses were not allowed through the area. Schools outside the town were asked to keep students from Waikoloa until it was safe for them to return. Nearly 150 county and federal personnel were working through the night to battle the blaze, with the help of four helicopters and eight bulldozers, Nakano said. The evacuation order came after the Federal Emergency Management Agency approved a request from Governor Linda Lingle for a disaster declaration in the area. The declaration will make federal funding available to pay part of the state's firefighting costs. The blaze started yesterday as a small brush fire, Battalion Chief Curtis Matsui said. Meanwhile, in Washington state, officials said residents of about 75 homes who had evacuated yesterday when a wildfire closed in would be allowed to return home tomorrow. However, residents of another 70 homes were under notice that they might have to evacuate in the area near Lake Wenatchee in central Washington, where a blaze has burned nearly 1,000 acres. No injuries have been reported. Large fires also were active today in Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Texas and Utah, the National Interagency Fire Centre reported. So far this year, wildfires have charred 4.7 million acres, compared with 5.5 million at the same time last year, the centre said.

London, Aug 4 -- A press report, dated Aug 3, states: Evacuated residents of Waikoloa Village were allowed to return to their homes as firefighters managed to gain the upper hand on a stubborn blaze that has scorched more than 25,000 acres. Only a few of the estimated 5,000 people who had been evacuated returned today. Those who did complained of a nasty smell and a layer of ash across this community on the north-west coast of the Big Island. "This is like a ghost town today," said Kris Kosa-Correia, principal of Waikoloa Elementary School, where scores of evacuees found temporary refuge. The fire had scorched undergrowth up to 20 feet from her own home's door and left ash inside the condominium apartment. The evacuation order had affected 75% of the town's 6,500 residents, said Hawaii County Civil Defence Agency acting administrator Lanny Nakano. The blaze started on Monday (Aug 1) as a small brush fire. More than 150 personnel were called

in to battle the blaze, including crews from Hilo and Kona, as well as the recruit class. Helicopters continued to make water drops through the day. "They got it at 80%, as far as containment goes," Hawaii County Civil Defence Agency acting administrator Lanny Nakano said this afternoon. The Waikoloa fire is one of the largest ever recorded on the Big Island. Another fire burning in North Kohala jumped Akoni Pule Highway at several points and burned all the way to the ocean. The blaze, which covered 2,500 acres, forced the evacuation of one house, but it was saved by firefighters who cut a fire break around the structure. On the US mainland, officials in Washington state said residents of about 75 homes who had evacuated on Monday when a 1,000-acre wildfire closed in were allowed to return home today. Large fires also were active today in Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Texas and Utah, the National Interagency Fire Centre reported.



#### ACCIDENT, PORT AUGUSTA AIRPORT, AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A light aircraft with eight people on board has been forced to land on its belly at Port Augusta Airport. Just before noon, ACST, the pilot of the Navaho reported a light on the control panel indicating a problem with the aircraft's landing gear. A spokesman for the Metropolitan Fire Service says the aircraft circled the airport for nearly an hour, before a decision was made to attempt the belly landing. It did so successfully, with no injuries to any of the passengers or pilot. A spokesman for Air Services Australia says the aircraft had been on its way to Port Augusta from Adelaide.

#### C-FCGL

London, Aug 3 -- Beechcraft King Air 200, C-FCGL, operated by Northern Thunderbird, departed Vancouver at about 0845, PDT, Jul 28 for a VFR flight to Smithers, BC, with a crew of two people on board. The aircraft did not arrive at destination and a search was commenced at 1130, PDT. The aircraft was found Jul 30. The crash site was on the side of a mountain, just below a saddle at about 3900 feet elevation, in an area of very high terrain. Both occupants were deceased. A post-crash fire destroyed most of the aircraft.

#### C-FCPL

London, Aug 3 -- Cessna 180A, C-FCPL, was departing the waterbase at Silver Falls, MB, en route to a local fishing camp, the Dogskin Lake

Outpost Camp. At approximately 300 ft, the pilot set climb power and initiated a left turn. In the turn, he became concerned with a high cylinder head temperature reading and allowed a high sink rate to develop. The aircraft continued to descend, stalled and crashed at 1030, CDT, Jul 31, on the shoreline about 20 metres from a private residence.

#### CRASH, BORNEO, KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA

London, Jul 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: One man was found alive, two bodies were recovered and one person was still missing four days after their helicopter crashed in the jungles of Borneo island, Malaysian police and media said today. The helicopter crashed Monday (Jul 25) while carrying two government surveyors, a soldier and the pilot over Malaysia's Sarawak state on Borneo. It was not immediately clear what caused the crash. Rescuers yesterday reached one of the surveyors, 48-year-old Razali Hassan, a day after seeing him waving near the wreckage, a Sarawak police officer said. "The search and rescue team will try to bring them out today (Saturday)," he said. The police officer said that the pilot, Captain Razali Sani, 48, and soldier Empeni Karong, 33, died in the crash, while Razali's colleague, 35-year-old Ramli Jamal, was still missing. A newspaper said rescuers were bringing the survivor and the two bodies to a hilltop landing pad about 400 meters above the crash site. A helicopter was expected to take them from there to the town of Sibul. National news agency Bernama quoted Sarawak police chief Talib Jalil as saying that a team of 26 specially trained personnel were searching the crash site for Ramli. The helicopter had been chartered by the Malaysian government's Survey and Mapping Department to help with an aerial survey of the Malaysian-Indonesian border on Borneo. Search and rescue officials had spotted the helicopter's wreckage from the air late Monday, but strong winds, dense jungles and hilly terrain kept them from reaching the area until Thursday.

#### CRASH, GERMISTON, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jul 30 -- A press report, dated Jul 29, states: Two people died when a single-engine aircraft crashed at Rand Airport in Germiston on the East Rand this afternoon. Ekurhuleni emergency services spokesperson Segan Moodley said they appeared to have died on impact when the plane hit a pile of rubble during what appeared to have been an attempted crash-landing. "Air traffic authorities and emergency service personnel are at the scene," he said early this evening. No details were available about the identity of the two people who had been on board the aircraft, which Moodley described as a Sonex.

**CRASH, NEW KUSH AREA, SUDAN**

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Sudanese Vice President John Garang, a former rebel leader who is a key figure in the country's fledgling peace deal, died when a Ugandan presidential plane he was travelling in crashed into a southern Sudan mountain range, Sudan's president said today. The crash site was found near the Uganda-Sudan border, a senior Ugandan official said. Ugandan and Sudanese forces had been searching for Garang's plane since yesterday. "It has now been confirmed that the plane crashed after it hit a mountain range in southern Sudan because of poor visibility and this resulted in the death of Dr. John Garang DeMabior, six of his colleagues and seven other crew members of the Ugandan presidential plane," according to a statement released by the office of Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir. The 60-year-old former rebel, who was sworn in as vice president just three weeks ago, left on a flight from Uganda for southern Sudan at 1730 hrs, Ugandan time Saturday (Jul 30) afternoon, Sudanese and Ugandan officials said. It was not clear when the last contact with his craft took place. Garang's plane had attempted to land in the New Kush region of southern Sudan but aborted the landing because of bad weather and headed back south, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said early today. Weather reports showed rain in the area. Garang was returning home from a private visit to Uganda, flying from the capital Kampala to southern Sudan - a trip that normally takes about two hours - said Ugandan army spokesman 2nd Capt. Dennis Musitwa.

London, Aug 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: National Insurance Corporation (NIC) is to compensate State House for the presidential Mi-172 helicopter, which crashed on the weekend killing Sudanese First Vice-President, Lt. Gen. Dr John Garang and 13 other people. State House Comptroller, Mr Richard Muhinda, said yesterday that the presidential helicopter Mi-172 was insured with NIC and they were expecting compensation after the insurance firm has verified the damage on it. "We have the policy to cover the helicopter but NIC is bringing in their experts to assess the loss or damage," Mr Muhinda said. "There is no cause to worry. The premium is fully paid and the helicopter is insured," he added. Muhinda allayed any fears that State House had not insured the helicopter, which was in December last year overhauled at \$1.4million in Belarus. According to aviation experts, a new helicopter costs between \$4 to \$5.5million. Additional specifications including armoured plates, special navigational facilities and other extras go for up to \$75,000 in Belarus, the suppliers of cheap military equipment compared to other Western countries.

Independent sources said that a team from NIC flew to Southern Sudan yesterday.

**CRASH, PARK TOWNSHIP AREA, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated Jul 28, states: Two men escaped serious injury when their single-engine airplane crashed and burned today in a wooded area near Park Township Airport, authorities said. The airport is in Ottawa County just north of Lake Macatawa, four miles northwest of Holland. Nathan Crossno, 21, of Muskegon, was taking flying lessons with Holland-based instructor Prashant Qummadi Franklin, 25, when the crash was reported at 0914 hrs, county sheriff's Lt. Mark Bennett told The Holland Sentinel. The two men had flown out of Muskegon and were practicing manoeuvres, including touch-and-go landings, at the airport, Bennett said. The Cherokee Warrior lost power while ascending during a manoeuvre, then skimmed across the tops of 50-foot-high trees before spiralling into the ground just southeast of the airport. Soon afterward, the aircraft exploded into flames. It is unclear why the plane lost power, Bennett told The Grand Rapids Press. Officials from the Federal Aviation Administration were notified of the accident and were expected to investigate.

**CRASH, RIO GRANDE DO SUL STATE, BRAZIL**

London, Aug 4 -- A pressreport, dated today, states: Four people have died in a helicopter crash near a dam under construction in a remote area of southern Brazil. The helicopter crashed after hitting power cables strung over the worksite, officials said. Two environmental experts and an engineer, who were supervising the earth works for the Barra Grande electric dam in Rio Grande do Sul state, and the helicopter pilot perished in the crash, they said.

**CRASH, SQUAMISH, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA**

London, Jul 31 -- A press report, dated Jul 30, states: The search for a missing plane with two pilots aboard ended today with the discovery of wreckage on a steep hill near Squamish, B.C. A statement issued by CFB Comox said both Michael Black, 29, of Kelowna and Michael Bracht, 34, of Toronto died in the crash. More than 20 military and civilian aircraft had joined the search when it resumed for a third day this morning. The King Air 200 was not carrying any passengers or freight when it left Vancouver on Thursday (Jul 28) morning en route to Smithers, about 350 kilometres east of Prince Rupert. Neither the search aircraft nor the search and rescue satellite picked up any signal from the plane's emergency locator transmitter. Bill Hesse, general manager of Northern Thunderbird Air, which operated the

plane, said the plane had been refurbished over the winter. "It was in very good shape," he said, adding that the pilots gave no indication of any problems after takeoff. The investigation has been turned over to the National Transport Safety Board.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, INDIRA GANDHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, INDIA**

London, Aug 1 -- An Air India Boeing 747, carrying 315 passengers and crew from Mumbai to London, made a safe landing at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi last night. The landing was made after the pilot detected a technical problem while overflying Karachi two hours after taking off from Mumbai, reports PTI. Air India spokesman Jitender Bhargava told Press Trust of India that the aircraft took off from Mumbai at 1830, local time. When the pilot announced some technical problems at 2030 hrs, he was recommended to land at the nearest airport in Delhi for check-up, he said.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, LEEDS BRADFORD AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Aug 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: A passenger aircraft has been forced to make an emergency landing at Leeds Bradford Airport. All 55 passengers on the Birmingham to Edinburgh flight were led to safety after the aircraft landed and were being tended to by paramedics. Passenger Brian Goldthorpe described how the pilot landed the Flybe aircraft within about four minutes after it had filled with dense smoke. The airport said an inquiry was under way and normal services had resumed.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, MINHAD AIR BASE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

London, Aug 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: Aerosvit Airlines flight VV274 from Dubai en route Borispol in Ukraine yesterday made a safe emergency landing at Minhad air base. The aircraft, which was carrying 123 passengers and six crewmembers, was diverted for emergency landing to Minhad, which is about 40km from Dubai. It is suspected that there was some technical snag. However, all on board disembarked safely.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, OAKLAND AIRPORT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 29 -- The Oakland Airport is back to normal today following an emergency landing last night by a FedEx cargo aircraft. A small in-flight fire reportedly filled the cockpit of a Boeing 727 with smoke. The crew of the cargo aircraft was able to get the craft to the ground, and crawl to safety down a rope. All runways had to be closed while the aircraft was towed out of the way. The fire was extinguished, and there were no reports of injury.



### **EMERGENCY LANDING, PERTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, AUSTRALIA**

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Passengers panicked after an aircraft plunged 200m forcing the pilots to fly back to Perth for an emergency landing. About 200 passengers were on board the Malaysian Airlines flight to Kuala Lumpur which was forced to return to Perth International Airport after the aircraft experienced problems about 40 minutes into the journey. Kim Holst, who had never flown before, said the aircraft began shuddering violently and dropping more than 100m at a time over about 90 seconds. A West Australian police spokesman said the pilots reported instrumentation problems and a full emergency response was waiting for the Boeing 747 when it returned to Perth yesterday. "Officers from Westralia Airports confirmed the aircraft landed safely," a police spokesman said. Mr Holst said the passengers all cheered when the plane touched down about 1730, WST, without further incident.

London, Aug 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777-200 aircraft which experienced a malfunction after take off from Perth has been grounded pending thorough investigation and checks. Transport Minister Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy said he had received a preliminary report on the incident. "Until the aircraft is certified safe, MAS will ground it Perth," he told reporters. The MAS flight returned to Perth International Airport after the pilot detected a malfunction during initial cruise on Monday. Passengers said it plunged about 200m first before the pilot managed to control the aircraft.

### **EMERGENCY LANDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SAIPAN**

London, Aug 3 -- A press report, dated Aug 4, states: An aircraft sustained engine trouble in mid-air early last night shortly after taking off from the Saipan International Airport, prompting it to return to the tarmac for emergency landing. The Ports Police said no one was injured in the incident. The aircraft reportedly left the Saipan airport at approximately 1800 hrs. Minutes later, at about 1815 hrs, Ports Police on-duty airport supervisor Sgt. Greg Arriola said his office received a call that the aircraft was coming back due to "problems with its left engine." "The aircraft landed safely. The volcanic haze over Saipan has resulted in flight interruptions since Monday (Aug 1), temporarily stranding hundreds of passengers. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, volcanic ash threatens jets and aircraft in the air, as it forms deposit in engines, restricts airflow, and clogs fuel nozzles. Minute particles of volcanic ash also contaminate aircraft's ventilation, lubrication, hydraulic and electronic systems. They cause erosion and

pitting of leading edges of windshields and landing lights, as well as erosion of compressor blades.

### **EMERGENCY LANDING, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**

London, Aug 4 -- There has been a scare on a domestic Qantas flight from Melbourne to Sydney. The captain on the 1100 hrs Qantas flight suggested excessive vibration at the front on take-off may have been due to the loss of some rubber of one of the nose wheels. Air traffic controllers found no rubber on the runway in Melbourne, so the captain thought there might be some tread hanging off one of the wheels. Emergency procedures were set in place, including fire crews on the ground in Sydney. The aircraft had to abort one landing attempt due to wind conditions, before eventually landing safely. The customer services manager said it was his first experience of the kind in 20 years. Technical crews found no abnormality with the wheel.

### **F-GLZQ**

London, Aug 3 -- A press report, dated Aug 2, states: An Air France Airbus A340-300 has skidded off a runway and burst into flames at Toronto's Pearson International Airport, but all 309 people on board survived, officials say. Flight 358 from Paris burned for more than two hours after the crash landing in bad weather at 1603 hrs (2003, UTC). The accident took place in heavy rain near Highway 401, one of Canada's busiest motorways, and emergency vehicles raced to the scene. At least 14 people on board the plane were treated for minor injuries. Several witnesses said they thought the plane had been struck by lightning as the power went out just before it landed. The plane crashed through barriers and fell into a small ravine, tail in the air. It overshot the runway by some 200 metres, Steve Shaw of the Greater Toronto Airport Authority told reporters at a hastily organised news conference. Mr Shaw said it appeared that all the passengers were evacuated before the plane was "heavily damaged by fire". Mr Shaw said the airport had been under a "red alert" since midday today because of danger of lightning.

London, Aug 3 -- A press release from Airbus Industrie, dated today, states: Airbus regrets to confirm that an A340-300 operated by Air France was involved in an accident at approximately 1600, Toronto time, Aug 2. The aircraft was operating a scheduled service, Flight AFR 358, from Paris Charles de Gaulle airport to Toronto. Reports indicate that there were 297 passengers and 12 crew on board, and that there are no casualties. The aircraft involved in the accident, registration F-GLZQ, was Manufacturer Serial Number 289, delivered to Air France from the production line in September, 1999. The aircraft had accumulated approximately 28,500 flight hours in

more than 3,700 flights. It was powered by four CFM International CFM 56 engines. In line with ICAO international convention, Airbus will provide full technical assistance to the Investigation Authorities led by the Canadian Safety Board, with the support of the French Investigation Board. A team of five specialists from Airbus is being dispatched to Toronto.

London, Aug 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: Investigators combing the wreckage of an Air France A340 Airbus (F-GLZQ) at Toronto's Pearson International Airport had found the plane's "black boxes" in good condition, officials said today. The black box flight recorders were found in the wreckage of the aircraft while it still smouldered, officials said. A lightning storm played a role in the crash landing, investigators said today, while the crew was praised for helping passengers survive the fiery ordeal. Bad weather was "certainly partly to blame," Don Enns, senior investigator for the Transportation Safety Board of Canada, said. Air France Canada chief Christian Lahcen said 14 of the 43 people hurt in the crash remained in hospital today said but everyone was "out of danger". The Toronto airport had been closed because of the storm shortly before Flight 358 arrived and it was held up, officials said. Air France executive director Pierre-Henri Gourgeon said the aircraft "was probably the first to land after the reopening of the runways, which were closed a maximum of 30 minutes". The landing itself had been "normal," he said. "But there was probably a lot of water on the runway," and the weather was "severe". France and Canada have launched a joint investigation into the crash.

### **INCIDENT AT ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN**

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated Jul 31, states: Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) confirmed today that its flight 206 from Islamabad to Kuwait was delayed due to a minor technical fault earlier today. KAC Public Relations Director Adel Burisle said that the Airbus 310 passenger plane developed a minor technical fault during take off, when a bird hit its engine causing the fault. He said the 185 passengers were evacuated from the plane, indicating that an alternative KAC plane will leave to Islamabad tomorrow with a technical team aboard to fix the plane. Affirming that the incident caused no injuries among the travelers, he said the substitute plane will carry the passengers to Kuwait.

### **INCIDENT AT MUMBAI AIRPORT, INDIA**

See "India" under "Weather & Navigation".

### **N1029J**

London, Jul 28 -- Rockwell Commander 112 N1029J crashed near Junction, Texas, at 1545, Jul 27, while

on a local flight from Junction. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Texas Authorities say a husband and wife were killed when their private airplane crashed just after take-off near the West Texas town of Junction. Ronald and Helen DeLoof of Harper died at the scene this morning, Kimble County Sheriff Mike Chapman said in the Kerrville Daily Times. Bill Davis, manager of Kimble County Airport, says the single-engine plane, piloted by Ronald DeLoof, burst into flames upon impact about a mile from the airport. Chapman says it was the first crash at the airport in at least 15 years. The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the cause, Davis said. Angela Mowry of Kerrville, a friend of the DeLoofs, says the couple was headed to Indiana for a family reunion.

#### **N4401X**

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least one person is dead after a small plane crashed into a hill near the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport last night. Authorities say the crash occurred shortly before 2200 hrs, about a mile north-east of the airport, and sparked a small fire. Witnesses at the airport saw the plane take off and enter a wall of fog. Soon after, they said they saw a flash of light. A resident reported seeing the plane explode into a fireball. The National Transportation and Safety Board will investigate.

London, Aug 3 -- Piper PA-28-151 (Cherokee Warrior) N4401X crashed near San Luis Obispo, California, at 0450, Aug 1. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

#### **N5495**

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: A crop-duster's plane crashed yesterday morning, west of Felton, but the pilot, undaunted, was back in the air by the afternoon to finish his work in a spare plane. John Gooden, 23, of Viola, had just finished a run about 0940 hrs, when he said, the plane's engine cut-out. Gooden found an open field and brought the plane in for a landing, but when he touched down, things went wrong. "The ground was muddy," he said. "My wheel caught and the right wing caught, and it went over." Gooden, who was strapped into his seat when the plane went down, was not hurt.

London, Aug 3 -- Schweizer G-164A (Ag-Cat) N5495 crashed near Felton, Delaware, at 1340, Aug 1. The one person on board was not injured.

#### **N6555U**

London, Jul 31 -- A press report, dated Jul 30, states: Three people were killed today and one person was injured when a single-engine plane crashed on take-off at the Natchez-Adams County Airport. Airport

Director Clint Pomeroy said the plane crashed about 100 feet from the runway just before 1100 hrs, today. Adams County Sheriff Ronny Brown identified the victims as pilot Vincent Lewis III and two 10-year-old girls, Jessi Harris, the granddaughter of Lewis, and Victoria Spiers. Carmon Hastings, 33, Spiers' mother, was injured in the crash. She was airlifted to University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, where she was in critical condition, Brown said. He said all four people were from Wichita Falls, Texas, and they flew here to pick up Spiers, who was vacationing with her grandparents in Meadville. Brown said a Federal Aviation Administration representative from Jackson arrived this afternoon, and an FAA crew from Miami was expected later. They planned to gather evidence from the crash site today. He said witnesses told him they saw the plane make a sharp incline before noticing what appeared to be engine failure shortly before the plane veered to the left and crashed.

London, Aug 2 -- Mooney M-20C (Ranger) N6555U crashed near Natchez, Mississippi, at 1600, Jul 30. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. Three of the four persons on board were killed and the fourth was seriously injured.

#### **N65982**

London, Aug 1 -- A press report, dated Jul 31, states: A small plane carrying four people crashed in the water off the Florida Keys and rescuers found the bodies of two victims today, officials said. The single-engine Cessna 172 departed yesterday night from Key West on its way about 50 miles east to Marathon, said Steve Acton, community relations officer for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The plane crashed shortly after take-off. The two bodies were found today about within a mile of the Key West shore, Acton said. One victim was on Cow Key Channel and the other was on Smathers Beach, said Petty Officer Dana Warr, spokesman for the Coast Guard. The identities of the victims weren't released pending notification of relatives, Warr said. A wing of the plane was also found, but investigators were still trying to pinpoint the exact crash location, Acton said. Several boats, two helicopters and an airplane were searching for survivors and debris. The Federal Aviation Administration said the plane had filed a flight plan from Marathon to New Smyrna Beach. But the pilot never made contact with the control tower, said FAA spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen. The Coast Guard search was planned to end at sundown today and resume tomorrow morning.

London, Aug 2 -- Cessna 172S (Skyhawk SP) N65982 crashed into the sea off Key West, Florida, at 0118, Jul 31, while on a flight from Key West to Marathon, FL. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. Of the

four persons believed to have been on board, three were killed and one is unaccounted for.

#### **N9501Y**

London, Jul 30 -- A press report, dated Jul 29, states: A pilot is dead after a plane crashed in Leighton, in Colbert County around 1700 hrs, today. What is left of the plane is in a field, badly burned and will be removed by F-A-A investigators. How the 1981 Cessna crashed and burned in the field, investigators don't yet know. The pilot made radio contact with the Northwest Regional Airport just before 1700 hrs, upon his approach. But, they never heard from him again. Witnesses say they watched the plane heading toward TVA power lines. "Don't know if he hit one, if it scared him and he pulled up and made a decision he was too close, we don't know. It's still too early," said Mike Melton, Colbert County EMA. Within a 25 yard perimeter of debris, investigators found a briefcase with some personal belongings. Based on that, they have reason to believe the pilot is from Florida.

London, Aug 2 -- Cessna T210N (Centurion II) N9501Y crashed near Muscle Shoals, Alabama, at 2152, Jul 29. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

#### **N98730**

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated Jul 28, states: A single-engined aircraft caught fire in Fairfield today after it lost power during an afternoon training exercises. But no injuries were reported. The Federal Aviation Administration says the pilot was the only one aboard the four-seat Cessna when the accident occurred. Officials say the aircraft lost power during a touch-and-go exercise, then crashed on the runway of Essex County Airport. The aircraft is owned by MD Aeronautical in Fairfield.

London, Jul 29 -- Cessna 172P (Skyhawk), N98730, crashed near Caldwell, New Jersey, at 2020, Jul 28, while on a local flight from Essex County Airport, Caldwell. The one person on board was not injured.

#### **SUSPENSION OF FLIGHTS, HANEDA AIRPORT, JAPAN**

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Asia's busiest airport, Haneda in Tokyo, suspended all flights today after a power problem at its air traffic control towers, officials said. The wireless system used by the control towers lost electricity about 1130 hrs and all flights were told not to take off or land until authorities found out what was wrong, a transport ministry spokesman said. "I'm looking at the tarmac now and there are no flights," a Haneda airport spokeswoman said separately. It is reported that power was restored after nine minutes but flights were yet to be given the green light as the airport needed time to restore its systems. All incoming flights were ordered to wait in the sky until they were given clearance to

land, the Japan Broadcasting Corp (NHK) said. Transport ministry officials could not be reached immediately to comment on the reports.

#### TG-APG

London, Aug 1 -- Cessna 208B Grand Caravan, TG-APG, operator Aereo Ruta Maya, on a flight from Retalhuleu-Base Aerea Del Sur Airport to Cuilco, crashed into the Cerro Pinopa hillside, near Hierba Buena, Guatemala, on Jul 26. The two persons on board were killed.

## Space Vehicles



#### DELAY OF LAUNCH OF SATELLITE, RUSSIA

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: The launch of the Russian booster rocket Soyuz-FG with the American communications satellite Galaxy 14 from the Baikonur cosmodrome has been postponed, a spokesman for the Federal Space Agency, Vyacheslav Davidenko, said. The launch that was scheduled for Aug 6 has been put off for technical reasons. A new date of the flight will be announced later, he said. A cosmodrome official said that a technical problem arose during the assembly of the rocket's stages in its tail compartment.

#### DISCOVERY

London, Jul 27 -- A press report, dated Jul 26, states: NASA has discovered that two pieces of debris fell from the space shuttle Discovery during its lift-off this morning, though they say it is too early to know whether the possible damage could put the shuttle at risk. The US space agency says a tiny piece of tile and a larger piece of debris came off Discovery as it blasted off during its landmark first flight since the Columbia disaster. NASA shuttle expert John Channon says the piece of tile was about 3.8 centimetres in size and appeared to come off the right landing gear on the nose. The origin of the debris shown in a separate video at a press briefing was unknown but it appeared to have fallen free as the booster rockets broke away without touching the shuttle. But Mr Channon and other experts say it is too soon to know if there is any danger to the shuttle. "We are going frame-by-frame through the imagery," Mr Channon said. "It is too early," he said when asked if there was a danger to the crew. "I have to understand exactly what we have. We have to walk through the whole process methodically. We have not lost a tile. We may have lost a piece of a tile." NASA specialists are to inspect images of the possible damage over the next two days. NASA has also revealed it has noticed dents in the

nose of the shuttle caused by birds that hit the vessel in flight.

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Astronauts on the space shuttle Discovery inspected their ship for damage today while imagery experts studied thousands of pictures and videos taken during the spacecraft's launch. Nasa engineers will decide by tomorrow whether they want additional inspections with the shuttle's new laser-scanning boom to assure that the ship withstood yesterday's launch and is in good shape to return to Earth at the end of its 12-day flight. Preliminary images found that part of a tile, a component of the shuttle's heat shield, broke off from the area around the shuttle's nose wheel landing gear door. The images showed other debris falling from the craft as well. Tile damage to the shuttle is not unusual, but under new safety rules Nasa must ensure that any problem does not hold the potential for a Columbia-like disaster. Astronauts slowly scanned the wings and nose of their spacecraft with the laser-equipped robot arm in a critical safety inspection never before performed on a shuttle mission. Manoeuvring the computer-aided arm from within the orbiter, the astronauts looked for cracks that could endanger the shuttle when it returns to the Earth's atmosphere for landing on Aug 7 and builds up temperatures up to 1371degC. If engineers determine there is dangerous damage to Discovery, the shuttle crew could take refuge on the space station and wait for a rescue mission.

London, Jul 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: NASA said today it was grounding the US space shuttle fleet after a large piece of foam insulation broke off from the fuel tank of the Discovery shuttle on lift-off. While the US space agency said the foam did not damage the shuttle on yesterday's launch, a spokesman said that future flights were on hold until the problem was corrected. "Until we're ready we won't fly again," said Bill Parsons, space shuttle program manager. NASA is concerned about the incident as it revives memories of the Columbia shuttle tragedy in February 2003. Seven astronauts died when Columbia disintegrated upon reentering the Earth's atmosphere due to damage caused when insulation foam broke off of the spacecraft's external tank, causing a gash in Columbia's wing that allowed superheated gases to penetrate the shuttle. The shuttle program was frozen for 19 months until yesterday's launch while NASA undertook program changes to overcome the problems which led to the Columbia tragedy. "The fact is it didn't cause any damage to the orbiter that we're aware of at this time. It didn't impact the orbiter at all," Parsons said. Nevertheless, he said, future flights will remain on hold until the problem is solved. "This is a test flight. Obviously we have some more work to do," said Parsons.

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated Jul 28, states: The Discovery astronauts worked through their second full day in orbit today, executing an elegant orbital back flip and docking with the International Space Station. Back on Earth, hundreds of engineers scrutinized startlingly clear pictures of the shuttle's delicate protective tiles to see whether they had sustained the kind of lift-off damage that would make it unsafe to come home. So far, the engineers said, they saw nothing that would threaten a safe return, though analysis is not yet complete. New impact sensors on the leading edges of the shuttle's wings, installed in the wake of the 2003 Columbia disaster, indicate that there were 11 possible debris strikes on the edges. But inspection of the edges showed no damage greater than a scuff, NASA officials said, and nothing that at first blush constituted a threat. "This was a great day in space," said N. Wayne Hale, the deputy manager of the shuttle program. But there were reverberations from yesterday's announcement that future flights of the shuttle fleet would be suspended while the agency determines why a large chunk of foam broke from the Discovery's external fuel tank two minutes after lift-off on Tuesday morning (Jul 26). (See issue of Jul 29.)

Houston, Jul 29 -- The shuttle Discovery crew today used a boom with laser scanners to take another look at minor damage on their ship's heat shield while NASA's chief said he expects engineers will quickly fix the fuel tank problems that have again grounded the fleet. "We don't expect this to be a long drawn-out affair," NASA Administrator Michael Griffin said in a teleconference with reporters. During Discovery's launch on Tuesday on NASA's first manned mission since the 2003 Columbia disaster, a chunk of foam nearly as large as the one responsible for downing Columbia fell off Discovery's fuel tank. NASA said a smaller chunk of foam also broke off and appeared to have hit Discovery's wing but did not appear to have caused any damage. Today, the crew used the space station's robotic arm to position a 50-foot boom outfitted with laser imagers to look at six damaged areas on the heat shield on Discovery's underside. Engineers believe the shuttle is in good shape to return to Earth on Aug 7 but want additional information about the size and depth of six damage sites, shuttle operations manager Phil Engelauf said. The Discovery crew also prepared for the first of three spacewalks planned during the flight. NASA has said it will not fly any more missions until the tank debris problems are fixed. -- Reuters.

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: An astronaut is to make unprecedented repairs to the space shuttle Discovery, the US space agency Nasa has announced. Stephen Robinson will remove strips that are sticking out between heat shield tiles on Discovery's belly. Nasa officials say

this is not related to damage from foam debris. Instead, the fabric could have been shaken loose by the vibrations during launch. They are concerned the dangling material - called gap fillers - could cause part of the shuttle to overheat as it re-enters the atmosphere. Astronauts have never fixed a shuttle's heat shields on a spacewalk before - or gone under an orbiting shuttle. The International Space Station's Canadarm2 robotic arm will position Discovery mission specialist Robinson underneath the shuttle so he can pull the gap fillers out. If this doesn't work, he will use a saw to hack them away. This task will be added to the third planned spacewalk of the mission - which may be delayed to give the crew time to prepare. Wayne Hale, the shuttle's deputy programme manager, said Nasa could not be certain what effect the protruding gap fillers would have as the shuttle heats immensely during re-entry. On balance, shuttle managers decided that a spacewalk to pull out the strips - though itself risky - would be preferable to letting the shuttle return as it is. A team of managers, engineers and aerodynamicists has been working to address the issue for the past three days. The shuttle's 15m-long Orbiter Boom Sensor System will be moved alongside Mr Robinson so that astronauts on the station and ground controllers can watch him carrying out the procedure.

Houston, Aug 3 -- Spacewalking astronaut Steve Robinson plucked a couple of loose fibre strips from the space shuttle Discovery's belly today in an unprecedented repair to the shuttle's heat shield. "I'm grasping it and I'm pulling it and it's coming out very easily. Beautiful. Nice," Robinson radioed as he pulled the material out from between the heat resistant tiles on the shuttle's underside. "It looks like this big patient is cured." With fellow spacewalker Soichi Noguchi watching from a perch on the International Space Station, to which Discovery is docked on the first shuttle flight since the 2003 Columbia disaster, Robinson was lowered on the station's robot arm to an area below Discovery's nose. Moving deliberately, he used his gloved fingers to tug out the two strips with surprisingly little effort. Robinson carried a small hacksaw, scissors and forceps in case he could not pull the strips out. The strips, made of ceramic covered cloth, are thought to have come loose from their adhesive bond and, though protruding only an inch, NASA engineers feared they could change the aerodynamics enough during landing on Aug 8 to cause dangerous heat damage to the shuttle. Robinson was the first astronaut in the 24-year shuttle program to spacewalk to a shuttle's underside and, once there, the first to fix the heat shield during flight. He did not appear to damage any of the shuttle's fragile tiles. The thin strips in question are each about six inches long and are placed between the tiles to cushion them. In a press

conference from space yesterday, Discovery astronauts said they initially had misgivings about Robinson's spacewalk because they were not convinced it was necessary. But, they said, they supported it because it seemed an easy thing to do. NASA admitted it did not know if the protruding strips were a danger to the shuttle, but after two-and-a-half years of work and \$1 billion spent on safety upgrades since the Columbia disaster, the agency was taking no chances it could lose another shuttle to heat damage. Agency officials said yesterday they were even considering another spacewalk on Friday (Aug 5) to fix a protrusion in an insulating blanket outside the shuttle commander's window. Columbia broke apart while returning to Earth on February 1, 2003, because superheated gases penetrated its structure through a break in the wing heat shield. The seven astronauts on board were killed. Columbia's wing had been struck by a briefcase-sized piece of insulating foam that shook loose from the external tank at launch. Videos showed loose foam swirling from Discovery on its Aug 2 launch from Florida, which prompted NASA to ground the shuttle fleet until the foam problem is finally fixed. The loose strips on Discovery are not believed to have been caused by impacts. The landmark repair job came at the end of the third spacewalk this mission by Robinson and Japan's Noguchi. Before the fix, they attached an external storage platform to the \$95 billion space station. -- Reuters.

## Product Recalls



### FOLDING CHAIRS, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 27 -- Three companies are recalling nearly 1.8 million children's folding chairs because the safety locks can fail, causing the chairs to suddenly collapse or fold and catch children's fingers, the government said Wednesday. Children have suffered finger lacerations, fractures and finger tip amputations, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said. The chairs, sold nationwide and manufactured in China, are made of metal tubing and vinyl padded seats and came in various designs and colors. About 1.1 million chairs by Idea Nuova Inc. The five incidents reported included two finger tip amputations and one finger fracture and laceration. Discount department and toy stores sold them as a set of one table and two chairs from September 2004 to June 2005. About 522,000 chairs by Fourstar Group Inc. The three injuries reported included lacerations and fractures. Discount and grocery stores sold them individually or as a set from July 2003 to July 2005.

### GENERAL MOTORS SAAB MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Jul 26 -- A Japanese unit of U.S. automaker General Motors Corp. 1,310 Saab 9-3 passenger cars for free replacement of defective parts. General Motors Asia Pacific Japan will recall those imported between January 2003 and May 2005 due to a defect in parts that increase the braking power.

### HONDA MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 3 -- A press report dated today, states: The Honda Motor Co. will recall thousands of its Odyssey minivans amid concerns that potentially faulty sensors for the frontal air bag system could make a warning lamp on the instrument panel remain illuminated, the company said today. Honda said the recall involved 85,154 Odyssey minivans from the 2005 model year. The company said the two sensors near the front bumper may be susceptible to corrosion from road salt, leading the warning light to turn on. The warning light indicates a malfunction and instructs the driver to have the vehicle repaired. The company said in a letter to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that some of the sensors were insufficiently sealed during manufacturing. Sara Pines, a Honda spokeswoman, said there have been no reports of the frontal air bags improperly deploying or failing to deploy and there have been no injuries associated with the sensors.

### INDUSTRIAL FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 27 -- A press release, dated Jul 26, states: A recall of approximately 470,000 Kidde 10 lb industrial dry chemical fire extinguishers was conducted voluntarily by Walter Kidde Portable Equipment Inc., of Mebane, N.C., in co-operation with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). The extinguishers have black plastic ZytelÆ nylon valves in steel cylinders and were manufactured between 1991 and 2000. The nylon valves on these extinguishers can separate from the steel cylinder during the six-year recharge service or shortly afterwards creating a safety hazard to fire extinguisher service personnel and consumers. Kidde has received five reports of valve separation during either technical service of the units or shortly afterwards, resulting in three reports of injuries. Customers should stop using the product immediately unless otherwise instructed. The product was sold at commercial fire equipment distributors and stores nationwide between 1991 and 2000.

### KAWASAKI MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 150,000 Kawasaki Motors Corp. all-terrain

vehicles are being recalled over safety concerns, the government said today. The Consumer Product Safety Commission said the 2001 through 2005 models of the Kawasaki Prairie and Brute Force ATVs can develop steering-control problems that could cause injury or death. The CPSC said Irvine, Calif.-based Kawasaki has received three reports of injuries resulting from the defect. If either front wheel of the ATV experiences a major jolt while the steering is fully turned to either side, such as after a drop or jump, it could cause suspension damage and loss of steering control. Kawasaki has received 42 reports of ball joint separation, which could lead to the steering problem. The specific models affected by the recall are: the Prairie 300, Prairie 300 4x4, Prairie 360, Prairie 360 4x4, Prairie 400, Prairie 400 4x4, Prairie 650 4x4, Prairie 700 4x4 and Brute Force 650 4x4. The ATVs were sold at Kawasaki dealers nationwide from August 2000 through July 2005.

#### **KTM MOTORCYCLES, JAPAN**

London, Jul 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Japanese unit of Austrian motorcycle maker KTM Sportmotorcycle AG said today it will recall a total of 152 motorcycles of the 640 Adventure, the 640 LC-4 and the 400 LC-4 models due to a defect in the front wheels. The recall follows KTM Japan's recalls of the models last November. In a report filed with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, KTM Japan said the recall will affect those manufactured between October 1998 and February 2003. The defective wheel spoke parts led to a tyre on a motorcycle bursting in April, injuring one person in Kanagawa Prefecture.

#### **SLOW-BURN COOKERS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 29 -- A press report, dated Jul 28, states: A recall has been issued for 2.6 million Rival Slow Cookers, manufactured by The Holmes Group, because the handles on their bases can break, posing a burn risk if hot contents spill out. There have been 126 reports of the handles breaking, including 33 reports of burns. This recall is an expansion of one issued last August for 1.8 million cookers with the same defect. The recalled cookers are those manufactured from January 1999 to September 2004, including those with model numbers 3040, 3735, 5025, 5070 and 5445 that have date codes stamped on the power plug from 0199 to 3504. The \$15 to \$40 cookers were sold nationwide from January 1999 through to May 2005 at stores including Wal-Mart, Kmart and Target.

#### **SUZUKI MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 29 -- A press release, dated Jul 28, states: A safety recall was conducted voluntarily by the American Suzuki Motor Corp., of Brea, Calif. in co-operation with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) of approximately 3,400 Suzuki 2004-2005 TwinPeaks All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs). A significant impact to the front wheel of the ATV while the steering is fully turned to either side can result in suspension damage, wear, and an eventual loss of steering control that could result in injury or death. American Suzuki Motor Corp. has received seven reports of ball joint separation. No injuries have been reported. Manufactured in Japan, the ATVs were sold at Suzuki dealerships across America from December 2003 to July 2005 for about \$7,100.

#### **TREADMILLS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 29 -- A press release dated Jul 28, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall, in voluntary co-operation with Sportcraft Ltd., of Mt. Olive, N.J. of approximately 12,000 Tredex 6.0, TX 440 and TX 550 Treadmills. Manufactured in China and Taiwan, the treadmills can unexpectedly accelerate and cause users to fall and sustain injuries. Sportcraft has received 110 reports of unexpected acceleration, 14 of which resulted in minor injuries, including sprains and bruises. The product was sold at discount department and other retail stores nationwide from December 2002 through to April 2005 for between \$350 and \$600.

#### **WALKER WAGONS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 27 -- A press release, dated Jul 26, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Radio Flyer Inc. of Chicago, Illinois, today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 38,000 Classic Walker Wagons. The tips of the clickers, which make a clicking sound when the Walker Wagon wheels move, can break off. The broken clickers pose a choking or aspiration hazard to young children. Radio Flyer has received 11 reports of the tips breaking off the clickers on these Walker Wagons. No injuries have been reported. Manufactured in China, the Walker Wagons were sold at toy, department and discount stores, in catalogues and by Web retailers from August 2003 through to May 2005 for about \$80 each.

## Port Conditions



#### **INDIA**

Mumbai, Aug 3 -- With rail and road services disrupted, warehouses and CFSs recovering from flooding, absence of staff affecting the functioning of Customs and private employees of crane operators, the Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNP) and Mumbai Port are reportedly facing a renewed threat of backlog of containers and cargo. According to sources, more than 10,000 containers bound for ICDs have piled up at JNP. ICD cargo accounts for nearly 40 per cent of the total throughput at the Port's two terminals. Things have not yet returned to complete normalcy after last week's deluge, with loading and unloading operations continuing to remain affected at both JNP and Mumbai. It would take more than a week for operations to return to some sort of normalcy, especially given the train services situation, the sources said. Incessant rains during the last week have damaged rail tacks at several places, particularly between Panvel and Diva, forcing the railways to suspend services. Last week, JNP was said to be working with half its total manpower, handling just 50 per cent of its capacity. Industry officials have estimated that cargo worth over Rs.2, 000 crore has been held up at various places due to the breakdown of infrastructure in Mumbai and nearby areas, resulting in a large number of trucks being unable to reach the ports by road. At Mumbai, all export movements, especially of break-bulk cargo, were affected, according to a senior official, with as many as eight vessels reportedly stranded. Port officials are, however, hopeful that things will be back to normal once the rains stop. Meanwhile, JNP authorities and CONCOR are also exploring various options to clear the containers at the earliest. One of the options is to take the containers to Mumbai by barges or by road to the ICD at Mulund and from there the boxes can be moved by the main railway line. -- Lloyd's Agents.

#### **IRAQ**

London, Aug 2 -- Berth No.1 at Basrah Oil Terminal is under maintenance for a period of approximately 10 days, until Aug 8.

#### **SYRIA**

Lattakia, Jul 16 -- Waiting time is presently 24 hours at Lattakia and five days at Tartous. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**Port Delays**

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbot Point	03-08-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 10 vessels due by 4/9; up to 3 days berthing delay.
Dalrymple Bay	03-08-2005	Coal: 3 vessels berthed and loading, 14 anchored; 40 vessels due by 16/9; 5-25 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; waiting times vary greatly due to different stem supply issues.
Dampier	03-08-2005	Iron ore: Shippers are experiencing some cargo grade shortages and stockpile problems; some vessels will berth out of turn and berthing may change at short notice. Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 11 vessels due by 10/8; up to 11 days berthing delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 11 vessels due by 9/8; up to 7 days berthing delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; a 30 hour maintenance shutdown will take place some time from 2-5/8; a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels is always a possibility; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available.
Gladstone	03-08-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed and loading; 35 vessels due by 31/8; up to 4 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; Barney Point: 6 vessels due by 23/8; up to 2 days delay expected due to port congestion and cargo unavailability.
Hay Point	03-08-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 11 vessels due by 11/8; up to 2 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability.
Newcastle	03-08-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessel berthed and loading; 50 vessels due by 25/8; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 24 vessels due by 25/8; 1 unallocated vessel due 17/8; 2-7 days berthing delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal, coal product problems with some shippers and cargo receipt.
Port Adelaide	03-08-2005	Grain: No. 27 berth: 5 vessels due by 20/8, 3 to load wheat, 1 faba beans, 1 (Aug 3) barley; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion.
Port Hedland	03-08-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 (Aug 2) vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 4 vessels due by 7/8; 1-7 days berthing delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 5 vessels due by 11/8; 1-7 days berthing delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; there will be a 48 hour shutdown for shiploader repairs ca. 7/8; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel anchored; 1 vessel due 12/8; 1-3 days berthing delay expected; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 2 vessels due by 4/8; 1-5 days berthing delay expected; there will be a 48 hour shutdown for shiploader repairs starting ca. 2/8.
Port Kembla	03-08-2005	Grain: 4 vessels due by 20/8, all to load wheat; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Coal: 13 vessels due by 6/9; up to 1 day's berthing delay expected; CB-1: 1 vessel due 2/9; no delays expected.
Port Walcott	03-08-2005	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 16 vessels due by 15/8; up to 5 days berthing delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Line-up expected to change at short notice. Cargo grade shortages and stockpile problems may result in vessels berthing out of turn.
<b>Brazil</b>		
Paranagua	02-08-2005	Sixteen vessels berthed of which 1 container discharger, 4 fertiliser dischargers, 1 sugar loader, 2 bulk soya loaders, 2 reefer loaders, 6 other loaders/dischargers; 14 vessels waiting in roads, of which 6 to load (1 pellets, 1 soya, 2 sugar, 2 other loader), 8 to discharge (5 fertiliser, 2 containers, 1 other discharger); 45 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	02-08-2005	Three vessels berthed of which 2 phosphate dischargers, 1 soya meal loader; 3 vessels waiting in roads; 38 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	02-08-2005	Twenty-three vessels berthed; 32 vessels waiting in roads; 22 vessels due over the next 7 days; Private terminals: Terminal 37: 1 full container loader/discharger; Tecondi: 1 full container loader/discharger; Termares: no vessels; Rodrimar: 1 full container loader/discharger; Cosipa: 1 coal loader; Ultrafertil: 1 fertiliser discharger; Cargill: 1 bulk sugar loader; Santos Brasil: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Cutrale: no vessels; Dow: 1 chemical products discharger.
Sao Sebastiao	02-08-2005	Two vessels berthed, 1 waiting in roads; 3 vessels due over the next 10 days

**Port Conditions**

**Bulgaria**

Bourgas	01-08-2005	Ten vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (2 bagged ammonium nitrate, 1 grain, 4 coils, 1 steel sheets, 1 wheat), 1 discharging steel billets; no vessels waiting in roads; 12 vessels due, of which 7 to load (3 containers, 1 reinforced concrete, 1 wheat, 1 steel sheets, 1 scrap), 5 to discharge (3 containers, 1 iron ore, 1 coal).
Varna	01-08-2005	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 25-31 July: Thirty-two vessels in port operating of which 18 loading (6 bulk wheat, 7 soda, 2 sulphuric acid, 1 TSP, 1 gypsum board, 1 cement), 9 discharging (2 raw phosphate, 2 bulk coal, 2 copper concentrate/soya, 2 petcoke, 1 clay), 5 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.

**Chile**

Antofagasta	02-08-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 10 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Arica	02-08-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 11 vessels due this week.
Iquique	02-08-2005	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 13 vessels due this week.
Valparaiso	02-08-2005	One vessel berthed, 7 berths vacant; 3 vessels anchored; 10 vessels due this week.

**Egypt**

Adabiya	01-08-2005	Fourteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 5 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 3 tankers, 2 containers.
Alexandria	01-08-2005	Thirty vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 22 general cargo, 6 bulk carriers, 2 tankers; 11 vessels dry-docked; 28 vessels at inner anchorage, 13 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	01-08-2005	Twenty vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 12 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 5 containers; 8 vessels at outer anchorage.
Dekheila	01-08-2005	Eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 5 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 containers; 2 vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	01-08-2005	Five vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 1 general cargo, 1 car carrier, 3 container vessels.
Suez	01-08-2005	Twenty-four vessels transiting Northbound, 25 Southbound..

**India**

Kolkata	01-08-2005	6 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading Containers; 2 vessels discharging Edible Oil; 1 vessel loading and discharging General Cargo; 2 vessels waiting to discharge (Pulse, Edible Oil); 1 vessel under repair/ dry docked; 1 vessel waiting to sail; 1 vessel awaiting order to discharge; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 1 Containers vessels due.
Haldia	01-08-2005	12 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading Iron ore, 6 vessels discharging (Crude-2, Coking Coal, Ammonia Nitrate, Rock Phosphate, Steel), 2 vessels Loading and discharging Containers ; 2 vessels awaiting berth to load Iron Ore; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage ( 1 to discharge, 2 to load); 4 vessels due (POL, Phosphoric Acid, Coke, Iron Ore).
Paradip	01-08-2005	8 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (Iron ore-2, POL), 5 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, I.Coal, NC Coal, Phosphoric Acid); 3 vessel awaiting berth (1 to discharge, 2 to load).
Visakhapatnam	01-08-2005	13 vessels operating at berth of which 6 loading (Iron Ore-2, C.P.Coke, Illuminum sand, Naptha, POL), 7 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-4, Crude, Timber Logs, Pet Coke), 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load); 37 vessels due (Iron Ore-12, Steel, Food Grains-3, Feld Spar, B.F.Slag, C.P.Coke, Allumina, Rock Phosphate, Urea, Sulphur, Coking Coal-3, Containers-2, Ammonia, Timber Logs-3, Caustic Soda, Lime Stone, POL-2, LPG).
Chennai	01-08-2005	10 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (Furnace Oil, Iron ore), 3 vessels discharging (Project, Urea, Petroleum Oil), 5 vessels loading and discharging (Granite Block/S./Coil, Granite Block/General Cargo, Containers/Timber Logs, Containers-2); 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load); 2 vessels due (Containers-2, S.Coal).
Tuticorin	01-08-2005	5 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels discharging (Soda Ash, Thermal Coal, Furnace Oil, Timber Logs); 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load.
Cochin	01-08-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Furnace Oil; 3 vessels discharging (Rock Phosphate, Containers, Timber Logs), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers, 1 vessel waiting to load General Cargo; 3 vessels awaiting berth (2 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge).
New Mangalore	01-08-2005	6 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessel loading (Iron ore Fines-2, POL Product-2, Granite Stone), 1 vessel discharging Urea; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 12 vessels due (POL Product-2, Iron Ore Fines-4, Phosphoric Acid, LPG, Crude Palm Oil, Urea, POL Crude, Met Coke).

**Port Conditions**

Mormugao	01-08-2005	3 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Alumina, R.P.Coke), 1 vessels discharging Phosphoric Acid; 2 vessels working at mid stream loading Iron Ore; 5 vessels under repairs/dry dock; 5 vessels due (Met Coke, S.Coal, Iron ore-3).
Mumbai	01-08-2005	18 vessels operating at berth of which 6 loading General Cargo, 10 vessels discharging (General Cargo-6, Fertiliser (RM), Salt, POL-2), 2 vessels loading and discharging (General Cargo, Containers); 2 vessels awaiting berth (1 to discharge, 1 to load); 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 3 vessels awaiting order to discharge; 14 vessels under repairs/dry docked, 12 vessels under arrest; 24 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 18 vessels due (Containers-3, Oil, General Cargo-14) with no delays expected.
J.N.P.T.	01-08-2005	8 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel discharging SKO/MS/HSD, 7 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 5 vessels awaiting berth (2 to discharge, 3 to load and discharge); 3 vessel due (Containers, Cement, Edible Oil).
Kandla	01-08-2005	16 vessels operating at berth of which 7 discharging (Chemical-2, Phosphoric Acid, MS, CPO, DAP, Timber Logs), 5 vessels loading (Agriculture Product-2, Rice-3), 4 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 5 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 3 to load ).
Ennore	01-08-2005	1 vessel operating at berth and discharging Thermal Coal; 1 vessel working at Inner Anchorage at Port Basin to load Iron Ore; 3 vessels due (Thermal Coal-2, POL Product)
<b>Israel</b>		
Ashdod	01-08-2005	No labour problems; Three general cargo vessels loading at berth, 14 vessels discharging at berth (9 general cargo, 5 bulkers), 4 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker); 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge, 1 car carrier waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 14 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected..
Haifa	01-08-2005	No labour problems. Six vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 5 bulkers), 8 vessels loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 1 car carrier, 2 tankers); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 general cargo, 1 bulker), 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 19 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
<b>Nigeria</b>		
Forcados terminal	29-07-2005	One vessel loading at berth, 2 anchored, 2 due.
Bonny offshore	29-07-2005	One vessel loading at berth, 1 anchored, 5 due terminal
Qua-Iboe terminal	29-07-2005	Production at Oso platform remains low. No vessels berthed, 1 anchored, 8 due.
<b>Pakistan</b>		
Karachi	01-08-2005	Seven vessels discharging at berth (2 coal, 1 urea, 1 MAP, 1 tallow, 2 phosphate), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 cement vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 5 vessels due (1 containers, 1 urea, 1 tallow, 1 chemicals, 1 base oil), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	01-08-2005	One paraxylene vessel discharging at berth, 2 container vessels loading/discharging at QICT berth; 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 MEG).
<b>Russia</b>		
Novorossiysk	01-08-2005	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 scrap, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 wheat, 1 aluminium, 1 barley, 1 UAN solution, 1 pig-iron/steel sheet/steel billets), 3 discharging bulk sugar; 8 vessels waiting in roads, of which 1 to discharge bulk sugar, 6 to load (1 scrap, 1 WRIC/steel billets, 1 diesel oil, 1 bulk NPK, 1 steel billets, 1 wheat), 1 to discharge/load containers; 49 vessels due, all to load. Oil terminal: 3 tankers berthed, all loading, of which 1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 4 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 8 tankers due, all to load, of which 6 crude oil, 2 diesel oil.
<b>Slovenia</b>		
Koper	01-08-2005	Port working normally. Seven vessels berthed of which 1 loading general cargo, 1 loading aluminium products, 2 loading general cargo/sawn timber, 1 car carrier discharging/loading vehicles, discharging/loading containers, 1 bulk carrier discharging minerals; 9 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 3 bulk carriers to discharge ore/fertiliser, 2 vessels to load sawn timber, 1 vessel to discharge/load containers, 1 car carrier to discharge/load vehicles, 1 vessel to load general cargo, 1 passenger vessel.



## Port Conditions

### Spain

Bilbao	02-08-2005	Twenty-one vessels operating (2 tankers, 19 others), of which 3 loading, 10 discharging, 8 loading/discharging..
Cadiz	02-08-2005	Eighteen vessels in port of which 8 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 2 containers, 1 cement, 1 (Aug 2) wheat, 1 semolina), 1 passenger vessel, 9 vessels under repair; no delays.
Sagunto	02-08-2005	Twelve vessels in port operating of which 11 discharging (8 steel products, 3 logs), 1 loading cement; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

### Sri Lanka

Colombo	02-08-2005	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Seven container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 16 vessels discharging at berth (9 containers/feeders, 1 bagged cement, 1 steel cargo, 1 bulk palm oil, 1 Ro/Ro, 1 bagged fertiliser, 2 bulk cement); 1 bagged maize vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 6 vessels dry-docked, 1 at new tanker berth, 1 under repairs; 5 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.
---------	------------	--

### Turkmenistan

Turkmenbashi	01-08-2005	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, both completed loading, of which 1 gasoil, 1 gasoline; 5 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load unknown cargoes, 2 to discharge crude oil; 1 vessel due 1/8 to load unknown cargo.
--------------	------------	---

### Ukraine

Ilichevsk	01-08-2005	Five vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 steel products, 1 equipment, 1 trucks), 2 discharging/loading containers; 2 vessels in roads, 1 to discharge steel products, 1 to discharge/load containers; 14 vessels due, of which 9 to load (8 steel products, 1 wheat), 5 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	01-08-2005	Seven vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 2 steel, 1 fire-clay, 4 coal; 4 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 3 steel, 1 coal; 53 vessels due, of which 51 to load (27 steel, 10 coal, 10 fire-clay, 1 bran, 1 pitch, 1 fertiliser, 1 equipment/bricks), 2 to discharge (1 chrome ore, 1 equipment).
Odessa	01-08-2005	Fourteen vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading (3 metal, 1 corn), 5 discharging (1 luggage, 1 bananas, 1 sand, 2 sugar), 2 discharging/loading containers, 3 passenger vessels; 7 vessels in roads, of which 1 to load metal, 4 to discharge (1 fertiliser, 3 sugar), 2 to load/discharge containers; 49 vessels due, of which 20 to load (15 metal, 1 pig-iron, 1 corn, 1 wood, 1 wheat, 1 barley), 1 to discharge citrus, 28 to discharge/load containers.

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

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

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

**ISSN 0047 4908**

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

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