

CasualtyWeek

September 9 2005

Katrina losses may hit \$50bn warn insurers

By James Brewer- Wednesday September 07 2005

INSURERS and reinsurers globally are facing a total loss of around \$50bn from the Hurricane Katrina catastrophe in the US, a top London practitioner has forecast.

This would make the disaster twice as costly as the dreadful Hurricane Andrew of 1992 and surpass the gravity in financial terms of the World Trade Center attack.

Dane Douetil, chief executive of Brit insurance group, which has strong expertise in major risk, forecast that Hurricane Katrina would be "the biggest natural catastrophe loss ever to hit the insurance market".

Range

Commenting on earlier predictions by analysts that the insurance cost would range anywhere from \$9bn to \$35bn, Mr Douetil said: "I cannot see it being less than \$35bn. I can easily see it getting above \$50bn." With talk of 60-80 days before water could be pumped out of the worst areas, "what are we going to find" when that job is done? he asked.

On the positive side for insurers, Mr Douetil said that the catastrophe retrocession (reinsurance of reinsurance) market was already hardening and likely to go on doing so, while property reinsurance, direct US property and energy classes would also see rates strengthen.

If the loss was as big as he suspected, that would affect the whole insurance market.

Like other insurers, Brit, which, for instance, is involved in catastrophe retrocession cover, is taking a thorough, new look at the underwriting plans it was on the point of finalising for 2006.

A top reinsurance broker in London, Charlie Cantlay of Aon, said that, at this stage, the likely loss from what he described as "an industry-changing event" would be around \$40bn.

Specialists expect London, especially Lloyd's, to continue to offer cover for physical damage and business interruption to Gulf of Mexico installations, but premiums could soar and terms and conditions tighten substantially. Marine generally may manage a much-needed uplift.

Reputation

A huge loss-adjusting operation is being prepared, meanwhile, across marine, energy and non-marine areas to allow Lloyd's and the London insurance market to maintain a reputation of speedy settlement.

Among those at the fore will be CTC Services and CTC Marine, arms of the Charles Taylor Consulting group.

CTC has assembled a team from across its four disciplines — marine, aviation, energy and non-marine — to swing into action as soon as permitted.

"This is a disaster we feel we can respond to right across the classes, which

is unique," said CTC marine director Mike MacColl. "We are mobilising in both London and Houston. Just jumping on an aeroplane and arriving there is not necessarily the answer. Communication is difficult or impossible at present with some of our clients, although it is getting better. Their main interest is looking after their employees. Such people are vital to assist in assessing the damage to ports, terminals and vessels under construction."

Breadth of knowledge is key as exposures such as casino boats have both marine and non-marine provisions.

Expertise

Main hub for the CTC operation will be Houston, which is already a centre of its offshore energy expertise, as well as marine surveying. Adjusters and other experts are arriving from elsewhere in North America and from the UK.

Establishing a centre in the flood area from where surveyors can safely operate, probably from caravans and other mobile homes, with food and water supplied and a place to rest, is a priority.

Although instructed by insurers, CTC is working with the risk managers of major oil companies to sort out the logistics and identify industry needs.

Making arrangements with salvors and others to mitigate the damage is seen as urgent.



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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
ALLIANCE	fishing	USA	—	193	—	1980	Struck a rock and sank near Seward Aug 26. All six persons on board rescued and taken to Seward.
CHIOS BEAUTY	bulker	PAN	BV	19,820	34,291	1977	Blown aground near "General Anchorage", River Mississippi Aug 29, by hurricane "Katrina". All crew safe. Refloating attempt to be made once weather improves. Tugs and salvage equipment en route Sep 1.
DONA RAMONA	ferry	PHL	—	240	—	—	Bomb exploded on board vessel at Lamitan Aug 28. Vessel's canteen destroyed by the blast. Fire broke out but extinguished within an hour. 30 people reported injured.
FERTILE II	fishing	GBR	—	251	—	—	Reported sinking 80 miles NE of Lerwick Aug 29. Sank same day in lat 60 41N, long 01 16E. All five crew rescued. Some diesel leaked out.
HARVEST HOPE	fishing	GBR	—	356	—	1996	Reported listing and sinking 35 miles NE of Peterhead Aug 29. Subsequently sank. All seven crew rescued.
KIEFERNWALD	general	ATG	GL	2,498	2,453	1971	In collision with general cargo <i>Michelle</i> in approximately lat 53 38.2N, long 03 36.7E, Aug 26. Crack in bow but able to proceed to Brunsbuttel. Passed Brunsbuttel Aug 27, bound Rendsburg.
IIDA	general	MNG	—	828	1,170	1968	Sank 37 miles from Tuticorin Aug 29. All 10 crew rescued.
MCNCO NO.20	barge	CAN	—	333	—	1956	Broke tow with tug Bagotville in strong winds Aug 28, and drifted aground near Kingston, Ontario, in lat 44 12 30N, long 76 36W. Still aground Aug 30.
MICHELLE	general	ATG	LR	2,998	5,050	2000	In collision with general cargo <i>Kiefernwald</i> in approximately lat 53 38.2N, long 03 36.7E, Aug 26. All 7 crew abandoned vessel and rescued by <i>Kiefernwald</i> . Sank stern first. Lying with stern submerged and bow out of water. In same position Aug 30.
ORIENT BRILLIANCE	bulker	PAN	NV	75,668	146,351	1986	Struck underwater rock off San Nicolas, Peru, Aug 30. reported Aug 31 listing 05 deg to starboard, with 4 of its 11 ballast tanks damaged. Reported stable and anchored for diver's inspection. Arrived San Nicolas for repairs.
TRADER	general	ATG	GL	1,527	2,217	1980	Arrived Cartagena in tow Aug 29 following engine damage. Repairs expected to take about three weeks.
UFUK 1	ro-ro	TUR	—	4,708	2,742	1977	Had fire in engine-room in lat 42 18.12N, long 39 42.1E, Aug 25. All passengers removed and taken to Trabzon. Rescue vessels on scene and firefighting in progress. Sank off Trabzon Aug 27.
WAREMBUNGAN	product tanker	IDN	KI	1,272	2,200	1973	Reported Sep 1 had explosion in engine-room at Lhokseumawe, causing a fire. Fire brigade fighting fire.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ALFASHIP (Bahamas)
See Aztec.

ALGONORTH (Canada)

Thunder Bay, Aug 26 -- Understand from the operators of bulk Algonorth that the vessel had a wiring problem in the engine-room. A loose fuse holder caused a short-circuit and a small fire may have occurred. The power was shut down, so the vessel had to be towed to Keefer. The vessel sailed Thunder Bay Aug 23 for Baie Comeau with a full load of grain product. A specialist was sent to Thunder Bay from St. Catherines to supervise the repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Thunder Bay, Aug 29 -- A fire occurred in the switchboard panels of bulk Algonorth on Aug 19, while on ballast passage to Thunder Bay. The vessel went into a black-out situation. The fire was extinguished using an extinguisher. Algonorth was towed into Thunder Bay, on Aug 19, by tug Robert John, for permanent repairs, which have been completed. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ALLIANCE (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 27 -- A press report, dated Aug 26, states: Fishing Alliance (193 gt, built 1980) serving as a salmon tender, sank this morning near Seward. Around 0130 hrs, U.S. Coast Guard officials say Alliance hit a rock in Cape Resurrection. The four adults and two children onboard had immersion suits on and boarded a skiff. Within minutes, a Good Samaritan vessel picked them up, and then a Coast Guard boat brought them to Seward. No one was injured. Authorities say 4,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 244,000 pounds of king salmon were on board. The sinking is being investigated.

London, Aug 27 -- Following received from Coast Guard Junea, timed 0635, UTC: Fishing Alliance sank in lat 59 51.7N, long 149 17W. An overflight showed the vessel is well below the waterline.

London, Aug 31 -- A press report, dated Aug 30, states: A 100-foot crab boat packed with salmon from Prince William Sound sank Friday morning (Aug 26) after the captain fell asleep at the wheel and hit a cliff near Cape Resurrection, the Coast Guard said today. Six people were on board, including the captain's twin four-year-old daughters and his wife. Everyone on board was able to get off the vessel without injury. Fishing Alliance, which lists Seldovia its home port, picked up salmon from fishermen in Prince William Sound for Icicle Seafoods and was headed from Squirrel Bay to Seward to drop off 240,000 pounds of fish when the crash occurred just before 0140 hrs. The boat sank within

20 minutes of hitting the cliff, the survivors said. A family in a nearby boat, sleeping in a cove, quickly came to the aid of the survivors, who had piled into a skiff. Before it crashed, the boat was passing through the waters between Cape Resurrection and Barwell Island. Capt. Mark Giles thinks he nodded off only briefly. "I woke up and there was a wall of granite right there," he said. He shifted the boat into reverse to lessen the blow. But the vessel hit hard, he said. The collision cracked the boat's hull. Mark Giles first tried to lighten the boat's load by dumping fish, but the water was rushing in too quickly, he said. Soon, the vessel, as it drifted away from the cliff, had sunk enough that water poured through the windows of the wheelhouse. The water was about 300 feet deep where the vessel sank, according to the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard said weather conditions that night were mild with a lazy swell. There were two-foot waves, calm winds and 10-mile visibility. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation said 3,500 gallons of diesel fuel and 100 gallons of lube oil were on board the vessel when it sank. As of today, no sheen was visible and no spilling had been noted. Helicopters had conducted overflights to watch for spilled fuel, the department said. The agency will continue to monitor to see if there was any seepage, but there were no plans to recover the fuel as of today. The USCG Marine Safety Office is investigating the accident, as it does for all sinkings.

ARNGAST (Germany)

London, Aug 31 -- General cargo Arngast, Rostock for Hamburg, passed Brunsbuttel 1300, Aug 26.

AZTEC (Greece)

St. Petersburg, Aug 30 -- On Aug 28, during berthing manoeuvres, crude oil tanker Aztec (39085 gt, built 2003) with a pilot on board and tug assistance, came in contact with "mother vessel", crude oil tanker Alfaship (51474 gt, built 1979), resulting in minor damage to its side shell, 5.5 metres below the main deck in the way of No.2 WBT. Alfaship, sustained minor damage to buckles to side shell and main deck. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Aztec sailed Rotterdam 2245, Aug 24 for St. Petersburg.)

BAGOTVILLE (Canada)

See MCNCO No.20.

BALMORAL (U.K.)

Avonmouth, Aug 26 -- Passenger Balmoral is presently in dry dock at Sharpness. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Avonmouth, Aug 31 -- Passenger Balmoral sailed Sharpness pm, Aug 30, following inspection/repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BASAVESHWARA (India)

Kochi, Sep 1 -- Product tanker Basaveshwara sailed from Kochi on Aug 26 to Kandla, and the onboard

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

repair of the fire-damaged boiler assembly has been just completed. The final survey on the newly fixed boiler is scheduled for Sep 2, at Kandla. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BUXTEHUDE (Cyprus)

Vigo, Aug 29 -- General cargo Buxtehude sailed Vigo Aug 26. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CAP SAINT JEAN (France)

London, Aug 25 -- Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1425, UTC: Fishing Cap Saint Jean, under tow of fishing Mariette Le Roch, arrived at Ullapool at approximately 1400, UTC.

Glasgow, Aug 30 -- Fishing Cap Saint Jean sustained heavy weather damage Aug 24, and was towed into Ullapool, arriving evening of Aug 25. Temporary repairs were carried out at Ullapool and the vessel sailed from there at 2315, Aug 26. We have been advised that the vessel arrived at Boulogne Sur Mer, for permanent repairs Aug 29. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CEC MIRAGE (Bahamas)

Seattle, Aug 26 -- General cargo CEC Mirage (6310 gt, built 1998) arrived Seattle this morning. Hold fire caused vessel to discharge carbon dioxide gas into hold. Vessel currently alongside, fire investigators in attendance. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 27 -- A press report, dated Aug 26, states: The crew of general cargo CEC Mirage battled an onboard fire as the ship headed into Seattle's Elliott Bay today. The fire in the No.1 cargo hold was reported as the ship sailed past Port Madison on Bainbridge Island. The crew used their own fire suppression equipment to douse the flames before sealing the holds to the cargo area. The Seattle Fire Department boarded the vessel to inspect the affected area, and medics were on standby to evaluate any potential victims. There were no reports of injuries. The vessel was originally thought to be carrying treated wood that would release toxic fumes if it caught fire, but that report could not be confirmed through the U.S. Coast Guard.

London, Aug 31 -- General cargo CEC Mirage which arrived Seattle 1157, Aug 26, sailed 2005, Aug 29 for Houston.

CERRINA (Antigua & Barbuda)

See "Reunion" under "Labour Disputes."

CHEER ARROW (Panama)

Honolulu, Sep 1 -- Reported that cement Cheer Arrow is being towed to Cebu, where ETA Sep 6. Further reported that the fire was contained and there were no injuries to the crew. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CHEMUL (Mexico)

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

CHENG CHING FENG (Taiwan)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy".

CHENG HO (Singapore)

London, Aug 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire broke out on ferry Cheng Ho, 9V3578, (413 gt), a replica of famous Imperial vessel of China's Ming Dynasty and the only one in Singapore, just as it finished its tour of the city state's southern islands last night. According to Channel NewsAsia reports, all passengers were evacuated immediately and no one was injured in the fire, which was believed to have started just as the ship was about to dock at the Clifford Pier. It took some 20 officers of the Singapore Civil Defense Force (SCDF) to bring the fire under control. The SCDF said that the fire in the engine-room had severely smoked out the compartments on the ship and visibility was very low. It took its 20 officers almost three hours to bring the fire under control. They had to ventilate the ship, and bring in two lines of water jets to suppress the fire. SCDF said they also had to work with narrow passageways on the ship, and the metal bulkheads in the ship had generated a lot of heat. The cruise ship makes three tours of the southern islands every day.

London, Aug 29 -- Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0930, UTC: Ferry Cheng Ho, 9V3578, had a fire on board yesterday evening

CHIOS BEAUTY (Panama)

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

CHUNG YI 218 (Taiwan)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy".

CMA CGM TAGE (Panama)

London, Aug 25 -- Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1444, UTC: C.c.ref CMA CGM Tage (31154 gt, built 1980), bound Brazil, reported fire in hold 1747, UTC, Aug 23, while 80 nautical miles from Bermuda. Fire extinguished; some smoke damage. Master injured and vessel diverted to Bermuda, where arrived Aug 24 to land master. Subsequently left Bermuda but when about 20 miles from Bermuda returned to Bermuda port limits to await replacement master today.

London, Aug 30 -- Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1121, UTC: C.c.ref CMA CGM Tage sailed Bermuda Aug 26 for Martinique.

COSTA CLASSICA (Italy)

London, Aug 26 -- Passengers from the fire-damaged passenger Costa Classica were flown back to Italy from Athens yesterday after Costa Crociere ended the vessel's east Mediterranean cruise. The Genoa cruise line chartered "several planes" to take 1,585 passengers, mainly Italian, to the scheduled disembarkation ports of Venice and Ancona. It offered a full refund for passengers plus a 25% discount on a future cruise purchase during the next year. A small fire that appears to have broken out in the mooring rope area on Wednesday before the ship arrived in Piraeus is reported to have caused damage to a

small number of cabins. But the main headache for the operator appears to be the damage inflicted on the vessel's kitchens. "Even if the ship has not been seriously damaged, nevertheless some areas [of] the hotel service have been affected by the smoke and by the water used in the fire extinguishing operation," Costa said in a statement. On board sources said that the kitchen had been "knocked out" and claimed no meals could be prepared on the vessel, forcing the company to cater for passengers ashore in Athens on Wednesday evening. Pictures show the stern of the vessel extensively blackened by smoke from deck 1 up to deck 5. The same sources claimed yesterday that the fire was due to an electrical fault, although the company said the cause of the incident was still being investigated. Costa said passengers and crew were never in danger during the incident and the crew themselves put out the fire. Company representatives said that it was hoped the vessel could sail from Piraeus yesterday evening and would head for Venice, although this could change. There was no immediate announcement concerning whether the vessel will be able to perform its next scheduled cruise.

London, Aug 26 -- At 0729, UTC, today passenger Costa Classica was in lat 37 29 59N, long 21 12 37E, heading 334.6 degrees, speed 19 knots.

London, Aug 28 -- Passenger Costa Classica was in lat 45 25 47N, long 12 18 55E, (Venice) at 1629, UTC, yesterday.

London, Aug 31 -- Passenger Costa Classica sailed Venice Aug 28 for Ancona. (Note -- As at 0931, UTC, today Costa Classica was in Piraeus port.)

CROSBY SKIPPER (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 285-foot propane barge ran aground in Treasure Harbor off Plantation Key on Friday (Aug 26) as Hurricane "Katrina"'s storm bands lashed the Florida Keys. A resident called Florida Fish and Wildlife officers to report the waterfront spectacle near Treasure Village at Mile Marker 87. "People seemed to be alerted to it when the neighbours woke up and saw a barge sitting in their backyard," said Billy Causey, superintendent of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. "It could have been a lot worse situation, but they had offloaded the propane in Port Everglades. The barge was empty and did not appear to be leaking any type of fluid, said Cheva Heck, sanctuary spokeswoman. The master did not report the grounding to sanctuary or Florida Fish and Wildlife officials, she said. The empty propane barge was towed by tug Crosby Skipper (84 gt, built 2001) owned by Crosby Tug LLC of Golden Meadow, La., Heck said. Capt. Harry Winfield was towing the barge to Venice, La., when the main tow line broke at 0900 Friday. An emergency tow line was attached at 1230 same day, but by 1830 hrs that line also had broken, Heck said. A

team assessed the barge, which is 100 feet from shore, yesterday afternoon. Bill Goodwin, a sanctuary resource specialist who snorkeled around the barge looking for damage, said it is resting in an area predominantly covered with sponge and seagrass. "We don't know exactly what track it made as it came ashore," Goodwin said. "We'll have to talk to the master and then visit some of the reefs in line with the path the barge took (to look for reef damage)." It was unclear yesterday whether the barge was travelling in an area to be avoided near the Keys reef tract. The area is marked on nautical charts. "The only good news is it's not on the reef," Causey said. The deep end of the barge is in about three feet of water. The empty barge has a 7-foot draught and the tug, which is waiting at nearby Crocker Reef while arranging for salvage, draws about 11 feet, Heck said. "We suspect (the tug) is on hard bottom but we don't know for sure because the water is so stirred up from the storm," she said.

London, Aug 30 -- A press report, dated Aug 29, states: A 285-foot propane barge remains hard aground in three feet of water off Plantation Key. The tow lines on the barge broke (from tug Crosby Skipper) Friday (Aug 26) during hurricane "Katrina", sending the untethered vessel into just three feet of water. Crews from Resolve Towing and Salvage company had arrived in the Upper Keys yesterday and were working with the U.S. Coast Guard on a salvage plan, Cheva Heck, spokeswoman for Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary said, adding that sanctuary officials also would assess the plan to ensure that no further damage is done to the protected sea bottom. An environmental damage assessment will take place once the vessel has been removed, Heck said. Lt. Commander Stephen Beckwith, Upper Keys regional manager of FKNMS, had been snorkeling at the site of the grounding in Treasure Harbor over the weekend and reported that the barge was mostly on a hard bottom that includes seagrass and some soft corals. "It's going to be really complicated to remove it," Heck said.

DEEPWATER NAUTILUS (Panama)

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

DONA RAMONA (Philippines)

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

EMILIA (Italy)

Palermo, Aug 26 -- Passenger ro/ro Emilia is scheduled to sail tomorrow morning for Cagliari. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 1 -- Passenger ro/ro Emilia arrived Naples Aug 30 and sailed the same day.

ENSCO 7500 (U.S.A.)

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

EUGENIO

Durban, Sep 1 -- General cargo Eugenio arrived Durban Aug 30 and has discharged all its cargo. The vessel was taken to a dry dock at Durban today for repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FERTILE II (U.K.)

London, Aug 29 -- A report from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, timed 1603, GMT, today, states: At 1404 today, Shetland Coastguard was advised that the fish Fertile II, BF 740, (251 gt, built 2000) was sinking 80 miles north-east of Lerwick, Shetland. The Ninian Platform radio-room reported that the standby vessels Grampian Osprey, Highland Navigator and Highland Patriot were responding. In addition the Coastguard helicopter "Oscar Charlie" was scrambled but recalled when at 1420 hrs the crew of the fish Aquarius, BF 89, reported having the five people on board and that the Fertile II had sunk in lat 60 41N, long 01 16E. Grampian Osprey launched its fast rescue craft to recover the emergency position indicating radio beacon. This was completed by 1430 hrs. The vessel had 10,000 litres of diesel on board, some of which has leaked and come to the surface. The crew were rescued quickly by Aquarius, and the Ninian Oil platform provided good communications support.

GLOBAL EXPLORER (Myanmar)

London, Aug 30 -- Bulk Global Explorer (20398 gt, built 1995) struck a buoy at the approach to Vancouver Wharves, B.C., in lat 49 17.30N, long 123 06W, on Aug 21. (Note -- Global Explorer arrived Vancouver Aug 21 and sailed Aug 24.)

GRANDE SPAGNA (Italy)

London, Aug 26 -- Services in Humberside were mobilised to assist the burning ro/ro Grande Spagna but the 26-strong crew of the Grimaldi-owned vessel were able to put out the blaze before their arrival and proceeded safely to Antwerp. Humber Coast Guard said a fishing boat sighted the vessel 15 miles north-east of Hartlepool with its deck aflame. The Coast Guard broadcast a relay mayday call to all shipping and four fishing vessels and a warship, HMS Severn, immediately offered assistance. A helicopter from RAF Leconfield was also mobilised, with a second helicopter put on standby, and the Hartlepool and Teesmouth RNLi all-weather lifeboat also put to sea. A Grimaldi spokesman confirmed the details of the fire, describing it as a minor incident and noting that the crew had been able to put out the blaze, in the paint locker, without assistance. Grande Spagna, which had just left dry dock in the Tyne, proceeded to Antwerp without further incident.

London, Aug 26 -- Ro/ro Grande Spagna arrived Antwerp 0231 today.

London, Aug 28 -- Ro/ro Grande Spagna sailed Antwerp 0031, Aug 27 for Bristol.

GSF ARCTIC I (Vanuatu)

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

HAI FAYEZ (Cambodia)

Valletta, Aug 26 -- General cargo Haj Fayez, from Gabes, passed Malta today. -- Lloyd's Agents.

HARVEST HOPE (U.K.)

London, Aug 29 -- A report from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, timed 1945, GMT, today, states: Aberdeen Coastguard MRCC have been coordinating the rescue of seven people from sinking fishing Harvest Hope (356 gt, built 1996), PD 120, this afternoon after an emergency call was made at 1640 hrs her listing heavily and in danger of sinking. The vessel was 35 miles north-east of Peterhead at the time. Aberdeen Coastguard immediately began to broadcast a Mayday relay signal into the area and Dea Mariner responded and steamed towards the location. Fishing Fruitful Bough also reported back to Aberdeen Coastguard to say that he had intercepted a signal to say that Harvest Hope was on its side. This vessel was 1.5 nautical miles away from the stricken fishing vessel. A rescue helicopter was immediately scrambled from RAF Lossiemouth. Fruitful Bough then reported that her crew could see a liferaft and that Harvest Hope was going down by the stern. At that point all communications was lost with Harvest Hope. Fruitful Bough managed to get everyone out of the liferaft and reported to the Coastguard that there were fortunately no injuries amongst the crew. The fishing vessel then proceeded towards Peterhead where they would land the crew. The helicopter was stood down at this point. The emergency position indicating radio beacon signal began to transmit after the vessel sank and Falmouth Coastguard who picked up the signal have been in discussions with their Aberdeen colleagues in order to try retrieve the beacon. This has proved too difficult at present because of the amount of debris in the water. The Agency's Counter Pollution team was informed due to the amount of fuels the vessel was carrying. The weather on scene at the time was a 35-knot wind with visibility at six nautical miles and a moderate sea state.

HSIN LIEN FENG 36 (Taiwan)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy".

HUAL TRAPPER (NIS)

London, Aug 28 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 2145, UTC: Vehicle Hual Trapper (33236 gt, built 1981), which left Lagos Aug 26 for East London, 98 vehicles on board, reported at 1800, UTC, Aug 28, in lat 05.0N, long 04 42E, with 15 cm crack in hull above waterline and listing 2 deg to starboard. Vessel was leaking oil but this has now stopped as master is pumping oil to another tank. Master hopes to stabilise vessel by tomorrow morning if weather remains fine and

reports that, at present, he does not require assistance. (Note -- Hual Trapper left New York Aug 12 for Africa.)

London, Aug 30 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1127, UTC: Vehicle Hual Trapper has been stabilised and is proceeding on voyage for East London, ETA Sep 7.

IIDA (Cambodia)

Kochi, Aug 30 -- Understand general cargo Iida (828 gt, built 1968) sank 37 nautical miles from Tuticorin 0530, Aug 29. All 16 crew members were rescued by the Indian Coast Guard. The vessel sailed Tuticorin Aug 28 for Male with building construction materials. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Coast Guard personnel rescued a crew of "10" members, including the master of general cargo Iida, who were struggling for life in the mid sea as water entered into the vessel, in Thoothukudi on Monday (Aug 29). Iida, loaded with 634 bags of fly ash weighing about 950 tonnes, was bound Colombo from Thoothukudi port on Sunday night. Due to imbalance of the cargo, the vessel listed towards one side and sea-water started entering into the weather deck after four hours of safe sailing. Hence, the vessel was stopped in mid sea about 28 nautical miles. An SOS message sent by the master of the vessel was received by the Sri Lankan Coast Guard, who passed it on to the Indian Coast Guard, Chennai, on Monday. Subsequently, the Coast Guard at Thoothukudi was informed and they reached the accident spot in rescue ship Naiki Devi. Since the vessel was sinking, the search and rescue team sent a radio message, but to no avail. Hence, they searched for them in the sea. Meanwhile, another merchant ship from Hong Kong rescued the master and two crew men in a lifeboat. Further, they sent message to the Coast Guard team about the seven more crew members, who were said to have escaped from the vessel in two more lifeboats. The rescue team acted quickly and saved the seven persons and brought them safely to Thoothukudi shore at 2300 on Monday. Later, all the survivors were handed over to their shipping agent who had arranged for their stay in a hotel in Thoothukudi.

Kochi, Sep 1 -- General cargo Iida, JVDH2, owned by Rogers Agency Pvt. Ltd., Colombo, Sri Lanka, after loading fly ash at Tuticorin Port, sailed at 1845 hrs, on Aug 28 for Male (Maldives). At about 2300 hrs, listing towards the port side was reported and the vessel sank in the early morning of Aug 29, approximately 29 nautical miles away from Tuticorin. Three of the vessel's 10 crew were rescued by another vessel and brought to Tuticorin. The remaining seven were rescued by the Indian Coast Guard. -- Lloyd's Agents.

INDEPENDIENTE (Panama)

Freeport, Aug 26 -- Bulk Independiente has apparently been

sold. Tug Olympia was sent to tow the vessel to Colombia for repairs. The tow sailed Freeport Aug 12 for Cartagena, Colombia, ETA Aug 22. -- Lloyd's Agents.

IONIAN QUEEN (Cyprus)

Bari, Aug 25 -- Passenger ro/ro Ionian Queen arrived Bari Aug 22, from Igoumenitsa, and sailed same day for Igoumenitsa. -- Lloyd's Agents.

JUDI (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 27 -- A press report, dated Aug 26, states: Tug Judi (1043 gt, built 1981) pushing barges of coal today on the Mississippi River briefly ran aground and lost control of 22 of them, a U.S. Coast Guard spokesman said. The barges drifted downstream and headed toward the two-lane U.S. Highway 82 bridge, which spans the river between Mississippi and southeast Arkansas. Petty Officer Kyle Niemi with the Coast Guard in New Orleans said law enforcement agencies in the area were notified and assist vessels were called in to help corral the barges. A spokesman for the Chicot County Sheriff's Office in Arkansas said a deputy and two state officers responded and most of the barges were stopped before they got to the bridge. Judi was pushing 25 barges in all and was able to keep control of three of them. Niemi said no one was injured and there were no reports of pollution from the incident. The region has been experiencing a drought, and river levels have been affected.

KIEFERWALD (Antigua & Barbuda)

See Michelle.

KIPEROUSA (Malta)

London, Aug 29 -- A press report, dated Aug 27, states: The salvage operation of the stricken bulk Kiperousa was dealt a nasty blow yesterday when a barge carrying more than 1000 tons of logs was forced to wait outside the harbour mouth due to atrocious weather and gale-force winds gusting up to 60 knots an hour. Salvage company SvitzerWijsmuller representative Nick Sloane said yesterday the barge carrying more than 1000 tons worth of logs would spend the night three nautical miles offshore instead of coming into the harbour to off-load as the salvors had hoped. Yesterday's load of between 150 and 170 logs is the third load off Kiperousa. Sloane said it was hoped the logs could have been discharged at the harbour while the weather was poor so the barge could return to the ship once the weather had cleared. The salvage operation will drag on for the next few months, said Sloane, especially if the weather continues to hamper salvage operations.

London, Aug 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Strong winds and eight to 10-metre swells have moved bulk Kiperousa closer to the Hamburg shore, making salvage operations even more difficult than before. "It's not looking good," Nick Sloane,

representative of the salvage company SvitzerWijsmuller, said yesterday. He added that the stricken ship had holes in it and "sooner or later" would break up completely. More than 1000 tons of logs were discharged this weekend from a barge that was forced to wait outside the harbour mouth on Friday due to atrocious weather and gale-force winds gusting up to 60 knots. Sloane said the barge was ready to return to Kiperousa, but the fact that the ship had moved in the storm would throw a spanner in the works for the salvors. It is likely that the salvage operation will drag on for the next few months, especially if the weather continues to hamper operations.

London, Aug 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Bulk Kiperousa is starting to break up quite quickly and has moved about 150 metres closer to shore. The bad weather at the weekend caused some damage to the ship and 25 logs were washed off the barge Jumbo while being conveyed to East London, said salvors SvitzerWijsmuller's senior salvage master Captain Nick Sloane yesterday. He said Kiperousa's bow had broken through the holding ropes and swung around, moving closer to shore. The salvage of logs from the holds was suspended at the weekend and yesterday due to a severe storm which hampered work. "Waves are breaking over the bows and we can't get to the holds to get the logs off," Sloane said yesterday afternoon. He added that 25 logs had come loose from the tug which had to wait in the roadstead on Friday due to the high winds before it could come into the harbour on Saturday and offload. "There are 23 logs on the beach near the race track and two on the West Bank approach to the harbour. "We spent five hours flying in a helicopter on Sunday to check the coastline and all the logs have ended up along the shore. "There are none at sea which could be a hazard to shipping," Sloane said, adding that recovery of the logs would not be that difficult. "We are expecting to continue with the offloading tomorrow as the forecast is for good weather." The salvors will meet authorities today to discuss what will happen to the ship if it breaks up any further. The future of the cargo, valued at around R200 million, is also under discussion and Sloane believes that the owners of the cargo will wait until all 9000 logs are removed before making a decision on their future.

KRISTANJO (U.K.)

London, Sep 1 -- Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1146, UTC: Fishing Kristanjo (90 gt, built 1990, owned by: Anglo-Scottish FPO Ltd.) reported a distress, in lat 55 29.9N, long 01 08 2W, stating it was taking water and pumps unable to cope. Rescue helicopter 131 was tasked with pumps. Seahouses and Amble lifeboats also tasked. A pump was transferred to the vessel and water was pumped from its hull. Damage appeared to be a hull leak, but the vessel was declared safe and

able to proceed under its own power. Seahouses lifeboat and helicopter 131 now returning to their respective stations. Amble lifeboat will take the vessel in tow and proceed to the River Tyne to rendezvous with Tynemouth lifeboat, which will take over the tow at 1200, UTC.

MATIAS F.ERASQUIN

Buenos Aires, Aug 31 -- Understand the main engine and auxiliaries of vessel Matias F.Erasquin have been sent to a workshop in order to obtain a repair estimate to decide whether or not they will be repaired. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MATTERHORN (Liberia)

Gdynia, Aug 30 -- Ref Matterhorn is still at a shiprepair yard in Gdansk. The expected date for completion of repairs is about Sep 20-25. -- Correspondents.

MCNCO NO.20 (Canada)

London, Aug 30 -- Tug Bagotville (65 gt, built 1964) broke tow with "Barge No.20" (? barge MCNCO No.20, 332.91 gt, built 1956), in strong south-westerly winds, while navigating in the north channel near Kingston, Ontario, at 0230, Aug 28. The barge drifted aground in lat 44 12 30N, long 76 36W, near Kingston. Diver and Transport Canada inspection in progress.

London, Aug 30 -- Following received from Coast Guard Prescott, timed 1200, UTC: An attempt to refloat the grounded barge by tugs Bagotville and Mister Joe yesterday was unsuccessful and the barge is believed to be still aground.

MGM 3030 (U.S.A.)

New Orleans, Aug 25 -- Tank barge MGM 3030 was refloated Aug 16 and towed to Bludworth Shipyard, Galveston. The vessel will be moved to Kennedy Shipyard tomorrow for continued repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MICHELLE (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Aug 26 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0835, UTC: At 0747, UTC, a collision was reported between general cargo Michelle (2998 gt, built 2000), V2OC7, and general cargo Kiefernwald (2498 gt, built 1971), V2KH, in the approximate position lat 53 38.2N, long 03 36.7E. Michelle began taking water and was abandoned by her seven crew members. All seven were safely rescued by Kiefernwald. It has been suggested that Michelle may have sunk, but this has not been confirmed. Details of any damages to Kiefernwald are presently unknown. (Note -- Kiefernwald sailed from Grimsby at 2148 hrs, Aug 25, bound for Riga. Michelle was last reported sailing from Klaipeda at 1940 hrs, Aug 19.)

London, Aug 26 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1010, UTC: General cargo Michelle is in a semi-submerged status. The vessel was on passage from Gdynia to Cork, loaded with coal. General cargo

Kiefernwald, which is believed to be in ballast, is still on the scene awaiting the arrival of a Dutch Coast Guard vessel. Thereafter the intention is for Kiefernwald to proceed to Brunsbittel. (Note -- Michelle sailed from Gdynia at 1015 hrs, Aug 23, bound for Cork.)

London, Aug 26 -- General cargo Michelle and general cargo Kiefernwald were in collision about 100 km north-west of Den Helder at about 0945, local time, today. Michelle sank stern first. The seven crew escaped in liferafts and were picked up later by Kiefernwald. The bow of Michelle is still about five metres out of the water, while the vessel's stern is resting on the ground in about 37 metres of water. Kiefernwald sustained a crack in the bow, but was able to proceed on voyage to Cuxhaven. Lifeboat Arie de Visser from Terschelling, buoy tender Terschelling, Coast Guard vessel Waker and oil cleaning vessel Arca proceeded to the location of the collision, along with a number of salvage vessels.

London, Aug 26 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1425, UTC: Only the bow of general cargo Michelle is currently visible, above the water. Due to the vessel's position, a Coast Guard vessel is on scene assisting with vessel traffic management. A salvage contract has been awarded to Wijsmuller Salvage BV. The vessel's seven crew were all safely landed at Den Helder, by lifeboat. General cargo Kiefernwald departed from the scene at 1234, UTC. Understood vessel is proceeding to Brunsbittel. Vessel has some small damage to the bow, below the waterline.

London, Aug 27 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1155, UTC: The stern of general cargo Michelle is still on the bottom while the vessel's bow is 10 metres above the waterline. Coast Guard tug Waker and buoy tender Terschelling are on scene. A vessel is now en route with survey equipment etc on board. A meeting is to take place this afternoon to discuss the situation. A crane barge will also be leaving Rotterdam tomorrow.

London, Aug 29 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0830, UTC: General cargo Michelle is still in the same position. There are a number of vessels in the area including a crane barge.

London, Aug 30 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1302, UTC: General cargo Michelle is still in the same position. The only development is that two hatch covers are presently being salvaged.

London, Aug 31 -- Understand salvage services are being rendered to general cargo Michelle under Lloyd's Open Form 2000 by SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV.

London, Aug 31 -- General cargo Kiefernwald, Grimsby for Rendsburg, passed Brunsbittel 0819, Aug 27.

London, Aug 31 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1004, UTC: General cargo Michelle is still in the same position. It is hoped to

commence efforts to raise the vessel over the next few days, provided the weather stays good. Two hatch covers, which had broken loose, were successfully recovered yesterday.

MILANO (Bahamas)

London, Sep 1 -- Local agents of ref Milano have advised that the vessel has been considered as a total loss and will be towed to a shipyard in Greece to be dismantled. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NAZEK T. (North Korea)

Bucharest, Aug 26 -- General cargo Nazek T. is still in port at Constantza. The vessel reportedly loaded a bagged soda shipment between Aug 19 and 21, and she was subsequently moved to a different berth, being currently listed as loading a timber consignment. It appears the vessel has been renamed CPT George. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Aug 29 -- General cargo CPT George, ex Nazek T. sailed Constantza at 1710, Aug 26, bound for Alexandria. Constantza Port Authority said the vessel has changed only its name from Nazek T. into CPT George other particulars remaining unchanged. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NOBLE JIM THOMPSON (Panama)

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

OCEAN VOYAGER (Marshall Islands)

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

OCEAN WARWICK (U.S.A.)

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

OMIROS (Cyprus)

See "Reunion" under "Labour Disputes."

ORIANA

London, Aug 29 -- Understand exhibition ship Oriana has been resold to Indian shipbreakers and will be towed from its moorings at the Zhangjiagang shipyard, Jiangsu Province, imminently.

ORIENT BRILLIANCE (Panama)

London, Aug 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Bulk Orient Brilliance (75668 gt, built 1986), carrying 142,000 tonnes of iron ore from Peru to China for Chinese-owned iron miner Shougang Hierro Peru SAA, was tilting today after hitting an underwater rock off Peru's southern coast, according to port authorities and media reports. One official in the port of San Juan de Mancona, 250 miles south of Lima, said the accident happened on Tuesday (Aug 30) when the vessel hit the rock outside of the port of San Nicolas, situated near San Juan de Marcona, and said the crew of 25 were still on board the vessel. "It doesn't seem to be badly damaged but the ship is tilting a little. It's still afloat, we're working on it," the port official said, without giving further details. Newspaper El Comercio said

worsening sea conditions could hamper efforts to prevent the vessel from sinking in an area where the sea is as much as 164 feet deep. (Note -- Bulk Orient Brilliance sailed Busan Jul 27 for San Nicolas.)

Lima, Aug 31 -- Bulk Orient Brilliance is apparently dangerously inclined located approximately 10 kilometres in front of San Juan de Marcona ICA in the South of Peru with four of its eleven ballast tanks (?damaged) after hitting a submerged rock. At present it is carrying 142,000 tonnes of steel recently loaded at Marcona. Apparently the 25 crew are safe and the Coast Guard with salvage specialists are in attendance. In the last few hours, the sea has become dangerous with a lot of high swells. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Hong Kong, Aug 31 -- Wallem Shipmanagement Ltd, managers of bulk Orient Brilliance, report that the vessel touched a submerged rock in the designated departure channel while leaving San Nicolas on the coast of Peru on Aug 29. There is no pollution and no injury to seafarers reported. There is a probable breach of the hull by way of the forepeak ballast tank and Nos 1, 2 and 4 double bottom ballast tanks, with the vessel listing five-deg to starboard, but in stable condition. The vessel is currently anchored for diver's underwater inspection under class supervision, to establish the extent of the damage. Owners and managers are co-operating with the local Port Authority who are also attending the vessel.

Lima, Sept 1 -- Bulk Orient Brilliance returned to port yesterday after hitting an underwater rock off Peru's southern coast, a mine union official said. "The rock cut the outer layer of the ship, it took on some water and listed, but it's back in the port of San Nicolas now and it's in the bay where they're fixing it," said Graciano Collahua, a spokesman for the union at Shougang Hierro Peru SA's nearby iron mine, where the cargo was from. Another union official, Julio Ortiz, said Orient Brilliance returned under its own power and was not towed. Collahua said the ship was carrying 146,000 tonnes of iron. Earlier reports had put the cargo at 142,000 tonnes. -- Reuters.

OTTON (Panama)

Bilbao, Sep 1 -- Firefighting tug Otton is still at Bilbao, under repair. -- Lloyd's Agents.

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

New Orleans, Aug 25 -- Unknown Parker Drilling 57-B: Rig has not yet been refloated. Salvage team is on site with all equipment and currently rigging to refloat. Expect an attempt to refloat next week. Extent of damage not yet known. Current location lat 29 57.7N, long 89 33.5W, in Bayou Grande, Near Hopedale, LA. Intentions regarding repairs not known, but, reportedly, the intent is to fully repair. -- Lloyd's Agents.

POLARBORG II (Uruguay)

London, Aug 29 -- Following navigation warning issued Aug 27: Fishing Magritte towing trawler Polarborg II, in lat 43 59.8S, long 62 09.1W, line length 550 metres, speed 6.2 knots, course 337, bound for San Antonio Este.

PROJECT EUROPA (Netherlands)

See "Atlantic Ocean" under "Pollution."

QUEEN OF COWICHAN (Canada)

London, Aug 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Three B.C. ferries on runs between Vancouver Island and the mainland were hit with mechanical problems over the weekend (Aug 27/28), cancelling a number of sailings and delaying motorists. B.C. Ferry Services president David Hahn said the company has had a "brutal" summer for breakdowns, and has no spare vessels at all at a time of year when passenger and vehicle traffic are at their highest. Two of the ferries are back in service, but a third vessel will be out of service for the next 10 days, forcing a reduced schedule between Horseshoe Bay in West Vancouver and Departure Bay in Nanaimo. Ro/ro Queen of Cowichan (6551 gt, built 1976), which serves the Horseshoe Bay-Departure Bay route, was knocked out of service at the end of the weekend with gear problems. B.C. Ferry Services representative Deborah Marshall said yesterday one of the less-used ferries in the fleet will be used on the run, although the sailing schedule will be reduced. "We've taken Queen of Esquimalt off the Horseshoe Bay-Langdale run, because normally that vessel provides extra service just to the Langdale run," she said. "Now it's going to be shared between those two routes." A revised schedule posted on the BC Ferries website shows one less sailing from Horseshoe Bay this week and two fewer over the Labour Day weekend. With Queen of Cowichan down, however, it is not clear how BC Ferries would cope if another vessel were to fail over the busy weekend. "We would have to develop a contingency plan if that kind of situation arose," Marshall said. On the Swartz Bay-Tsawwassen run, two round trips were cancelled Saturday (Aug 27) when Queen of Vancouver was shifted to the Duke Point-Tsawwassen run after ro-ro Queen of New Westminster (8786 gt, built 1964) developed rudder problems. One round trip between Duke Point and Tsawwassen was cancelled before the substitution, and seven of the scheduled 16 sailings on Sunday were cancelled. The problems on the Duke Point-Tsawwassen route prompted many travellers to go to Departure Bay, where most faced two-sailing waits throughout Sunday afternoon. Queen of New Westminster was out of service for most of Saturday and returned briefly to service Sunday morning before the problem recurred. Divers took most of the day to fix it again, and it was back on the job

Sunday at 2000. Marshall said the vessel likely will be pulled from service again next week when a substitute is available. On the Swartz Bay-Tsawwassen run, ro/ro Queen of Saanich (9302 gt, built 1963) required new cylinder heads, and work began after it completed its sailings on Sunday evening. It returned to service at 1000, yesterday.

QUEEN OF NEW WESTMINSTER (Canada)

See Queen of Cowichan.

QUEEN OF SAANICH (Canada)

See Queen of Cowichan.

RASHA STAR (Malta)

Vigo, Aug 26 -- Bulk Rasha Star arrived Vigo 0300, Aug 25 in tow of tug Charuca Silveira docking at Guixar quay. Repairs being contemplated to rudder but dry dock not available till Aug 31. -- Lloyd's Agents.

RICKMERS GENOA (Marshall Islands)

London, Aug 26 -- Following received from the operators of general cargo Rickmers Genoa, dated today: Rickmers Genoa is still under repair at Shanghai, ETC unknown.

RIO SOLIS (Uruguay)

Montevideo, Aug 30 -- Trawler Rio Solis is reported to have arrived Montevideo Aug 25, apparently for unloading the catch and loading provisions, bunkers etc., and reports minor repairs. Vessel is estimated to sail on Aug 31 to fishing grounds. -- Lloyd's Agents.

RIVER PRINCESS

London, Aug 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Goa has sought the assistance of the Centrally administered National Institute of Shipbuilding and Designs (NISD) to study the process of re-tendering for the removal of ore River Princess, the dilapidated vessel that has been grounded off the famous Sinquerim tourist beach in North Goa's coast for over five years. The erstwhile State Government, which took possession of the vessel after a prolonged legal battle, had awarded the work of refloating and towing away of the vessel to a United Kingdom-based company in January last. As per the tender agreement, the work should have been completed within 110 days, that is, before the onset of the monsoon this year. The company, Crosschem International, had to tow away the ship and was at liberty to dispose it. In return, the Government would get Rs. 85.41 lakhs. However, while the Government in the State changed, the vessel continued to be where it was. Wilfred de Souza, Deputy Chief Minister, who also holds the Tourism portfolio, assured Members in the Assembly during budgetary demands on Tourism that the NISD officials would study and submit a report by next month to float new tenders for the removal of the

vessel. He said he had already obtained the legal opinion from the Advocate-General of the State, stating that the tenders awarded to Crosschem International should be scrapped and a new tender invited by the Government.

ROSTOK (Russia)

London, Aug 30 -- A Multirship Towage & Salvage press release, dated Aug 22 states: On Aug 21 the stern section of general cargo Rostok, comprising the engine-room, was safely transported to the designated dumpsite where it was beached close to the previously removed wreck pieces. On Aug 6 crane barge Cormorant and Multirabarge 2 already started with the lifting operation. Subsequently the salvors had to stabilize the section for safe transportation by Cormorant to the dumpsite, which is located at the south bank in St. Georges Channel at Km 102. For this purpose the weight of the section, in excess of 2,000 tons, had to be further reduced by means of mud, clay, steel and debris removal. After completing this, the section was re-rigged into Cormorant's tackles, and preparations for the transport were made. The section, of which the weight was reduced to approximately 800 tons, was transported through the Sulina channel and placed on the dumpsite in St. Georges Channel by Cormorant, assisted by the multi-purpose tugs Herman and Fonda and in close co-operation with the harbour-master and local authorities. Preparations for lifting the final wreck piece, comprising holds No.1 and 2, are in progress.

ROWAN NEW ORLEANS (Panama)

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

SEA ELEGANCE (Vanuatu)

Kolkata, Aug 27 -- Bulk Sea Elegance (28665 gt, built 2002) during discharge of coaking coal at Haldia the crane jib of the vessel's No.1 deck crane was damaged yesterday afternoon. The repair work will be carried out at Haldia port. However during inspection by the representative of NYK, the class surveyor, slipped from the ship's crane and fall on the deck. He died on his way to hospital. The vessel is presently placed off berth No 4A and awaiting owner's instruction. - Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Sea Elegance arrived Haldia Aug 23.)

SEABOURN PRIDE (Bahamas)

See "Irish Republic" under "Port State Control".

SUNA (Russia)

London, Aug 26 -- General cargo Suna arrived St. Petersburg Aug 20.

SUPER SHUTTLE FERRY 9 (Philippines)

Manila, Sep 1 -- According to information obtained from Asian Marine Transport Corporation, owners of ferry Super Shuttle Ferry 9, the

vessel is still lying half submerged, 600 metres off Hagnaya port and no salvage/refloating operation has been carried out to date. Recently obtained details of the incident, are as follows: The incident happened in a shallow portion of the sea some 600 metres off Hagnaya port. The vessel, which was scheduled to leave for Sta. Fe town in Bantayan Island, Cebu, was carrying cargo trucks loaded with soft drinks, rice and animal feeds. It was reported that the crew were trying to move the vessel because of the low tide, fearing it might run aground. Whilst the vessel was manoeuvring towards the deeper areas of the port, to wait for passengers, it ran aground. The vessel's Captain, Gene Montesclaros, claimed strong winds and the current pushed the ship towards the shallower portion of the port and the vessel tilted. The vessel's right side started to go under the water as the tide rose, around 0800 hrs. As further reported, the vessel is still intact but most of its cargo had been damaged or lost due to looting. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TANJA (Madeira)

London, Aug 31 -- General cargo Tanja was reported arriving at Rauma on Aug 30.

TRADER (Antigua & Barbuda)

Malaga, Aug 31 -- General cargo Trader (1527 gt, built 1980), with 178 tonnes of steel profiles, experienced engine damage and was to proceed to Malaga but the damage worsened and it had to be towed to Carthagena, where it arrived Aug 29. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Trader, which sailed Diliskelesi Aug 8 for Warrenpoint was reported to have experienced engine breakdown while on passage.)

Malaga, Aug 31 -- We are informed that repairs to general cargo Trader will take about three weeks. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TUGCE-T. (Turkey)

London, Aug 31 -- Product tanker Tugce-T. was reported departing from Apapa-Lagos on Aug 24, bound for Istanbul.

UFUK 1 (Turkey)

London, Aug 25 -- Following received from coastguard Ankara MRCC, timed 1815, UTC: Fire occurred in engine-room ro/ro Ufuk 1 (4708 gt, built 1977), at 1230, UTC, in lat 42 18.12N, long 39 42.1E. All passengers have been removed from the vessel and have been taken to Trabzon. Rescue vessels are presently on scene and the fire is still being fought.

London, Aug 26 -- An estimated 50 passengers abandoned ship last night after ro/ro Ufuk 1 caught fire off Turkey's Black Sea coast. Passengers took to liferafts after the vessel caught fire in international waters about 60 nautical miles off the Turkish coastline, news agencies reported. A North Korean-flagged vessel was heading for the area. Ufuk 1 was travelling from Sochi in southern Russia to Trabzon.

London, Aug 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: All 53 passengers and crew onboard ro/ro Ufuk 1 that caught fire in the Black Sea yesterday were taken to the port of Trabzon safe and sound, the Anatolia news agency reported. One passenger, a truck-driver, suffered chest pains and was taken to hospital, it said, but the others suffered no ill effects. They were taken off the ferry by hydrofoil Trapesus 2. A fire of unknown origin broke out on the ferry about 78 nautical miles off Trabzon as it was sailing to Sochi with about 30 heavy trucks onboard. Kibar Aydemi, president of Ufuk Maritime, owners of the ferry, said "the more than 30 passengers onboard had left the vessel" while the 20 crew tried to bring the fire under control. "There is no loss of life but the fire is still burning in the engine-room," he said.

London, Aug 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro Ufuk 1 sank off Trabzon, a port official said yesterday. Ufuk 1 caught fire on Thursday for unknown reason and a tug reached the scene Friday night to try to tow the ship, Muzaffer Ermis, the head of the Trabzon Port's Management, was quoted by the semi-official Anatolia news agency as saying. The fire started in the ship's engine-room and spread to the deck, said Ermis. "However, the ship started to make water, and it sank at noon," added Ermis.

Novorossisk, Aug 29 -- Ro/ro Ufuk 1 caught fire, within 50 miles of Trabzon, on Aug 26, and has been reported sunk. All 51 crew and passengers safely rescued. -- Lloyd's Agents.

UGUR DADAYLI (Turkey)

London, Aug 27 -- General cargo Ugur Dadayli, which arrived Tuzla Apr 29, sailed Aug 17.

VLIBORG (Netherlands)

London, Aug 26 -- A press report, dated Aug 25, states: A failure in the steering system of general cargo Vlieborg likely caused the ship to hit the north wall of the Duluth-Superior Harbour Ship Canal yesterday. "Preliminary indications point towards a failure in the steering system that caused the ship to lose control of the rudder," the U.S. Coast Guard said this morning in a prepared statement. "The vessel was able to re-engage its steering system shortly after making contact with the wall." After the accident, the Vlieborg moved to the inner harbor, where it anchored pending a Coast Guard inspection. The ship will remain at anchor "until the Captain of the Port is certain of the vessel's safety and confident in the operational status of the steering system," the news release said. The ship hit the pier at 1320 yesterday while attempting to leave the harbour. Its damage, including some minor denting of plating on the bow, is considered minor.

Troy, Michigan, Aug 26 -- General cargo Vlieborg apparently had a temporary steering failure that caused it to strike the north pier of the Duluth Ship Canal, Coast Guard officials said. Vlieborg was departing Duluth when it failed to complete its turn as it approached the canal's entrance. The vessel struck the pier while a crowd of tourists watched and took pictures. No one was injured. Damage to Vlieborg was minor. Corps of Engineers officials said the ship punctured the pier's sheet piling and toppled a light standard, causing about \$200,000 in damage. Vlieborg remained anchored in Duluth harbour this morning while the Coast Guard continued to investigate the incident. - Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

WAREMBUNGAN (Indonesia)

London, Sept 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: An explosion in the engine-room of product tanker Warembugan (1272 gt, built 1973) in Lhokseumawe port in Indonesia's northwestern Aceh province has sparked a fire, causing damage of uncertain severity, El-Shinta private radio reported today. Fire brigades are currently trying to douse the flames, the report said, citing a state-owned oil firm Pertamina source. A private oil company source in Jakarta confirmed the explosion and fire had occurred, but did not provide any details. The affected ship was operated by Pertamina, a company spokesman said, without elaborating.

WILLOW (Bahamas)

Maassluis, Sep 1 -- General cargo Willow will get a completely new engine. Installation will take approximately three weeks. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

X-PRESS PUMORI (Singapore)

London, Aug 31 -- C.c. X-Press Pumori arrived New Tuticorin Aug 27 and sailed Aug 28 for Colombo.

ZIEMIA GORNOSLASKA (Liberia)

London, Aug 26 -- On Aug 25, bulk Ziemia Gornoslaska was reported at Ste Zotique anchorage, lightering cargo into bulk Iryda.

Montreal, Aug 31 -- Bulk Ziemia Gornoslaska is still discharging cargo into bulk Iryda, ETC around Sep 2-3. Once discharge is completed, the vessel will be towed to Valleyfield to effect repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ZIEMIA LODZKA (Liberia)

London, Aug 26 -- On Aug 25, bulk Ziemia Lodzka was reported to be in Cleveland, unloading.

Montreal, Aug 31 -- Bulk Ziemia Lodzka effected temporary repairs at Quebec prior to sailing. The vessel will undergo permanent repairs at a Great Lakes port. The wall of the Beauharnois Lock sustained damage over a length of about 73 feet but is still operational. Repairs will be carried out during the winter. -- Lloyd's Agents.



IRAQ

London, Aug 30 -- Pirates armed with machine guns robbed the crew of a Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) tanker in a channel close to Iraq's coast, the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) said today. The attack is the sixth on merchant shipping since April and illustrates the growing insecurity in the region, the IMB said in a statement. It said three men armed with machine guns and a steel bar boarded an LPG tanker on Saturday in the Khawr Abd Allah channel in the vicinity of Umm Qasr Port. "They smashed bridge windows and held two officers and master at gunpoint. They fired a shot at the master missing his shoulder and forced him to open safe and stole cash," the IMB said. The men later escaped. -- Reuters.

SOMALIA

London, Sep 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Three Taiwanese fishing vessels have been hijacked off the coast of Somalia and pirates are threatening to kill dozens of crewmen unless the shipowners pay a total ransom of US\$1.5 million, officials said today. Fishing Cheng Ching Feng, fishing Chung Yi 218 and fishing Hsin Lien Feng 36 were seized separately in mid-August, said Taiwan's foreign ministry spokesman Michel Lu. "We received the appeal for help from the ships' owners on August 24," Lu said. "They said the hijackers had demanded a ransom of \$500,000 for each ship and the crew and threatened to kill them all if the demanded amount was not paid," he said, adding that details of the events were sketchy. There are about 20 crew on board each of the 95-tonne vessels. Except for Taiwanese skippers and several senior officers, the other sailors come from the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam, Lu said. Rescue efforts have been under way through different diplomatic channels, Lu said. "As of now all the crew are safe."



IRISH REPUBLIC

London, Sep 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Passenger Seabourn Pride (9975 gt, built 1988) has been detained in Waterford after Marine Inspectors found it had breached a string of safety rules, it was confirmed today. Around 170 passengers were told they would have

to remain in the city until the ship's crew cleaned up the engine room and removed several fire risks. Marine Inspectors visited the vessel yesterday and said the engine room was in an awful state. It is understood a number of fire hazards had been identified with the floor covered in oil and proper procedures being ignored. A spokesman for the Department of the Marine said: "It was inspected by Irish Marine inspectors yesterday in Waterford and they found the safety deficiencies have not been rectified and they detained the ship." The liner is registered in the Bahamas and had sailed from the United Kingdom to Waterford en route to the east coast of America. British inspectors checked the ship before it took to sea on Tuesday (Aug 30), a number of faults were highlighted but it was allowed to sail. On arrival in Waterford Marine Inspectors boarded the vessel and reported the series of safety concerns had not been rectified. Officials in the Bahamas have been informed and the owners of the liner, have been told that it will not be allowed out of port until the engine room has been cleaned up.



AGIOS SPYRIDON K. (Greece)

London, Aug 30 -- A report in the Aug 26 issue of "Newsfront" states: Ro/ro Agios Spyridon K. has been listed for auction on Sep 7. Lying at Salamina, the vessel carries a start-up price of Euros 150,000.

ARCTIC FOX (South Africa)

Cape Town, Aug 26 -- According to port information provided, fishing Arctic Fox is no longer at Cape Town and therefore presumed sailed, destination unknown. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ARDEAL (Romania)

Khulna, Aug 30 -- General cargo Ardeal: Understand that there are no developments with the vessel which is still under arrest at Mongla. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BBC TEXAS (Antigua & Barbuda)

Beirut, Aug 29 -- General cargo BBC Texas has been granted permission to leave Tripoli port, after putting up a Bank Guarantee in the approximate amount of US\$ three million, through vessel's owner's appointed lawyer. Vessel sailed on Aug 13, destination Trieste. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BIGA (Canary Islands)

Bilbao, Sep 1 -- General cargo Biga is still under embargo at Bilbao. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BOREAS (Cyprus)

Bilbao, Aug 29 -- General cargo Boreas is still under embargo at the port of Bilbao. -- Lloyd's Agents.

DREPANO (Greece)

London, Aug 30 -- A report in the Aug 26 edition of Newsfront, states: After being seized several times, the latest by a private creditor in pursuit of a Euros 11,144 claim against the registered owners, general cargo Drepano (1721 gt, built 1977) has been listed for auction on Sep 14. Lying in Elefsina, the vessel carries a starting price of Euros 27,000.

EGEON P. (Greece)

London, Aug 30 -- A report in the Aug 26 edition of Newsfront, states: After being seized several times, the latest by a private creditor end-November, in pursuit of a Euros 9,102 claim against the registered owners, cement Egeon P. has been listed for auction on Sep 14. Lying in Perama, the vessel carries a starting price of Euros 60,000.

ELQUI (Guinea)

London, Aug 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Following a conviction for illegal fishing and failure by the vessel owners to pay their fine, longliner fishing Elqui was awarded by the Falkland Islands court to the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI). Operations Manager for GSGSSI, Gordon Liddle explained that the principal objective of the GSGSSI has been to ensure that the vessel cannot fish illegally again. As the vessel has no commercial value to a legal operator and as GSGSSI would have no control over its final ownership were they to attempt to find a buyer, "sinking or scrapping were considered the only two options". Scuttling has become the preferred option as the cost of removal to a scrap yard far outweighed the scrap value of the ship. This was largely because the ship was not in a fit condition to be flagged in the Falklands and sail to another port safely under its own power and the costs of towing are extremely high. The vessel, which is currently moored in Stanley, could not be sunk in the state in which it was left by its previous owners, Gleneagles Corporation, so advice was sought from the Falkland Islands Attorney General, the Marine Officer and several others. Mr Liddle said this was done to ensure that all the correct procedures were being followed and that there would be, "no pollution risk whatsoever to the marine environment." He added "the Marine Officer has been consulted throughout the cleaning process, continues to be so and is content with the work that is presently being undertaken, the Environmental Planning Officer is also in the picture." The work presently being carried out is long and complex and includes the removal of all hydraulic fluids; this is to include emptying and cleaning storage tanks, hydraulic pipelines and hydraulically operated machinery. Falkland Islands Salvager Lyle Craigie-Halkett has had the task of cleaning the ship which still contained rotting fish when work began. Lyle reported that the work is slightly ahead of schedule.

EUGENIA P. (Honduras)

Kolkata, Sep 1 -- On arrival at Kolkata on Aug 29, general cargo Eugenia P. HQWT6, was seized by the "Intelligence Department" due to illegal items in its holds/containers. Arms and ammunition were detected. The vessel is now under detention and the Authorities are investigating how the vessel arrived with such illegal items. -- Lloyd's Agents.

EVER WAY (Belize)

London, Aug 26 -- General cargo Ever Way (498 gt, built 1981), which arrived at Hong Kong at 1409 hrs, Aug 25, is today reported at South West Lamma Anchorage, Hong Kong, under arrest.

London, Aug 31 -- General cargo Ever Way sailed Hong Kong 1931, Aug 26 for Moji.

GENERAL BERNARDINO CABALLERO (Paraguay)

Rio Grande, Aug 26 -- General cargo General Bernardino Caballero remains under arrest at Porto Alegre, with no prospects of sailing at present. -- Lloyd's Agents.

LOLITA (Philippines)

See Margarita.

MARGARITA (Philippines)

Manila, Aug 29 -- Non specific tankers Margarita and Lolita are still being held at Manila. Understood the owners no longer seem interested in recovering the vessels, as they are not co-ordinating with the authorities any longer. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MARISCAL JOSE FELIX ESTIGARRIBIA (Paraguay)

Rio Grande, Aug 26 -- General cargo Mariscal Jose Felix Estigarribia remains under arrest at Porto Alegre. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MEX (Comoros)

London, Aug 31 -- General cargo Mex sailed Alexandria Aug 21 for Libya.

MICRONESIAN NAVIGATOR (Marshall Islands)

Honolulu, Aug 26 -- It is reported that the PM & O Line c.c. Micronesian Navigator (9048 gt, built 1994) was arrested upon arrival in Honolulu Harbour on Aug 23. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MIRNA (Croatia)

London, Aug 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Mirna, seized on Tuesday (Aug 23) for carrying illegal logs, must undergo legal process in Indonesia, but the case should not hamper bilateral ties of the two countries, Indonesian Foreign Ministry said here today. Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda has intensively communicated with Croatian Ambassador Aleksander Broz to minimize the potential for misunderstanding, ministry spokesman Marty Natalegawa said. The Croatian vessel has been involved in a lengthy legal battle with Indonesian authorities since August 2004, when it was accused of using improper travel documents. "The most

important thing there will be an intention from the Croatian side to meet and respect the legal process here," said Natalegawa. "On the other hand we must also ensure that this process will not negatively affect the relations between Indonesia and Croatia, due to the lack of knowledge of any parties that create uncertainty of the law enforcement in Indonesia," he added. Another ministry spokesman Yuri Thamrin said the ship must be probed over the allegation of implicating in illegal logging as it is considered as a serious crime now in Indonesia. Indonesian National Police spokesman Saud Usman Nasution said the ship is now being held by the Indonesian Attorney General Office and denied that the police have released it. He said the vessel was linked with an illegal logging case in Indonesia's Papua province. Indonesia has suffered a financial loss of 30 trillion rupiah (US\$3 billion) a year from illegal logging.

London, Aug 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Indonesian government has finally granted the request of the Croatian government to release general cargo Mirna, which is assumed to have carried 15,500 cubic meters of illegal timber from Papua. This is on the condition that there is a US\$1 million guarantee. "With this guarantee, the ship can be released. However, the legal process still continues," Indonesian foreign department spokesperson Yuri Thamrin said on Friday (Aug 26). The formula to settle the problem with the guarantee money, said another spokesperson of the foreign department, came as the result of talks between the Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda and the Croatian Ambassador to Indonesia Aleksandar Broz.

London, Sep 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Croatian President Stipe Mesic has become involved in negotiations to have general cargo Mirna, stormed by the Indonesian navy, released from port. Mirna was stormed by navy troops and 17 crew members were held at gunpoint in a dispute over alleged illegal log transportation just before it was due to sail from port in Surabaya last week. Losinjska Plovidba said at the time it would sue Indonesia over the incident but on Friday (Aug 26) said instead that it had begun negotiations to pay \$1m in "bail" to allow the ship to leave. The money would cover eventual fines if it was proved Mirna lacked valid documentation for transport in Indonesia, company officials said. Negotiations are continuing and while company director Zlatko Mokovic has said he hoped for a swift end to the negotiations and the release of the ship and its crew, Croatian diplomats said Mr Mesic had been forced to join negotiations. Croatian Deputy Foreign Minister Drazen Margeta said: "We have engaged our diplomacy to solve the problem. It is up to Croatian president Stipe Mesic. All of us just want this to be resolved."

Mirna master, Joso Nekić, has told family in Croatia that his crew are well. His wife, Ljiljana, said: "He told me the crew are all optimistic. They hope to be out of Indonesia aboard their ship by the end of the week."

NORTH KOREAN FISHING VESSELS DETAINED AT PYOTR VELIKY BAY, RUSSIA

London, Aug 29 -- A press report, dated Aug 26, states: Three Russian escort vessels are controlling eight North Korean poaching fishing trawlers that were detained in Pyotr Veliky Bay. They will be conveyed to Nakhodka, the Nakhodka unit of coastal guard ships that detained the eight North Korean ships told Itar-Tass. The North Korean fishing trawlers were poaching calamaries in the Russian territorial waters. "During a preliminary check of the poaching trawlers and schooners border guards found more than eight tonnes of frozen and fresh calamaries," the public relations center of the Federal Security Service told Itar-Tass today. The detention of the whole flotilla of North Korean poaching ships is not the first in the history of fisheries in the Sea of Japan.

London, Aug 29 -- A press report, dated Aug 28, states: Russian border guards today escorted eight North Korean poacher vessels to Nakhodka port in the Russian Far East. The poachers had been detained in Peter the Great Gulf three days before. The North Korean fishermen will face investigation into illegal fishing in Russia's territorial waters. Six trawlers, schooners and two transport ships had fished squid in the Gulf, the press service of the Russian FSB border department for the Primorye territory said. The border guards discovered more than eight tons of frozen and freshly caught squid on board the North Korean ships. It has been notified of the arrest of eight fishing vessels flying a North Korean flag.

OLYMPIA I (Greece)

London, Aug 30 -- A report in the Aug 26 edition of Newsfront, states: After being seized end-July by a private creditor in pursuit of a Euros 18,052 claim against the registered owners, passenger Olympia I has been listed for auction on Sep 14. Lying in Elefsina, the vessel carries a starting price of Euros 450,000.

ROMANA I (Panama)

Port au Prince, Aug 30 -- Ro/ro Romana I has been renamed Captain Princesse, and is now owned by Haitian Romel Damour and Bahamian John Deleveaux. The vessel is still at anchor and is being used as a school vessel for local students. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SANTORINI SKY (Greece)

London, Aug 30 -- A report in the Aug 26 edition of Newsfront states: After being seized several times, the latest time by Hempel Coatings (Hellas) end-October in pursuit of a

Euros 11,394.98 claim against the registered owners: Golden Ferries Maritime, ro/ro Santorini Sky has once again listed for auction, this time on Sep 7. Lying at Keratsini, the vessel carries a start-up price of Euros 175,000.

SEACHEM ENA (Honduras)

Bari, Aug 25 -- Chem.tank Seachem Ena is still laid up at Monopoli. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TIOMAN (Honduras)

London, Sep 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Indonesia's navy seized product tanker Tioman (1638 gt, built 1969), flying the "North Korean" flag, after the ship allegedly tried to smuggle oil out of the country, officials said on Tuesday (Aug 30), AP reports. A navy warship captured Tioman, in Indonesian waters east of Bintan island, said a statement signed by Rear Admiral Tedjo Adi. Adi said the ship, its Indonesian master, Jakob Soan, and 15 Indonesian crew were being held pending charges at Tanjung Ulam port in Riau province, near the site where the vessel was seized. The ship is owned by a Singapore oil company, the statement said, without identifying it by name. The ship was about to load its cargo of oil into two smaller tankers for transport to China, Rear-Adm Adi said. He said the ship was proceeding away with about 18,870 barrels of crude oil bought from a fuel station of Indonesia's state-owned Pertamina oil company in Balikpapan town in Indonesia's portion of Borneo island. Oil smuggling is rampant in Indonesia, where government fuel subsidies keep prices artificially low.

YAOKI (Panama)

London, Aug 30 -- Chemical/oil carrier Yaoki (3183 gt, built 1988), 3EQE6, which arrived Hong Kong at 1658, Aug 28, is today reported at South Lamma DG Anchorage, Hong Kong, under arrest.

London, Aug 31 -- Chemical/oil carrier Yaoki is today still at South Lamma DG Anchorage, Hong Kong, but is no longer reported under arrest.

YOUSSEF MAR 1 (North Korea)

Savona, Aug 29 -- Bulk Youssef Mar 1, detained by harbour master in Savona for port state control, has been released by authority, morning of Aug 27 and sailed at 1620, local time, bound to Castellon, in Spain, to load. Estimated time of arrival at Castellon, this afternoon. -- Lloyd's Agents.



Pollution

ATLANTIC OCEAN

London, Aug 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: The owners of Dutch ro-ro Project Europa have been ordered to pay a \$70,000 fine for

polluting Canadian waters. The vessel was en route from Spain to Montreal in August of 2003 when a Canadian surveillance flight spotted an oil slick trailing the vessel 117 kilometres south of Cape Race, Newfoundland. Transport Canada ordered the vessel into Trois-Rivières, where officials boarded it. The investigation found that, at the time of the discharge, the vessel's engineers were working on a piece of equipment that should have separated oil from the water discharged. About 40 litres of an oily substance discharged into the Atlantic Ocean. The company, Biglift Goedkoop BV of Amsterdam, pleaded guilty in a Newfoundland provincial court to violating the Canada Shipping Act.

Weather & Navigation



AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: The clean-up is continuing after what has been described as one of the most destructive storms to hit Adelaide in years. Electricity distributor ETSA says it had to call out a record 50 crews to deal with power interruptions last night. The damage bill for the electricity transmission system alone is expected to top \$1.5 million. There were extra frustrations for residents who tried to phone ETSA to report blackouts last night. Spokesman Craig Cock says the company's automated call system crashed for about an hour. Mr Cock says almost all of the damage was caused by falling trees and branches and lightning strikes. "The number of power lines out at any one stage in the history of ETSA utilities, this far exceeds it," he said.

London, Aug 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: The flood watch in storm-ravaged northern Tasmania is tonight focussing on the confluence of three swollen rivers. The Meander, Macquarie and South Esk rivers are at major flood levels, although the rains have subsided. Residents in the Perth, Longford and Hadspen areas are warned to expect flooding, but not of the magnitude experienced today at Deloraine. The Meander Valley Mayor, Mark Shelton, says farmers are still trying to move stock to higher ground before the flood waters peak. Flood warnings will continue throughout the night. Elsewhere, damaging winds of more than 100 kilometres an hour were lashing parts of the state's south and south-east. The Bureau of Meteorology says the winds were gusting to 120 kilometres on Mount Wellington but have now started to ease. Gusts of 100 kilometres per hour have been reported in Hobart, Eddystone Point and Cape Bruny. The winds are expected to moderate overnight. A man with serious injuries has been taken to the Launceston General Hospital, an apparent victim

of today's damaging storms. Police say he was struck by a car while trying to remove a fallen tree from a road near Fingal, in the north-east. About 10,000 homes in northern Tasmania are without power, as strong winds bring down powerlines. Aurora Energy says the areas affected include Scottsdale, Derby, Beaconsfield, Beauty Point, Greens Beach and parts of George Town. Spokeswoman Christine Ward says all field crews are working as fast as they can to restore power.

London, Aug 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: The weather bureau says much of Melbourne's wild weather has finally dispersed after wild storms overnight killed one person and caused widespread damage. Forecasters recorded wind speeds of nearly 80 kilometres per hour in some areas of the city earlier today. But they say the weather has settled down over the last few hours and warnings of more bad weather this afternoon have been downgraded. The Victorian State Emergency Service says the majority of its clean-up operation has been completed. The SES received more than 1,300 calls for assistance to deal with fallen trees and roof damage over the past two days, mostly in the Melbourne metropolitan area. In the worst incident overnight, a tree fell on a tent at McKillop's Bridge in eastern Victoria, killing one student. Teachers of Alice Sloan, 16, say her death will affect her peers for years to come. Toorak College spokesman Tony Hewison says the other students are returning home from the year 10 camp and are under going grief counselling.

London, Sep 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: A school girl was killed, a man was swept away by floodwaters, residents were evacuated, towns were flooded and there were widespread blackouts after a wild weather system battered three states yesterday. In Victoria, Alice Sloan, 15, was killed when a gust of wind tore a branch from a tree and dropped it on her tent while she was on a school camping trip. The Year 10 student was on a rafting and canoeing camp at McKillops Bridge, about 540 km east of Melbourne. Wind gusts reached 90 km/h about 0230 yesterday. A man is missing and a town is submerged after storms dumped up to 240 mm of rain on northern Tasmania. The riverside town of Deloraine, east of Launceston, is under water following the worst flood in eight years. Houses were submerged, farmers lost stock, a caravan park had to be evacuated and water covered the steeples at Australia's oldest turf club when the Meander River peaked about 0300 yesterday. In Adelaide, wild winds uprooted trees and caused widespread blackouts. The damage bill for South Australia's electricity transmission system alone is expected to top \$1.5 million. At the peak of the storm activity, about 50,000 homes were left without power. Power company ETSA Utilities described the storms as "one of the most extensive and extreme

weather events" in its history. In Victoria the SES received more than 1700 calls for assistance as severe weather with winds up to 200 km/h lashed the state. The Melbourne metropolitan area was the most affected, SES spokesman Peter Cocks said.

EUROPE

Berne, Aug 26 -- Residents in the oldest part of Switzerland's capital Berne were kept away from their homes today due to fears buildings could be swept away by surging waters after a week of heavy rain and flooding. The worst of the flooding, which killed more than 40 people across Europe, was over by today but Berne police spokesman Franz Maerki said there were concerns that flood waters from brimming lakes upstream could wreck centuries-old buildings. "Engineers will have to see that those buildings do not collapse," Maerki said. Pensioners in the village of Klosters were holed up in a hotel after their care home was flooded and hundreds of tourists in the mountain resort of Engelberg spent a fifth day cut off from the rest of Switzerland, but although moderate rain was forecast for the weekend, Maerki said the worst was over. "The phase of rescue is now over. The clean-up has now begun," he said. Lakes and rivers have burst their banks from Berne to Bucharest, blocking roads and railways and cutting power and communications to hundreds of communities and causing damage estimated at well over \$1 billion in Switzerland alone. As the worst of the rain subsided, police and civilian volunteers started today to clear wrecked cars and driftwood that were blocking rivers. In the eastern Swiss canton of Grisons, volunteers used trucks and excavators to shift deep piles of mud from streets and houses left behind by the flood waters. More than 30 people have died in Romania while nine died in Switzerland and Austria. One young man drowned in Germany on Wednesday (Aug 24) when out with two friends in a dinghy. In Austria, volunteers with shovels and emergency crews with heavy equipment were clearing tonnes of mud, gravel and rocks from buildings in mountain towns across Austria's two westernmost provinces, Tyrol and Vorarlberg. The government estimates the flood damage at hundreds of million of euros. In southern Germany, with no rain forecast for the next few days, Bavarian authorities expect the situation to ease although flood waters are approaching the city of Regensburg on the River Danube and are only expected to recede in the evening. German rail operator Deutsche Bahn said it had reopened some routes, but the flood waters had been so severe in places they had swept away rail escarpments. Some 200 kilometres of track have been closed since Monday (Aug 22.). -- Reuters.

London, Aug 29 -- A press report, dated Aug 28, states: Countries across

a swathe of central and eastern Europe were counting the cost of a flood crisis that left at least 70 people dead, thousands evacuated and a massive reconstruction bill. In Switzerland, where six people died as torrential rain spilled from the Alps, rescue workers continued to supply the resort of Engelberg by helicopter because of damage to roads. Residents of other flood-damaged communities in the country's centre and east were returning home, notably in the region around the capital Bern. In nearby Oey-Diemtigen, however, authorities said up to 70 people would have to wait weeks if not months before their homes would be fit to live in again. In Bern itself, some 340 residents of the low-lying Matte district along the Aare river were able to go home. But many others remained in temporary accommodation because their residences lacked electricity and gas. Further east, in the central Lucerne and Obwalden regions, residents were still forced to boil drinking water because of damage to supply pipes. Authorities urged people to use water sparingly. Insurers said the nationwide cost would likely reach a billion Swiss francs, 646 million euros, \$795 million dollars, including 10 million Swiss francs of damage to farmland. In neighbouring Austria, thousands of soldiers, firefighters and volunteers, including a hundred asylum seekers, were at work cleaning up in the western Vorarlberg and Tyrol provinces. Authorities said the priority was to remove debris from river beds to reduce the risk of renewed flooding. According to initial estimates, flood damage to the two provinces' railway networks reached 15 million euros, while the motorways were facing a five million-euro bill. Many local roads were still out of action, notably in the Paznaun valley in Tyrol and in Vorarlberg, where the damage was expected to reach 30 million euros. Gargellen, in Vorarlberg, would likely remain accessible only by helicopter for several more days, authorities said. Although private claims have not yet been counted, the Allianz insurance company estimated that they will reach 12 million euros. Elsewhere in Austria, the forecast of more rain Sunday raised renewed fears of landslides in Carinthia and Styria provinces, both of which were hit overnight Friday. In southern Germany, water levels continued to fall in the Danube river and its tributary the Isar. In Passau, which sits on the Danube, Inn and Ilz, water levels were almost back to normal. Around 200 rescue workers were removing sandbag dikes and cleaning the streets. In Romania, hardest hit with 33 deaths, authorities said around 300 people who were evacuated in the central Harghita region would be unable to return home before October. Across Romania, around 2,000 people were evacuated in the face of flooding that started on August 14, and 400 homes were destroyed. The damage is

estimated to have reached 260 million euros, said Interior Minister Vasile Blaga.

FINLAND

London, Aug 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: An exceptionally powerful storm swept across southern and western Finland on Friday evening (Aug 26) disrupting train transport and cutting off electricity supplies to customers. Tens of thousands of households were without electricity in the province of Hame and also in Lapland, when power lines were cut by falling trees. The railway lines between Jyvaskyla and Tampere as well as the lines between Tampere and Turku were cut off shortly after 1900 Friday, and passengers were taken by bus to their destinations. The storm hit train services even in the Greater Helsinki area. A tree falling on power lines interrupted train services from Helsinki to the east as well as to the north for almost an hour around 1830 on Friday. Trains on the coastal track between Helsinki and Turku were also delayed when power lines were hit by falling trees, and all traffic had to be directed along one track only. High gusting winds hampered even air traffic, causing delays in domestic services from 1700 to 1800 on Friday. The storm front came from the south-west and swept across Finland causing major disruption to electricity supplies. In the south, the largest power cuts occurred in the regions of Loppi, Karjalohja and Vihti, while in Karkkila, most residents were without water until the next day following a power cut in the local water supply system. In Espoo, dozens of trees fell and the winds tore down a 1,000-square metre sponsor's tent at the IPC Athletics European Championships. At around 1800 Friday the storm cut off electricity supplies to almost 5,000 households in Espoo for 20 minutes. On Saturday evening, several hundreds of households were still without electricity, mainly in the province of Hame.

HURRICANE "KATRINA"

London, Aug 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Katrina" felled trees, peeled off roofs and left more than 1.3 million customers without power as it slammed into Florida's densely populated southeastern coast yesterday with driving rains and sustained winds of 80 mph. Four people were killed, three by falling trees. Rain fell in horizontal sheets, seas were estimated at 15 feet and wind gusted to 92 mph, toppling trees and street signs. Florida Power & Light said the vast majority of people without electricity were in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. The storm made landfall along the Miami-Dade and Broward line between Hallandale Beach and North Miami Beach. Weather officials said flooding was the main concern as the storm dropped up to 15 inches in parts of Miami-Dade County. Early today,

"Katrina" had weakened into a tropical storm with top sustained winds of 70 mph. It was about 40 miles southeast of Marco Island near the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, heading southwest at eight mph. The storm proved fatal for three people who ignored warnings to stay inside until the worst was over. A man in his 20s in Fort Lauderdale was crushed by a falling tree as he sat alone in his car, while a 54-year-old man was killed by a falling tree in the Fort Lauderdale suburb of Plantation. A woman who was struck by a tree died at a hospital in Hollywood, hospital officials said. A 79-year-old man in Cooper City also died when his car struck a tree, Broward County officials said. No other details were immediately available. An overpass under construction in Miami-Dade County collapsed onto a highway, authorities said. No injuries were immediately reported, but the freeway - a main east-west thoroughfare - was closed for 20 blocks. The usually bustling streets of Miami Beach, a tourist haven, were largely deserted as the storm pounded the area. The city is hosting celebrities and partygoers in town for the MTV Video Music Awards. MTV called off its pre-awards festivities yesterday and today. Tourists and others hoping to get out of town before the storm were stranded as airlines cancelled flights at Miami and Fort Lauderdale airports, which both closed yesterday night. Three mobile home parks in Davie sustained considerable damage, according to the Broward Emergency Management Agency. "A lot of roofs are off," said Dennis Myers, a spokesman for the agency. Water management officials lowered canal levels to avoid possible flooding, and pumps were activated in several low-lying areas of Miami-Dade. Dozens of surfers and spectators lined beaches from Palm Beach to Miami-Dade counties to take advantage of the massive waves on the normally placid seas. "Katrina" formed Wednesday (Aug 24) over the Bahamas and was expected to cross Florida before heading into the Gulf of Mexico. After crossing the peninsula, the storm could turn to the north over the Gulf of Mexico and threaten the Panhandle early next week, forecasters said.

London, Aug 27 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Katrina": At 0900, UTC, the tropical storm warning was discontinued from the Seven Mile Bridge to Key Largo, Florida, and for Florida Bay. A tropical storm warning remains in effect from west of the Seven Mile Bridge westward to Key West, including the Dry Tortugas. Hurricane centre located near lat 24.4N, long 84.4W, at 0900, UTC, Aug 27. Position accurate to within 10 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west, or 260 deg, at 6 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 945 mb. Eye diameter 10 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 100 knots with gusts to 120 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 35

nautical miles north-east, 30 nautical miles south-east and south-west, and 25 nautical miles north-west. Radius of 50-knot winds: 60 nautical miles north-east, north-west and south-east, and 45 nautical miles south-west. Radius of 34-knot winds: 130 nautical miles north-east and north-west and 90 nautical miles south-east and south-west.

London, Aug 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Katrina" grew into a so-called major storm this morning and continued gaining power over the Gulf of Mexico, two days after slicing across Florida, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said in its latest advisory. The storm's centre was about 405 miles south-east of the mouth of the Mississippi River, the center reported this morning. "Katrina" was upgraded today to Category 3 on the Saffir-Simpson scale, with top sustained winds of near 115 mph, making it a major hurricane, and may reach Category 4 within 24 hours. "Katrina" hit southern Florida on Aug 25 with rain and wind, leaving at least five dead, knocking down trees and cutting power to more than 1 million customers. Forecasters this morning issued a hurricane watch for the south-eastern Louisiana coast, including New Orleans, expecting the storm to turn west-north-west and make a second landfall within 48 hours. Hurricane-force winds extend as far as 25 miles from the storm's centre. Category 3 hurricanes, the third step on the five-tier Saffir-Simpson scale of intensity, have winds of 111 mph to 130 mph. Governor Jeb Bush yesterday asked for federal disaster declaration for Miami-Dade and Broward counties. He said the state is assessing damage and may add other areas. He declared a state of emergency yesterday. Air Worldwide, a storm modeler that estimates damage from natural disasters, yesterday predicted as much as \$600 million in claims. Hemant Shah, chief executive of Risk Management Solutions Inc., said losses from "Katrina" thus far would not likely climb above \$1 billion. Damages might increase by a few hundred million dollars if the storm hits the Panhandle, he said. About 1.45 million people lost power when the storm hit, Florida Power & Light said in a statement. Power was restored to about 635,000 clients, the company said in a statement today. Restoration is expected to be completed in Palm Beach County late tonight. Work will continue around the clock in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, the company said. At least five deaths have been blamed on "Katrina", officials said. An overpass under construction in Miami-Dade collapsed because of the hurricane, said Marlen Brant, a spokeswoman for the county's Office of Emergency Management. Royal Dutch Shell Plc said yesterday it would evacuate about 120 workers from its eastern Gulf of Mexico operations because of the storm. Murphy Oil Corp said it was removing non-essential workers from

two Gulf producing platforms. Apache Corp. said it is evacuating non-essential staff from 37 rigs in the Gulf. Devon Energy Corp also said it was removing 45 non-essential workers from three Gulf producing platforms. Anadarko Petroleum Corp is evacuating 36 workers from its Marco Polo platform in the Gulf.

London, Aug 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: In anticipation of hurricane "Katrina"'s arrival, Energy companies continued yesterday to shut down rigs and evacuate workers from the Gulf of Mexico. ChevronTexaco Corp. completed evacuations of all workers in the eastern and central Gulf of Mexico and nonessential workers in the western Gulf yesterday evening, company spokesman Matt Carmichael said. Chevron has about 2,100 employees and contractors working in the Gulf, Carmichael said. He did not know how many would be evacuated. Royal Dutch-Shell Group evacuated more than 1,000 offshore Gulf workers by yesterday. Only those workers in the far west remain, the company said on its Web site. BP Plc and ExxonMobil Corp. also brought workers ashore yesterday. In addition to evacuating all of its workers, the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, or LOOP, stopped offloading ships yesterday morning, said Mark Bugg, the terminal's manager of scheduling. However, the port continued to make deliveries to refineries throughout the day, he said. Those shipments probably will stop today if "Katrina" continues on its current track. Rig and platform evacuations most certainly will slow daily oil and gas production in the Gulf. At least 12 platforms and 9 rigs had been evacuated by midday Friday, according to a report by the Minerals Management Service. That's equal to about only 1.5% of the total platforms and 6.7% of rigs operating in the Gulf, and less than 1% of daily production. But the shuttering process continued yesterday. Shell estimates 420,000 barrels of oil and 1.35 million cubic feet of gas per day will be shut in at its central and eastern Gulf facilities. Exxon Mobil has ceased daily production of 3,000 barrels of oil and 50 million cubic feet of gas. Carmichael said Chevron will continue to produce 90% of its normal production by remote as long as weather cooperates. Meanwhile, a river pilot group stopped taking ships in and out of the Mississippi River yesterday. The Associated Branch Pilots, a group of state-commissioned river pilots who guide all foreign ships through the mouth of the Mississippi, discontinued services after guiding Carnival Cruise Line ship Sensation down the river. Sensation is scheduled to return to the Port of New Orleans on Thursday. Another Carnival ship, passenger Conquest, was diverted to Galveston, port spokesman Chris Bonura said. Conquest had been scheduled to arrive in New Orleans today. Passengers onboard Conquest will receive a transportation stipend to pay for their trip back to New Orleans, Bonura said. Conquest does

not have another trip planned this week. Associated Branch Pilot President Mike Lorino said he did not know when the pilots would begin bringing ships in and out of the river again.

London, Aug 28 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Katrina": A hurricane warning is in effect for the north central Gulf Coast from Morgan City, Louisiana, eastward to the Alabama/Florida border, including the city of New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain. Hurricane conditions are expected within the next 24 hours. A tropical storm warning and a hurricane watch are in effect from east of the Alabama/Florida border to Destin, Florida, and from west of Morgan City to Intracoastal City, Louisiana. Tropical storm conditions expected within the next 24 hours. Hurricane conditions possible within next 36 hours. At 0900, UTC, a tropical storm warning was issued from Destin, Florida, to Indian Pass, Florida, and from Intracoastal City, Louisiana, westward to Cameron, Louisiana. Tropical storm conditions expected within the next 24 hours. Hurricane centre located near lat 25.4N, long 87.4W, at 0900, UTC, Aug 28. Position accurate to within 10 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west-north-west, or 290 deg, at 9 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 935 mb. Maximum sustained winds 125 knots with gusts to 155 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 75 nautical miles north-east, south-east and north-west, and 50 nautical miles south-west. Radius of 50-knot winds: 100 nautical miles north-east, north-west and south-east, and 75 nautical miles south-west. Radius of 34-knot winds: 160 nautical miles north-east and south-east, 140 nautical miles north-west and 125 nautical miles south-west.

London, Aug 29 -- A press report, dated Aug 28, states: The mayor has ordered an immediate evacuation for all of New Orleans, a city with 485,000 inhabitants, as Hurricane "Katrina" bore down with wind up to nearly 282 kph and threats of a massive storm surge. Acknowledging that large numbers of people, many of them stranded tourists, would be unable to leave before the eye of the storm strikes land sometime tomorrow morning, the city set up 10 places of last resort, including the Superdome arena. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime event," Mayor Ray Nagin said. "The city of New Orleans has never seen a hurricane of this magnitude hit it directly." The mayor said a direct hit by "Katrina"'s storm surge would likely top the levees that protect the city from the surrounding water of Lake Pontchartrain, the Mississippi River and marshes. President George Bush pledged federal support. Rain started falling on extreme south-eastern Louisiana by midday today as the storm moved across the Gulf of Mexico towards land. Highways in Mississippi and Louisiana were jammed as people headed away from

"Katrina"'s expected landfall. All lanes were limited to northbound traffic on two major interstate highways. Beyond the Gulf Coast, "Katrina" was "unmitigated bad news for consumers" because it had shut down offshore production of at least one million barrels of oil daily and threatened refinery and import operations around New Orleans, said Peter Beutel, an oil analyst in New Canaan, Connecticut. He said crude oil could top \$70 a barrel by Monday or Tuesday. At 1100, EDT, 1500, GMT, the National Hurricane Center said "Katrina"'s maximum sustained wind speed had stepped up to nearly 282 kph, with higher gusts. Forecasters said the weather would start getting rough late today and the eye would strike land early tomorrow. Mandatory evacuations were ordered all along the Mississippi coast, where casinos were closed today. National Guard units had already been deployed, state officials said. "Katrina" has been blamed for nine deaths in South Florida.

London, Aug 29 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated Aug 28:: Hurricane "Katrina" centre located near lat 25.0N, long 88.1W, at 1500, UTC, Aug 28. Position accurate to within 10 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west-north-west, or 300 deg, at 10 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 907 mb. Eye diameter 20 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 150 knots with gusts to 185 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 90 nautical miles east semicircle, 50 nautical miles south-west quadrant and 75 nautical miles north-west. Radius of 50-knot winds: 120 nautical miles east semicircle, 75 nautical miles south-west quadrant and 100 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds: 180 nautical miles east semicircle, 125 nautical miles south-west quadrant and 140 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Forecast for 1200, UTC, Aug 29: Position lat 21.1N, long 89.6W. Maximum sustained winds 140 knots with gusts to 175 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 90 nautical miles east semicircle, 50 nautical miles south-west quadrant and 75 nautical miles north-west. Radius of 50-knot winds: 120 nautical miles east semicircle, 75 nautical miles south-west quadrant and 100 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds: 180 nautical miles east semicircle, 125 nautical miles south-west quadrant and 140 nautical miles north-west quadrant.

London, Aug 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Parts of New Orleans are flooded with up to six feet of water, today, after some of the pumps that protect the low-lying city failed under the onslaught from Hurricane "Katrina", Mayor Ray Nagin said. Nagin said the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans, on the east side of the city, was under five to six feet of rising water after three pumps failed. New Orleans police have received more than 100 calls about people in the area trapped on their roofs.

"Katrina" crashed ashore around 0600 hrs, in south-eastern Louisiana, as a Category 4 storm with winds topping 140 mph. By 1100 hrs, winds had fallen to 125 mph as it moved inland. To the east, "Katrina" was hammering Biloxi, Gulfport and other communities along Mississippi's Gulf of Mexico beaches. In Gulfport, intense damage was reported, with extensive damage reported in Biloxi. Water topped levees and spilled into downtown Mobile, where winds gusts approaching hurricane strength were reported. Levees overtopped in Orleans and St. Bernard parishes, the National Weather Service said in a hurricane local statement. It also said "extensive and life-threatening storm surge flooding" was occurring along the Louisiana and Mississippi coast. The weather service reported "total structural failure" in some parts of metropolitan New Orleans, where "Katrina" brought wind gusts of 120 mph. Water was rushing down the street and had risen up to the wheel wells of parked cars. Earlier, "Katrina" ripped away a large section of the Superdome's roof. It was reported that New Orleans could expect a storm surge of 15 to 20 feet. That surge would not top New Orleans' levees, but CNN's Myers noted that "there may be a 20-foot surge, but there may be a 20-foot wave on top of that." At 1100, ET, the storm was centred about 35 miles east-north-east of New Orleans and 45 miles west-south-west of Biloxi, Mississippi. Hurricane force winds extended about 125 miles from the storm's centre. The storm was moving north at 16 mph. Authorities in Gulfport said that 10 feet of water cover downtown streets. In Biloxi, wind gusts topping 100 mph were starting to pull the roofs off buildings.

London, Aug 30 -- A press report, dated Aug 29, states: Hurricane "Katrina" has unleashed howling winds and heavy rain upon southern coastal areas of the United States. The storm has wrought extensive damage in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana, where it swept ashore after moving across the Gulf of Mexico. "Katrina" submerged neighbourhoods in New Orleans and tore part of the roof of a stadium where many had sought refuge. But it weakened after making landfall and spared the low-lying city a direct hit, despite frightening predictions. The hurricane, later downgraded from a category-five hurricane to a category-one storm, still brought 105 mph winds to Mississippi. Power lines have been cut, palm trees have been felled, shops wrecked and cars hurled across streets strewn with shattered glass. Hundreds of thousands have fled, amid fears that the storm surge could topple the barriers that protect the city. Mayor Ray Nagin said he had received reports that some water had breached the defences. "Katrina" passed to the east of New Orleans, although the National Hurricane Center warned it would be pounded throughout today and the potential storm surge could still swamp part of

the city. Elsewhere along the Gulf Coast, "Katrina" flooded roads in Alabama and swamped bridges in Florida. The storm spurred a 22-ft surge on Mississippi's coast. "This is a devastating hit, we've got boats that have gone into buildings," the Gulfport fire chief said.

London, Aug 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Katrina" has smashed across the southern coastline of the United States, destroying houses and leaving some areas up to three metres under water. The US National Weather Service says what it calls "extensive and life threatening" storm surge flooding is occurring along the Louisiana and Mississippi coast. The cities of New Orleans and Gulfport appear to have been the worst hit. An early estimate of the damages bill is at least \$34 billion. It claimed the lives of at least three people in New Orleans and sent crude oil prices surging to record highs after the evacuation of offshore rigs in the oil-rich Gulf of Mexico and the closure of refineries. Emergency teams waited for the worst of the storm to pass to launch rescue operations. A number of homes were damaged by boats which broke free from their moorings in the heavy winds. Hundreds of thousands of people in New Orleans and other areas of Louisiana as well as Mississippi lost power.

London, Aug 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: An oil rig tore free of its moorings as Hurricane "Katrina" lashed the Alabama coast, before surging downriver and smashing into a suspension bridge, witnesses have said. The platform broke free from the Bender shipbuilding and repair yard in Mobile during the morning as the then hurricane walloped the southern US coast. The runaway rig then drifted through the choppy waters of the Mobile River before hitting the Cochrane/Africatown USA road bridge. "It is fully under the bridge, it barely fits," witness Robert Rishel said. Authorities could not immediately identify the company which owned the rig, which was in dock for repairs. Engineers were being sent to the scene to assess damage to the structure before deciding whether it was safe for traffic. Alabama was one of the states worst hit by "Katrina," which also sowed devastation in Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida. State Governor Bob Riley declared a state of emergency as the storm tore ashore, whipping up huge waves, ripping down trees and causing widespread devastation.

London, Aug 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: The lower Mississippi River remained closed yesterday after Hurricane "Katrina" tossed empty barges, destroyed navigation markers and possibly rechanneled parts of the waterway, the Coast Guard and a river industry group reported. It may take barge operators and the Coast Guard several days to several weeks to determine the brunt of the storm's damage. "This is America's third coast," said Paul

Rohde, president of the Midwest Area River Coalition 2000. MARC 2000 represents industry groups that rely on the river to ship petrochemicals, construction materials, coal and grain. "Essentially, the traffic caught there has been asked to wait on the bottom third of the river," Rohde said. "It's just not safe to be on the river." According to anecdotal reports, "Katrina's" winds tossed some empty barges on the side of levees. Coast Guard Lt. Rob Wyman said the lower section of the river won't be opened until it is deemed safe. He said navigation markers probably have been destroyed or moved by "Katrina's" winds. He also said river channels could have been resilted, or altered, making navigation dangerous. The Coast Guard's Eighth District command and incident management team, usually situated in New Orleans, temporarily relocated its command staff to downtown St. Louis to oversee hurricane response operations. The team of about 40 people is operating out of the Coast Guard's Integrated Support Command at the Robert Young Federal Building, 1222 Spruce Street. Meanwhile, Rohde said "Katrina" has not affected barge traffic on the upper part of the Mississippi because it takes a barge nine days to two weeks to move from St. Louis or the Quad Cities to New Orleans.

London, Aug 30 -- A Transocean Inc press release, dated Houston Aug 29, states: Transocean Inc today announced that the moored semi-submersible drill platform Deepwater Nautilus (29051 gt, built 2000) has drifted off location in the aftermath of hurricane "Katrina". The rig's present location is being monitored remotely by a transponder beacon onboard the unit. All personnel had previously been safely evacuated and the well was secured before the approach of the storm. The U.S. Coast Guard has been notified of the situation. Three other Transocean moored vessels were safely evacuated and have remained on location in the aftermath of the storm. The company's six dynamically positioned vessels all successfully moved out of the main track of the storm prior to its arrival. Plans are in place to re-man the moored vessels and assess their condition.

London, Aug 30 -- Shell press releases, dated Aug 29, state: (1) Hurricane "Katrina" update: Tracking devices onboard two drilling platforms, Noble Jim Thompson (13720 gt, built 1982) and Deepwater Nautilus under contract to Shell have drifted off location. Both rigs are being tracked by the owner companies. As soon as it is safe to do so, Shell will dispatch fixed-wing aircraft from the west to check the status of our Gulf of Mexico assets. A minimum number of staff will be deployed as soon as possible to reestablish power and communications systems and to regain control of the drifting drilling rigs. Once power is in place, production start-up will begin at the assets that are not damaged. If we discover

damage to assets we will evaluate the situation and will proceed with repair and recovery plans. (2) Hurricane "Katrina" update: A fixed-wing reconnaissance flight has completed a preliminary assessment of damage to Shell's Gulf of Mexico assets. An early report indicates Shell's Mars platform has sustained topside damage. We will make further assessments as soon as possible. Shell production staff will be deployed to five assets in the central/western GoM, Auger, Brutus, Enchilada, Cougar, Bullwinkle, tomorrow to restart power systems and perform more detailed checks for damage. Crews from Noble and Transocean are scheduled to fly out by mid-day tomorrow to reestablish operating systems on the two drifting drilling rigs. Anchor vessels and tugs have been deployed to the two drifting rigs to remove loose anchor lines and hook up the rigs to towing bridles. Plans are to bring the rigs to shallow water and/or shipyards for repairs. Shell's One Shell Square offices in downtown New Orleans will remain closed tomorrow. The building is without power and water and there is no estimate on when either service will be restored. There is no flooding in the basement of the building and no structural damage, however some windows were broken.

London, Aug 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Semi-submersible accommodation/multifunctional support platform Chemul (13074 gt, built 1983) blown loose from its moorings yesterday morning by hurricane "Katrina" ploughed through a state docks terminal and then slammed into the Cochrane-Africatown USA bridge, severing a vital trucking link. It was unclear yesterday evening how long the bridge would be closed. State Transportation Department inspectors began examining the bridge yesterday evening after travelling from Montgomery, but were expected to complete their work this morning. Trucks carrying hazardous materials depend on the bridge to bypass the Wallace and Bankhead tunnels, where such cargo is prohibited. The closure means hazardous-material trucks must go north to Interstate 65 to cross the river. Chemul, belonging to Mexican state oil company PEMEX, had been drydocked atop a leased barge at Bender Shipbuilding & Repair Co. Inc.'s yard nine. The shipyard is on Blakeley Island, on the east bank of the Mobile River. Bender won a contract last year to expand and refit the vessel. Yesterday morning, a "very alert" master of a nearby ship saw the loose platform and reported it, according to Harbour-master Capt. Dave Carey. Tugs chased Chemul, but could not corral it, as it blew across the river, striking a berth and then a barge loader at Alabama State Port Authority's Bulk Material Handling Plant. The Coast Guard monitored the news of Chemul, but could not send out crews right away because of the dangerously high winds, according to spokesman Petty Officer Nyx

Cangemi. Initial reports showed that the platform rolled down the berth near the mouth of Three Mile Creek, potentially hitting it several times, docks Director Jimmy Lyons said. The rig then destroyed a barge loader. "The barge loader is gone," Lyons said. The docks agency was spending \$10 million to expand the berth, which was planned to handle wood products and general cargo. The berth was scheduled to reopen within weeks, but the contact may have damaged the dock or its pilings. Lyons said the barge loader alone was worth \$4 million, and pier damage could cost millions more. The bulk plant and barge loader were just an appetizer for Chemul, which drifted farther north, scraping under the bridge before 1115 hrs, according to Tony Harris, a spokesman for the Transportation Department. The contact with the 140-foot-high bridge roadway sheared off much of the top structure of the platform. The storm-surge swollen river pinned Chemul under the west side of the bridge for several hours. But about 1700 hrs, the barge began to slowly pinwheel, as the receding river allowed it come unpinned. Pemex will be held liable for the damage to docks facilities, but that issue might be settled between Bender and Pemex, Lyons said. Although the Port of Mobile shut down Sunday night, three ships were unable to evacuate. "The weather got too bad too fast to get them out," Lyons said. The port could remain closed for days before the Army Corps of Engineers and Coast Guard inspection teams find it safe to navigate. The oil platform was not the only escapee during "Katrina". Robert Rishel, vice president of towboat company Henry Marine Services, said tugs chased a number of barges. Docks officials received preliminary reports of empty containers floating loose after the container yard flooded, they said. The police building lost shingles, a maintenance building lost a roof and some of the warehouses lost doors. That could mean damage to the forest products like lumber, paper and plywood, Lyons said. The Alabama state docks was one of the first areas to flood Monday, and Harbour-master Carey estimated the storm surge to be 11 feet.

London, Aug 30 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Katrina" was located near lat 34.7N, long 88.4W. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles. The present movement is towards the north-north-east or 15 degs at 16 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 981 mb. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 75 nautical miles in the north-east and south-west quadrants, 90 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant and 50 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. At 0600, Aug 31, the centre is predicted to be near lat 40.3N, long 82.8W, with maximum sustained winds of 25 knots with gusts to 35 knots.

Biloxi, Mississippi, Aug 30 -- A widespread disaster unfolded on the US Gulf Coast today as up to 80 people were reported dead in Mississippi, and floodwaters poured into low-lying New Orleans through levees battered by powerful hurricane "Katrina." Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour told the NBC "Today" show there were reports of 50-80 fatalities in one coastal county alone, Harrison County. "They are unconfirmed but likely are accurate and likelier to go up when we take in the other counties," Barbour said. Local media said 30 people died at a Biloxi apartment complex where they were drowned or crushed by debris, and New Orleans' mayor reported bodies floating in floodwaters. The death toll was expected to grow as rescuers struggled through high water and mountains of debris to reach areas devastated by "Katrina" when it struck the region yesterday. Hundreds needed to be rescued from rooftops, US Coast Guard officials said. The storm inflicted catastrophic damage all along the coast as it slammed into Louisiana with 140 mph winds, then swept across Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee. It shattered buildings, broke boats, smashed cars, toppled trees and flooded cities. Risk analysts estimated the storm would cost insurers \$26 billion, the most in US history. Most of the deaths appeared to have been caused by a massive storm surge that swept in from the sea and as far as a mile inland in parts of Mississippi. "The state has suffered a grievous blow on the coast," Barbour said. No deaths have been officially confirmed in Louisiana, but New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said bodies were floating in high waters that covered most of the city. "The city of New Orleans is in a state of devastation," he told television station WWL. We probably have 80% of our city under water; with some sections of our city the water is as deep as 20 feet. We still have many of our residents on roofs," he said. "Both airports are under water." New Orleans is mostly below sea level and protected by levees or embankments. Nagin said the levees had given way in places to the storm surge, including a 200-foot breach near the city centre through which waters from Lake Pontchartrain were pouring in. "There's a serious leak and it's causing the water to continue to rise," he said. Adding to the problem were malfunctions in the system the city uses to pump out floodwaters. So far, Nagin said, the historic French Quarter and central business district had not been badly flooded. However, Tulane University Medical Centre vice president Karen Troyer-Caraway told CNN the downtown hospital was surrounded by six feet of water and considering evacuating its 1,000 patients. Louisiana emergency-preparedness officials said plans were in the works to fix the broken levee. The high waters flooded thousands of homes and forced many people into attics and onto roofs. Police took boats into flood-

stricken areas to rescue some of the stranded. Others were picked up by helicopter. People used axes, and in at least one case a shotgun, to blast holes in roofs so they could escape their attics. Many who had not yet been rescued could be heard screaming for help, police said. In Mississippi, water swamped the emergency operations centre at Hancock County courthouse and the back of the building collapsed. "Thirty-five people swam out of their emergency operations centre with life jackets on," neighbouring Harrison County emergency medical services director Christopher Cirillo told Mississippi's Sun Herald newspaper. "We haven't heard from them." Before striking the Gulf coast, "Katrina" last week hit southern Florida, where it killed seven people. The storm knocked out electricity to about 2.3 million customers, or nearly five million people, in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida, utility companies said. Restoring power could take weeks, they warned. On its way to the coast, the storm swept through oil and gas fields in the Gulf of Mexico where 20% of the nation's energy is produced. At least two drilling rigs were knocked adrift and one in Mobile Bay, Alabama, broke free of its mooring and slammed into a bridge. US oil prices yesterday jumped nearly \$5 a barrel in opening trade to peak over \$70 and were holding above \$68 today as oil firms assessed damage. Governors in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida had summoned a total of at least 7,503 Army and Air Force National Guard troops to state duty to provide services ranging from law enforcement to debris removal and providing portable generators for electric power, Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said. By this morning, "Katrina" had moved inland to north-eastern Mississippi where the National Hurricane Centre in Miami said it was downgraded to a tropical storm with 50 mph winds. -- Reuters.

London, Aug 31 - A Shell press release, dated Aug 30, states: Efforts are underway to assess damage to Shell and Motiva manufacturing, retail and lubricants assets in areas impacted by hurricane "Katrina". Early reports indicate minimal damage at the Motiva Convent Refinery and Shell Geismar Chemical Plant in Louisiana. The Geismar facility is in the final phase of assessment and is preparing for potential start-up, although no timeline has been set. Access to the Motiva Norco Refinery and Shell Norco Chemical Plant in Louisiana and the Shell Mobile Chemical Plant in Alabama remains limited, and damage to these facilities is still being assessed. These facilities are currently shut down. Despite difficult communications, Shell continues to assess the impact of hurricane "Katrina" on its retail facilities in the New Orleans market. Early reports indicate significant damage to the network. To help assist consumers, Motiva has frozen the wholesale prices

it charges its distributors in hurricane-impacted areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. The Shell-operated Capline Pipeline system did not incur damage from "Katrina", but is currently down due to multiple pump stations that are without power. Shell Pipeline is working with utility officials to get power restored to the system. Shell Pipeline's four refined products pipeline systems between New Orleans and Baton Rouge do not show any damage, but are not operating due to power outages and lack of supply from impacted refineries. Pipeline systems connected to Gulf of Mexico offshore production and operated by Shell Pipeline are currently down and being assessed for damage. Motiva distribution terminals in Kenner, Louisiana, and in Collins and Meridian, Mississippi, are closed due to flooding and power outages. Motiva's Convent Distribution Terminal in Louisiana is operating and currently supplying customers. The Shell Lubricants blending plant in Vicksburg, Mississippi, has reopened, but the Metairie, Louisiana, lube blending plant remains closed. Six Jiffy Lube stores in Baton Rouge have reopened, although six in New Orleans are closed. Damage to these facilities is still being assessed.

London, Aug 31 -- Diamond Offshore press releases, dated Aug 30, state: (1) Diamond Offshore Drilling, Inc today reported that the jack-up drilling platform Ocean Warwick (3621 gt, built 1971) could not be found on its drilling location during a search by fixed-wing aircraft early this morning. The rig was located on Main Pass Block 299, approximately 12 miles off the coast of Louisiana in about 200 ft. of water prior to passage of hurricane "Katrina". Additional search efforts are under way in an attempt to determine the disposition of the 300-ft. independent cantilever rig. Ocean Warwick is insured for approximately \$50 million net of applicable deductibles and has a book value of approximately \$14 million. In addition, Diamond Offshore said that the semisubmersible drilling rill platform Ocean Voyager (9944 gt, built 1973) broke free from its moorings in the aftermath of "Katrina" and has been located approximately nine miles north of its pre-storm location on Mississippi Canyon Block 711. A limited crew reboarded Ocean Voyager this morning in order to secure the unit and to further assess its condition. The U.S. Coast Guard has been notified of both situations. Ocean Voyager and Ocean Warwick, like all Diamond Offshore conventionally moored and jack-up rigs located in the Central and Eastern Gulf of Mexico, had been secured and personnel evacuated prior to hurricane "Katrina" passing through the area. Initial fly-bys of other company rigs in the path of "Katrina" have not indicated any damage. However, Diamond Offshore will not be able to make a complete assessment of the condition of all of its

rigs until personnel are able to re-board the units over the next few days.

(2) Ocean Warwick, which had previously been listed as missing, has been located on Dauphin Island off the coast of Alabama. Aerial photos indicate that the rig has sustained significant damage and is aground on the island. Diamond Offshore is working to get personnel to the rig but will not be able to make a complete assessment of the condition of the unit until a crew is able to reboard the rig. Dauphin Island is approximately 66 miles northeast of the rig's work location on Main Pass Block 299 prior to passage of hurricane "Katrina".

London, Aug 31 -- A press report, dated Aug 30, states: Rowan Cos said today it cannot find its drill platform Rowan New Orleans (4088 gt, built 1970) and believes it might have capsized and sunk offshore Louisiana amid hurricane "Katrina". The company said it finished an initial aerial survey of its 22 rigs in the Gulf Mexico and found all of them except Rowan New Orleans. Rowan said the rig was insured for \$8.5 million and had a carrying value of about \$7.4 million. The company said its other rigs look to have minimal damage, so far.

London, Aug 31 -- A press report, dated Aug 30, states: Noble Corp said today that its semi-submersible drill platform Noble Jim Thompson (see issue of Aug 31) appears to have survived hurricane "Katrina" unscathed. The vessel, which was contracted to Shell Exploration & Production Co, was found about 17 miles north-northeast from its original location offshore Louisiana after breaking away from its mooring lines. Personnel had been safely evacuated before the storm hit. The company said that a tug and anchoring vessels are now preparing to secure the rig, and an assessment crew is scheduled to board the rig for inspection. Flyovers of other Noble rigs indicate that the vessels have stayed in their original Gulf locations following the storm and do not appear damaged. The company expects these rigs to be operational soon.

London, Aug 31 -- A Coast Guard St. Louis press release, dated Aug 30, states: Coast Guard crews on boats and aircraft continue to make search and rescue efforts a top priority today throughout the Gulf Coast region and plan on continuing recovery operations throughout the night. More than 40 Coast Guard aircraft from as far away as California and Massachusetts, along with aircraft from the Army and Air National Guard, have saved hundreds of people since the hurricane made landfall yesterday. The Coast Guard received more than 350 requests for help today, many from urban areas in New Orleans, but also from along the Mississippi coast, where people were stranded on rooftops due to severe flooding. Additional Coast Guard small boats and cutters are poised to join the search and rescue efforts tomorrow

and will stage off the coasts of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi to provide communications and fueling for aircraft, as well as to patrol nearby waterways. Other Coast Guard assets, including hazardous material disposal teams, aids to navigation teams and disaster assistance relief teams, continue to work in conjunction with local, state and federal agencies on other relief and recovery missions to minimize the economic and environmental impacts from the hurricane. Latest Updates: The Mississippi River is open from the Sea Buoy to Mile Marker 507 to tug and barge traffic only. Deep draught ships may move within anchorages if they have pilots on board. The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway is open from Mile Marker 177 (west of Harvey Locks) to Mile Marker 89 (east of the Harvey Locks). The Ports of Mobile, Gulfport, Pascagoula, Pensacola and Destin/Panama City are closed. All bridges, floodgates and locks are closed in the vicinity of the Port of New Orleans. The Coast Guard and representatives of the petroleum industry are surveying damage to offshore oil platforms. Five drilling rigs are reported missing, seven are reported to be adrift and two are listing.

London, Aug 31 -- Following received from managers of bulk Chios Beauty (19820 gt, built 1977), dated today: After Chios Beauty entered the River Mississippi, with a pilot onboard and with US Coast Guard clearance/approval, vessel was caught by approaching hurricane "Katrina" and blown aground near to "General Anchorage", on Aug 29. All crew are safe and a refloating attempt will be made once there is an improvement in the weather. (Note -- Chios Beauty was reported to have been blown into a barge and several tugs, before going aground.)

London, Aug 31 -- A press report, dated Aug 30, states: ENSCO International Incorporated confirmed reports that the towline parted on its deepwater semi-submersible drill platform Enco 7500 (14060 gt, built 2000), while the rig was under tow away from the path of hurricane "Katrina" early Sunday morning (Aug 28). Due to deteriorating weather conditions, the towline could not be reconnected and the rig was evacuated prior to suspension of helicopter service in advance of the storm. All personnel on board were safely transported to shore. Enco 7500 had been engaged in drilling activity in Green Canyon 652 and secured the well prior to initiation of hurricane response procedures. Enco 7500 has been located approximately 120 miles south of the Louisiana coast and initial reports did not disclose any apparent rig damage. The rig is accompanied by the service vessel Warhorse, and preparations are being made to re-man the unit later this morning. No information on the status of ENSCO's Gulf of Mexico jackup and platform rigs is available at this time

inasmuch as these rigs also were safely evacuated prior to the onset of Hurricane "Katrina."

London, Aug 31 -- A GlobalSantaFe press release, dated Aug 30, states: GlobalSantaFe Corporation today reported that it has accounted for all five of its drilling rigs that were in the direct path of hurricane "Katrina". All personnel on the five rigs were safely evacuated prior to the storm's arrival. GlobalSantaFe rigs in the path of "Katrina" included GSF Development Driller II and GSF High Island VIII, which showed no signs of damage during a preliminary aerial inspection. GSF Celtic Sea and GSF Development Driller I were listing slightly, and crews and equipment are arriving on location today to assess the condition of the rigs. Drill platform GSF Arctic I (12309 gt, built 1983) drifted off its original location and was grounded in shallow waters near the mouth of the Mississippi River. Marine surveyors will be dispatched to determine the condition of the rig. GlobalSantaFe evacuated 972 personnel after suspending operations on 14 rigs in the Gulf of Mexico due to "Katrina", including eight jackup rigs that were outside the direct path of the storm and drill ship GSF C.R. Luigs, which was moved from Katrina's path in advance of the storm. The company began re-manning its rigs this morning to assess their condition.

London, Aug 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Cochrane-Africatown USA Bridge reopened yesterday evening, after state officials determined damage from semi-submersible accommodation/multifunctional support platform Chemul that ran into it was not serious enough to close the bridge. The two lanes closest to the centre of the bridge, one in each direction, are now open for traffic. That means the end of a detour that was forcing trucks with hazardous cargo or oversized loads to detour via Interstate 65 and Alabama 59, and also meant all three of Mobile's links over the Mobile River were reopened yesterday. The platform apparently did not hit the bridge hard enough to do more than what state Transportation Department spokesman Tony Harris described as "moderate" damage. Harris estimated the cost of repairs at less than \$1 million. When "Katrina" hit Chemul was moored at Bender Shipbuilding & Repair Co. on Blakeley Island. Chemul initially got lodged under the bridge but then drifted to the river's east side as the storm surge subsided. State officials made an initial assessment of the bridge Monday night and went back for a thorough inspection yesterday morning.

London, Aug 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: New Orleans' hurricane-ravaged airport remained closed yesterday, and it may be days away from resuming commercial service. Airports across the South closed by hurricane "Katrina" resumed service throughout the day, but those at New Orleans and Gulfport, Miss.,

were the exceptions. Airlines gave differing estimates of when they expect to resume service to Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. The airport is the USA's 42nd largest as measured by plane capacity, according to Back Aviation Solutions. Southwest is its biggest carrier. The airport lacked electricity, even auxiliary power. Debris littered airport roadways. Some jetways were battered by the storm's powerful winds, Southwest spokesman Ed Stewart says. Southwest decided yesterday to cancel all flights at New Orleans for today. Southwest flew most of its employees and their families from New Orleans to Houston before "Katrina" landed, complicating the airline's task of resuming service. Other airlines have canceled flights for a longer period or indefinitely. The Gulfport-Biloxi airport, the USA's 135th largest, may open as soon as today. Delta, the airport's largest operator, as of late yesterday, planned to resume service there today, spokeswoman Chris Kelly says. The Federal Aviation Administration closed the airspace over a broad swath of the gulf region late Monday because of damaged radio and radar systems, agency spokeswoman Laura Brown says. Nationally, flights were mostly flowing smoothly with the exception of weather delays at a handful of airports such as Atlanta. "It looks like the rest of the system is operating well," Brown says.

London, Aug 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Royal Dutch Shell Plc said its Capline crude oil pipeline connected to Gulf of Mexico offshore production was shut because of power failures after Hurricane "Katrina" swept through the area. "The Shell-operated Capline Pipeline system did not incur damage from Hurricane "Katrina", but is currently down due to multiple pump stations that are without power," Shell said in a statement on its Web site dated yesterday. The Capline pipeline transports up to 1.2 million barrels a day of crude oil from the Gulf of Mexico and imported from overseas. It runs more than 650 miles from St. James, Louisiana to Patoka, Illinois, according to Shell. Hurricane "Katrina" has shut 1.4 million barrels of daily crude-oil output, according to the U.S. Minerals Management Service, which manages offshore resources. Platforms in the Gulf account for about 30 percent of U.S. output. Four pipelines carrying refined oil products between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana are also shutdown, the Shell statement said. The system is not operating because of power outages and a lack of supply from refineries closed by the hurricane, it said. Eight refineries in Louisiana and Mississippi were closed during the weekend, halting at least 1.79 million barrels a day of capacity.

London, Aug 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: The governor of Louisiana says everyone needs to leave New Orleans due to flooding

from Hurricane "Katrina". "We've sent buses in. We will be either loading them by boat, helicopter, anything that is necessary," Gov. Kathleen Blanco said. Army engineers trying to plug New Orleans' breached levees struggled to move giant sandbags and concrete barriers into place, and the governor said today the situation was growing more desperate and there was no choice but to abandon the flooded city. "The challenge is an engineering nightmare," Gov. Kathleen Blanco said. The mayor said today that the hurricane killed hundreds, maybe thousands, of people in New Orleans.

London, Aug 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Much of southern Ontario was lashed with heavy rain and strong winds early today as the remnants of hurricane "Katrina" blew in from the US and the storm will move through Quebec into parts of the Maritimes. "It's packing a good punch water wise," said Carolynne Marshall, a forecaster with the Canadian Hurricane Centre in Halifax. "The heaviest rainfall we're seeing on radar is basically over the Great Lakes and on the US side of the border," said Marshall. The weather system, now classed as a post-tropical depression, was moving in roughly the northeast direction that forecasters expected, Marshall said. "Southern Quebec, most of New Brunswick, parts of Nova Scotia and even parts of Labrador are going to see some rain out of this," she said. Environment Canada issued a heavy rainfall warning early today for a stretch of southern Ontario from the Niagara region, east through Lake Ontario shoreline communities and into western Quebec and the Montreal area. Rainfall amounts of up to 50 millimetres were expected in the warned areas, but higher amounts were likely in regions closer to eastern Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The system was also accompanied by strong northeast winds gusting up to 70 km/h in some areas of Ontario. Environment Canada had issued a severe wind warning for Quebec City, where northeast winds were expected to reach 90 km/h this afternoon and into the evening.

London, Sep 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: The full impact of hurricane "Katrina" began to emerge yesterday, with a prolonged choke expected on two sectors critical to US foreign trade as well as its domestic economy, commercial shipping in the lower Mississippi River and the refining and oil industries. The US Coast Guard faces the onerous task of juggling civilian search and rescue with assessing the navigability of the Mississippi. Lieutenant Rob Wyman, a Coast Guard spokesman in St Louis, Missouri, told Lloyd's List that the Mississippi was open to limited tug and barge activity involving smaller and shallow-draught vessels. The river remained closed to deep-draught ships and bigger tugs and barges from the sea buoys up to Mile Marker 507. Several major ports, including the major complex of the port of South Louisiana as well as New Orleans,

Biloxi, Mobile, Gulfport and Pascagoula, remained closed yesterday. River traffic could be closed for days, experts believe. The crippling of downriver ports has alarmed the US grain industry, which is concentrated in the Midwest. The industry relies on the ports to export nearly 2m bushels of corn, soybeans and wheat annually. The grain shipping season normally begins by the end of September. Cargill, the closely held commodities enterprise, did not have an assessment yesterday of damage to its extensive grain industry infrastructure near New Orleans. Lt Wyman said the duration of the impact on shipping would depend on the condition of the aids to navigation near the river's mouth and upstream. This system comprises elements such as ocean buoys, channel markers, day markers and range markers. Lt Wyman confirmed reports that several of these "no longer exist." Besides, he said "markers that were originally in the right spot may no longer be in the right spot." Silting has emerged as another concern, local experts said. "We also do not know if, or how many, recreational ships have sunk in the river," Lt Wyman said. "We can not open the river to traffic until we address such issues. The last thing we want to do is to make a bad situation worse." Lt Wyman refrained from saying how long the river system would remain closed. But he said the agency was making "definite progress" and that all available aids to navigation were en route to the region. The US Army Corps of Engineers is co-ordinating depth surveys for clearing deep-draught ships to use the river. These were allowed to move within their anchorages provided they had pilots on board, another Coast Guard spokesman said. The Coast Guard has also begun to piece together a rig damage assessment, the spokesman said. Early yesterday, six semi-submersible rigs were confirmed adrift. The location of one was "unknown," one was "partially adrift," one listing and two wedged against bridges in the Mobile River. Royal Dutch Shell confirmed "significant damage" to its Mars platform, as part of its above-water module was turned over by "Katrina." Enesco also confirmed damage to its Enesco 29 rig, saying the insurance cover of \$15m came with a \$5.5m deductible.

London, Sep 1 -- A press report, dated Aug 31, states: The US government is to release oil from the country's emergency stocks to help offset production cuts caused by hurricane "Katrina." With many oil rigs or platforms reported missing in the Gulf of Mexico, the aim is to give US refiners a temporary stock-gap of crude supplies. Yet with "Katrina" also closing nine major refineries, it remains to be seen what impact the move will have. Oil prices fell back following the White House's announcement. US light crude hit a high of \$70.65 a barrel today before dropping back to \$68.94, down 87 cents in response to the news.

Meanwhile, London's Brent crude was down 55 cents to \$67.02 a barrel today. US Energy Department Secretary Samuel Bodman said the decision to open up the Strategic Petroleum Reserve was made last night. The US Strategic Petroleum Supply totals almost 700 million barrels of crude oil, stored in five underground salt caverns in Texas and Louisiana. Mr Bodman said four of the sites were operative. No details have yet been released on the quantity of oil that will be made available to refiners. In addition, the White House said it would waive certain air pollution regulations for gasoline and diesel in all 50 states until Sep 15. This will allow gasoline with higher evaporation rates and diesel with higher sulphur content to be sold. "These waivers are necessary to ensure that fuel is available throughout the country," said the US Environmental Protection Agency. The US Minerals Management Service said 95% of the Gulf of Mexico's oil output is now out of service following "Katrina" together with more than 83% of natural gas production. The region accounts for about a quarter of US crude supplies. US Coast Guards have reported many rigs missing in the Gulf of Mexico. "We have confirmed reports of at least 20 oil rigs or platforms missing, either sunk or adrift, and one confirmed fire where a rig used to be," said one US Coast Guard official. Anglo-Dutch oil giant Shell was one of many firms to see damage to its Gulf of Mexico facilities. Aerial photos have shown significant damage to the top of its giant Mars platform. The rig usually produces 220,000 barrels of crude and 220 million cubic feet of natural gas per day. BP said seven of its oil platforms had toppled over but reported no major damage to its massive deepwater facilities. Oil markets remained jumpy today with so much offshore production still cut off. "Initial damage assessments from companies are mixed, but the rumours on the second day are that the damage could be heavy and extensive, supply curtailments could be long," said oil analyst Tom Wallin of Energyintel. Mr Wallin added that despite most attention being placed on oil prices, in his view natural gas supplies would be most affected by the damage caused by "Katrina." "Crude oil production could be replaced by a release of barrels from the US strategic reserve, there is no such safety valve for natural gas," he said. "For gas, the fear is that commercial stocks could be severely dented, leaving inadequate inventories for the winter." A ruptured gas pipeline was reported to be on fire in the Gulf by US Coast Guards today.

London, Sep 1 -- A press report, dated Aug 31, states: Gulfport, Mississippi, was once a tourist town, filled with beach-goers and gamblers drawn to the casinos on barges permanently moored just offshore. Now, not a building along this coast has been left unscathed by hurricane "Katrina." The casinos fared even worse. Their colossal steel frames and

hulls are now well inland, hurled across streets and parks by the waves. One of the casinos that used to be anchored off-shore has been lifted right out of the water. This badly damaged massive pink carcass, eight stories tall and 700 ft long, is now sitting in a car park 200 yards inland from the beach. Nearby, there are a couple of boats, again lying several hundred yards inland. They are stacked up along with trailer trucks and all sorts of vehicles from the casino. Every house in the area is damaged as well. Debris from the surging waters is everywhere, much of it the personal belongings of the thousands of people who have lost their homes. Nothing is working here. There is no water, no electricity, no refrigeration, no grocery stores. No petrol is available from the ground because it is all pumped up by electricity. Everyone else is just making do with the emergency aid that is starting to flow now. But the task is massive and it has not even begun to reach the many people who need it here. Officials are still looking for survivors and finding them all of the time. More than 100 are feared dead, 30 in one block of flats in the neighbouring city of Biloxi alone. People will try to get home now but the police will not allow them back because there is a 24-hour curfew. That is leading to confrontations with the police. It is going to take days, weeks, months or more before they get this back to normal. Casino gambling here provided jobs for 14,000 people. About \$500,000 a year went into the local economy from gambling taxes alone and every single casino has been wrecked. Every single hotel is uninhabitable.

London, Sept 1 -- A Transocean Inc press release, dated Aug 31, states: Transocean Inc. today announced that it has begun the process of deploying personnel to its U.S. Gulf of Mexico-based fleet and damage assessment efforts are underway following hurricane Katrina. The company noted that it is experiencing some disruption with crew changes stemming from the dislocation caused by the storm. A preliminary inspection of the company's semi-submersible drill platform Deepwater Nautilus has revealed significant damage to the rig's mooring system and the loss of approximately 3,200 feet of marine riser and a portion of the unit's subsea well control system which remained suspended at the time the unit was evacuated. The rig, which was previously reported to have drifted off location, has been secured by an offshore service vessel approximately 80 miles from its moored position prior to the storm. Because further inspection is necessary to determine the full extent of damage, the company is presently unable to assess the length of time required to complete repairs and return Deepwater Nautilus to service. Preliminary inspections of three other moored semisubmersibles, the Transocean Marianas, Transocean Amirante and Falcon 100, have at present revealed no damage, although

the inspection process is still underway. Inspection of the semi-submersible rig C. (Kirk) Rhein, Jr., which is stacked in a Mobile, Alabama shipyard, has revealed no evidence of damage. The company's six dynamically positioned Fifth-Generation Deepwater Floaters, which moved away from the storm's projected path, did not sustain damage and are in the process of returning to pre-storm locations to recommence operations.

London, Sept 1 -- A Shell press release, dated Aug 31, states: We have completed a preliminary assessment of nearly all Shell-operated Gulf of Mexico assets and can confirm most appear to have little or no damage except for certain Central GoM assets. Personnel have already safely returned to our assets in the Western GoM (North Padre Island, and Brazos) some Central GoM (West Cameron, Green Canyon, and Garden Banks) and hurricane recovery and production start up activities have begun. Eastern GoM assets (MP 252, Ram/Powell, Mobile Bay) do not appear to be damaged and post hurricane activities are underway there as well. Production from these assets will resume as appropriate once final inspections of the facilities are completed and pipelines and other related downstream facilities that transport our production to onshore locations have also been systematically inspected and are operational and ready to receive production. Over-flights and site visits have identified damage to key Central GoM assets, West Delta-143, Cognac, and Mars. Equipment fabrication to repair WD-143P. is underway, and assessment teams are visiting Cognac and Ursa today for initial inspection. As reported earlier, the Mars Tension Leg Platform was significantly damaged in the storm. AWe are making a full assessment of the damage over the next several days and will then develop a comprehensive repair and recovery plan. Contractor personnel have boarded and secured both semi-submersible drilling platforms Transocean's Deepwater Nautilus and Noble Jim Thompson, whose mooring lines broke during the hurricane. Deepwater Nautilus is currently under tow to a shallow water location for further assessment and repair. Noble Jim Thompson is planned to be secured to tugs today.

London, Sept 1 -- A Coast Guard St.Louis press release, dated Aug 31, states: (1) The Coast Guard's current emphasis is the safety and security of people in the areas impacted by hurricane "Katrina", and is working closely with federal, state and local partners on that goal. Coast Guard air and boat crews have assisted in the rescue of 1,259 people, and they are continuing to respond to distress calls. The Coast Guard is working with FEMA, and is delivering relief supplies onboard its C-130 cargo planes. There are approximately 4,000 Coast Guardsmen currently in the area working on response and

recovery, as well as 15 cutters, 37 airplanes and rescue helicopters, 63 small boats, three maritime safety and security teams, three oil and hazardous material response teams and five aid to navigation teams. This hurricane caused catastrophic devastation, and the Coast Guard anticipates that there will be prolonged waterways management and environmental cleanup operations. Currently, five oil rigs from West Delta Platform are missing, one submersible rig is grounded at south pass, two mobile offshore drilling units are adrift, two semi-submersibles are listing, and the MARS facility is severely damaged. A high priority is reopening ports and waterways and Outer Continental Shelf reconstitution. The Coast Guard anticipates prolonged waterways management issues and environmental cleanup operations. Currently, all Gulf ports remain closed. The Coast Guard is beginning to conduct port surveys and is moving assets into the area to reconstitute the aids-to-navigation system on the Mississippi River and other waterways. Coast Guard facilities have experienced varying degrees of damage. Early reports indicate Coast Guard Station Gulfport, Miss., was destroyed. Station Venice, La., is partially submerged. Station Grand Isle, Ala., sustained slight damage to the group building and Coast Guard housing. Station New Orleans appears to have sustained little damage, but remains inaccessible by car.

London, Sept 1 -- A Coast Guard Mobile, press release, dated Aug 31, states: The unified command here is continuing their hurricane response efforts today, performing search and rescue missions in the Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama area and assessing damage to the ports and waterways. Coast Guard helicopter rescue crews have rescued 696 people, 16 dogs, two cats and have flown more than 243 hours. The Intracoastal Canal from Mobile to Panama City, Fla., is open, and tug and barge traffic has resumed in Mobile Bay, Ala. All other ports and waterways from Mobile to New Orleans remain closed. An HU-25 Falcon jet crew from Coast Guard Aviation Training Center Mobile is flying offshore in search of three missing oil rigs. Helicopter rescue crews from Coast Guard air stations Cape Cod, Mass., Clearwater, Fla., Miami and the Arkansas National Guard continue to rescue hurricane survivors and critically ill patients from hospitals. The number of rooftop rescues has declined but continue as rescue crews search for survivors. Three Coast Guard cutters and numerous small boats will patrol the Alabama and Mississippi coast. Members from Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team Mobile have started placing temporary buoys in Alabama waterways today. The unified command, comprised of Coast Guard Sector Mobile, Coast Guard Aviation Training Center Mobile, the Environmental Protection Agency, the

Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, was established Monday in response to hurricane "Katrina". In addition to search and rescue, which will always take precedence, other top priorities are to open the ports of Pensacola, Fla., Mobile and Pascagoula, Miss., in order to allow the movement of supplies and fuel.

Rotterdam, Sept 1 -- The OPA 90 Alliance Don Jon-SMIT have been contacted by owners and underwriters of bulk Chios Beauty to render salvage services to the vessel under Lloyd's Open Form 2000. Tugs and salvage equipment are presently en route. -- SMIT Salvage BV.

SIERRA LEONE

Freetown, Aug 31 -- Aid workers in Sierra Leone have managed to distribute aid to about 7,000 people stranded or made homeless by torrential rains in the south of the country, but another 10,000 remain out of reach, the Red Cross said. "We have been able to access eight towns and bring food and non-food items which including blankets, and to supply them with jerry cans to fetch clean drinking water," said the local Red Cross disaster management co-ordinator, Vandy Sonnah. He told reporters today 800 children were among those who had received assistance in the Pujehun district, which lies near the Atlantic Coast around 300 km south of the capital Freetown. "Ten thousand more are still trapped in 11 towns in the district as the roads and bridges are still inaccessible and the rain continues to pour heavily," he said. "The situation is still desperate, the condition of the victims is terrible as they are malnourished, especially the children who are anaemic," he said, adding the Red Cross only had a week's worth of food stocks left. Officials said earlier this month the relentless rains had killed at least 20 people. Aid workers built makeshift shelters as floodwaters destroyed around 1,000 houses and swept away hundreds of cattle and chickens. Sonnah said there were reports that 10 more people, including three children, had died but aid workers had not managed to confirm that. He said the floods were spreading to the neighbouring districts of Bonthe and Moyamaba, and residents had been fleeing into neighbouring towns and villages in search of shelter. -- Reuters.

TYPHOON "MAWAR"

London, Aug 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: A powerful typhoon has struck near Japan's capital, Tokyo, killing one person and injuring at least two. Typhoon "Mawar" brought winds of 108km/h and heavy rain, triggering flood warnings for the Tokyo region. A large number of flights, express trains and ferry services in and out of the capital were cancelled. The prefectures of Chiba and Shizuoka, on the east and west of Tokyo, were worst hit.

Thousands of households were left without power. A 55-year-old man died after falling from the roof of his house and at least two other men were injured in Shizuoka prefecture, west of Tokyo, police said. More than 3,500 households lost power in Chiba, just east of Tokyo. Hundreds of families were evacuated as rising water levels flooded homes and triggered seven landslides in the two prefectures. Typhoon "Mawar" hit Chiba city at around 0430 hrs, today (1930, UTC, yesterday), the Meteorological Agency said. The storm was heading north-east at 25km/h and was expected to head back out to the Pacific Ocean, becoming a tropical depression early tomorrow, the agency added. "Since the typhoon's moving speed is slow, there are concerns that heavy rains and winds might occur in the areas where the typhoon stays," a spokesman for the Japan Meteorological Agency told AFP news agency. Residents were warned to expect as much as 35cm of rainfall within 24 hours. The cancellation of dozens of flights affected some 7,000 passengers yesterday, airlines said. Japanese television reports showed fishing boats returning to port as giant waves hit the coastline before the typhoon struck.

London, Aug 26 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Mawar" near lat 36.6N, long 142.8E, at 0600, UTC, Aug 26. Movement past six hours 065 deg at 16 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 25 nautical miles east semicircle, 20 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 70 nautical miles east semicircle, 50 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Aug 27: Position lat 40.1N, long 150.5E. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots with gusts to 65 knots. Becoming extratropical. Radius of 34-knot winds 60 nautical miles north-east and south-west quadrants, 35 nautical miles elsewhere.

TYPHOON "NABI"

London, Aug 30 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Nabi" was located near lat 15.1N, long 149.1E, approximately 195 nautical miles east of Saipan, and has tracked westward, or 270 degs, at 12 knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds: 55 knots with gusts to 70 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 70 nautical miles in all four quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 18 feet. At 0600, Aug 31, the centre is predicted to be near lat 15.7N, long 145.1E, with maximum sustained winds of 85 knots with gusts to 105 knots.

London, Aug 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Nabi" moved toward the Northern Mariana

Islands in the Western Pacific today, packing winds of 85 mph, forecasters said. Officials in Saipan opened emergency evacuation shelters around the U.S. commonwealth in response to the storm, which strengthened from a tropical storm into a typhoon yesterday night. The storm was about 45 miles northeast of Saipan this morning, moving west at 10 mph, according to the National Weather Service on nearby Guam. Damaging winds were lashing Saipan and forecasters said they expected gusts of up to 100 mph later in the day. "It's going to continue to intensify a little but not the strength of "Katrina" by any means," meteorologist David Marn said, referring to the hurricane that devastated the U.S. Gulf Coast. "It's going to move just to the north of Saipan and then start to head west-northwest." On Guam, all public schools and government agencies were closed today. The storm was about 175 miles northeast of the island this morning. Marn estimated Guam would be hit with wind gusts of up to 60 mph.

London, Aug 31 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Nabi" was located near lat 16.5N, long 145.0E, approximately 80 nautical miles north-north-west of Saipan, and has tracked north-westward, or 305 degs, at 13 knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 20 nautical miles and is based on the eye being fixed by satellite. Maximum sustained winds: 95 knots, with gusts to 115 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 25 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34-knot winds: 120 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 130 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 37 feet. At 0600, UTC, Sep 1, the centre is predicted to be near lat 18.3N, long 140.8E, with maximum sustained winds of 120 knots and gusts to 145 knots.

London, Aug 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Nabi" passed through the Northern Mariana Islands in the Western Pacific, hitting the capital of Saipan with wind gusts up to 75 mph, forecasters said today. Officials had opened emergency evacuation shelters on Saipan as a precaution. About 600 people found shelter in public schools, as crews worked to restore electrical power and water service to most of the island, officials said. There were no reports of injuries or deaths. In neighbouring Guam, wind gusts reach about 50 mph as the storm dumped nearly three inches of rain on the US territory. Gov. Felix Camacho had declared a condition of readiness, and all public schools and government agencies were closed today. The typhoon was located 100 miles northwest of the Northern Marianas this afternoon and was expected to intensify as it moved west-northwest at 10 mph, according to the National Weather Service.

Tokyo, Sep 1 -- A powerful typhoon was heading for Japan's Okinawa islands today, and experts said it could be upgraded by the weekend to a Class Five storm. Typhoon "Nabi" could strengthen to super-typhoon status by Saturday (Sep 3) morning, Tropical Storm Risk group at University College London said on its Web site www.tropicalstormrisk.com. As of 0300, UTC, "Nabi" had winds of up to 162 km an hour near its centre and was located near the Marianas Islands, moving north-northwest at 20 km an hour. Should the storm stay on its present course it would pass over Okinawa on Sunday (Sep 4) or Monday (Sep 5), the official said. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 1 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Nabi" was located near lat 17.7N, long 140.6E, approximately 335 nautical miles west-north-west of Saipan, and has tracked west-northwestward, or 290 degs, at 10 knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 25 nautical miles and is based on the eye being fixed by satellite. Microwave and animated satellite imagery indicate a well-developed 25 nautical miles eye. Maximum sustained winds: 115 knots, with gusts to 140 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 40 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34-knot winds: 200 nautical miles in all four quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 44 feet. At 0600, UTC, Sep 2, the centre is predicted to be near lat 19.3N, long 136.7E, with maximum sustained winds of 130 knots and gusts to 165 knots.

TYPHOON "TALIM"

London, Aug 27 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Talim" near lat 15.6N, long 141.6E, at 0600, UTC, Aug 27. Movement past six hours 330 deg at 10 knots. Position accurate to within 55 nautical miles, position based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots.

London, Aug 28 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Talim", upgraded from severe tropical storm, at lat 19.5N, long 137.8E, moving north-west at 14 knots. Maximum winds 65 knots near centre. Radius of over 50-knot winds 60 miles. Radius of over 30-knot winds 240 miles.

London, Aug 30 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Talim" was located near lat 21.7N, long 128.5E, and has tracked westward, at 10 knots over the past six hours. Maximum sustained winds: 95 knots. Radius of 30-knot winds: 240 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, Aug 31, the centre is predicted to be near lat 23.2N, long 123.8E, moving westward at 11 knots, with maximum sustained winds of 95 knots.

Taipei, Aug 31 -- Taiwan warned of flash floods and landslides as a typhoon headed for the island today,

with heavy rain and strong winds forcing some schools and offices to close. Typhoon "Talim", packing maximum sustained winds of 184 kph and gusts of up to 227 kph, was about 310 km east of Taiwan at 0400, UTC, the Central Weather Bureau said. It was moving west-northwest at 21 kph and the full force of the storm was projected to hit Taiwan late today or early tomorrow morning, the bureau said. The government ordered schools and offices in parts of central, eastern and northern Taiwan to shut in the afternoon, but business continued in the political and business capital of Taipei. It was not yet clear if financial markets and offices would be open tomorrow. The government told residents to stay away from coastal areas and mountainous regions and rivers due to worries of flash floods and mudslides. -- Reuters.

London, Aug 31 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Talim" was located near lat 23.3N, long 123.9E, approximately 165 nautical miles south-east of Taipei, and has tracked west-northwestward, or 295 degs, at 12 knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 20 nautical miles and is based on the eye being fixed by satellite. Maximum sustained winds: 105 knots, with gusts to 130 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 45 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34-knot winds: 130 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, 150 nautical miles in the south-east quadrant and 120 nautical miles in the south-west and north-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 40 feet. At 0600, UTC, Sep 1, the centre is predicted to be near lat 25.0N, long 120.9E, with maximum sustained winds of 65 knots and gusts to 80 knots.

London, Sep 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Talim" churned across Taiwan today after killing at least one person and injuring 24 as it toppled billboards, broke windows and knocked motorcyclists off their bikes. Schools, businesses, government offices and financial markets all closed as the eye of typhoon "Talim" headed north-west across the top of the island from near the eastern coastal city of Hualien, the Central Weather Bureau said. "Talim" had weakened to gusts of up to 180 km/h by this morning from 227 km/h. The storm is forecast to tear through northern Taiwan today and hit south-east China near Fuzhou in Fujian province within hours of crossing the island. In China, forecasters had urged local authorities to batten down and many people had already been evacuated from coastal areas, the China Daily said.

London, Sep 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Talim" has passed over the island of Taiwan, felling billboards and trees and smashing windows. At least one person was killed and 24 injured as winds and rain lashed the island.

Schools, public buildings and financial markets remained closed, amid warnings that heavy rainfall could still cause landslides and flooding. Typhoon "Talim" is now en route to south-east China, with sustained winds of up to 144 km/h. Most air and land traffic in Taiwan is expected to return to normal later today, but weather experts predict that strong winds and rains will continue in central and southern areas. Some residents of coastal areas have been evacuated in anticipation of the typhoon, the China Daily newspaper reported. By mid-morning today, the storm was centred over the Taiwan Strait, about 60km from the city of Taichung in central Taiwan. The worst of the storm had passed by the time people woke up in the city of Taipei. "Talim" had earlier been classed as a category 4 storm.

Beijing, Sep 1 -- Typhoon "Talim" swept into southern China today after killing two people in Taiwan and injuring 39 as the island shut businesses, schools and financial markets to ride out the storm. "Talim" cut power lines, toppled billboards and tore up trees, while heavy rain led to flooding in some towns in central Taiwan. The number of households in Taiwan without power was as high as 1.48 million at one point, but electricity had since been restored to about half, officials said. Some 48,500 households were without running water. The average windspeed had died down to about 126 kmh with gusts at 162 kmh. The centre of the storm crossed into China's Fujian province around 0630, UTC, bringing heavy winds and strong rain that knocked out power to large parts of the provincial capital, Fuzhou, the news Web site www.sina.com.cn reported. Eastern Zhejiang province had evacuated more than 290,000 people and called nearly 30,000 boats back to port, the Web site said. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 1 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Talim", downgraded from a typhoon, was located near lat 25.1N, long 119.6E. The movement over the past six hours: 310 degs at 11 knots. The position is accurate to within 55 nautical miles and is based on the eye being fixed by satellite. Maximum sustained winds: 55 knots, with gusts to 70 knots and dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over water. Radius of 34-knot winds: 70 nautical miles in the north-east and south-west quadrants, over water, 80 nautical miles in the south-east quadrant, over water and 60 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant, over water. At 1800, UTC, today, the centre is predicted to be near lat 26.0N, long 117.8E, with maximum sustained winds of 40 knots and gusts to 50 knots and dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over land.

UNITED STATES

London, Sep 1 -- A press report, dated Aug 31, states: American Family Insurance of Madison has paid out \$11 million in damage claims so far as a result of the Aug 18 tornadoes that hit central Wisconsin. The insurer provided an update today on damage claims stemming from the fierce storms. As of Aug 31, the company said it has paid out \$11 million to Wisconsin policyholders and expects to pay out a total of \$12 million to \$13 million. So far, 320 claims have been filed; 27 homes were destroyed and 40 other homes sustained "significant damage," said spokeswoman Kelly Kick. The vast majority of the claims came from policyholders in the Stoughton area, southeast of Madison. The company also has received claims from the Viola and Fort Atkinson areas.

YEMEN

Aden, Aug 26 -- Torrential rain followed by very strong winds occurred in the Aden area yesterday morning resulting in flooding mainly of roads with debris washed down from adjacent slopes and high ground around Crater. No serious damage reported so far. Mainly partial restriction of traffic on some roads until flooding cleared. There is the potential for the flooding of small godowns in back streets where they are below ground level. No actual flooding reported as yet. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Earthquakes**GULF OF ADEN**

London, Aug 30 -- A report, dated Aug 26, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 1816, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.2 event has been located in the Gulf of Aden in lat 14 48N, long 52 28E, depth 10 km.

PANAMA AREA

London, Aug 30 -- A report, dated Aug 27, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 1838, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.0 event has been located south of Panama in lat 06 68N, long 82 28W, depth 10 km.

Political & Civil Unrest**AFGHANISTAN**

Kabul, Aug 25 -- U.S. and Afghan forces backed by a giant B-52 bomber, A-10 attack aircraft and helicopters killed an estimated 16 militants in southern Afghanistan in the past two days, the U.S. military said today. The militants were killed on Tuesday (Aug

23) and yesterday during an operation codenamed Vigilant Sentinel aimed at ensuring security for Sep 18 parliamentary and provincial council elections. The U.S. military said six militants were killed on Tuesday after Afghan and U.S. forces saw them planting improvised explosive devices in Shinkay district of Zabul province. An Afghan and U.S. patrol also pinned down another group of militants south-east of the town of Tarin Kot and called in a B-52 bomber, A-10 attack aircraft and attack helicopters, it said, adding that casualties there were being assessed. In other incidents yesterday, five militants were killed by aircraft and ground fire north-east of Tarin Kot five more in Kandahar province, the statement said, adding that there were no U.S. casualties or damage in any of the incidents. -- Reuters.

BURUNDI

Bujumbura, Aug 24 -- Integration of ex-Hutu rebels into Burundi's Tutsi-dominated army is encouraging refugees from the tiny central African country's civil war to return in bigger numbers, the U.N. refugee agency said today. The relatively violence-free progress of recent democratic elections has also helped speed along the voluntary returns over the past two months, said Kaba-Guichard Neyaga, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) representative for Burundi. "The new army and security services are contributing to the impression of confidence among refugees," Neyaga told Reuters. "Refugees have historically feared the army, because they have been accused of discrimination. With the new configuration, there is a representation of both ethnicities." Under a peace accord signed in 2000 that has guided Burundi's path out of a 12-year civil war, former Hutu guerrilla forces have been integrated with their former foes in the largely Tutsi army. The big Tutsi presence in the army often made many Hutu refugees -- who made up the bulk of the hundreds of thousands of Burundians to flee their homes -- fear oppression and abuse because of their ethnicity, a routine occurrence in the past. The UNHCR said as of Sunday (Aug 21), a total of 32,024 refugees had returned to Burundi this year. Neyaga said it was difficult to predict how many would return in the coming year, because all of the returns are voluntary. The almost violence-free election of a new government, to be led by president-elect and leader of the former rebel Hutu Forces for Defence of Democracy (FDD) Pierre Nkurunziza, is another factor giving refugees a reason to come home. "It's going fast because people are looking forward to returning and are confident they can return. People are coming back to stay and reintegrate in their country," Neyaga said. A U.N.-led peacekeeping mission has also helped, Neyaga said. "The presence of the peace mission is something important ... we can see it's been calmer." -- Reuters.

ECUADOR

Quito, Aug 25 -- Ecuador protesters, whose attacks shut down oil exports vital to the country's economy, struck a deal with energy companies today in which the firms agreed to invest more in the poor communities where they operate. The protesters agreed to call a permanent end to attacks they launched last week on oil wells in eastern Ecuador in return for the increased support, said mediator Ramiro Gonzalez, prefect of Pichincha province. Negotiations had been bogged down since yesterday over a demand by the militants they not be prosecuted for dynamiting pipelines and vandalizing pumping equipment last week. The final settlement document did not address the issue of immunity other than to say the protesters, the government and the private oil firms would maintain a "good neighbour" relationship. Oil companies including Occidental Petroleum Corp., Petrobras and EnCana Corp. will pave 160 miles of new roads in the Amazon provinces of Sucumbios and Orellana under the deal, Gonzalez said. About two-thirds of the 25 percent income tax paid by the companies would be steered toward local health, environment and development projects. "This settlement solidifies the idea that local community leaders can pressure the central government, through illegal and violent action, into giving those communities what they want," said Adrian Bonilla, director of Ecuador's branch of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences. "This is not a healthy sign," he added. "The government will now probably have to confront a lot of similar protests in other parts of the country." Output from state oil firm Petroecuador climbed back to 158,080 barrels today, recovering from the weakness of recent days but still under the 201,000-bpd average before the attacks. -- Reuters.

IRAQ

Baghdad, Aug 26 -- Insurgents sabotaged an exporting oil well in the northern Kirkuk oilfields today. Flames threatened to halt output from the well, which pumps 7,000 to 10,000 barrels per day (bpd) and feeds a pipeline to Turkey. An Iraqi oil official said firefighters were battling the blaze. The incident came just hours after the Iraqi parliament speaker announced politicians needed more time to finalise the constitution after relentless wrangling and the attack was a potent reminder that multi-ethnic Kirkuk is one of the most emotionally-charged issues in Iraqi politics. The Kurds, who are demanding more autonomy for their de facto state in the north in the constitution, say Kirkuk should rightfully be part of their region while Arab Sunnis and Turkmen lay claim to the oil centre too. Frequent sabotage of oil pipelines has deprived Iraq of badly needed oil revenue and the attack on the Kirkuk oilfields raises new questions about repeated

government vows to protect the country's strategic natural resource. "This is a very big problem. The well head was damaged and the fire is spreading. They are trying to stop it," an oil official told Reuters. The relentless guerrilla campaign has forced Iraq to rely almost entirely on its southern oilfields for exports, but they too are vulnerable. Saboteurs targeted a power station outside Baghdad on Monday (Aug 22), leaving the southern port city of Basra and the capital in the dark for 12 hours and halting export flows from the country's Gulf terminal. -- Reuters.

ISRAEL

Jerusalem, Aug 26 -- A majority of Israelis favour removing more Jewish settlements in occupied lands beyond the 25 scrapped this week, a poll published in the country's biggest newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth showed today. It showed 54 percent of those surveyed want to continue Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to "disengage" from conflict with the Palestinians while 42 percent oppose it and four percent did not respond. Under Sharon's pullout plan, Israel removed 9,000 settlers from all of the Gaza Strip and the northern West Bank, lands occupied 38 years ago. It was the first Israeli withdrawal from land where Palestinians want a state. An even more decisive 68 percent of Israelis favour removing hilltop outposts which Israeli governments have not authorized, the poll showed. The World Court brands all settlements illegal. Israel disputes this. About 230,000 Jews remain in some 116 settlements scattered among the 2.4 million Palestinians of the West Bank. The poll showed most Israelis oppose calling early elections but are divided over whether the 77-year-old Sharon should remain in public life. Forty-nine percent said he should stay, 47 percent that he should retire. The poll surveyed 501 Israelis. Another poll published today in the daily Haaretz showed that 61 percent of respondents defined Israel as being "hurt and pained" by the evacuation process, while 23.5 percent said post-evacuation Israel was a "normal, civilized state." -- Reuters.

London, Aug 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: A suicide bombing has injured at least 10 people at a crowded bus station in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba. Two guards were seriously injured in the morning rush hour blast. It was the first such attack since Israel pulled its settlers out of the Gaza Strip. Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, condemning the attack, described it as a "terrorist operation". But he also described a recent Israeli raid in the West Bank in which five Palestinians died as a "provocation". The Islamic Jihad group had sworn to take revenge for the deaths. A bus driver told Israel Radio that the suicide bomber was carrying a heavy bag, prompting him to alert a security guard. Before he could get on the bus he was stopped, and he blew himself up nearby, according to police.

The two security guards who were critically wounded suffered shrapnel wounds and burns all over their bodies, a paramedic told Israel's Channel 10 TV.

London, Aug 30 -- A press report, dated Aug 29, states: Israel will relinquish control of some West Bank settlements in final status agreements with the Palestinians, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has said. Major settlement blocs will remain in Israeli hands but other settlements will be ceded, he told Israeli TV. Mr Sharon said a definitive map would only be presented in final peace talks with the Palestinians. "Not all the settlements in Judea and Samaria today will remain," Mr Sharon said, using the biblical names for the West Bank. Large settlements, such as Maale Adumim, east of Jerusalem, or Ariel in the centre of the West Bank, would not be given up, he stressed, although he did not name them explicitly. "These settlements will remain in our hands and will be linked territorially to Israel. These blocs have first rate strategic importance for Israel," Mr Sharon said. There are approximately 450,000 Jewish settlers living in some 120 settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Interviewed by Israel's Channel 10 TV station, Mr Sharon described the pullout from Gaza and four isolated West Bank settlements, completed in August, as a "one-time" event. Israel's final borders will only be discussed as part of permanent peace negotiations under the terms of the US-backed "road map" plan, he said. "There is not another stage. There are no more stages of disengagement." Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas met with rival factions and Egyptian intelligence chief Omar Suleiman in Gaza today, and insisted that a shaky truce signed between Israel and the Palestinian Authority in February remains in place.

IVORY COAST

Abidjan, Aug 25 -- Ivory Coast's rebels said today they would not allow an October presidential election to be held in the north of the country which they control, dealing a major blow to peace hopes in the country. "Here, in our territory, the elections will not take place on October 30," Guillaume Soro, head of the rebel New Forces, said at the end of a meeting in the rebel stronghold of Bouake. The October polls are meant to help foster the reunification of the country, which has been cut in two since a civil war erupted in September 2002 after a failed coup against President Laurent Gbagbo. But the rebels say Gbagbo has skewed key legislation on citizenship and nationality to ensure his victory and exclude from the vote many of their supporters in the north. "The New Forces say that there cannot be transparent, secure and undisputed elections by October 30 because the conditions today are not in place," said rebel spokesman Sidiki Konate. A Gbagbo spokesman said the government had no immediate

comment and would wait for South African mediators to report to the United Nations, which has threatened to impose sanctions on any side regarded as hampering the peace process. Political tension has been rising in Ivory Coast after the former army chief, Mathias Doue, threatened last week to oust Gbagbo "by any means", saying the president's departure was the only way to end the three-year conflict. Some people in the main city Abidjan, which is under government control, have begun stocking up on food and supplies, fearing trouble. Few are willing to venture out at night as rumours of an imminent attack swirl around the city. General Philippe Mangou, who took over as head of the military after Doue was sacked in November, has dismissed his remarks but the rebels said Doue's comments showed that the army had turned against Gbagbo. The two sides are kept apart by a buffer zone manned by 10,000 French and United Nations peacekeepers, which splits the country roughly in half. -- Reuters.

LIBERIA

Monrovia, Aug 24 -- The new head of the UN Mission in Liberia, Alan Doss, said today that his immediate priority was ensuring that October's crunch elections pass off peacefully. Liberians head to the polls on Oct 11 to choose a new president and parliament in polls that are supposed to return the West African country to democracy after 14 years of civil war. "The most immediate priority is to ensure that elections are held in a free, fair and transparent manner in an atmosphere of peace and security," Doss, a career UN diplomat, told reporters. With so many former fighters among the 1.3 million people expected to vote, observers and diplomats say there is the potential for trouble when one candidate wins and the others lose. Just hours after the election campaign kicked off last week, there was scattered low-level violence as rival political supporters tore down posters and damaged several cars. The Liberian government had already banned public demonstrations not approved by authorities but tightened its restrictions in the wake of the trouble to include all forms of street campaign that had "the propensity to destroy the peace and security". Around 15,000 UN peacekeepers are deployed across the heavily-forested nation, and security concerns still loom large. "Despite the peace in this country and the fact that UN troops are deployed throughout the country, there are many challenges ahead," Doss said. "Security is the focus, because without security, there can not be recovery and development." In the longer term, Doss faces the difficult task of persuading Liberia's notoriously corrupt government officials to mend their ways while at the same time securing international aid to help rebuild the country after the civil war which ended in August 2003. International donors have

threatened to withhold funding for Liberia's reconstruction if politicians continue to squander cash designed to help the country's estimated three million population. Donors are currently trying to agree with the government on a plan to reduce corruption, known as the Governance and Economic Management Assistance Plan (GEMAP). "It is under discussion," Doss said. "The main concern is to strengthen the financial base of Liberia to take on the huge problems that await the incoming government". Doss has several years experience of conflict resolution in West Africa. Before taking up the UNMIL post last week, he was deputy head of UN mission in neighbouring Cote d'Ivoire and before that he held the same position in Sierra Leone. -- Reuters.

NEPAL

London, Aug 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Seven bus passengers were killed and at least four seriously injured when an explosive planted by Maoist insurgents on a highway in western Nepal blew up today. The killings on the Mahendra highway follow the death of five security personnel yesterday in a blast in Kapilavastu on the same highway, taking the toll to 11 deaths in 48 hours. The communist guerrillas have enforced an indefinite shutdown in Kapilavastu in western Nepal since the last three days. The blast occurred when some passengers of a bus, on its way to Dang from Kathmandu, alighted to clear barriers placed by rebels on the highway on the Surai Naka section. An improvised explosive device planted by guerrillas in the rubble, exploded, killing five people on the spot. Two other passengers died while being taken to hospital. The two blasts occurred even as King Gyanendra was in Kohalpur town in Dang district today. The king's unofficial tour of the midwestern region is aimed to assess the security situation. Earlier this week, two Maoist leaders issued a warning, saying they would oppose the monarch's visit to western and midwestern regions.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, Aug 28 -- Reported here Philippine flag ferry Dona Ramona (239.64 gt) was docked and about to depart to Zamboanga City from the Dangkalan Wharf in Lamitan, Basilan, when a home made bomb left and concealed in a pile of liquefied petroleum gas tanks onboard the vessel exploded about 0700 today. Thirty people were reported injured, three in serious condition. The blast ripped through the back section of the ferry, however, investigators are still assessing the damage the vessel sustained during the blast. Lamitan town Officials were not entirely discounting the possibility that terrorist Abu Sayyap group had a hand in the blast. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 28 -- Following received from Coast Guard Manila, timed 0705, UTC: Ferry Dona Ramona is 239.64 gt, 100.99 nt.

London, Aug 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 30 people, including several children, were wounded today in a ferry bomb blast in the southern Philippines that could be the work of al-Qaeda-linked militants, officials said. The explosion went off while passengers were boarding ferry Dona Ramona at the Basilan island port of Lamitan, which was built with American aid money and formally opened by US officials only days ago. The crudely-made bomb was hidden among liquefied petroleum gas tanks, and the explosion ripped through the back section of the ferry as it was about to leave for Zamboanga, across the Basilan strait, the military said. "This was a concealed explosive device that was left on piles of LPG tanks," said Basilan military chief Brigadier General Raymundo Ferrer. Those wounded, mainly suffering burns and cuts, included women and children as well as two soldiers guarding the area, the military said. Ferrer would not say whether the Abu Sayyaf Islamic militant group was suspected behind the attack, although other security officials said the blast bore the hallmark of the al-Qaeda-linked group. Nick Castro, an aide to Lamitan's mayor, said the explosion appeared to have been caused by a home-made bomb. The area was "in chaos" and a thick smell of gunpowder hung in the air, said provincial spokesman Cris Puno. The blast at Lamitan port, built using US aid money and opened by the American charge d'affaires Daryl Johnson just days ago, came after the Abu Sayyaf wounded 26 people in a bomb attack on Aug 26 in Zamboanga. Security forces have been on heightened alert for more bombings after three Abu Sayyaf suspects in the Zamboanga blast were freed on bail. The Abu Sayyaf, which security experts say once enjoyed support from Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network, is also known to operate in Lamitan, a mixed Muslim-Christian town. National police chief Arturo Lomibao was to fly to Basilan later in the day to personally lead the investigation, said police spokesman Chief Superintendent Leopoldo Bataoil in Manila.

Manila, Aug 28 -- An explosion ripped through ferry Dona Ramona this morning injuring at least 30 passengers and setting fire to the vessel. The vessel was docked at Lamitan port, Basilan island, taking on passengers bound for Zamboanga port. At around 0715, the ship was rocked by a powerful blast which destroyed the ship's canteen located at the lower deck. Fire quickly spread through the ship's passenger areas but was contained within an hour. Of the 30 injured, at least five passengers were in critical condition, however. Most of the injured suffered third

degree burns. The injured included children and two soldiers guarding the port, authorities said. Initially, the Philippine Coast Guard attributed the cause of the explosion to a defective liquefied petroleum gas tank. Philippine army officials, however, attributed the explosion to an improvised explosive device. Brigadier-General Raymundo Ferrer, the army commander in Basilan, said that, "the fumes and odour after the explosion was that of gunpowder". He said the explosive device was an incendiary type made up of ammonium nitrate used in making fertilizer and black gunpowder. Quoting army investigators, he said that the home-made bomb, which was hidden inside a shoe box, had been placed alongside rows of tanks of liquefied petroleum gas in the ferry's pantry. Ferrer said that no group had yet assumed responsibility for the attack. The vice-mayor of Basilan, however, said that the explosion was the handiwork of Abu Sayyaf terrorists, who could have entered the Lamitan port disguised as fishermen. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SOMALIA

Nairobi, Aug 24 -- Senior religious leaders in Somalia have called on the country's interim government to either end the divisions that have paralysed the administration or resign, a spokesman said today. "It is almost a year since they have been elected and up to now they have not accomplished one thing," Shaykh Nur Barud, deputy chairman and spokesman of the Ulama Council of Somalia, told IRIN. "They are all busy attacking each other over the media." Barud said the country needed leadership to "pull it out of the mess" it was in. The Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) have been divided over the location of the government within Somalia following its recent relocation from Nairobi, Kenya. President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed, Prime Minister Ali Muhammad Gedi and their supporters in the TFIs relocated in June from Nairobi to the town of Jowhar, 90 km north of the capital, Mogadishu. They maintain that Mogadishu must be secured before they can transfer the government there. About 100 members of the 275-strong Transitional Federal Parliament - led by Speaker Sharif Hassan Shaykh Aden - are currently in Mogadishu attempting to restore stability to the war-scarred city. A section of the government, including several prominent faction leaders, strongly disagreed with the decision to install the administration in Jowhar. The proposed deployment of peacekeepers, particularly from Somalia's neighbours, has also deeply divided the new government. There have been numerous attempts by the international community and the UN to mediate an end to the divisions. Earlier this month, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to Somalia, Franois LonsEny Fall, presented an "agenda

for dialogue" to Somali leaders, aimed at helping them overcome the current differences and find a way forward. "We are ready to mediate between the two groups," Barud said. He said the council had already talked to the Mogadishu-based group and "been encouraged by the discussions so far". "We want to send emissaries to Jowhar once the president and the prime minister are back," he added. Both Yusuf and Gedi are currently out of Somalia. Barud warned, however, that Somali efforts alone would not solve the problem, and called on the international community to "put pressure" on both sides to end "this petty politicking". He added: "The People have suffered enough. They need a unified and effective government. If this group [TFIs] cannot provide it, then they should step aside and let others who can lead and deliver step in." -- Reuters.

SRI LANKA

Colombo, Aug 29 -- A Sri Lankan security guard was killed today in a grenade attack on the offices of a Tamil language newspaper, in the north of the capital, Colombo, with close ties to Tamil Tiger rebels, officials said, but it was unclear who was to blame. Three other people were injured by shrapnel. "The grenade attack was directed at the offices of Sudar Oli," military spokesman Daya Ratnayake said. A member of the paper's editorial board said he saw a man in his 60s throw two grenades at the office before running away. -- Reuters.

Labour Disputes



CANADA

London, Aug 26 -- A press report, dated Aug 25, states: A backlog of thousands of containers at local ports (in the Washington area) is continuing to plague the region's merchants despite an end to a strike by truckers. "It's much slower than we had anticipated and hoped," said Kevin Evans, the western vice-president of the Retail Council of Canada. He said truck operators have been refusing to work extra hours to clear up the backlog at the port and truckers who have made reservations at terminals to load have been failing to show up in higher than usual numbers. The five week-long strike ended at the beginning of August, but port officials have been pushing back initially optimistic forecasts of when the container backlog would be clear. Evans said large retail chains have been able to get their containers out, but others are less fortunate. He said some retailers are abandoning containers and their contents at the ports rather than pay for offloading them along with penalties for their storage during the strike and its

aftermath. "The window of opportunity has passed in terms of the sale season - be it back to school or for fall fashions," he said. Port of Vancouver spokesman Duncan Wilson said there are 7,000 containers still piled up on Lower Mainland docks, plus another 1,500 that were diverted to Seattle or Tacoma awaiting shipment to Vancouver. He estimated it will take another three weeks to clear the backlog, but added it could be eliminated in "days" if truckers were willing to work extended hours and weekends. Vancouver Container Truck Association (VCTA) spokesman Paul Uppal said it's not possible for many truckers to work more hours than they already are.

QATAR

London, Aug 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: About 600 foreign construction workers have gone on strike in Qatar's first official labour dispute since the Gulf state amended its labour law last year. The labourers -- mainly from India, Pakistan and Nepal -- stopped working four days ago in protest at their salary and living conditions, embassy and company officials said today. In 2004, Qatar became the third country in the region behind Kuwait and Bahrain, to allow workers the right to strike and form trade unions. "We've been asked to intervene and help mediate," one embassy official said, declining to be identified. Four private Qatari companies and one United Arab Emirates-based firm are involved in the dispute. An official from Al-Ajjaj Engineering Company, one of the firms involved in the strike, said he expected the issue to be resolved this week.

REUNION

London, Aug 31 -- Bulk Omiros sailed Reunion Aug 29 and c.c. Cerrina sailed Aug 27.

RUSSIA

St. Petersburg, Aug 30 -- The scheduled open-ended strike in St. Petersburg sea port begins today. Each shift of dockers will stop working for one-one and a half hours. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTH KOREA

London, Aug 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hyundai Motor Co. assembly lines shut down today for a second day as workers carried out a partial strike aimed at winning higher wages. The union at Hyundai affiliate Kia Motors Corp. also voted to go on strike. Dayshift workers at Hyundai, South Korea's largest automaker, walked off the job for six hours at the company's three domestic factories. A similar stoppage was planned for the night shift, the company and labour union said. Hyundai workers want more pay, better working conditions and more say in management decisions. About 70 percent of Hyundai's 42,521-strong union voted late Tuesday (Aug 23) in favour of the strike. The union has

gone on strike every year but one since it was established in 1987. "We're continuing talks with management," said union official Kim Bong-yoon, adding that progress was being made "little by little," a view echoed by the company. Separately, unionized workers at Kia, the country's second-largest automaker, voted to strike for higher wages and incentive payments. About 75 percent of Kia's 27,141-member union approved plans for a walkout, the union and company said. In June, Hyundai's union demanded an 8.48 percent increase in basic wages, incentive payments equivalent to 30 percent of net income and shorter working hours. "It's too much money for the labor union to ask for," said Hyundai spokesman Jake Jang, who added negotiations will continue. "Hopefully we'll reach an agreement before Korean Thanksgiving" in mid-September, he said. Jang said the strike's first day, when workers laid down their tools for a total of four hours over two shifts, cost the company 2,165 vehicles in lost production worth 31.4 billion won (US\$30.5 million). Those figures will rise to 15,576 vehicles and 223.8 billion won (US\$217.5 million) if the strike lasts through until Tuesday (Aug 30), he said. No walkout is planned for the weekend. Hyundai has about 10 days of domestic inventory, or about 21,500 vehicles, company spokesman William Park said. Hyundai usually has about two weeks, or 35,000 vehicles, but the number has fallen because of recent solid sales. The union, fearing job losses, has also asked management to consult with it about the carmaker's overseas operations, including expansions in output and moving production lines overseas. Hyundai has four overseas plants - in Turkey, India, China and the United States. The U.S. plant, located in Montgomery, Alabama, began production in May. Kia's union had yet to announce a strike schedule, but it was widely expected to follow the pattern set by Hyundai's union.

London, Aug 30 -- A press report, dated Aug 29, states: Workers at South Korean carmaker Kia Motors have downed tools, joining colleagues at Hyundai who are already on strike over pay and bonuses. Workers at Kia, which is 39% owned by Hyundai, voted to implement two stoppages during today's working time. Staff at Hyundai walked off the job for a third day on today, and more stoppages are planned for this week. Workers want better pay and improved conditions, as well as assurances about job security and future redundancies. Almost three-quarters of Kia's 27,000 union members voted in favour of the strike. The companies played down the impact of the strike action, with Kia spokesman Michael Choo saying that it was "business as usual. We don't see a major impact" on long-term production. Kia said the planned stoppages would knock output by 10,569 vehicles, costing

more than 100bn won (£54m; \$97m). Unions are seeking an 8% rise in basic pay, shorter working hours and more say for staff in managerial decisions. Hyundai has said it cannot accept workers' demands because record oil prices had pushed up its costs at a time when foreign sales have been falling. Analysts have warned that poor labour relations may hinder Hyundai's plans to become one of the world's five largest carmakers.

UNITED STATES

London, Aug 26 -- A press report, dated Aug 25, states: Northwest Airlines Corp. will hand some of its aircraft cleaning work to ground workers, the workers' union said today, returning jobs that were lost to the mechanics in 1998. With aircraft cleaners joining mechanics on strike, Northwest has followed through on its strike plan to give baggage handlers in Minneapolis and Detroit so-called "turn cleaning"-- the quick cleaning done between flights. Those ground workers already perform that work at other locations, said Bobby De Pace, president of District 143 of the International Association of Machinists. His union represents Northwest baggage handlers, ticket agents and other ground workers. That union used to represent mechanics and airplane cleaners, too, before those workers bolted for their current union in 1998. The IAM also took over the task of pushing aircraft back from the gate, which used to be the mechanics' job before they struck. The IAM is also pushing to get back the more extensive overnight cleaning. Northwest spokesman Kurt Ebenhoch said he had no comment on the cleaning issue. AMFA Assistant National Director Steve MacFarlane said the IAM shouldn't get too attached to those cleaning jobs. "Those used to be AMFA jobs, and of course now they want to make them IAM jobs. And six months from now they belong to non-union replacement workers just like they're doing to mechanics and the flight attendants," MacFarlane predicted. "It's naive to think they can make a deal with Northwest Airlines." About 4,400 Northwest mechanics and cleaners entered the sixth day of their strike today, and no new talks were scheduled. Eagan-based Northwest said its operations were normal on today. Ebenhoch said the airline is prepared to operate "indefinitely" with its new maintenance system. Also today, lawyers for Northwest flight attendants said the airline has agreed to pay \$64.7 million to settle a dispute over its failure to buy back stock granted to flight attendants for concessions in 1993. The agreement obligated Northwest to buy the shares back in November 2003, but it said legal restrictions under Delaware law, where it is incorporated, prevented it from doing so. But a judge ruled in March that Northwest had to buy the shares. The settlement averts a trial that had been set to begin next month to

determine how much Northwest would have to pay. Northwest spokesman Bill Mellon said the company had no comment on the stock repurchase.

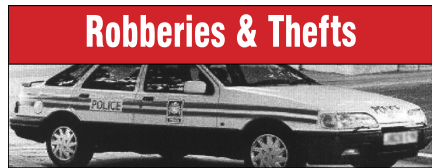


DEFAMATION, UNITED STATES

New York, Aug 24 -- Anheuser-Busch Cos Inc. said today it agreed to pay \$120 million to settle a defamation lawsuit brought by the family of former Major League Baseball star Roger Maris. The brewer said in a filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission that it would take a pretax charge of \$105 million in the third quarter. The Maris family, which operates Maris Distributing Co., and Anheuser-Busch brewer announced they settled the suit yesterday, but did not disclose terms at the time. -- Reuters.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 25 -- A press report, dated Aug 24, states: The State of California will pay 10 million dollars to relatives of a mother and her three children who were killed two years ago and whose deaths could have been prevented if a guardrail had been extended. Marisol Morales and her three young children were killed in February 2003 when their pickup truck lost control on Pearblossom Highway in the Antelope Valley. The truck smashed through a barbed-wire fence and swerved into a swift-flowing channel. The state will pay part of the settlement in the wrongful death case to Morales' husband and surviving relatives. About 7.5 million dollars will cover extensive medical cost for Morales' niece who survived the crash and is now a quadriplegic. The settlement also calls for the state to repair the section of the California Aqueduct bridge near Palmdale.



DIAMONDS, CHINA

London, Aug 30 -- A press report, dated Aug 30, states: Israeli Police have arrested a Netanya resident, Pinny Hen, who is suspected of stealing \$1.7 million worth of diamonds from the Pilchnik company in China. Company representatives in Israel filed a complaint against Hen with the police. Hen fled from China to South America where he was arrested and extradited to Israel. The stolen diamonds have yet to be located.



SRV.SSA-KEYLOGGER

London, Aug 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: An ID theft ring that has hit thousands of people is proving hard to shut down. Discovered by US security firm Sunbelt Software, the scam used keyloggers to steal data stored by Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser. Variants of the original bug are popping up and sending data to other servers and are continuing to harvest data from unwitting victims' machines. Tools are now appearing to help people find out if they are infected and to remove the sophisticated bug. Sunbelt came across the server at the centre of the ID theft ring by accident while investigating the ways that spyware can infect Windows PCs. A search of the server revealed log files containing megabytes of data stolen from PC users by a variant of a well-known virus. Sunbelt estimates that up to 30,000 people were caught out by the keylogging bug since it appeared in late July. Initially Sunbelt contacted those it found named in the files but the sheer number of people caught out has made it impossible to keep up. Instead, it is telling Ebay, Paypal and banks about the accounts that have been compromised. Sunbelt contacted the FBI and soon after, the server at the centre of the ID theft ring was shut down, only to return to life shortly after. Now as this central server is shut down again, others are taking over to collect data sent to them by variants of the original keylogger. The FBI has also reportedly started an investigation into who is behind these servers. Sunbelt has given the malicious program the name Srv.SSA-KeyLogger and has produced a free tool that scans computers to see if they are infected. Users can check for themselves by searching for a file called windra.exe. Publicity around the keylogger has led many anti-virus and security companies to add the bug to the list of malicious programs their software catches.



BREAKDOWN OF WATER SUPPLY TO VESSELS AT CHITTAGONG OUTER ANCHORAGE

London, Aug 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: All the vessels, anchored at the outer-anchorage of the Chittagong port, are facing acute crisis of both fresh and potable water supply in the last one week due to a total breakdown water supply by the port

authority to the ships. Port sources said that all the three water barges of the Chittagong Port Authority have been inoperative for the last one week, leaving the vessels at the port high and dry. The masters of the vessels are planning to leave the port under the duress of water famine caused by the disruption. They have demanded that water supply be restored with immediate effect. The ships' masters have notified the CPA in writing about the crisis and the decision to leave the anchorage without unloading the cargo, short of an immediate restoration of water-supply. Presently, 12 vessels are anchored at the outer anchorage while 20 others at the port jetties loading and unloading the goods. One of the masters said that each ship needed six tonnes to 15 tonnes pure water daily to keep the engine and generator operative in addition to consumption needs of the masters and the members of the crew; but the authority could not supply a single drop of water in the last seven days. "It's very tough for us to stay here without water and now we are thinking to leave the port if the situation remained unchanged," one of the masters said. CPA sources said two of the three barges, Jharna and Foara, having the capacity of 800 tonnes water went out of commission early last week due to mechanical fault while the other standby barge, Moshak, was undergoing repair for the last one month. In the absence of the barges, the authority failed to meet the demands through other any alternative means which prompted the vessels' masters to threaten to leave the port, sources said. Though the CPA claimed that they were trying to supply some volume of water, though not adequate, to the vessels at the outer anchorage by inland tankers, the vessels' masters said denied having received any such supplies. The CPA admitted of water crisis but said they didn't receive any warning from the ship masters of leaving the port. Member (Operation) of the CPA, Captain Quamrul Hasan said he had received two letters from the masters of two ships requesting the authority to restore the water supply soon. "The repairing works of water barge is almost complete, and restoration of water supply will take couple of more days," the CPA member said yesterday evening. He also said the authority continued the water supply to the ships anchored at the port jetties through pipelines so that they also do not suffer from water crisis. He said the supply through pipe line was sometime hampered as the WASA failed to supply water timely. But the member straightway said no ship threatened leave the port following the water crisis.

FLOODING IN COAL MINE, XINGNING, CHINA

Beijing, Aug 29 -- Chinese rescuers today gave up the search for 120 miners trapped for weeks in a flooded coal pit, putting the official death toll

from the accident at 123, Xinhua news agency said. Only three bodies had been recovered since the Daxing colliery in Xingning, southern Guangdong province, flooded on Aug 7, Xinhua said. Earlier on Friday (Aug 26), rescuers had to suspend the search when a section of the Daxing mine collapsed. "Experts attributed the mine cave-in chiefly to the long time it had been filled with water, adding that it may endanger the safety of rescuers," Xinhua said. At the time of the accident, the mine was operating without a licence and in violation of local government orders to shut down for inspections. State media previously said that investigators were looking into whether any government officials held stakes in the Daxing mine, a practice that is illegal but not uncommon in China.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

Moscow, Aug 25 -- Russia is stepping up measures to contain the spread of the deadly bird flu virus amid signs the outbreak is stabilising, Russia's chief epidemiologist said today, but Kazakhstan said it was probing possible new cases. "Deaths of wild fowl continue to occur, although less intensively," Gennady Onishchenko, head of Russia's state consumer rights watchdog and top epidemiologist, said. "In Russia, we intend to keep the current situation within the existing framework, and will try to reduce the affected area through culling all domestic birds until wild fowl leave the country." He said birds would start migrating from Russia from the second half of September. The H5N1 strain, which is potentially dangerous to humans, has been officially registered in six Russian regions in Siberia and the Urals, causing the deaths of nearly 14,000 wild and domestic fowl. Onishchenko said epidemiologists were still trying to establish whether deaths of wild fowl in a seventh region, the Caspian republic of Kalmykia, were caused by bird flu. He played down a report that bird flu had been found in a wild duck shot in yet another region, saying that practically all wild ducks might carry some strain of the virus but that it may not necessarily be the strain dangerous to humans. Bird flu has also spread to neighbouring Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan's Agriculture Ministry said today it was treating the deaths of around a dozen wildfowl in the south of the country as suspicious and was testing the animals. Seven villages in the north of the sprawling Central Asian state have been quarantined after an outbreak of H5N1. A spokesman said the dead birds, ducks and gulls, had been found in the Almaty Region near Lake Alakol on the Chinese border, 380 km north-east of the biggest city Almaty. "Our specialists have taken materials and sent them to the laboratory," he said. Russia has culled some 130,000 domestic birds since Jul 21, when the first reports of the flu appeared. Onishchenko said a quarantine had

been lifted from nine out of 91 affected localities, in which all domestic birds had been destroyed and no new deaths of wild fowl had been registered. He said the quarantine would be lifted in more areas next week. No cases of human infection have been registered so far, but the country had to be prepared for the possibility, Onishchenko said. H5N1 has killed at least 50 people in Asia since 2003. Onishchenko said health authorities would supply equipment for detecting the H5N1 virus in humans to medical laboratories throughout the country. The authorities also plan to vaccinate more people this year to protect against annual outbreaks of human influenza that sweep Russia in winter. "We normally vaccinate some 20 million people. I hope this year we will have more due to bird flu fears," Onishchenko said. -- Reuters.

London, Aug 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Chickens at a farm in Ogawa, Ibaraki Prefecture, have tested positive for an antibody which indicates they were infected with a bird flu virus of the H5 strain in the past, the farm ministry and prefectural government said yesterday. Yesterday's finding comes after the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry said on Monday (Aug 22) that another farm in the prefecture, north-east of Tokyo, has been infected with the virus of the H5 variety.



APARTMENT BLOCK, PARIS, FRANCE

Paris, Aug 26 -- A fire tore through a six-storey Paris apartment block housing African immigrants today, killing 17 people -- about half of them children, French officials said. They said the blaze broke out in the stairwell of the traditional Parisian apartment building just after midnight when most residents would have been sleeping. It was brought under control two hours later but the cause was not immediately known. About 30 people were injured in the blaze in southern Paris. A number of men and women, some carrying children in their arms, were also evacuated. Police said some 30 adults and 100 children had lived in the apartment block, many of them from African countries such as Mali. Most of the casualties were immigrants. Smoke could still be seen billowing out of windows of the apartment block hours after the blaze was brought under control. Police cordoned off the area, near the river Seine and the Jardin des Plantes botanical garden. More than 200 firefighters and dozens of ambulance workers and police were at the scene. -- Reuters.

**CHEMICALS FACTORY,
NARANGBA, QUEENSLAND,
AUSTRALIA**

London, Aug 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: A day-long clean-up is continuing in the aftermath of a fire at the Binary Chemicals factory, north of Brisbane. The blaze, which is under investigation, broke out at the Binary Chemicals Factory about 2230 hrs, yesterday, sending fireballs and smoke high into the night sky. More than 70 firemen and 24 appliances fought the huge blaze throughout the night before finally bringing it under control this morning. Fire Services spokesman Kev Devitt described the fire as a "fairly big job" and very dangerous with so many chemical drums exploding in and around the factory. Mr Devitt estimated the damage bill could run to about Aus\$5 million (US\$3.79 million). The factory's co-owner Terry Armstrong does not believe the fire was suspicious although he is surprised that it started in a production area. Mr Armstrong says he was worried about the toxicity of fumes but fire authorities did an excellent job in preventing any problems.

**COAL MINE, RENHUI,
GUIZHOU PROVINCE, CHINA**

London, Aug 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 15 miners were killed when a gas explosion ripped through a coal mine in Renhui city in China's Guizhou Province, the local government said today. The accident took place at Zhulinwan Coal Mine, a newly built coal producing base yesterday when 21 miners were working beneath the shaft. Only two miners managed to escape the accident, Xinhua news agency quoted officials from Guizhou Provincial Bureau of Coal Mine Safety as saying. Rescue workers today successfully rescued four miners and found remains of six others killed in the accident. The local police was searching for the owner of the Zhulinwan Coal Mine, who has disappeared after the accident. Rescue operations were still going, the report said, adding that the cause of the accident is under investigation.

**INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, LEYTON,
LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Aug 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: A group of artists and collectors including Damien Hirst and Dave Stewart is to sue a storage company for negligence over a fire at its premises that destroyed many of Britain's most famous contemporary art pieces. The 30 claimants, seeking up to £15 million, also include the artist Gillian Ayres, the daughters of the late Patrick Heron, the collector Shirley Conran and the Royal Academy. The fire swept through Momart's storage facility in London in May 2004, destroying over 100 works, worth an estimated £60 million. These included the "Britart" works produced by the Young British Artist movement, including Hirst's Charity, Tracey Emin's Everyone I Have Ever Slept

With 1963-1995, and Hell by Jake and Dinos Chapman. Jonathan Wood, of Clyde & Co, the firm of lawyers coordinating the claim, described the fire as a "disaster waiting to happen". The case against Momart will argue that its premises were "wholly unsuitable as a storage location for high-value fine art", according to a statement from Clyde & Co. "The premises were located among other units where there was a high risk of fire; the building itself was not constructed so as to prevent the rapid spread of fire... coupled with this was the inadequate security and fire detection provisions." Momart denies negligence over the fire. A statement from its board said: "The fire was a tragedy for those of Momart's customers who were affected, and for Momart. However, it must be borne in mind that it was caused by arson in an adjacent warehouse. Given that High Court proceedings have been commenced, it would not be appropriate for us to comment on the legal issues, but it should suffice to say that all claims against Momart will be defended vigorously." Robert Read, the fine-art director at Hiscox, one of the insurance companies represented in the lawsuit, said the action was standard practice for an insurance firm seeking to mitigate its losses. The destruction of the Britart pieces attracted most of the headlines, although it subsequently emerged that many works from an earlier period were also destroyed. Eighteen paintings by Gillian Ayres were lost, as well as about 50 paintings by Patrick Heron. The case is expected to be heard next year.

**REFINERY, SAN FRANCISCO
AREA, CALIFORNIA,
UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 26 -- A press report, dated Aug 25, states: Tesoro Petroleum Corp. cut gasoline production today at its 168,000-barrel per day Golden Eagle refinery near San Francisco following a fire that shut its fluid catalytic cracking unit yesterday. The cutback could add further pressure to the tight West Coast gasoline market, where retail prices are among the highest in the nation. "The unit is not operating," said Jon Ballesteros, a refinery spokesman. "We're investigating what's going to be needed to bring it back online." The refinery has diverted gasoline production to other units, but Ballesteros would not say how many barrels-per-day have been taken out of production as result of the fire. The 70,000 barrel-per-day unit is used to convert crude oil into other products, such as gasoline and other distillates. "We're figuring out how to make as much gasoline as possible," said Ballesteros, adding that the reason for the fire is still under investigation.

**STEEL MILL, WESTERN PORT,
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA**

London, Aug 30 -- A press report, dated Aug 31, states: A major fire nine days ago at BlueScope Steel's Western

Port rolling mill has stopped basic steel-rolling operations and could threaten the Victorian and South Australian manufacturing sector with steel shortages. The hot-strip mill at Western Port has not operated since the fire on Aug 22, the day before the company reported its booming full-year profit of \$1.01 billion. Directors made no mention of the fire at the time of the profit announcement, but said yesterday they believed it could be 12 weeks before normal operations are resumed. The company has cancelled a scheduled 34-day maintenance shutdown at its Wollongong rolling mills in a bid to maintain supply to its customers. The hot-strip mill is a crucial part of BlueScope's operations. It processes 40 per cent of the company's Australian steel output, and is the main supplier of hot-rolled coil to manufacturers, including the car industry, in Victoria and South Australia. The hot-strip mill processes 1.5 million tonnes of slab a year into feedstock for the rest of the Western Port plant, which paints or coats the steel to make Galvabond, Colorbond and other BlueScope products. The fire was confined to the electrical control room of the hot-strip mill, but extensive damage was done. "It's going to cost tens of millions of dollars to fix, and that's not including the cost of bringing in alternative supplies," one industry source said. BlueScope directors said the company was still assessing the financial impact of the fire and lost production. BlueScope had some rolled steel in inventory, spokeswoman Sandi Harwood said. "We think we should be able to minimise major disruptions to our customers," she said. BlueScope has been at full stretch in the past two years trying to meet local demand, while also capitalising on soaring world steel prices. "Alternative sourcing arrangements for product to feed the Western Port operations are being finalised, with most of this being provided by other BlueScope Steel facilities," directors said in a statement. "The company is developing detailed plans to mitigate the cost of repairing the hot-strip mill and minimising the impact on its customers." It is not clear whether the rolling mills at Port Kembla will have sufficient spare capacity to supply the Western Port mill or whether the company will have to try to source hot-rolled coil on the world market. OneSteel had to endure a similar problem late last year when its reconstructed blast furnace in Whyalla malfunctioned. OneSteel had to buy steel on the world market and ship it to Australia to distribute to customers, incurring heavy extra costs in the process. Investors appeared not to be concerned about the mill fire.

**TEXTILE PLANT, DHAKA,
BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Aug 27 -- A huge fire broke out in a Taiwanese-owned export oriented unit, Kung King Textile (BD) Company Ltd, at Dhaka Export

Processing Zone (DEPZ) at Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh, early yesterday, according to Dhaka Fire Brigade sources. Due to fire, about 50 workers were injured and almost every thing in the factory was burnt to ashes, causing a huge loss to owner. The fire started from the plant's dyeing section at around 0245 hrs, and engulfed the whole plant before it could be extinguished. However, fire fighters, after three hours, managed to bring the inferno under control. A total of 80 firemen from 12 units including the DEPZ, Savar, Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Tongi, Gazipur and the FBCV Dhaka Headquarters were engaged in the fight. The dyeing, administration, twister, store, spare parts room and part of the spinning section of the factory were completely burnt down. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent

WAREHOUSE, GLASGOW, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Investigations are under way after fire swept through an antiques warehouse at Yorkhill Quay in Glasgow. More than 50 firefighters fought to control the blaze, which broke out in a long, single storey building next to the Tall Ship. Nobody was injured in the outbreak, which started just before midnight yesterday. The Clyde Expressway, which was shut, later reopened. Inquiries will centre on whether the blaze was started deliberately. Police and fire investigators have been searching for clues in the wreckage of the warehouse, which was packed with furniture and carpets. Heavy smoke and flying debris forced the closure of the nearby rail link between Airdrie and Helensburgh for several hours. Firefighters, using turntable ladders, had to battle to prevent the flames preading to the historic Tall Ship and neighbouring buildings. The three-masted ship, the Glenlee, is more than 100 years old and was used as a cargo vessel. Assistant Divisional Officer Billy Sim said: "Part of our problem was we had to make sure the fire didn't spread. The firefighters did an excellent job in doing that. We stopped it, the ship has not even been affected by the heat." He added: "We had antiques, we had furniture, we had other stuff stored in there. Because of the build-up of heat, it was a very difficult fire to fight. The ferocity of the fire resulted in major structural collapse of the building, causing a wall to topple onto an articulated lorry which was overturned by the force." A small Victorian pleasure boat awaiting restoration by the Clyde Maritime Trust was destroyed.

WAREHOUSE, MALMO AREA, SWEDEN

Gothenburg, Aug 25 -- A fire started shortly after 1100 hrs, today in a warehouse at Akzo Nobel outside Malmo, and around 50 men participated in fighting the fire. A number of persons were inside the warehouse when the fire started, but by the time the fire brigade attended

they were all out of the building, and no injuries were reported. At a press conference, it was stated that a large tank inside the production plant had broken down and collapsed - "but the security arrangement and retaining dike all around collapsed" and an, at present unknown substance, poured down into a stream nearby. It is currently unknown why this arrangement collapsed. Large amounts of various chemicals are stored around and inside the factory, as well as various detergents and cellulose nitrate. It was decided to close off the entire area and evacuate all persons nearby. From time to time small explosions were heard from inside the plant. The fire brigade continues to fight the fire. -- Westax Marine AB.

Gothenburg, Aug 25 -- The Azko Nobel warehouse fire is reported to be under control, but smaller fires are burning inside the production plant. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

WILDFIRES, RUSSIA

London, Aug 29 -- A pressreport, dated Aug 27, states: The area affected by forest fires in the Irkutsk region has doubled over the past 24 hours. Forest fires have spread further in the Ust-Ilimsk and Ust-Kut districts in the north of the region, where weather has been dry and hot for several days. The taiga is ablaze in six places there. The total area under fire is about 70 hectares. Forest rangers report fires near settlements whose residents fail to extinguish bonfires they make for rest while gathering mushrooms and berries.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters ordered the evacuation of a small Northern Californian community as a 2,300 acre wildfire approached the outskirts of Manton. The fire started Friday afternoon (Aug 26) near the Tehama County town located north-east of Red Bluff. The flames have already destroyed at least 30 buildings. Everyone who lives in Manton is now staying with friends, relatives, or at shelters set up in the region. High winds helped to spread the flames. The fire destroyed cars, houses, and mobile homes. As of this morning, the fire was 30% contained. Forecasters are hoping diminishing winds will help firefighting efforts. Three people were hurt yesterday trying to prevent the fire from consuming the small town of Viola. Firefighters won that battle.

London, Aug 29 -- A press report, dated Aug 28, states: Erratic wind and high temperatures stoked a 2,300-acre wildfire today, leading to the voluntary evacuation of about 100 homes, officials said. The fire was 5% contained, said Kathy Ungemach, spokeswoman for the San Bernardino National Forest. No structures or homes were destroyed by flames and there were no injuries reported, she said. The fire was started late Friday (Aug 26) in Blaisdell Canyon west of Palm Springs by hikers trying to light

a campfire, officials said. The voluntary evacuation was ordered early yesterday by Riverside County sheriff's deputies. Later yesterday, the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway was ordered closed for the first time in at least 15 years, said Tim Jones, lead supervisor for the tramway. The tram transports passengers to two vantage points in the San Jacinto Mountains up to 8,000 feet above the high desert of the Coachella Valley. In Northern California, firefighters were able to stop the expansion of a 2,300-acre wildfire that destroyed 30 buildings, injured three firefighters and forced residents of Manton to evacuate, an official said. Elmer Benson, spokesman for the state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, said the fire, which began Friday, was 30% contained and he expected it to be fully contained by tomorrow morning. The cause of the blaze remained unknown. Fire officials said it was man-made but have ruled out arson. In Utah, a 1,500-acre fire forced the temporary evacuation of 100 residents about 150 miles east of Salt Lake City. In rural south-western Oregon, officials said a 1,600-acre fire near Selma was about 40% contained. It destroyed five homes after threatening more than 100.

London, Aug 30 -- A press report, dated Aug 29, states: Most of the residents who fled a 5,000-acre wildfire stoked by triple-digit heat and erratic winds had returned to their homes, authorities said. No homes had been destroyed and there were no injuries reported, but the blaze was only 10% contained today. The fire broke out Friday (Aug 26) west of Palm Springs after hikers tried to start a campfire, and spread across rugged foothills and desert flats, Wenstrom said. Sheriff's deputies yesterday ordered voluntary evacuations of about 100 mobile homes off Highway 111. The evacuation was lifted this afternoon. About 800 personnel worked to cut lines around the blaze with the help of water-dropping air tankers and helicopters, but temperatures of more than 110 degrees and fickle gusts slowed their progress. Residents in the Northern California town of Manton began returning to their homes today after a blaze there injured three people and destroyed 30 structures, including two dozen homes. The fire was expected to be fully contained tomorrow. Fifteen major wildfires were burning in the West today and had charred more than 114,000 acres, according to National Interagency Fire Center.



5B-DBY

Limassol, Aug 31 -- It has been reported in the local press today that

about Cyprus Pounds 3.8 million (US\$8.1 million) in Life Insurance and Personal Accident policies, is due to be paid to relatives of holders who died in the Aug 14 crash. -- Lloyd's Agents.

C-FYIX

London, Aug 30 -- A press report, dated Aug 29, states: A small plane that vanished a week ago on a flight from Calgary to Delta, B.C., was found today, but there were no survivors. The Cessna 180 was located within two kilometres of its last known position, near the top of a ridge on Mount Burns, about 50 kilometres south-west of Calgary, search and rescue officials said. The pilot, Peter Fransbow of Vancouver, and his passenger, Phil Black of White Rock, did not survive. Capt. Hans Kleeman said the area where the plane went down had been searched on several occasions but the wreckage was not spotted because of difficult search conditions. He said the Cessna was found by a Griffon Helicopter from 408 Squadron in Edmonton. The plane disappeared one week ago after taking off from Calgary's Springbank airport heading for Boundary Bay airport in Delta.

London, Aug 30 -- Privately-owned Cessna 180H, C-FYIX, departed Springbank on a VFR flight to Boundary Bay, B.C., on the morning of Aug 22, with a pilot and one passenger on board. The aircraft was last seen on radar approximately 34 miles south-west of Springbank at 8900 feet ASL. The aircraft did not arrive in Boundary Bay and there was no further contact with the flight or occupants. Search and Rescue personnel found the wreckage of the aircraft on the afternoon of Aug 29 at the 9000-foot elevation level on the east slope of Mount Burns, near the Kananaskis area of Alberta. The wreckage was widely scattered and there had been a severe post-impact fire. Both occupants had sustained fatal injuries. Two Western Region investigators have been dispatched to the accident site.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF CATALINA ISLAND, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 1 -- A press report, dated Aug 31, states: A small plane has crashed off Catalina Island, killing the pilot. A passenger is hospitalized in stable condition. The F-A-A says the single-wing Robin Sport aircraft went down at around 1400 hrs, today, about three miles north of Isthmus Cove. The Coast Guard says the surviving passenger was rescued by a pleasure boat in the area about an hour after the crash. The man told his rescuers he was flying from Long Beach to Catalina when the plane experienced engine trouble and he and the pilot were forced to eject. Los Angeles County fire Captain Kevin Marble says the pilot later was found lying face-down in the water and was pronounced dead at the scene.

CRASH, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA See ZS-PCJ.

CRASH, PETTIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: A pilot died yesterday evening when his single-engine, two-seater plane crashed into a cornfield in eastern Pettis County. No one else was aboard the plane, and nobody on the ground was injured. The incident was reported to the Pettis County Sheriff's Office at 1923 hrs. The man's body remained in the plane late into the night, as investigators waited for permission from the Federal Aviation Administration to remove it. Officials aren't sure how the accident happened. Friends said the man frequently flies the plane, taking off from and landing on his property, Pettis County Coroner Skip Smith said. "He told some friends he was going to take the plane up and fly around the field a couple of times," Mr. Smith said. "Shortly after he took off it crashed."

CRASH, SIMPLON MOUNTAIN PASS, SWITZERLAND

See OK-HOS.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BELFAST, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: A plane carrying 71 passengers has made an emergency landing at Belfast City Airport after developing engine trouble. The Flybe flight had taken off from the airport this morning en route to Liverpool, but turned back after 15 minutes when it began experiencing technical problems. A full emergency plan was put in place as a precaution, but the aircraft landed safely just before 0930 hrs. The passengers were later transferred to another flight.

EMERGENCY LANDING, GARDNER MUNICIPAL AIRPORT, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 30 -- A press report, dated Aug 29, states: The pilot of a small aircraft was forced to make an emergency landing in a field near the Gardner Municipal Airport this morning. Emergency crews were called at about 0845 hrs. The pilot said that he had to land the aircraft after he lost power. He was not hurt.

EMERGENCY LANDING, HARTSFIELD-JACKSON ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 1 -- A press report, dated Aug 31, states: An emergency landing by Delta Air Lines flight at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is under investigation. Delta said an engine caught fire in one of their aircraft right after takeoff just after 2100 yesterday. The aircraft had to immediately return for an emergency landing. The flight landed safely. No injuries were reported. Delta says they will not release any other information on the flight until sometime today.

EMERGENCY LANDING, NEW ULM, MINNESOTA AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 1 -- A press report, dated Aug 31, states: A Minnesota Department of Natural Resources pilot made an emergency landing near the New Ulm, Minn. Airport this morning. After a routine takeoff around 0945 hrs from the New Ulm Airport, the pilot, Lt. Tom Buker, lost engine power. Buker attempted an emergency landing in a nearby soybean field, the DNR said. Both Buker and a passenger were not injured. The aircraft sustained substantial damage, the DNR said.

HL7405

London, Aug 25 -- Korean Airlines KAL257, Boeing 747-300, HL7405, freighter aircraft, was enroute from Anchorage to New York when near The Pas, Manitoba, at 2000, CDT, Aug 19, the crew reported a fuel leak in the No.3 Pratt & Whitney JT9D7R4G2 engine. The crew elected to shut down the engine and diverted to Chicago. No other aircraft were affected. The cause of the fuel leak is pending investigation by KAL.

N11WG

London, ASug 26 -- A press report, dated Aug 25, states: A single-engine plane crashed and caught fire on an Eastern Oregon ridge, killing the pilot. James Ylvisaker, 72, of Longview, Wash., was the only person on board when the plane went down yesterday nine miles north of Monument, said Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer. Palmer, who examined the wreckage, told the Baker City Herald that Ylvisaker might have been trying to land the plane after its engine stopped. Investigators from the Federal Aviation Administration office in Portland, along with an official from the National Transportation Safety Board office in Seattle, were expected to start the official investigation this afternoon. Allen Kenitzer, a spokesman at the FAA regional office in Renton, Wash., Ylvisaker was the registered owner of the plane built by the Maule Aircraft Company in Moultrie, Ga. According to Maule Aircraft, the M-4 model Ylvisaker was flying was built between 1962 and 1974. Palmer said Ylvisaker was returning home from playing golf in Rexburg, Idaho. Ylvisaker had stopped to refuel in Ontario, where he telephoned his wife before resuming the flight. Flames from the crash burned 207 acres of juniper and grass. The lookout on nearby Madison Butte did not see the crash, but reported the fire at 1400 hrs, said Colleen Conlee, who works at the Oregon Department of Forestry office in John Day. Palmer he plane went down in waist-high grass at the top of a rocky ridge near Cabin Creek about 20 miles west of U.S. Highway 395. Palmer said debris from the plane was confined to a small area, which suggests the plane hit at a low speed. And although the plane's nose struck the ground, the sheriff said the

propeller wasn't bent or chipped by rocks. "That indicates to me that the propeller wasn't spinning when it hit the ground," he said.

London, Aug 26 -- Maule M-4 N11WG crashed near John Day, Oregon, at 2200, Aug 25, while on a flight from Ontario, OR, to Kelso, Washington. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N1680Y

London, Aug 29 -- Cessna 172C, N1680Y, operated by Marc E. McDonnell, with one person on board, crashed into a field at Winthrop, Maine, at 1325, UTC, Aug 27. The pilot was killed and the aircraft destroyed.

N345MC

London, Aug 30 -- At 1625, UTC, Aug 27, Boeing 747-300 aircraft, N345MC, operating as DLH8189, was enroute from Chicago to Frankfurt and had just entered Gander Domestic Airspace from Montreal Domestic Airspace when the crew requested a descent to FL280 and a return to Chicago because of a problem with one of its engines. The crew did not declare an emergency or request any assistance. The aircraft was cleared as requested.

N3946R

London, Aug 29 -- Cessna 172H, N3946R, operated by Richard E. Sorenson, with three persons on board crashed in the grassy area at the approach end of the runway at Corry, Pennsylvania, at 1930, UTC, Aug 26. The aircraft was substantially damaged, one passenger died and the other two persons were seriously injured.

N5104H

London, Aug 29 -- Piper PA-14 (Family Cruiser), N5104H, operated by Robert C. Plummer, while on a local flight from Challis, Idaho, with two persons on board, while spotting elk, crashed 15 miles north of Challis, on Aug 27. The aircraft was destroyed and both persons on board died.

London, Aug 31 -- A press report, dated Aug 30, states: Two men were killed in a small plane crash northwest of Challis in central Idaho. The Custer County sheriff's office says their names aren't being released until dental records can be verified. The plane crashed Saturday (Aug 27) morning but was not reported until a

20-person U.S. Forest Service fire crew arrived at a wildfire and discovered it had been started by the plane crash. Officials say the men were scouting hunting locations for bighorn sheep. Both victims were pronounced dead at the scene and the National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the cause of the crash.

N9069E

London, Aug 31 -- A press report, dated Aug 30, states: An aircraft crashed into a house in Roy this evening setting the home on fire and forcing an evacuation. A small white aircraft was flying low over the neighbourhood, hit a power pole and then slammed into the roof of a home. The roof of the house burst into flames. The aircraft's pilot and co-pilot climbed down off the roof, ran through his backyard and were able to get to the front of the home. Both were taken to the hospital. The house was not occupied at the time of the crash. There were no injuries of people on the ground reported but about 40 homes were evacuated as a precaution because of concerns about the fuel in the aircraft, fire officials said. Fire Chief Jon Ritchie said the plane had taken off from Ogden, failed to gain altitude and crashed at 1828 hrs. London, Sep 1 -- Piper PA-28-180R (Cherokee Arrow) N9069E crashed near Ogden, Utah, at 0026, Aug 31, while on a local flight from Ogden. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were seriously injured.

OB-1809P

London, Aug 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of people have been combing through the wreckage of a Peruvian plane, possibly hampering an ongoing investigation into the crash. The knee-deep mud is reportedly littered with thousands of banknotes, presumably pay flown in for police in the Amazon city of Pucallpa, but some people were leaving the site carrying seemingly useless objects as well as sensitive electronic equipment. A US aviation expert, Paul Czysz, later said the pieces could have been crucial to the investigation into the circumstances of the accident. "You're depriving the investigating team of a piece of information they might need," he said, referring to the insert panel, which might have been part of the cockpit controls, but the dozens of local police,

air force and army officers deployed at the site seemed unfazed by the pillaging. "We are verifying that all the bodies have really been recovered," said Air Force Commander William Rodriguez, who is in charge of security at the site. "If these people want to search for things, perhaps they'll encounter another body," he added. So far, the plane's data recorder has been recovered, but the search continues for the cockpit voice recorder. Several of the scavengers told Reuters the authorities had offered a reward for whoever found the black boxes, but police could not confirm this. The search continues for three people who are still unaccounted for. The airline believes they might have been locals who survived the ordeal and went home without seeking medical assistance.

London, Aug 31 -- A press report, dated Aug 30, states: The missing flight data recorder from a Peruvian Boeing 737-200 (OB-1809P) that crash-landed last week has been recovered, turned in by a man who scavanged it from the wreckage, a prosecutor said today. The man had taken the data recorder home but handed it over to civil aviation investigators yesterday in exchange for a \$500 reward posted by TANS Peru airlines. The box was opened but apparently had not suffered any alteration, (and) the optic fiber it contained hadn't been damaged. A Peruvian passenger died over the weekend of cardiac arrest associated with skull fractures from the accident, raising the death toll to 40.

OK-HOS

London, Sept 1 -- Cessna 172, OK-HOS, registered to a private owner in the Czech Republic, operated by Sky Academy S.R.O. as a personal flight, struck trees while manoeuvring in Simplon Pass, Switzerland, at 1530, ECT, Aug 23. The aircraft was destroyed. The private pilot and three passengers were killed.

ZS-PCJ

London, Aug 26 -- Pilatus Britten-Norman BN-2B-27 Islander ZS-PCJ, operator B.D. Bendall, crashed into a house shortly after initiating a go around near Durban-Virginia Airport Aug 21. There was a pilot and five passengers on board. There were no fatalities.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	29-Aug-2005	Coal: 17 vessels due by 2/10; up to 4 days berthing delay expected.
Brisbane	29-Aug-2005	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 4 vessels due by 14/9; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	29-Aug-2005	Coal: 3 vessels berthed and loading, 13 anchored; 40 vessels due by 22/9; 5-25 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; waiting times vary greatly due to different stem supply issues.
Dampier	29-Aug-2005	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 7 vessels due by 5/9; 1-9 days berthing delay expected; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 6 vessels due by 8/9; 1-5 days berthing delay expected; 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	29-Aug-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 off port; 25 vessels due by 25/9; up to 7 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; a 4 day shutdown on shiploader No. 1 commenced at 22.10 hrs. 28/8 for repairs and general maintenance; Barney Point: 5 vessels due by 25/9; up to 2 days delay expected due to port congestion and cargo availability; the stacker will be unavailable due to repairs from 06.00-18.00 hrs. 15/9.
Hay Point	29-Aug-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 11 vessels due by 10/9; No. 1 berth closed for maintenance until 2/9; up to 4 days berthing delay expected; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability.
Port Hedland	29-Aug-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 anchored; 2 vessels due by 4/9; 1-11 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 4 vessels anchored; 4 vessels due by 5/9; 1-5 days berthing delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 3 vessels due by 3/9; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "D" berth: 2 vessels due by 10/9; no delays expected.
Port Kembla	29-Aug-2005	Coal: 10 vessels due by 22/9; up to 1 day's berthing delay expected due to port congestion; CB-1: 2 vessels due by 25/9; no delays expected
Port Walcott	29-Aug-2005	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 13 vessels due by 12/9; up to 3 days berthing delay expected; Line-up expected to change at short notice. Cargo grade shortages and stockpile problems may result in vessels berthing out of turn.
Azerbaijan		
Apsheiron	29-Aug-2005	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 1 vessel berthed, discharging crude oil; 1 vessel due 30/8 to discharge M-100.
Baku	29-Aug-2005	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; Azerneftiyag terminal: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: 1 vessel berthed, discharging crude oil; Sangachal district: 1 vessel berthed completed discharging; 3 vessels due by 30/8, all to discharge crude oil; Transserve terminal: closed
Brazil		
Paranagua	30-Aug-2005	Thirteen vessels berthed of which 5 fertiliser dischargers, 2 reefer loaders, 1 pellets loader, 1 soya loader, 1 sugar loader, 3 other loaders; 17 vessels waiting in roads, of which 10 to load (1 reefer, 3 sugar, 3 pellets, 3 other loaders), 7 to discharge (6 fertiliser, 1 full containers); 50 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	30-Aug-2005	Six vessels berthed of which 1 fertiliser loader, 1 urea discharger, 1 potassium chloride discharger, 1 ammonium sulphate discharger, 1 lumber loader, 1 phosphate discharger; 4 vessels waiting in roads; 39 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	30-Aug-2005	Twenty vessels berthed of which 1 bulk oil loader, 9 sugar loaders, 3 other loaders, 1 bulk wheat discharger, 1 fertiliser discharger, 1 chemical products discharger, 2 bulk soya loaders, 1 citrus juice loader, 1 full container loader; 24 vessels waiting in roads; 33 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Sao Sebastiao	30-Aug-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 waiting in roads; 4 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Chile		
Antofagasta	29-Aug-2005	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 12 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Arica	29-Aug-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 12 vessels due this week.
Iquique	29-Aug-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 14 vessels due this week.
Valparaiso	29-Aug-2005	Three vessels berthed, 5 berths vacant; 3 vessels anchored; 10 vessels due this week.
Egypt		
Adabiya	29-Aug-2005	Twelve vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 5 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 2 livestock, 2 containers.
Alexandria	29-Aug-2005	Thirty-three vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 23 general cargo, 8 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 container vessel; 13 vessels dry-docked; 18 vessels at inner anchorage, 9 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	29-Aug-2005	Twenty vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 13 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 3 containers; 5 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.

Port Conditions

Dekheila	29-Aug-2005	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers; no vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	29-Aug-2005	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 5 containers.
Suez	29-Aug-2005	Eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 3 reefers, 3 passenger vessels; 4 tugs, 1 vessel dry-docked.
Suez Canal	29-Aug-2005	Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 25 Southbound.
Estonia		
Tallinn	29-Aug-2005	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 2 vessels loading at berth (1 malt, 1 soya oil), 1 discharging fertiliser at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 3 vessels due, with 6 days berthing delay expected.
India		
Kolkata	29-Aug-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (General Cargo-2, Containers), 3 vessels discharging (Pipe, Steel, Containers), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessels working at midstream to discharging Timber Logs; 3 vessels under repair; 1 vessel waiting to sail; 3 vessels due (Rep, Containers, Edible Oil).
Haldia	29-Aug-2005	11 vessels operating at berth of which 7 loading (Iron Ore-3, Thermal Coal, Butadiene, POL, Steel), 3 vessels discharging (Crude, Bhglycol, Net Coke), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 19 vessels awaiting berth (4 to discharge, 15 to load); 1 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 4 vessels due (Fertilizer, Phosphoric Acid, Coke, Container).
Paradip	29-Aug-2005	12 vessels operating at berth of which 8 vessels loading (Thermal Coal, Iron ore-6, Chrome Ore), 4 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, Pet Coke, NC Coal, Rock Phosphate); 6 vessels awaiting berth (1 to discharge, 5 to load); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load).
Visakhapatnam	29-Aug-2005	12 vessels operating at berth of which 6 loading (Iron ore, Thermal Coal-2, Naptha, LSHS & Furnace Oil, General Cargo), 6 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-3, Steam Coal, Crude, HSD); 9 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (4 to discharge, 4 to load, 1 for repairs); 1 vessel under repair; 22 vessels due (Iron Ore-3, Steel, Sand, Allumina, Granite, POL Products-2, Urea, Sulphuric Acid, Liquid Ammonia, Coking Coal-4, Steam Coal, Steel, Peas, LPG, POL-2).
Chennai	29-Aug-2005	18 vessels operating at berth of which 10 discharging (Raw Sugar, Scrap-2, Thermal Coal-2, Crude Oil-2, Petroleum Oil, Steel Plates, Urea), 5 vessels loading (Granite Blocks, IOL, steel Coil, Naptha, Iron ore), 3 vessels loading and discharging (Steel Coil/Granite Blocks, Containers-2); 5 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 3 to load); 1 Containers vessels due.
Tuticorin	29-Aug-2005	8 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (General Cargo, Granite, Cement), 5 vessels discharging (Thermal Coal, Copper Concentrate, Palm Oil, Project Cargo, Raw Sugar).
Cochin	29-Aug-2005	3 vessels operating at berth of which 2 discharging (Scrap, Rock Phosphate), 1 vessel loading Furnace Oil. 2 vessels awaiting berth to load and discharge
New Mangalore	29-Aug-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Iron Ore Fines-2, Containers), 4 vessels discharging (MOP, Timber Logs, LPG, POL Crude); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 13 vessels due (POL Product-4, Iron Ore(F)-4, Crude Palm Oil, Granite Stone, Methanol, Phosphoric Acid, POL Crude).
Mormugao	29-Aug-2005	3 vessels operating at berth and discharging (Phosphoric Acid, Met Coke-2); 2 vessels working at mid stream and loading Iron ore; 6 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 1 S.Scrap vessels due.
Mumbai	29-Aug-2005	12 vessels operating at berth of which 6 loading (Steel Cargo-3, Steel/Rice, Vegarol, POL), 5 vessels discharging (Rock Phosphate, Steel Cargo, LOGS/Pulses-2, POL), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers/Steel; 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 5 vessels awaiting order to discharge; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge; 16 vessels under repairs/dry docked, 10 vessels under arrest, 23 vessels waiting (under laid up berths not required for cargo operations); 14 vessels due (Containers-2, Oil, General Cargo-11).
J.N.P.T.	29-Aug-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 2 discharging (Edible Oil, Lubricant Oil), 5 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 9 vessels awaiting berth (1 to discharge, 1 to load, 7 to load and discharge); 9 vessels due (Containers-7, Vehicle, RKO/HSD).
Ennore	29-Aug-2005	1 vessel operating at berth and discharging Thermal Coal; 1 vessel loading Iron Ore at Inner Anchorage; 2 vessel due (MV Sun Bulker(Iron ore), MV Rani Padmini (Thermal Coal)).
Kandla	29-Aug-2005	14 vessels operating at berth of which 7 discharging (Chemical, Scrap, CPO, Timber Logs-2, Fertilizer-2), 5 vessels loading (LAB, Rice-2, Agriculture Product, Pipes), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels awaiting berth (2 to discharge, 2 to load); 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 3 to load).
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	26-Aug-2005	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, 1 completed loading fuel oil, 2 loading unknown cargoes; 4 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargoes; 2 vessels due by 27/8, both to load unknown cargoes.
Nigeria		
Forcados Terminal	24-Aug-2005	One vessel loading at berth, 2 anchored, 3 due.
Qua Iboe terminal	24-Aug-2005	Production at Oso platform remains low. One vessel berthed, none anchored, 6 due.
Pakistan		
Karachi	29-Aug-2005	Two vessels loading at berth (1 naphtha, 1 cement), 8 discharging at berth (4 sugar, 3 general cargo, 1 scrap), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 sugar, 1 fuel oil); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 6 vessels due (2 containers, 1 yellow peas, 1 DAP, 1 crude oil, 1 bitumen), with no berthing delays expected.

Port Conditions

Port Qasim	29-Aug-2005	One rape seed vessel discharging at berth; 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 sugar, 1 palm oil, 1 fuel oil, 1 LPG)
Russia		
Novorossiysk	29-Aug-2005	Thirteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (2 scrap, 1 bulk fertiliser, 1 DRI, 1 steel billets/ pipes, 1 HBI, 4 wheat, 2 diesel oil), 1 discharging coils; 3 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 wheat, 1 pipes, 1 UAN solution; 66 vessels due, of which 64 to load (2 scrap, 8 steel billets, 4 bulk NPK, 2 slabs, 4 DRI, 3 pig iron, 5 copper, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 5 wheat, 2 WRIC, 1 scrap/steel billets/ coils, 5 aluminium, 1 pipes/coils/steel sheets, 2 bulk urea, 2 bulk fertiliser, 1 steel billets/tin plate, 1 steel billets/flowers, 1 flowers, 1 pipes/coils, 4 coils, 1 steel billets/coils, 2 pipes, 1 steel sheets/tin plates, 1 cellulose, 2 diesel oil, 1 lumber, 1 cars), 1 to discharge non-ferrous metals, 1 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: no tankers berthed; 2 tankers in roads, both to load, of which 1 crude oil, 1 diesel oil; 7 tankers due, all to load, of which 6 crude oil, 1 diesel oil.
Slovenia		
Koper	29-Aug-2005	Port working normally. Ten vessels berthed of which 1 discharging/loading containers, 4 bulk carriers discharging ore/minerals, 3 vessels loading steel products/sawn timber/timber products, 1 car carrier discharging/loading vehicles, 1 reefer discharging refrigerated goods; 1 bulk carrier waiting at anchorage to discharge coal; 17 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 3 to discharge/load containers, 2 bulk carriers to discharge minerals/grain, 4 bulk carriers to load coal, 4 vessels to load steel products/sawn timber/timber products, 1 car carrier to discharge/load vehicles, 1 vessel to load livestock, 1 tanker to discharge mineral oils, 1 passenger vessel.
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	29-Aug-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. Four container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 9 vessels discharging at berth (7 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement, 1 bulk palm oil); 1 bulk LPG vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 7 vessels dry-docked, 1 at new tanker berth; 7 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected
Turkmenistan		
Turkmenbashi	29-Aug-2005	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, completed loading gasoline; 4 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load (1 gasoil, 2 unknown cargoes), 1 to discharge crude oil
Ukraine		
Ilichevsk	29-Aug-2005	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (1 steel products, 2 grain, 1 ore, 1 sulphur), 3 discharging/loading containers; 1 vessel in roads to load/discharge containers; 26 vessels due, of which 13 to load (11 steel products, 2 grain), 4 to discharge (2 iron ore, 2 oil), 9 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	29-Aug-2005	Fifteen vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 7 steel, 3 wheat, 3 fire-clay, 1 coal, 1 kaolin; 9 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 5 steel, 1 coal, 1 coke, 1 fire-clay, 1 barley; 44 vessels due, of which 42 to load (21 steel, 7 coal, 9 fire-clay, 1 bran, 2 wheat, 1 barley, 1 sulphur), 2 to discharge/load (1 magnetite/steel plates, 1 containers/fire-clay).
Odessa	29-Aug-2005	Fourteen vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (5 metal, 1 scrap, 1 barley), 4 discharging (1 oil, 1 sugar, 1 bananas, 1 luggage), 3 passenger vessels; 3 vessels in roads, of which 2 to load metal, 1 to discharge sugar; 54 vessels due, of which 27 to load (16 metal, 2 pig-iron, 1 wood, 6 wheat, 1 paper, 1 ore), 1 to discharge luggage, 26 to discharge/load containers

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