

Aug 18 2006

Threat from Lebanon oil spill still great say experts

By Nigel Lowry in Athens- Friday August 18 2006

AS FINANCIAL aid begins to trickle in to deal with the oil spill affecting at least 100 miles of Lebanon's coastline, international officials leading the response have emphasised that a month after the bombing of the Jieh power plant caused the spill the environmental threat has not diminished.

"It remains a major environmental emergency," said Achim Steiner, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme, yesterday after an international summit in Greece agreed on a co-ordinated action plan for tackling the spill.

"In normal circumstances a spill of this nature would have been brought under control," Mr Steiner noted, going on to say that UN charters had prevented any on-site work before a cessation of hostilities or guarantees of safety by the combatants.

He said officials were still unable to gauge accurately the quantity of oil remaining offshore or smearing the coast and could not rule out the possibility of the spill spreading to other countries.

"With every day that passes the costs of coping with this oil slick will increase," he warned, underlining the urgency of mobilising support. "It is not only an environmental disaster...

"It is a development that compounds the humanitarian and economic costs of this conflict."

Mr Steiner also announced that Israel had assured UNEP that safe access corridors would be created in Lebanon for clean-up work to begin, a pledge he interpreted as "further assurance" on top of the general ceasefire implemented this week.

Reconnaissance

Despite this, environmental officials said yesterday that aerial reconnaissance which was a necessary first step to assess the spill had so far proved impossible. So far, analysts have been relying on satellite imagery.

Yesterday, participants at the meeting in Athens agreed to set €50m (\$58.5m) as an initial target for funding this year.

This was based partly on the fact that €50m was deemed the amount for compensation under IOPC Funds rules for the Haven disaster off Italy in 1991, when 10,000-20,000 tons of crude oil contaminated the coast. This was the nearest Mediterranean incident that officials could choose for comparison.

The Lebanese ministry of environment, however, has estimated that the overall costs could rise to \$137m-\$205m, based on model costs per tonne of oil spilled.

Officials now say that they are satisfied the maximum quantity of oil spilled will have been 15,000 tonnes.

So far the European Union has promised €10m in aid, UNEP officials disclosed.

International Maritime Organization secretary-general Efthimios Mitropoulos said that the IMO and other agencies were "prudently worried" about the effects of the spill spreading.

He said that because of counter-clockwise and easterly currents in the Mediterranean it was still possible that the oil could yet affect the shores of first Turkey, then Cyprus and later on even Greece.

Mr Mitropoulos acknowledged that it was "unusual" for the IMO to be so deeply involved in a case of pollution not related to the shipping industry, but cited several treaties establishing the organisation's authority to become involved.

"Extraordinary circumstances warrant extraordinary measures," he said. "We could not turn a blind eye".

The action plan agreed is based on computer models which indicate that 20% of the oil released has probably evaporated, close to 80% is likely to be on the coast, with only about 40 tonnes remaining at sea. It is hoped that helicopter surveys can quickly confirm these estimates.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
ASIAN VISION	vehicle	PAN	—	55,680	21,421	1997	In collision with ggc <i>Hamburg Express</i> near Boudewijnlocks in dense fog Aug 7. Vessel has a hole in the front starboard side. Arrived Antwerp Aug 7 and sailed Aug 9.
ATHOS	bulker	MLT	BV	16,172	25,817	1981	Ran aground at entrance to the Suez Canal Aug 4. SCA tugs refloated vessel same day. Moored at the inner harbour at Suez. Sailed Aug 4.
CALA PALMA	reefer	ITA	—	13,346	13,492	2000	A large fire on board at Lloyd Werft shipyard, Bremerhaven Aug 8. Fire under control Aug 9, not fully extinguished.
CAPELLA	reefer	RUS	RS	1,415	1,354	1989	In collision with general cargo BBC Texas in lat 45 42 39N, long 140 51 46E, Aug 3. Capsized. Had been adrift prior to the collision. Crew rescued & taken to Wakkanai. Still drifting 10 Aug. Coast Guard vessel standing by.
CASTILLO DE SAN JUAN	bulker	BRA	LR	90,633	173,329	1990	Grounded off the Egyptian coast Jul 5. About 400 tonnes steel damaged. In drydock at Setubal previous Aug 10.
CMA CGM ALGER	container	ATG	GL	6,409	8,350	2002	Grounded at Serifos Island Aug 4. Tug <i>Matsus Star</i> on scene Aug 5, LOF 2000 signed to Matsas Salvage. Refloating preparations under way. Still aground Aug 10.
FEDERAL ELBE	bulker	CYP	GL	22,654	35,000	2003	Had rudder problems 560 miles west of the Azores Islands Jul 9. Adrift Jul 9-22 Jul, towed by <i>Smitwijs Singapore</i> 22 Jul, arrived Lisbon Jul 31 Sailed Aug 5 and arrived Setubal same day.
HAMBURG EXPRESS	general	DIS	GL	3,466	4,707	1991	In collision with <i>Asian Vision</i> near Boudewijnlocks in dense fog Aug 7. Torn away a part of the bridge on port side.
LARGS BAY	naval auxiliary tanker	GBR	LR	20,000	13,000	2006	Lost propulsion in lat 50 15N, long 02 58.35W, Aug 4. Towed by tug <i>Abeille Liberte</i> to Portland.
MARC MITCHELL	general	ATG	BV	2,599	3,480	1999	Experienced machine problems on the River Maas Aug 6. Assisted by tug <i>Fairplay 23</i> and later towed to Calandsteiger 3, Rotterdam. Stationary in lat 51 57 18N, long 04 09 07E, Aug 9.
ROGER BLOUGH	bulker	USA	ABS	22,041	46,833	1972	Lost its rudder near Raber Bay off Lime Island, Lower St. Marys River Aug 6. Not known when the vessel will be under way or what efforts are being made to retrieve rudder.
SHEARWATER	general	SYC	GL	1,733	2,531	1976	Taking on water and listing 28 nautical miles north-east of Richards Bay. Tug tasked. Pumps sucessfully pumping water from vessel. Arrived Durban Aug 5.
YM GREEN	container	LBR	ABS	64,254	68,303	2001	Fire in No.4 hold off Singapore Aug 6. Salvage services rendered by Smit Salvage under LOF. At Raffles Reserve anchorage Aug 9.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ACHILLEAS (Greece)

Piraeus, Aug 4 — Tug *Achilleas* sailed Amaliapolis in tow Jun 29, bound Chios. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALAM SEMPURNA (Malaysia)

London, Aug 4 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1311, UTC: Bulker *Alam Sempurna* (17065 gt, built 1984) grounded in the Hudson River, in lat 42 12.5N, long 73 51.7W, at 2130, UTC, Aug 3, due to a loss of propulsion. The vessel refloated by its own means at 2305, UTC, and proceeded to Hyde Park, NY. A diver's inspection is scheduled to be carried out today.

London, Aug 9 — Bulker *Alam Sempurna* left New York 1705, Aug 5.

ALCANTARA (Canary Islands)

Palma, Majorca, Aug 8 — Passenger ro/ro *Alcantara* arrived Palma Jul 26 and sailed same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANANGEL SPLENDOUR (Greece)

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The 24 fishermen on board Sea Harvest deep sea trawler *Harvest Tamara* "miraculously" escaped unscathed when their vessel collided with bulker *Anangel Splendour* about 25 kilometres off Saldanha at 2030 Wednesday. The crew members were all rescued before the ship sank. The SA Maritime Safety Authority (Samsa) is conducting a full investigation into the cause of the accident. "There were 24 crew members on board, but fortunately and quite remarkably, no one was injured," said Sea Harvest managing director Mike Norris. He said the entire crew was picked up by the ore carrier and other vessels. "They were all picked up and rescued, but the vessel sank. At the moment the crew is being brought to Saldanha and Samsa is busy interviewing our people and will issue a report on the outcomes. "The longest time our people were in the sea (following the collision) was an hour. Nineteen crew members were rescued immediately after the accident and the other five, including the skipper, were rescued soon afterwards," said Norris. He said the ship's sinking was a major loss to Sea Harvest but they were thankful that no one was injured in the ordeal. Norris declined to allow interviews with the crew. He said they were from the Saldanha and Vredenburg area. Head of Samsa in Saldanha, Andre van Niekerk, said he had deployed a team to carry out an inspection and to conduct interviews with the crews involved. Samsa acting chief executive Carl Briesch said it was a "miracle" that not a single crew member was injured. He said they are still at the

early stage of their investigation in terms of the Merchant Shipping Act, and it would take about two to three months until a full report on the incident is released. "It will depend on the complexity (of the accident). At the moment details are very sketchy. "*Anangel Splendour* was carrying full cargo of coal from Richards Bay to Europe," said Briesch.

ANNA (Georgia)

Riga, Aug 10 — Chemical tanker *Anna* completed repairs at the dock on Aug 5. Due to the weather the vessel was shifted to a loading berth on Aug 7. Loading finished a.m. Aug 9. *Anna* is still at the port as problem of guarantee not solved. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARABIAN SUN (Liberia)

London, Aug 10 — Product tanker *Arabian Sun* left Fujairah anchorage Aug 8 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 25 50 47.9N, long 55 36 16.07E, at 1531, Aug 9, speed 8.3 knots course 215 degrees.

ASIAN VISION (Panama)

See *Hamburg Express*.

ATACAMA (Malta)

London, Aug 4 — Bulker *Atacama* arrived Mobile July 31, from Port Manatee, and subsequently arrived Houston Aug 4.

ATHOS (Malta)

Port Said, Aug 5 — Bulker *Athos* (16172 gt, built 1981) entered the Suez Canal at Port Said, southbound, Aug 3. At 0050, Aug 4 while clearing the Canal at Suez, ran aground at the entrance to the Canal. The Suez Canal Authority tug boats succeeded in refloating it at 1800, Aug 4. The vessel is now moored at the inner harbour at Suez in order that arrangements are made for divers to inspect its bottom hull. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Said, Aug 6 — Bulker *Athos*: Diver's inspection revealed no apparent damages. Vessel sailed to her destination at 2145, Aug 4. — Lloyd's Agents.

ATLANTIC ODYSSEY (Canada)

London, Aug 4 — Fishing *Atlantic Odyssey* (346 gt, built 1987) reported without power and disabled due to a battery fire, 30 nautical miles south of Liverpool, NS, in lat 43 40N, long 64 03W at 0102, UTC, today. Vessel being towed toward Shelburne, NS, by Coast Guard vessel. Some damage reported.

BACOLOD EXPRESS (Philippines)

See *Ocean Jet 2*.

BANGLAR SHOURABH (Bangladesh)

Chittagong, Aug 10 — According to the owners of crude oil tanker *Banglar Shourabh* the vessel is presently under repair by Karnaphuli Shipyard. — Lloyd's Agents.

BBC KOREA (Cyprus)

Montreal, Aug 9 — During berthing at Port Alfred part containerised

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general cargo *BBC Korea* (12993 gt, built 2003) caused local damage to the pier Aug 7. There is no damage to the ship and it will depart as planned late today. Pier damage is limited and will not be a problem for other vessels berthing there. — Lloyd's Agents.

BBC TEXAS (Italy)

See *Capella*.

BETTY CUTHBERT (Australia)

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Human error was the cause of the crash of ferry *Betty Cuthbert*, a report by the NSW Office of Transport Safety Investigations has found. No one was injured when the vessel slammed into a moored yacht and motor launch on Jan 11 this year after the master had earlier discovered a problem with the starboard propulsion unit. In a report released today, the OTSI said the master of the vessel had locked the starboard propulsion unit into a centred position and was taking the vessel to a shipyard at Balmain when the accident occurred. The vessel unexpectedly turned sharply to port and the master was unable to regain control before it crashed. The OTSI found the vessel was moving too quickly when the accident occurred and Sydney Ferries' operations controller had failed to recognise the risks involved with the master taking it back to the shipyard. The report also found wiring on the vessel was in poor condition and some safety-critical components were not readily identifiable or secured. It called for a quality assurance program to be implemented at Sydney Ferries' Balmain shipyard. "An in-house quality assurance regime requires people with the requisite skills, knowledge and experience, and OTSI notes that Sydney Ferries has very few employees with a detailed knowledge of marine electronics or hydraulics," the report said. Acting Sydney Ferries chief executive Chris Oxenbould promised to implement all of the recommendations from the report. "Sydney Ferries is committed to the highest standards of safety," Rear Admiral Oxenbould said.

BINA (Indonesia)

Chittagong, Aug 10 — Product tanker *Bina*: According to vessel's local agents *Bina* is still lying at Mayanmar port under repair. Vessel is expected to arrive at Chittagong by end of August. — Lloyd's Agents.

BOCAUE (Philippines)

Manila, Aug 4 — The Philippine-registered product tanker *Bocau* is now plying its regular route between Batangas and Manila since repairs were completed on the vessel early this week. The vessel entered Herma Shipyard in Bataan for repairs to its bottom hull after it ran aground at the mouth of the Pasig River on Jul 13. Repairs were completed Aug 1 and the vessel proceeded to the nearby Petron Bataan Refinery in Limay town to take on a load of aviation fuel for

delivery to Manila. The vessel is now at the Pandacan Oil Depot in Manila waiting its turn to unload its cargo. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

BRILLIANT ZHEJIANG (Panama)

London, Aug 9 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 0724, UTC: : Bulker *Brilliant Zhejiang*, Rotterdam for River Plate, in ballast, is at anchor in lat 50 20N, long 02 38W. Vessel has problem with main engine cylinder using too much lube oil (language difficulties at this point).

BSLE ENDURANCE (Cyprus)

Balboa, Aug 3 — General cargo *BSLE Endurance* remains anchored Cristobal. — Lloyd's Agents.

BULOU NI CEVA (Fiji)

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A foreign vessel has been chartered to service the routes of passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva*, that has been stuck on a reef for over a month. Kadavu Provincial Council chairman Ratu Josateki Nawalowalo said a Tongan vessel had been chartered to service the *Bulou ni Ceva*'s routes. after running aground on a reef off Rotuma more than a month ago. "The Kadavu Shipping Company has decided to charter the vessel *Palupaki*, currently berthed at the Narain Jetty," he said. "We have agreed to the charter agreements, which is for the *Palupaki* to continue to service the Kadavu and Rotuma routes and possibly the yasayasa Moala run, which is under the State franchise scheme. "This service will continue while the *Bulou ni Ceva* is salvaged and brought back to Suva for repairs. "The charter will possibly be for a period of six months in which time we expect repair works on the *Bulou ni Ceva* to be completed and ready for service. Ratu Josateki said they realised how important shipping services were to people on the outer islands. "We would like to assure the people of Kadavu, Rotuma and other government franchise that their concerns for regular shipping will be dealt with in the next few weeks," he said. "The *Palupaki* is expected to sail for Kadavu ports this week." Ratu Josateki said the council was looking at buying a new vessel from China and possibly selling the *Bulou ni Ceva*.

C.S.OCEAN (Panama)

London, Aug 7 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS general cargo *C.S.Ocean* was anchored in lat 45 40 39.6N, long 122 46 13.2W, reported at 1644, Aug 7.

London, Aug 9 — General cargo *C.S.Ocean* arrived Portland, Ore, Aug 7.

CALA PALMA (Italy)

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 8, states: A large fire on refrigerated general cargo *Cala Palma* (13346 gt, built 2000) at Lloyd Werk shipyard, Bremerhaven, caused heavy damage to the vessel today. Hours after the outbreak, at noon, the fire in

the loading spaces, according to a fire-brigade spokesman, was not yet under control. *Cala Palma* is the first of four sister ships which are to be extended by 15 metres. The hull of *Cala Palma* in the dry dock was wrapped into thick smoke which made the fire-fighting operations difficult according to the fire-brigade. The fire-brigade used all foam for fire fighting. In order to prevent a further expanding of the flames, individual loading spaces were flooded. According to fire-brigade there have been no injuries so far. It is not clear at the moment how the fire started. *Cala Palma* had been apart-cut in the middle of July in the dry dock and extended by a 15 metre long centre piece. *Cala Palma* had arrived Bremerhaven at the beginning of July and should have left Bremerhaven in the middle of August. (Note — *Cala Palma* arrived Bremerhaven Jul 10.)

Bremen, Aug 9 — Refrigerated general cargo *Cala Palma* reached Bremerhaven in early July for conversion works. The ship is the first of four vessels to be extended by 15m. The 15m had already been inserted in the vessel. Yesterday, a fire broke out in a hold at about 1415, local time. Apparently insulation material had caught fire. The Bremerhaven Fire Brigade with 42 persons tried to fight the fire for hours. The fire had extended through all the holds and was difficult to extinguish. By the evening the fire was still not under control. There were still big black smoke stacks standing over the vessel. The Fire Brigade later pumped a mixture of water and foam through holes in the hull into the cargo holds. It was even considered to flood the dry dock. It was feared that extinguishing work would continue overnight. The Bremen fire extinguishing vessel, was yesterday, on its way to Bremerhaven. Two persons had to be taken to hospital for treatment. Neither the cause of the fire nor any amount of the claim is yet known. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 9 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: On Aug 8 refrigerated general cargo *Cala Palma* caught fire at the Lloyd Yard in Bremerhaven. Forty-two firefighters started to fight the flames, but the fire is not yet under control 19 hours after its start and may last for some more days. It also lead to dense fumes. The firefighters are cooling the ship which is lying in a drydock from outside and are trying to spread the fire further on the ship. The isolation of the storages are fully engulfed in flames and it is complicated to fight the fire which developed a dense heat inside the ship. The firefighters equipment started to melt. Two workers had to be treated in hospital as well as one firefighter. The fire may have been caused by welding works.

London, Aug 9 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: More than 20 hours after the outbreak of the fire on board general cargo *Cala Palma* in Bremerhaven, the flames rage out of control in the cargo holds. The firefighters are filling up the

cargo holds with CO2 and foam in an attempt to extinguish the fire. Smoke is actually drifting into the city, where three more people had to be medically treated. The temperature inside the ship is 200-300 C.

London, Aug 9 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Twenty-four hours after the outbreak of a devastating fire on board refrigerated general cargo *Cala Palma* at the Lloyd Yard in Bremerhaven, the fire was still raging in the cargo holds today. Firefighters were trying to prevent the flames from spreading to the machine-room and superstructure. The isolation is still in flames, with temperatures reaching 300 deg Celsius. Fire brigade specialist teams are working inside the vessel. The burning zones still cannot be reached, so the vessel's cargo holds can only be cooled from outside. Too much water inside would risk the vessel falling on its side inside the dry dock. The dense smoke has been reduced, but a strong smell of smoke persisted in the streets of Bremerhaven. The five people who had to be treated in hospital for smoke inhalation were released today. The vessel was not expected to be a total loss, as long as the spread of flames into the superstructure and machine-room can be prevented.

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: After nearly one and a half days the fire-brigade brought the major fire on refrigerated general cargo *Cala Palma* under control late yesterday evening. However, the fire will probably not be finally extinguished until this evening.

London, Aug 10 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, state: Fire Brigades from Bremerhaven are on the way to extinguishing the fire on board refrigerated general cargo *Cala Palma*. Fires on decks 1-3 are completely extinguished. Single fires on deck 4 are isolated and will be extinguished during the course of the day. The number of firefighters involved could be reduced to 10. Investigators are expected to arrive by the weekend. Contact to insurers has already been established.

CAPELLA (Russia)

London, Aug 4 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0050, UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Capella* (1415 gt, built 1989) and general cargo *BBC Texas* (5782 gt, built 1992) were in collision in lat 45 42 39N, long 140 51 46E, at 1942, JST, Aug 3. *Capella* had been adrift prior to collision and capsized as a result.

London, Aug 4 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0150, UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Capella*, collision with general cargo *BBC Texas*: The crew of the *Capella* has been rescued. The vessel was in ballast at the time of the collision. *BBC Texas* was able to continue its voyage. The weather on scene is very bad.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Refrigerated general cargo *Capella* which collided with general cargo *BBC Texas* off

Hokkaido, was headed for the Sea of Okhotsk from Vladivostok for fishing operations. The collision occurred on at 2142, Vladivostok, time, yesterday in lat 45 34N, long 140 15E, the Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk RCC reported. *BBC Texas* rammed into *Capella* bow first, making it take a list. Its 16-member crew that evacuated on inflatable rafts, was later picked up by the Russian trawler *Sokolovka*. *Capella* has keeled over, but is still afloat. The rescued Russian crew are being taken to the Japanese port of Wakkanai, director of the Vladivostok MRCC Konstanitn Sviridov said. *BBC Texas* was sent to a Hokkaido port where the incident will be probed. A Japanese coastguard vessel is keeping watch nearby, as *Capella* poses danger to the intensive sea traffic in the area.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The Russian sailors rescued from refrigerated general cargo *Capella* have been brought safely to the port of Wakkanai. All the sailors are safe and sound; there are no injuries among them, officials at the headquarters of Japan's Maritime Safety Agency at Wakkanai said. *Capella* is still afloat, with an 80-degree port list. General cargo *BBC Texas* is on its way to the port of Oita. A Japanese coastguard vessel is keeping watch near the refrigerator shipwreck as it poses danger to the intensive sea traffic in the area. Japanese maritime officials are now talking to the Russian sailors to find out the circumstances of the incident. According to Japanese maritime officials, *Capella* is currently in Russia's exclusive economic zone, drifting northwards at 1.5 kilometres per hour.

London, Aug 4 — Following navigation warning issued today: Capsized refrigerated general cargo *Capella* adrift in vicinity of lat 46 02.3N, long 141 02.8E, at 0700, UTC, today.

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated today, states: The search for semi-submerged refrigerated general cargo *Capella* began in the Tatar Strait near the Sakhalin port city of Nevelsk early today. Tug *Topaz*, arriving from Vladivostok, is conducting the search. Late on Thursday, (Aug 3) was in collision and sustained a hole of about five square metres, listed to port but did not sink. According to the sea rescue centre in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, its "board" is four metres above the waterline. *Capella* presents a major threat to the navigation in the north of the Sea of Japan, and rescuers keep sending warning signals to ships. The vessel, which is listing on its port side, has drifted a distance of over 50 nautical miles. Experts say it is floating towards Nevelsk, about 15 miles from the Sakhalin shore.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 8, states: This morning, rescuers were still unable to track-down the half-sunken refrigerated general cargo *Capella*. Most recent data indicated *Capella* was drifting

near Sakhalin Island in the vicinity of the smaller island of Moneron. Yet all the attempts by the crew of tug *Topaz* to find the distressed ship, which poses big risk for navigation now, proved futile. The search was impeded today by a very thick fog that enveloped the Tatar Strait, Gennady Savelyev, the chief of the Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk maritime salvage and coordination centre said. To identify the direction of the drift *Topaz* reached the point where "*Topaz*"(?*Capella*) had been seen the last time and then it surrendered itself to sea currents. During the night and early morning, the currents turned *Topaz* away from the shore and into the open sea towards the Primorsky territory. Savelyev said, however, the scheme of sea currents is very complex in that part of the sea. This means that *Capella* may still be drifting towards the mouth of that strait. Also, it may already have been turned back towards Hokkaido or wandering somewhere on high seas.

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Tug *Topaz* is continuing the search for refrigerated general cargo *Capella* today, hoping that it is still afloat, head of the Vladivostok Sea Rescue-Coordinating Centre Konstantin Sviridov said.

CASTILLO DE SAN JUAN (Brazil)

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated Jul 27, states: Lisnave are to repair grounding damage to bulker *Castillo de San Juan* (90633 gt, built 1990). The ship grounded off the Egyptian coast early July. The first diver investigations resulted in an extent of the damage of approximately 300 tonnes of steel. In the meantime after further damage assessment the extent of the damage was estimated at more than 400 tons of steel, however, an exact amount of renewals can only be known after the drydocking of the ship takes place, this is planned for Aug 1. If the estimates remain with this extent of damage repairs should be completed mid-September. (Note — *Castillo de San Juan* sailed Ponta do Ubu Jun 15, arrived Alexandria Jul 5, next reported to have sailed El Dekheila Jul 10, passing Tarifa Jul 16 and arrived Setubal Jul 17.)

London, Aug 10 — Following received from the owners of bulker *Castillo de San Juan*, dated Madrid today: *Castillo de San Juan* is now in dry dock at Setubal for repairs following grounding off Egypt July 5.

CEMFJORD (Cyprus)

London, Aug 8 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde, timed 1342, UTC: Bulk cement carrier *Cemfjord* (1850 gt, built 1984), with 1080 tonnes of white cement and 21 tonnes of gasoil, in lat 55 53.65N, long 06 31.74W, approximately three and a half nautical miles north-west of An Clachan, Rhins of Islay, drifting north-north-east at 2.9 knots. She has a problem with her fuel pump. Main engines not working, but auxiliary engines still functioning. Islay lifeboat proceeding to stand by vessel. Tug

Shrove proceeding from Londonderry harbour, with ETA approximately 1800, UTC, today, to tow *Cemfjord* to Londonderry.

London, Aug 8 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 1734, UTC: Islay Lifeboat has put a line on board bulk cement carrier *Cemfjord* and is awaiting assistance from Portrush Lifeboat before attempting to tow the vessel behind Colonsay. Fishing *Myfanwy* is proceeding to the scene.

London, Aug 8 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 2010, UTC: Islay and Portrush Lifeboats have connected towlines to bulk cement carrier *Cemfjord* and are attempting to tow the vessel to the lee of Colonsay Island. Tug *Shrove* is proceeding, ETA on scene 2130, UTC. Standby safety vessel *Viking Supporter* and fishing *Myfanwy* released.

London, Aug 8 — Following received from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, timed 2319, BST: At 1310 today, Clyde Coastguard MRSC received a call from bulk cement carrier *Cemfjord*, Belfast for Goole with cement, reporting that they had mechanical failure in a position three and a half miles to the north-west of the Island of Islay. The owners of the vessel contracted a commercial tug from Londonderry to proceed to assist the vessel. Clyde Coastguard have continued to monitor the situation throughout this afternoon and evening. Tug *Shrove* ETA 2330 today. As the weather has steadily worsened throughout the day, Clyde Coastguard took the decision to request the launch of Islay and Portrush RNLI lifeboats to standby the vessel until the tug arrives. With the weather worsening this evening it was decided that the lifeboats would attach lines to the vessel and tow it to a sheltered position off Scalasaig on the Island of Colonsay where it could anchor using its auxiliary power. A decision on where it would be towed for repair will be taken when the tug arrives.

London, Aug 9 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 0725, UTC: Bulk cement carrier *Cemfjord* is at anchor off Colonsay with tug *Shrove* standing by. Due to weather situation vessel is not likely to leave in the near future.

London, Aug 10 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 0705, UTC: Bulk cement carrier *Cemfjord* is still at anchor off Colonsay. At 0634, UTC, today tug *Shrove* left the vessel and will return in approximately two hours.

London, Aug 10 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 0850, UTC: Tug *Shrove* plans to leave Loch Scalasaig anchorage with bulk cement carrier *Cemfjord* under tow at approximately 1600, UTC, today. A four-hourly communication schedule is being maintained.

CHANG XING (Belize)

See "Greenpeace Protest at Nelson, New Zealand" under "Miscellaneous."

CHRESTENA II (Panama)

Mumbai, Aug 5 — General cargo *Chrestena II*: Salvors had made temporary narrow path to reach the vessel from shore and they will pump out fuel and oil from the vessel, (the leakage has been arrested.) Two tugs have been tasked from Mumbai which are due to arrive Porbandar today in order to refloat the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

Londo, Aug 7 — A press report, dated Aug 6, states: The defuelling of general cargo *Chrestena II* began today on the Porbandar coast. "The defuelling operations have begun today and we will be looking to empty thousands of litres of fuel from this vessel in the coming days," Coast Guard DIG G P Raj said this evening. He said the fuel was being emptied into oil tankers under the supervision of Coast Guard and district administration. The authorities were building an approach route to reach the vessel in order to begin the defuelling process. "The work on the approach road has been completed and so the defuelling operations have began," Raj said.

CLIPPER MERMAID (Bahamas)

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated Aug 3, states: One firefighter was injured in a fire tonight onboard a cargo vessel (bulker *Clipper Mermaid*, 17944 gt, built 2001) docked at Oceanport Industries, along the banks of the Delaware River in the Claymont area. The fire was reported at 2051 hrs and was under control by 2228 hrs, according to the New Castle County Fire Board. No other injuries were reported. State fire marshals arrived at the scene, along the 6200 block of Philadelphia Pike, late tonight and are investigating the cause and origin of the blaze. (Note — *Clipper Mermaid*, Gabes for Claymont, passed Gibraltar July 23.)

London, Aug 4 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 0645, UTC: Bulker *Clipper Mermaid*, cargo pumice, had a fire in accommodation area which has been extinguished.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: An electrical malfunction caused a fire onboard bulker *Clipper Mermaid* last night on the Delaware River in the Claymont area, said Deputy Chief Allen Brown of State Fire Marshal's Office. The accidental fire was contained to a third deck office of the ship, Brown said. One firefighter was injured while battling the blaze, he was treated and released from Wilmington Hospital, Brown said. *Clipper Mermaid* arrived yesterday morning at the Oceanport Industries docking site and was scheduled to be in port for about a week.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Faulty electrical equipment on the master's desk caused a fire last night on board bulker *Clipper Mermaid* docked on the Delaware River in Claymont, Deputy Chief Allen Brown of State Fire Marshal's Office said. The accidental

fire, which caused an estimated \$1,500 in damages, was contained to the master's office on the third deck of the *Clipper Mermaid*. None of the 22 people on board at the time of the fire were injured, Brown said. The crew fought the fire until firefighters from the Claymont Fire Department arrived. One firefighter was injured, but was treated and released from Wilmington Hospital last night, Brown said. The fire began just before 2100, yesterday, and was under control by about 2330, said officials with the New Castle County Fireboard.

London, Aug 10 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS bulker *Clipper Mermaid* in lat 39 48 4.74N, long 75 26.68W at 0651, Aug 7, 0.1 nautical miles from Claymont, speed 0 knots.

CMA CGM ALGER (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Aug 5 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1135, UTC: Container Carrier *CMA CGM Alger* (6409 gt, built 2002), Malta for Poti, grounded at Serifos Island at 2340, UTC, Aug 4. All 14 crew members are safe. No pollution. Vessel is still aground and tug assistance tasked. (Note — *CMA CGM Alger* sailed Marsaxlokk Aug 3 for Poti.)

Piraeus, Aug 5 — Container Carrier *CMA CGM Alger*, heavily aground in laden condition: Tug *Matsas Star* departed Lavrion salvage station at 0700, local time, today and arrived in lat 37 07.4N, long 24 29.5E, where *CMA CGM Alger* aground at 1220, local time. At 1930, local time, vessel's master together with our tug master agreed and signed LOF 2000 "No Cure - No Pay" contract. Connection has been established and preparations for refloating are being made. — Loucas G. Matsas Salvage & Towage Maritime Company.

Piraeus, Aug 7 — Container Carrier *CMA CGM Alger*, Malta for Georgia, loaded, stranded at Kalo Ambeli bay, south of Serifos island, am Aug 5. All 14 crew members were reportedly healthy and secure. No pollution was reported. Refloating operation by two tugs is currently under way. Preliminary investigation is effected by Serifos port authorities. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 7 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0815, UTC: Container Carrier *CMA CGM Alger* is still aground. Tugs *Matsas Star* and *Amazon* are in attendance. Refloating options are being considered at the moment with the possibility of removing part cargo.

London, Aug 8 — Following received from Loucas G. Matsas Salvage & Towage Maritime Company, dated Aug 5: Our salvage tug *Matsas Star* departed from her Lavrion salvage station at 0700, Aug 5 and arrived at lat 37 07.4N, long 24 29.5E, where container carrier *CMA CGM Alger* is heavily aground in a laden condition. At 1930, local time, the vessel's master, together with our tugmaster agreed and signed an LOF 2000, "No Cure No Pay" contract. Connection has been established and preparations for refloating are being made.

London, Aug 10 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0935, UTC: Container Carrier *CMA CGM Alger* remains aground in the same position.

CMA CGM OTELLO (French Southern Territories)

Singapore, Aug 4 — Container carrier *CMA CGM Otello* presently remains at Raffles Reserve Anchorage, Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

COLSAC III (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: No one was injured yesterday when ferry *ColSac III* (built 2003) collided with another craft. *ColSac III*, which regularly shuttles cars across the Wisconsin River just south of Lake Wisconsin, was travelling from the east bank to the west bank when a pontoon boat crossed in front of it at about 1500 hrs. Department of Natural Resources Warden John Buss said the boat tried to cross "too close" to the ferry and became entangled in the ferry's cable, which rises up out of the water as the ferry approaches. The ferry operator began procedures to stop the ferry immediately, but because of its size, could not stop in time to avoid a collision. "But he did stop in time to not crush the boat," Buss said. Buss said no one was injured and damage was minimal in yesterday's incident. Following the collision, the pontoon boat's driver and two passengers climbed on board the ferry and waited for assistance. Merrimac firefighters were the first to respond, using the department's emergency response boat. DNR Deputy Warden Travis Hilliard said there was no structural damage done to either the pontoon boat or the ferry. Passengers on board the ferry waited about an hour before DNR officials arrived and were able to back the ferry up, lowering the pontoon boat back into the water for Merrimac Fire & Rescue to tow away.

COLUMBIA (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated Aug 4, states: Passenger ro/ro *Columbia* is back in service and is heading to Bellingham, Washington, after undergoing repairs in Ketchikan. Mary Siroky with the Alaska transportation department says the vessel left Ketchikan for Bellingham early yesterday morning. A part on one of the *Columbia's* two diesel engines malfunctioned early Wednesday (Aug 2) morning after it departed from Juneau. Siroky says the part controls how fast the engine goes. The Coast Guard let *Columbia* sail the outside waters to Ketchikan and avoid going through the Wrangell Narrows. Siroky says that *Columbia* is ETA Bellingham at 1300 today. That's about five hours later than usual. Siroky says the goal is to make up the time on the voyage back to Ketchikan.

COUGAR ACE (Singapore)

London, Aug 4 — A Coast Guard Anchorage press release, dated Aug 3, states: Preparations continue on board vehicle carrier *Cougar Ace* to transfer

water from the No 9 cargo deck into the No 5 starboard ballast tank. Today the salvage team, working from the Coast Guard cutter *Morgenthau*, plans to lift a third pump onto the vessel to provide additional power needed to transfer the water. The water, which has slowly seeped into the No 9 deck from the vessel's cargo door ramp, poses no threat to the vessel's safety and stability. Pumping it to the starboard ballast tank should help to reduce vessel's list and provide the *Cougar Ace* with additional stability. Yesterday, the naval architect, salvage team and others on site were unable to make significant progress due to limited visibility that restricted the use of a Coast Guard helicopter serving to shuttle equipment and personnel to and from the *Cougar Ace*. Current weather consists of south-east winds at 20 knots. Seas are at four feet with swells to six feet. The visibility is eight nautical miles. The vessel was shifted to a more northerly course to reduce the roll it was experiencing while on an easterly course. The closest point of land to the vessel is currently Herbert Island, about 81 nautical miles away. The cutter *Sycamore*, tug *Emma Foss*, tug *Sea Victory* and utility vessel *Redeemer* remain on scene. The *Gladiator* is still en route from Anacortes, Wash, travelling at 14 knots. The tug reached the Dixon Entrance on the border of Alaska and Canada early this morning and is expected to arrive Sunday morning (Aug 6). According to Unified Command, no decision has been reached on where the disabled vessel will be towed after pumping operations are complete.

London, Aug 7 — Coast Guard Anchorage press releases state: Dated Aug 4: Vehicle carrier *Cougar Ace* continued its movement to the north throughout yesterday making its way toward the Bering Sea to reduce the impact of swells that the ship had been consistently encountering in the North Pacific Ocean, south of the Aleutian Islands chain. As of 1000 today, the ship was approximately 30 nautical miles south of Samalga Pass. Ocean swells, ranging from 6 to 12 feet pose no threat to the vessel's stability but have hampered efforts to install pumps needed to make the initial transfer of water which will help improve the list of the ship. Weather conditions are reported as southwest winds at 20 knots. Seas are two feet with swells to three feet. The sky is overcast but visibility remains at eight miles. Crews are working currently to rig a second towline from tug *IOSea Victory* to *Cougar Ace* to improve safety and be more effective in the changing sea conditions. That process is expected to take the better part of the day. Once the new towline is secured crews will wait for the next flood tide through Samalga Pass to transit to the Bering Sea. *Sea Victory* has two independent towing systems. The second towline is a precautionary measure for the transit through the pass. As the ship moved northward

yesterday, salvage team members were able to continue work to prepare to shift the liquid load of water to right the ship. After exiting Samalga Pass the tow master and the Unified Command will continue to assess the condition of the vessel, the tow and the weather as they progress on an easterly track along the Aleutian Islands. Officials stress that adequate maritime assets will remain with *Cougar Ace* to monitor and control the vessel and to ensure the protection of all marine resources in the area. Coast Guard cutters *Morgenthau* and *Sycamore* remain on-scene in addition to tugs *Sea Victory* and *Emma Foss*, and the utility vessels *Redeemer* and *Makushin Bay*. A third tug, the *Gladiator*, is due to arrive alongside *Cougar Ace* on Sunday morning. Unified Command members are evaluating whether or not to tow the ship to a nearby protected harbor. The decision will not be made until additional surveys of the ship have been made and the salvage team has completed its initial attempt to right the vessel at sea.

Dated Aug 6: Officials of the Unified Command have directed the movement of *Cougar Ace* through Samalga Pass in the Aleutian Island chain to calmer waters north of Unalaska Island where efforts to right the ship will continue. By yesterday evening local time, the ship had cleared the northern end of the pass and was making its way in a northeasterly direction staying well distant from sensitive marine life and waterfowl resources in the area. The Unified Command determined on Aug 3 that the process of reducing the ship's 60 degree list could be expedited and carried out more safely inside the Bering Sea instead of the North Pacific Ocean where sea swells have been more unpredictable over the past several days. As of 1000 today the ship was located approximately 10 miles northwest of Umnak Island. Seas are calm and visibility is reported as good on-scene. Incident Commander Capt. Mark DeVries of the United States Coast Guard reports that the ship's salvage team will continue efforts to rig pumps on-board the ship that will dewater the vessel's No.9 cargo deck and adjust the ship's ballast condition to right the ship and restore its upright stable condition. Where the ship will travel following the offshore salvage work has yet to be determined and will depend on the success of water pumping efforts as well as other factors including weather and sea conditions.

London, Aug 8 - A press report, dated today, states: Salvage teams, assisted by the U.S. Coast Guard, began to pump water from vehicle carrier *Cougar Ace*, yesterday, in an effort to right the vessel, which is listing at 60 degrees. Salvors plan to pump water from the number nine cargo deck and transfer sea water into the starboard ballast tank to right vessel, which will then be towed to a port. The operation is expected to take 30 to 40 hours, according to a joint statement from

MOL and the Coast Guard. MOL has yet to decide which port to tow the vessel to once it is back on keel. The vessel was located 13 miles northeast of Umnak Island yesterday. The unified operation command said weather conditions were favorable, but forecasts 20-25 knot winds and seven-foot seas today. (See issue of Aug 8.)

London, Aug 9 — A Coast Guard Anchorage press release, dated Aug 8, states: The Unified Command, working to right vehicle carrier *Cougar Ace*, has reported that sea swells yesterday forced the abandonment of salvage team efforts. As a result *Cougar Ace* will be brought to a mooring in Wide Bay, Unalaska Island. Sea and weather in Wide Bay should permit safe salvage operations. The mooring operations will take most of the afternoon. Two towing configurations will be employed simultaneously to control the vessel as it is towed to Wide Bay. Crews will also use a double mooring on location there. The tugs will remain on scene and a barge loaded with pollution response gear will be stationed on site. The salvage team began transferring water from the No.9 cargo deck around 1500 yesterday; however it soon became apparent that choppy seas in the area posed a risk to the safety of the team. Salvage vessel *Makushin Bay*, which was being used as a staging area for the pneumatic pumps, was unable to remain close enough to *Cougar Ace* without striking the ship. With safety of the salvage team and protection of the local environment as paramount concerns the Unified Command of federal and state agencies and the ship's operator, decided to suspend pumping by 1800 hrs and begin arranging for the vessel to be brought to a safe mooring in Wide Bay. Officials believe that the relocation of the ship will allow the transfer of ballast water to be completed safely and quickly, allowing company officials and others to board the ship and more fully investigate the condition of the vessel. Current weather on scene consists of 15 knot winds from the southwest with seas around two feet. They have overcast skies and patchy fog though visibility remains at eight miles. Several vessels remain on-site to assist *Cougar Ace* as needed and to protect the local environment and marine habitat including the Coast Guard cutters *Morgenthau* and *Sycamore*, vessel *Redeemer* and private tugs *Sea Victory* and *Gladiator*.

COURTNEY

London, Aug 7 — A Coast Guard Milwaukee press release, dated today, states: U.S. Coast Guard Sector Lake Michigan will conduct a marine casualty investigation into the sinking of the 130-foot dredge-barge *Courtney*. On Aug 6 the unmanned dredge-barge sank in approximately 800 feet of water, 21 miles west of Frankfurt, Mich. Originally under tow, on Aug 4, from Ludington, Mich., to Escanaba, Mich., *Courtney* experienced difficulties and capsized approximately 20 miles east of

Sturgeon Bay, Wisc. The dredge-barge was under tow by the tug *Carol Ann*. The barge remained afloat and proceeded under tow back to Ludington on Aug 5, where salvage operations were to be conducted. Deteriorating weather presented a safety hazard and did not allow for the tug to complete the tow. The barge was anchored overnight 21 miles west of Frankfurt. On Aug 6, a Coast Guard helicopter overflight confirmed the barge did not remain afloat and sank. Coast Guard Sector Lake Michigan responded by coordinating efforts with agencies from both Wisconsin and Michigan to develop a salvage plan and recover the barge. The Coast Guard conducted several overflights with USCG Marine Safety Detachment personnel onboard, as well as surveying the barge on scene when it was reported to be capsized. Additionally, the Coast Guard's Salvage Engineering Response Team of the Marine Safety Center in Washington, D.C. was utilized in determining a safe recovery plan. *Courtney* is 130 feet in length, 28 ft in width, and is owned by King Co. in Holland, Mich. *Courtney* has the capacity to carry 10,000 gallons of diesel fuel, but the exact amount of fuel onboard, at the time of the sinking, is unknown. NOAA's Scientific Support Coordinator to the Coast Guard has determined that if in fact the barge contained the maximum amount of diesel fuel onboard that it could hold, it is highly unlikely that any fuel would make landfall based on the depth of water and type of diesel fuel onboard. Due to the location of the sunken barge, there are no feasible recovery operations that would allow the barge to be salvaged or the fuel to be removed. The Coast Guard is currently conducting a marine casualty investigation to determine the cause of the sinking.

CP VALOUR (Bermuda)

Ponta delgada, Aug 3 — Container Carrier *CP Valour*: The removal operation of the cargo is continuing as about 150 containers still on board. Reported that about 370 containers already discharged from the vessel and a some of them are being transported to Lisbon. Present container discharge rate about 4/6 containers per day they expect to conclude all the containers removal operation by the end of August. Vessel still grounded Praia da Faja at the north coast of Faial-Island. — Lloyd's Agents.

DION (Panama)

London, Aug 4 — Combined ore and oil carrier *Dion* arrived Singapore 1535, Aug 2.

DS MONTROSE (Bahamas)

London, Aug 10 — Bulker *DS Montrose*, Eleusis for Yuzhnyy, passed Dardanelles Aug 9.

ECHO (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 4 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1945,

UTC: Fishing *Echo* (97 gt, built 1980) sank off Kodiak Island in lat 57 41N, long 154 12W at 0946, UTC, today. All crew rescued.

EUGENIA (Honduras)

Mumbai, Aug 4 — General cargo *Eugenia* is still at Mumbai port, arrested by High Court. — Lloyd's Agents.

EURO SEA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See "Belgium" under "Port State Control".

EUROPEAN MARINER (Bahamas)

London, Aug 10 — Roll On Roll Off *European Mariner* departed Larne bound Dublin for repairs at 2300, Aug 3. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU *European Mariner* was in lat 53 20 26N, long 06 07 25W, at 1247 today, speed 9 knots, course 91.5 degrees.)

EVA JOAN

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated Aug 9, states: Barge *Eva Joan*, the newest barge of Petaluma sand and gravel importer Landing Way Depot, remains stuck in San Francisco Bay after sustaining damage Jul 4. The barge was launched in the Petaluma River in early June but began taking on water while returning from its maiden voyage with 3,000 tons of Canadian sand offloaded from an ocean freighter. The sand was transferred to another barge and *Eva Joan* was towed to a marina in Alameda while naval architects try to determine what went wrong, Landing Way president Rob McIntosh said this week. He said the company hopes to have the barge repaired and back in service "as soon as possible."

FEDERAL ELBE (Cyprus)

Lisbon, Aug 4 — Bulker *Federal Elbe* (22654 gt, built 2003), during passage from Montreal to Castellon, 560 nautical miles west of Azores Islands, a failure of the vessel's rudder occurred and the vessel proceeded to Lisbon as port of refuge towed by the tug *Smitwijs Singapore*. On Jul 9, 560 nautical miles west of Azores Islands, the vessel commenced to turn around. All normal procedures were followed up. The main engine was stopped and intensive investigations were carried out. The steering gear was inspected and no anomalies were detected. A failure of the rudder (rudder stock fracture) was detected. From Jul 9 to Jul 22 the vessel stayed adrift. The tug *Smitwijs Singapore* was hired and the towing commenced at 1000, Jul 22. The vessel arrived at Lisbon at 1030 Jul 31, and anchored at Mar da Palha midstream anchorage at 2200 on the same day. Vessel transhipped cargo to another vessel. The *Federal Elbe* is expected to go to drydock on Aug 12 for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Federal Elbe* sailed Montreal about Jul 5.)

London, Aug 9 — Bulker *Federal Elbe* left Lisbon 1231, Aug 5 and arrived Setubal same day.

FERRAMENTA (Germany)

London, Aug 8 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: At 0925, local time, Aug 5, two vessels ran aground on the Rhine at Cologne. One was the *Ferramenta*, homeport Krimpen, the other was bargetrain *Lorraine* (CFNR 311). Both ships grounded on the left side of the river, but succeeded in getting free under their own power a short time later. Both vessels were too deeply laden.

FINNSTAR (Finland)

London, Aug 7 — Information received from Kiel states: With a delay of two months, passenger ro/ro *Finnstar* of Finnlines, for the first time berthed at Lubeck-Travemunde, in the morning of Aug 5. The delivery of the ship by Fincantieri, Italy, had been delayed due to a severe fire on the vessel while under construction.

GIOVANNA (Russia)

Kaliningrad, Aug 7 — Chemical tanker *Giovanna* is still in the same position. The preparation for utilisation of the vessel is under way. — Lloyd's Agents.

HAI YANG SHI YOU 298 (China)

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

HALTEN

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Malmö, Aug 4 — General cargo *Halten* left Raasikoula July 27 for Bergnaset with a new master onboard. According to class surveyor vessel was some bottom plates dented. The vessel is to have further divers inspection after discharging in Norway. — Lloyd's Agents.

HAMBURG EXPRESS (DIS)

Maassluis, Aug 7 — At around 0845, local time, today, there was a collision between general cargo *Hamburg Express* (3466 gt, built 1991) and vehicle carrier *Asian Vision* (55680 gt, built 1997) near the Boudewijnlocks in dense fog. According to the latest information there is no damage, but both vessels need to be examined by nautical commission before they may enter the Kallolock. Both vessels will go to the docks at the leftshore. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Maassluis, Aug 7 — General cargo *Hamburg Express* in collision with vehicle carrier *Asian Vision: Hamburg Express* has torn away a part of the bridge on port side. *Asian Vision* has a hole in the front on starboard side. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

HANLUN

London, Aug 6 — Rescue workers are conducting rescue operations to container carrier *Hanlun*, from Guangzhou, which sank near Dachangdao Island, in Shenzhen on Aug 5. Eight crew were rescued. Forty-three containers are blocking the main channel at the mouth of Pearl River. The accident is under investigation.

HAO HAI (Belize)

London, Aug 7 — Following notice to mariners issued at 1200, JST, today: Anchoring general cargo *Hao Hai* has weighed anchor. (See issue of Aug 4.)

HARVEST TAMARA (South Africa)

See *Anangel Splendour*.

HOHEBANK (U.K.)

Liverpool, Aug 3 — General cargo *Hohebank* is still in Cammell Lairds under repair. — Lloyd's Agents.

HYUNDAI FORTUNE (Panama)

London, Aug 8 — Container Carrier *Hyundai Fortune* is currently in Dubai Roads, off the drydock.

ISKANDER

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Aug 4 — Pusher tugs *Iskander* (299 gt, built 2006) and *Alpamys* arrived Brest yesterday afternoon for a technical stop. *Iskander* lost both anchors at sea. The vessels are underway from Rotterdam to Kazakhstan. They expected to arrive at the Caspian Sea in about 45 days. (Note — *Iskander* sailed Rotterdam July 30 for Gibraltar.)

London, Aug 10 — Pusher tug *Iskander* passed Gibraltar 0649, Aug 8.

JONATHAN SWIFT (Cyprus)

Avonmouth, Aug 8 — The owners of Roll On Roll Off *Jonathan Swift* reported that the vessel hit an unidentified submerged object, on Aug 1, and proceeded to Birkenhead for repairs. Repairs completed and vessel sailed on Aug 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

KOZIOROZEC (Poland)

Berlin, Aug 10 — The river police at Frankfurt/Oder inform that barge *Koziorozec* will most likely refloat today because of the rising water-level of the River Oder. Further information could not be obtained because the vessel grounded on the Polish side of the river. The German Shipping Authority did not record an entry of the vessel. The case will be handled by the Polish Shipping Authority in Szczecin. — Lloyd's Agents.

LARGS BAY (U.K.)

London, Aug 4 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 1332, UTC: Naval auxiliary tanker *Largs Bay* (20000 gt, built 2006), Plymouth for Devonport, 67 persons on board, lost all propulsion in lat 50 15N, long 02 58.35W at 1230, local time. Duration of repairs unknown. No assistance required at present, arranging a tug through RFA HQ and can anchor if necessary.

London, Aug 5 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 0623, UTC: Naval auxiliary tanker *Largs Bay* now under tow by tug *Abeille Liberte* to Portland, ETA 0800, UTC, today. Current position lat 50 31.9N, long 02 18.3W.

LEIF ERIKSON (Canada)

Halifax, Aug 8 — Roll on roll off *Leif Erikson* experienced a turbo-charger

failure in the bow thruster engine. A new turbo-charger has been fitted, and the vessel is back in service. — Lloyd's Agents.

LORRAINE

See *Ferramenta*.

LUCKY STAR (Bolivia)

Taipei, Aug 4 — According to the Marine Department of Kaohsiung Harbour Bureau, tanker *Lucky Star* sank at outer Kaohsiung harbour (the same position as before reported) and one warning buoy was installed near the wreck position. The water depth near the wreck position is approximately 20 metres. No salvage operation has been carried out at this stage. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAERSK FAWLEY (U.K.)

London, Aug 5 — Container Carrier *Maersk Fawley* sailed Rotterdam at 1235, Aug 3, according to Lloyd's MIU AIS in lat 53 35 19.74N, long 8 31 31.68E, 3.4 nautical miles from Blexen, speed 0.1 knots.

London, Aug 9 — Container Carrier *Maersk Fawley* arrived Bremerhaven 0120, Aug 5, sailed 1055 same day for Casablanca and passed Dover Strait Aug 6.

MAERSK RIO GRANDE (Antigua & Barbuda)

Balboa, Aug 3 — Container carrier *Maersk Rio Grande* arrived Balboa anchorage at 0231, Aug 2, in tow of tug *Jobos* and berthed at 1600 same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAINE (Cambodia)

Piraeus, Aug 4 — General cargo *Maine* completed repairs and returned to service yesterday. The vessel performs the schedule Piraeus-Serifos-Sifnos-Milos-Folegandros islands. — Lloyd's Agents.

MANISTEE (U.S.A.)

Troy, Mich, Aug 6 — Bulker *Manistee* departed the Burroughs dock in Zilwaukee at 1130 yesterday after undergoing repairs at the dock and headed upriver to finish unloading its cargo at the Saginaw Wirt dock. *Manistee* was unable to complete unloading its cargo at the Saginaw Wirt dock on Jul 28 and backed downriver to the Burroughs dock for repairs to be made to its unloading equipment. *Manistee* finished unloading at the Saginaw Wirt dock by 1830 yesterday and waited at the dock for about 50 minutes to let the Calumet turn in the Sixth Street turning basin and clear outbound before proceeding upriver. With assistance from the tug *Robin Lynn*, *ManisteeP. turned at the Sixth Street turning basin and was outbound for the lake by 2100 hrs. Radio Traffic indicated that ManisteeP. was headed for Calcite to load for Cleveland. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping News.*

MARC MITCHELL (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Aug 7 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states:

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

General cargo *Marc Mitchell* (2599 gt, built 1999) had to be assisted by tug *Fairplay 23* yesterday after experiencing machine problems on the River Maas. The ships were then joined by tug *Smit Japan* and *Marc Mitchell* was towed to Calandsteiger 3. (Note — *Marc Mitchell* sailed Rotterdam 0755, Aug 4, for Lisbon, and returned to Calandsteiger 3, Rotterdam, at 1315, yesterday with *Fairplay 23*. According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Marc Mitchell* was stationary in lat 51 57 18N, long 04 09 07E, at 0941 today.)

London, Aug 9 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS general cargo *Marc Mitchell* was stationary in lat 51 57 18N, long 04 09 07E, at 0923 today.

MAUNAKEA (Liberia)

London, Aug 10 — Refrigerated general cargo *Maunakea* arrived Chittagong Aug 1 from Port Klang.

MONTE STELLO (New Zealand)

Wellington, Aug 9 — Passenger ro/ro *Monte Stello* will be laid up until October. — Lloyd's Agents.

MSC JESSICA (Panama)

London, Aug 9 — Container Carrier *MSC Jessica* sailed Singapore 2140, Aug 7.

NAMA (Panama)

London, Aug 7 — A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV report, dated Aug 3, states: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage was contracted on Aug 2 to provide salvage services to a 1988 built, DWT 14,312 ton (general cargo vessel general cargo *Nama*). The vessel had run aground 20 nautical miles off Kakinada a number of days earlier and attempts locally to refloat it did not result in any improvement. Immediately upon being contracted salvage experts from the SvitzerWijsmuller offices in India and The Netherlands were mobilised in, with further staff made ready in Singapore and South Africa. A salvage tug from partners Sri Lanka Shipping is being mobilised with ETA beginning coming week. The vessel is being stabilised in its present condition.

NAPOCOR POWER BARGE 105 (Philippines)

Manila, July 27 — National Power Corp. (Napocor) has decided to proceed with repairs to barge *Napocor Power Barge 105*. Napocor officials said that a public tender will be held to determine which shipyard will repair the vessel. Officials said that it would be economically more viable to repair the vessel than to declare it a total constructive loss and purchase a replacement. The barge is still docked at Masbate pier and will remain there until a shipyard is awarded the repair contract. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Aug 4 — National Power Corp. (Napocor) reported that it is now preparing the terms of reference for the public bidding to determine which shipyard will be awarded the repair contract for barge *Napocor Power*

Barge 105. The terms of reference are expected to be completed before the month ends after which an invitation to bid will be published in the major local dailies. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

NAPOCOR POWER BARGE NO.106 (Philippines)

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

NIKOLAY PRZHEVALSKIY (Russia)

Vladivostok, Aug 9 — Roll On Roll Off *Nikolay Przhevalskiy* arrived Vladivostok Aug 5 from Japan. — Lloyd's Agents.

NORDSTERN 2

London, Aug 4 — Information received from Kiel, dated today: Passenger (cruise) *Nordstern 2* (built 1902), 26 metres, caught fire in Berlin in the morning of Aug 2. The fire was extinguished by 35 firefighters. The vessel was severely damaged. It was berthed at the Stralau peninsula. It was in service as a tug until 1978. Now it is allowed to carry 200 passengers.

NORTH CAPE (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated Aug 7, states: Wildlife restoration is almost complete a decade after the tank barge *North Cape* oil spill. A winter storm drove the *North Cape* onto Moonstone Beach 10 years ago. The barge released 828-thousand gallons of home heating oil into the Rhode Island Sound. More than nine million lobsters, 19 million clams and thousands of birds were lost. Three states and the federal government have been working to restore the region's wildlife population since then. Governor Carcieri and Senator Jack Reed will officially mark the end of the effort Thursday when they notch the last lobster to be protected. A big part of the restoration involved making small notches in lobsters' shells to mark them as protected.

NORTH SEA (Liberia)

London, Aug 5 — Container Carrier *North Sea* arrived New York Aug 4 from Hamburg.

NORWAY (Bahamas)

New Delhi, Aug 3 — An Indian panel has violated guidelines for ship-breaking laid down by India's Supreme Court by approving the scrapping of passenger (cruise) *Blue Lady*, ex *Norway*, this week, an environmental alliance said today. The panel said the vessel, which environmentalists say contains hundreds of metric tons of asbestos and other toxic materials, could be broken down safely in the western Indian shipyard of Alang in Gujarat state. "With regards to the illegal beaching which has been allowed, we will file an application to bring to the notice of the court how its orders have been flouted," said Gopala Krishana, co-ordinator for the NGO Platform on

Shipbreaking. The alliance of non-governmental organisations includes Greenpeace, Ban Asbestos Network and The European Federation for Transport and Environment. In June, the Supreme Court allowed the vessel to enter Indian waters but blocked its dismantling until the court-appointed expert panel gave its report on whether it was safe to scrap it in Alang. The environmental alliance said the panel had found toxic materials like asbestos and cancer-causing polychlorinated biphenyls on board the *Blue Lady* and, by allowing it to be dismantled in Alang, had gone against Supreme Court guidelines set in 2003. Those guidelines say that the vessel should be properly decontaminated by the owners prior to breaking in India and that local authorities must verify that decontamination has happened. Greenpeace says Indian shipyards like Alang lack new technology to safely handle toxic waste in vessels they scrap. The group says the *Blue Lady* contains at least 900 tonnes of asbestos. — Reuters.

OCEAN JET 2 (Philippines)

Manila, Aug 4 — Ferry *Ocean Jet 2* (147 gt, built 1989, not ferry *Bacolod Express*, as before reported) resumed normal operations today after undergoing afloat repairs in Cebu to its damaged bow. Lecil Porol, manager of the Ocean Fast Ferries terminal at Bacolod port reported that the vessel was now at Bacolod port embarking passengers for its trip to Iloilo. "The *Ocean Jet 2* has been certified as seaworthy by the Philippine Coast Guard and has been allowed to sail," she said. The vessel was in collision with a cargo vessel while it was manoeuvring out of the Ocean Jet terminal at Bacolod on Jul 29. The vessel sustained only slight damage to its bow but was prevented from resuming its voyage to Iloilo by the Philippine Coast Guard. The vessel returned to the Ocean Jet terminal where the passengers were disembarked after which the vessel proceeded to its home port of Cebu where repairs were undertaken. The repairs were completed yesterday and the vessel is back to servicing its regular Iloilo-Bacolod route. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

OCEAN SERAYA (Panama)

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Coast Guard personnel have increased surveillance around grounded bulker *Ocean Seraya* to ensure it does not drift away in the incessant rains that have been lashing Goa. *Ocean Seraya*, which hit the rocks off the Karwar coast on May 30 and later broke in two, is still stranded. "We have pressed into service a Chetak helicopter to keep a vigil over the vessel," Commander R K Sharma, Deputy Inspector General, Coast Guard, said.

OOCL SHENZHEN (Hong Kong)

London, Aug 9 — Container Carrier *OOCL Shenzhen* arrived Port Klang

Aug 5, sailed Aug 6 and arrived Singapore 0225, Aug 7.

PACIFIC LAUREL

London, Aug 6 — A press release from the United States Coast Guard, dated yesterday, states: Crew members on board a Coast Guard C-130 Hercules airplane from Air Station Barbers Point, dropped two de-watering pumps and a VHF radio last night during a search and rescue mission 120 miles south-west of Oahu. The Coast Guard Command Center received notification at 1830, yesterday, that the ? fishing (general) *Pacific Laurel* (135 gt, built 1942) reported to be taking on water with five people on board. The Navy vessel *Pelelieu* was diverted and assisted in the rescue. Once on scene *Pelelieu* rescued four of the five crew members and escorted them to Pearl Harbor. The survivors are expected to arrive at Pearl Harbor by 1730, tonight. The master of the vessel choose to stay on board to attempt salvage. Earlier today, crew members from the Coast Guard Cutter *Ahi*, stationed at Honolulu Harbor, arrived on scene approximately 1300 hrs.

London, Aug 6 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 0910, UTC: *Pacific Laurel*, 110 foot, five persons on board, recently purchased from Canada, sank off Oahu yesterday evening. Master was safely evacuated.

PACIFIC LAUREL (Canada)

Honolulu, Aug 8 — Reported at approximately 1830, Aug 4, that fishing (general) *Pacific Laurel* began taking on water approximately 120 miles south-west of the island of O'ahu. Initially four crew members were rescued by a Navy helicopter with the captain remaining in an attempt salve of the vessel. The U. S. Coast Guard Cutter *AHI* arrived to assist. It was later reported that the skipper subsequently abandoned the *Pacific Laurel*. — Lloyd's Agents.

PHILIPP (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Aug 4 — General cargo *Philipp* (2567 gt, built 1978) grounded off Stranraer Jul 17. (Note — *Philipp* sailed Greenock Jul 17 and arrived Liverpool at 2300, Jul 18. According to LMIU AIS vessel in lat 53 24 23.21N, long 03 3 8.57W at 1020, today, speed 0 knots, 3.2 nautical miles off Liverpool.)

PHYLLIS DUNLAP (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Submerged Trident submarine *Nevada* sustained damage after apparently snagging and severing the tow line of tug *Phyllis Dunlap* (198 gt, built 2001) in the Strait of Juan de Fuca late Tuesday (Aug 1) or early Wednesday. The Coast Guard is investigating reports from the Navy and *Phyllis Dunlap* about the incident. No injuries were reported by either crew. The ballistic missile submarine USS *Nevada* left Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor on patrol. *Nevada* was moving through the strait when

crew members heard and felt the impact of its sail against the tow line, said Submarine Group 9 spokeswoman Lt. H.K. Sweeney. The sub returned to the base yesterday afternoon to assess the damage. "There's some damage to the fiberglass portion of the sail," Sweeney said. It was unclear yesterday how long the damage would take to repair, she said. The tug, with a six-member crew, was towing two barges loaded with empty containers from Honolulu to Seattle, said Cmdr. Chris Woodley of Coast Guard District 13. When the sub snapped the line to one of the barges, it drifted away from the tug, said Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Paul Roszkowski. Another tug later retrieved the barge. Coast Guard Sector Seattle is handling the investigation into the incident. Final results should be completed next week, Woodley said. "I don't think any of the facts are in dispute," he said. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Phyllis Dunlap* was at Everett at 1248 yesterday.)

PLATO (Barbados)

London, Aug 4 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1031, UTC: General cargo *Plato* (1990 gt, built 1989), bound Greifswald with a cargo of pebbles, grounded off Copenhagen, in lat 55 42.5N, long 12 40.3E, at about 0215, UTC, today. The vessel is still aground. No pollution reported. An oil-recovery vessel is standing by, and the police are presently on board *Plato*.

London, Aug 5 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC timed 1155, UTC: General cargo *Plato* is still aground. Refloating attempts are currently taking place and it is anticipated it will refloat this afternoon.

London, Aug 6 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC timed 0921, UTC: General cargo *Plato* refloated yesterday evening. Minor scratches to its bottom, no leakage. Vessel proceeded on voyage to Germany.

POTOMAC (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Two barges, loaded with hazardous materials and headed for BP Decatur, pushed by tug *Potomac* (144 gt, built 1996), owned and operated by Maryland Marine Inc. of Houston, Texas, struck Wilson Lock near Florence yesterday, damaging the lock and shutting down all river traffic. Alabama 33, which bridges the Tennessee River at Wilson Dam, is closed to vehicle traffic. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials said they do not expect either river or road traffic to resume until at least tomorrow. One of the barges remained lodged under the upper gate of the lock yesterday afternoon. The accident caused no injuries. Because of the risk posed by the barges' contents, ethylbenzene xylene, the river is closed for one mile upstream and downstream of the lock. Decatur industries promise to be hardest hit by the lock closure, said Rick Terry, vice president of marketing of Decatur

Transit's Port of Decatur. "Decatur is the largest port on the Tennessee River, so a large portion of the barges are coming to Decatur," Terry said. As of yesterday afternoon, none of the xylene had leaked from the damaged barges, according to Mike Ensich, chief of the operations division for the Corps' Nashville district. He said emergency personnel had evacuation plans in place, but so far have not had to implement them. The Corps plans to leave the xylene in the damaged barges, rather than risking a transfer to another barge. BP uses the chemical to manufacture polyester fiber. Before the lock can reopen, Ensich said, the Corps must repair damage to the upper gate, gate machinery and river wall. Ensich said the Corps is working with the U.S. Coast Guard and Tennessee Valley Authority to try to open an auxiliary lock to commercial traffic before the main lock is repaired, but Terry said that would not prevent major delays. The auxiliary lock can handle one barge an hour. The main lock can handle six barges an hour. On busy days, Wilson Lock, which is 45 miles downstream of Decatur, handles about 70 barges. It averages about eight barges a day. Terry said the plan to resume river traffic as early as tomorrow sounded optimistic. Ensich yesterday afternoon said a planning crew had finalized a strategy for stabilizing the lock enough to remove the barge. "Now it's a matter of obtaining the materials, fabricating the braces and all, and getting them hooked up," Ensich said. "At the very earliest, I'm thinking the barge might be moved tomorrow. It will be tomorrow or a bit later." Ensich said an investigation into the cause of the accident is ongoing. In addition to the Corps, agencies responding to the accident included the Coast Guard, TVA and Alabama Emergency Management Agency. Ensich said the many barges marooned by the shutdown are in the process of tying off at moorings and harbours until the lock opens. The damage did not impact TVA's ability to generate hydroelectric power from Wilson Dam, TVA officials said.

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Tug *Potomac*: Officials removed a damaged barge from the main chamber of Wilson Lock near Florence over the weekend (Aug 5-6), but river and vehicle traffic remain restricted. The barge was one of two, headed for BP Decatur, that hit the lock Thursday morning. The main lock remains closed indefinitely as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluates the damage. An auxiliary lock, which can handle about one barge per hour, opened Friday. Alabama 133, which spans the Tennessee River at Wilson Dam, also remains closed. Tennessee Valley Authority spokeswoman Barbara Martocci said the heavy equipment needed to repair the lock will need to access the road. She said TVA has no estimate on when it will reopen the bridge.

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

PRIDE OF BILBAO (U.K.)

London, Aug 10 — Understand P&O Ferries have cancelled the 2115, Aug 8, sailing of passenger ro/ro *Pride of Bilbao* (37583 gt, built 1986) from Portsmouth to Bilbao, and the 1315, Aug 10, sailing from Bilbao to Portsmouth, due to an object obstructing one of the vessel's propellers, which must be cleared by divers.

PRINCE LEW (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 7 — A Coast Guard Baton Rouge press release, dated Aug 6, states: The Coast Guard is responding today after tug *Prince Lew* (72 gt, built 1970), with three people on board, sank in the Mississippi River near Bayou Goula, La. At just after 0400 hrs the Coast Guard received a call that *Prince Lew* sank suddenly in the middle of the Mississippi River. *Prince Lew* was crossing the river from the Kinder Morgan docks about 30 river miles south of Baton Rouge when it started taking on water. Within moments the vessel sank in the middle of the river in 45 feet of water. The three crewmembers on board, who were wearing life jackets, were able to swim to shore. The Coast Guard has closed the river in the vicinity of the sinking and is investigating the cause of the accident.

London, Aug 7 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1425, UTC: The salvage operation on tug *Prince Lew* is expected to begin at noon, local time, today. As a result of the sinking the passage of five deep draught vessels has been affected, two up-bound and three down-bound.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Tug *Prince Lew* that sank over the weekend is causing trouble for vessel masters in the way of lost time and money. While the sunken boat has not been a concern for a few ships and barges on the Mississippi River, it has forced others into a total shut down. "We completed loading yesterday at 1900 hrs and must depart for our next port at 2100 hrs, approximately," said Capt. Oleg Datiev, the master of a tanker that is on hold. "But due to the sunken boat we must wait until the salvage operations are completed." The tug sank in the centre of the river, and because salvage divers are constantly in and out of the water, the Coast Guard is limiting the types of vessels in that area of the river. "Right now we're holding up deep draughts because it's just a little bit too tight in that area," said Lt. Todd Peterson of the U.S. Coast Guard. The delay along the Mississippi is proving to be a costly one. Datiev's tanker is losing more than \$50,000 for every day it stays in port. According to the Port of Greater Baton Rouge, six ships are being delayed because of the salvage operation.

London, Aug 9 — Understand tug *Prince Lew* was raised and removed from the channel yesterday. The Coast Guard has rescinded the Safety Zone which had closed the Mississippi River

from Mile 196 to 198. The NOBRA Pilots are now taking orders to move vessels through this reach of the river. All transit restrictions related to this Safety Zone were cancelled at 2330 same day.

PROJECT 305

London, Aug 4 — press report, dated today, states: A multi-million-pound superyacht was towed into Plymouth yesterday when a 'severe' blaze in the engine-room halted sea trials. The 'Project 305', one of Devonport Dockyard operator DML's most ambitious builds and shrouded in secrecy, was rescued after the fire started 11 miles out to sea. The vessel was south west off Rame Head when the fire broke out. A spokesperson for Brixham coastguard said a lifeboat was on standby after they had received reports of the fire at about 1300 hrs, but the yacht's master had said their help was unnecessary. The spokesperson said: "The master insisted he did not need any coastguard assistance. He said he had it under control and arranged for DML's own tugs and fire vessels to help. "We informed the fire authorities." The vessel, and its 28 crew members, were towed by three tugs to Devonport where three appliances, two from Camels Head and one from Crownhill, and the Plymstock fire boat were ready to make the engine-room safe at about 1630 hrs. A spokesperson for the fire service said the fire was contained at sea and no one was injured but the engine-room was 'severely damaged'. They said: "We went out when we were called by the coastguard and shadowed the boat in from the Breakwater. "Four breathing apparatus, one jet and a thermal imaging camera were used to secure the engine-room while the yacht was moored at Devonport." Details of the Project 305 superyacht have been kept a closely guarded secret by DML as part of a confidentiality agreement with its hugely wealthy buyer. His or her identity may never be revealed although it is believed the person is 'well-known'.

RIVER PRINCESS

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 8, states: In an interesting twist to the bulk ore carrier *River Princess* matter, the State Cabinet today resolved to approach the High Court and impress on the court of its plans for removing the grounded vessel by the one and only acceptable option of refloating and towing. This decision has come in the wake of a recent directive from the High Court in Mumbai giving the State government six weeks to file an affidavit on the second option put forth by the owner of the vessel seeking to cut the grounded vessel at the site and tow it seawards. The chief minister said that experts from the directorate of shipping, after inspecting the vessel last year, put forward three options for removing the vessel of which only one was

acceptable to the government. The first was to cut the vessel and remove it landwards, the second to cut the vessel and remove it seawards and the third was to refloat and tow it away. "The first two options are not acceptable as it will create environment pollution and affect the North beach belt," said the chief minister and the chief secretary. They disclosed that the government had pursued the third option and invited tenders. J P Singh said that when the matter came up before the court earlier this week, it had put a halt to the government's on-going process for issuing work orders to the agency finalised for refloating and towing the vessel away. Interestingly the work order was approved by the Cabinet today. The Cabinet has also resolved that the government should approach the court in the next 3-4 days explaining its stand which rejects the options for cutting the vessel at the site.

RM MARGAUX (France)

London, Aug 9 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: On Aug 4, the salvage ship *Jacomina* of Tak Marine, commenced the salvage of tug *RM Margaux*, which capsized and sank on Jul 14 in the Gironde Area, north of Bordeaux.

ROGER BLOUGH (U.S.A.)

Troy, Mich, Aug 7 — Bulker *Roger Blough* (22041 gt, built 1972) lost its rudder sometime late Saturday (Aug 6) night and it was at anchor near Raber Bay off of Lime Island in the lower St. Marys River. It is unknown when the vessel will be underway or what efforts are being made to retrieve the rudder. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping News.

RUMYANTSEVO (Russia)

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing (general) *Rumyantsevo* that was holed off the Kamchatka Peninsula coast has been towed to the Ozerny bay near the eastern coast of the peninsula. Divers from rescue vessel I.Suvorovets are starting the examination of its hull, the fleet inspection service of the Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky port said today. Specialists are to assess the possibility of repairing the ship's damage on site or decide that it is necessary to tow the vessel to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky for repairs. *Rumyantsevo*, owned by the Kamchatka-based company "Tymlat Fish-works", was holed 10 miles from the coast in the area of Cape Africa in the east of Kamchatka at about noon, local time, Aug 2. None of the 29 crew was hurt, however seawater began to flow into the engine-room of the vessel. The crew were making efforts during the day to cope with the emergency on their own but in vain and had to call for help. Coast Guard vessel *Nikolai Starshinov*, as well as vessels *Nadezhda* and *Muravyov Amursky* came to the distressed ship area. The hole in the stern part of *Rumyantsevo* was sealed by a collision

mat, however efforts to stop the leak fully failed. However, it currently presents no danger for the vessel. The crew is quickly pumping out a small amount of water leaking though inside the trawler. All fish products were unloaded from *Rumyantsevo* holds yesterday. *Nikolai Starshinov*, *Nadezhda* and *Muravyov Amursky* have left the distress area. *Suvorovets* has replaced them. The weather in the area is favourable for repair works, the Kamchatka department of the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry pointed out. The Transport Prosecutor's Office of the Kamchatka region is conducting an investigation into the fact of the incident. Investigators are to establish whether the master and the crew observed the rules of navigation safety at sea.

SAFMARINE AGULHAS (Liberia)

London, Aug 4 — The owner and liability insurer of container carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* that is in danger of breaking up off the coast of South Africa are working to a tight timetable to organise its removal. Salvage companies have until next Wednesday (Aug 9) to tender for the contract to clear the vessel, which ran aground at the end of June as it left East London for Durban. After several failed attempts to refloat the vessel, the South African authorities decided last Friday that the vessel was a wreck and ordered it to be cleared as it was becoming a risk to navigation. Hull and machinery insurers have since declared the *Safmarine Agulhas* to be a constructive total loss. The vessel is insured in the German and London markets, which have 50% each. The risk is led by Bremen company Lampe & Schwartze together with Allianz Global Corporate and Specialty, the industrial and marine insurance arm of the German insurer Allianz. German market sources estimate that the loss amounts to around Euro27m (US\$31.5m) in total. Liability cover is provided by Gard P&I club. The vessel is owned by a German single ship company in which manager F.A. Vinnen has a shareholding and was offered to the capital markets in co-operation with Hansa Treuhand of Hamburg. F.A. Vinnen would not confirm the insured value but said yesterday that the amount would enable any remaining bank loans to be repaid and investors to be adequately compensated.

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated today, states Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* has finally broken in two on the western breakwater of the East London harbour. South African Maritime Safety Association (Samsa) spokesperson Captain Peter Kroon said the ship's final death-knell was signalled at 0700 on Saturday by "an almighty bang that could be clearly heard. The ship is now in two pieces. There is probably a good three to four metres between the forward and aft section, the latter clearly listing to port. In other words towards the open sea. The forward section seems to be remaining fairly upright,"

Kroon added. Kroon said the break occurred amidships opening up holds two and three to the sea. "We have been extremely lucky so far. There has been very little pollution. We are aware of one container which washed out of the ship on Saturday, probably because its contents were buoyant, but it drifted towards the stern and sank." Tenders for the wreck removal close on Wednesday. Kroon said yesterday he was aware of at least four international marine salvage groups showing interest in the job. "To my knowledge Smit Salvage itself is interested. Another company is the SvitzerWijsmuller. Triton, an American group, is also showing interest and then there is a fourth company the name and details of which I am not yet fully acquainted with," he said. Kroon earlier said it could be expected that the ship's underwriters would require a large financial guarantee "possibly as much as \$50 million" from the potential wreck removal contractor. He said he had no idea how long it would be before the wreck removal contractors would be on site. "But we have set the end of February as deadline for the wreck to be gone and the site cleared," Kroon said, adding that the contract would in all likelihood involve the dismantling and stripping of all remaining valuable equipment and materials and then the cutting and breaking up of the vessel's superstructure and hull. "Samsa will monitor the work. Our bottom line is for the wreck to be removed entirely right down to the keel," Kroon said.

SALONA (Honduras)

London, Aug 10 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS general cargo *Salona* in lat 56 17 57.12N, long 11 8 16.38E at 1317, today, 14.2 nautical miles from Grenaa.

SCOT RANGER (U.K.)

London, Aug 9 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1010, UTC: General cargo *Scot Ranger* (2260 gt, built 1997, Varberg for Goole) is currently at Albert Dock, Hull, for engine repairs. (Note — *Scot Ranger* passed Skaw 1501, Aug 5 and arrived Hull 2344, Aug 7.)

SETSUYO STAR (Bahamas)

London, Aug 4 — Bulker *Setsuyo Star* arrived Mauritius July 14, sailed July 15, arrived Singapore July 31 and sailed same day.

SHEARWATER (Seychelles)

London, Aug 5 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0730, UTC: General cargo *Shearwater* (1733 gt, built 1976), Mombasa for Durban, 10 crew members, taking on water and listing 28 nautical miles north-east of Richards Bay. Tug has been tasked.

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Shearwater*, taking on water in heavy seas off the coast of KwaZulu-Natal, is no longer in distress, say rescue officials. A Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre spokesperson from

Silvermine in the Western Cape said today: "It's not in distress anymore. The vessel is sailing now, she is going to Durban. We are standing by." A National Sea Rescue Institute rescue craft, *Spirit of Richards Bay*, from Richards Bay and two SA air force helicopters from Durban arrived to assist the *Shearwater* but were not needed, said NSRI Richards Bay station commander Harvey Moir. "When the air force helicopters arrived on-scene the captain of the ship reported they had managed to contain the situation and were sailing towards Richards Bay and, with the stabilising of the situation, he no longer required his crew to be airlifted," said Moir. He said the NSRI continued to escort the ship towards Richards Bay. The helicopters returned to Durban. The NSRI will return to Richards Bay if the ship heads straight on to Durban, said Moir. He said the *Shearwater* captain had said that the ship's water pumps were coping with the leak: "The ship's captain had to make a critical decision of either abandoning the ship or continuing to fight to save the ship." The MRCC official said the *Shearwater* took on water because one of its top hatches had not been closed properly. He said the crew were pumping the water out of the hold. She was due to arrive in Durban today, but was travelling at a reduced speed of two knots because of heavy seas and pumping out the water. The MRCC official said the vessel would arrive in Durban tonight tomorrow morning.

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Shearwater*, that had been taking on water arrived Durban today, port control said. Water has been successfully pumped out of the vessel in heavy seas off northern KwaZulu-Natal and the vessel was no longer listing, officials said. Earlier a spokesperson for the Maritime Rescue Co-ordinating Centre in Cape Town said the *Shearwater* had been sailing in moderate weather in a wind of 10 to 15 knots with the tug *Pentow Service* alongside. Officials at Durban's Maydon wharf said the vessel was undamaged. The vessel had taken water due to the size of the waves breaking across its bows.

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Saturday morning's drama off the Zululand coast had a happy ending, with general cargo *Shearwater* with the vessel safely making it under its own power to Durban by yesterday morning where the ship entered port and has undergone an inspection for damage. The drama unfolded during the early hours of Saturday morning, with the master of the ship radioing to Cape Town MRCC that his ship was taking water through a hatch cover and that his ship had taken on an 8 degree list in seas with swells reaching 9 metres. The MRCC went into action and at first light two Oryx helicopters of the South African Air Force based at Durban flew to the scene about 13 miles off Cape St

Lucia, while rescue boat *Spirit of Richards Bay* of the NSRI base in Richards Bay also put to sea and headed through the mountainous seas for the stricken ship. However during the course of the next few hours the master was able to report that he and his crew of 11 had secured the hatch and were beginning to pump the water from the affected hold. As such he was confident he could now reach his destination in Durban safely and deliver his cargo of soda ash.

SIRTE STAR (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Messina, Aug 4 — Container Carrier *Sirte Star* sailed Messina July 28 after main engine repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

SPEEDRUNNER I (U.K.)

Piraeus, Aug 4 — Passenger ro/ro *Speedrunner I* completed repairs and returned to service yesterday. The vessel performs the schedule Piraeus-Serifos-Sifnos-Milos-Folegandros islands. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUNDBYHOLM (Finland)

London, Aug 8 — Following received from Turku MRCC, timed 1314, UTC: Passenger (cruise) *Sundbyholm* (119 gt, built 1958) ran aground in lat 60 15N, long 21 38.9E, this morning. No serious damage. All 42 passengers safely evacuated from the vessel.

Turku, Aug 9 — Passenger (cruise) *Sundbyholm* grounded during a charter voyage in the Finnish Archipelago, north of the Island of Korppoo, shortly before 1147, local time, on Aug 8. At the time of incident 42 passengers and two crew members were on board. Passengers were evacuated by other vessels. Attempts to refloat the vessel will be made during next few days. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUNNY JEWEL (Panama)

London, Aug 10 — Following notice to mariners issued at 1800, JST, today: Tug towing chemical tanker *Sunny Jewel* departs east of Yashima, lat 33 44.3N, long 132 08.8E, 1800, JST, today, for Setoda, via Tsurushima Suido. Eta Setoda 0800, JST, tomorrow. Speed about five knots, length of tow about 250 metres. (Note — *Sunny Jewel* sank following fire and explosion on board Dec 15, 2004.)

SUPERSEACAT TWO (U.K.)

London, Aug 10 — Steam Packet Company press releases state: Dated Aug 2: The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company apologise for delays to passenger ro/ro *Superseacat Two* journey times. While this will be for a temporary period it is acknowledged that such delays will cause some inconvenience to passengers. The craft is fitted with four main engines each equipped with a gearbox one of which recently and without warning had a major failure which necessitated it being removed from the craft and despatched to the manufacturers in Germany for repair. This unfortunately is resulting in the craft

operating on three engines and the slower passage time will inevitably and regrettably affect most of our departures and all of our arrival times, especially those scheduled for later in the day. The length of delay will vary day by day due to tidal and weather conditions.

Dated Aug 8: Due to an ongoing technical problem with *Superseacat Two* its passage times are longer than normal. It is currently achieving 27 knots which while considerably quicker than a conventional ferry, will add 30 minutes approximately to its normal passage time. To improve customer service a revised schedule of sailings has been prepared to reflect the longer crossing times. In this period the Company will cancel some scheduled sailings and transfer some booked passengers to its twice daily Heysham services. The Steam Packet Company are doing all they possibly can to expedite the repair programme.

SYLVE (Cyprus)

London, Aug 7 — Information received from Kiel states: Dansk Bjaergning & Bugsering A/S has completed a successful salvage of the Estonia-owned general cargo *Sylve*. The mate fell asleep while on duty and the vessel ran aground off Bornholm late last week. The vessel was on a voyage from Rotterdam to Liepaja carrying soy. The salvage operation included units from both Denmark and Sweden. Dansk Bjaergning & Bugsering A/S provided their own tug *Katrine* while Dykma in Malmo assisted with their craned vessel *Sjogrib* for discharging soy to the coaster *Pavona*. The diving support was performed by Frog from Gothenburg. After the vessel was removed off the ground it was taken to Ronne for examination and reloading of the cargo. The salvage operation was co-ordinated by STS Marine Consult, a Danish company.

London, Aug 10 — General cargo *Sylve* sailed Liepaja Aug 7 for Tallinn.

THEODOROS (Panama)

London, Aug 10 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1110, UTC: Wine tanker *Theodoros* is still at Megisti. Vessel is expected to depart in the next few days for Genoa.

TMI 4

See *Volgo-Don 5105*.

VOLGO-DON 5105 (Russia)

Novorossiysk, Aug 3 — Barge *TMI 4*, in tow of tug *OT 1515*, collision with general cargo *Volgo-Don 5105* Jul 14: The tow proceeded from Astrakhan into Rostov on Don, in ballast, and *Volgo-Don 5105*, coming from Mariupol into Volzhskiy. Barge and vessel have light damages in the way of foreparts and vessel found aftpeak leaking after the collision. As per last report the vessels was under investigation at anchor. — Lloyd's Agents.

WAVERLEY (U.K.)

London, Aug 8 — A report from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, timed

1925, Aug 7, states: At 1705 today, Clyde Coastguard MRSC received a report from a Scottish newspaper that passenger (cruise) *Waverley* (693 gt, built 1947) had run aground. Clyde Coastguard contacted the master of the vessel who confirmed that they had run aground on departing from Girvan. She was able to get back alongside her berth and disembark her passengers. The Survey and Inspection branch of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency have been informed and have authorised a one off passage to Ayr harbour. The vessel will be inspected tomorrow. Stuart Atkinson, Watch Manager, Clyde Coastguard said: "All passengers were disembarked by the ships company and transport has been arranged by the ships owners to take them to their destinations. In any grounding of a commercial vessel, it is normal practice to inspect the vessel to ensure the safety of its operation."

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Waverley* was passed fit for service yesterday after a safety inspection. Maritime and Coastguard Agency said its surveyors had given the vessel a clean bill of health. A spokesman said: "The survey found that there was no major damage caused, and it was allowed to continue its commercial operation."

WESTWOOD ANETTE (Bahamas)

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An oil spill fouled the waters of Howe Sound north of Vancouver today. Dan Bate, a spokesman for the Coast Guard, said the bulker with container capacity *Westwood Anette* (28805 gt, built 1987) hit a pier at a terminal and a fuel tank burst. "Coast Guard emergency response is being dispatched," Bate said. He said a clean-up company was contracted immediately. The crew arrived and a hole in the vessel was repaired about an hour after it ruptured. "The spill was contained as soon as possible," said Alex Mendes, a spokesman for Ocean Agencies, hired by Westwood Shipping to coordinate the clean-up. Mendes could not say how much oil spilled into the water. "All I can say is we've got about 20 personnel working out in the water with various heavy equipment."

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated today, states: About two-thirds of an estimated 7,700 gallons of oil that spilled from bulker with container capacity *Westwood Anette* into an ecologically sensitive estuary have been recovered, officials said yesterday. A small number of oil-soaked birds have been found, said Dave Smith of the Canadian Wildlife Service. He noted there aren't many birds nesting in the marshy area this time of year. Officials predicted the estuary would be cleaned and restored by fall. The spill occurred Friday afternoon after *Westwood Anette* struck a pier while leaving a terminal, puncturing two holes in a fuel tank. Thick bunker fuel spilled into the water and was quickly pushed by the

wind about 1,640 feet into Howe Sound, a stretch of water along the highway between Vancouver, Squamish and Whistler. The heavy oil also seeped into the Squamish estuary, a marshy area that is home to many species of birds and wildlife.

London, Aug 7 — Following received from the operators of bulker with container capacity *Westwood Anette*, dated today: The owners and managers of *Westwood Anette*, which came into contact with a fender at the port of Squamish, BC, on Aug 4 while undocking, with a pilot on board and assisted by two tugs, report that all efforts continue to clean up oil from around the vessel, under the dock and in the surrounding shore and marsh areas. The owner's and manager's appointed clean up contractor, Burrard Clean, has some 100 personnel on scene engaged in the clean-up operation and has deployed booms around the vessel, with skimmers to remove surface oil from the surrounding areas. It is hoped that a local contractor can be engaged to assist with any birds which may have been oiled. The vessel sustained damage, penetrating No 4 starboard fuel oil tank, when it came into contact with the outer vertical fender pile on the dock. It is estimated that less than 30 tonnes of oil was lost into the water as a result. The leak has stopped and it is hoped that following gas-freeing of the affected tank, that repairs can be completed on these holes in the next few days. The owners and managers are cooperating fully with Transport Canada and all appropriate local authorities in connection with this incident and would like to thank all those involved for their timely and professional response. The owner's insurers have contracted expert environmental assistance in directing the clean-up operation. (See issue of Aug 8.)

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: After a five-day clean-up effort, the Environmental Response Unit of the Canadian Coast Guard announced yesterday that 29,000 litres of oil, spilled in the port at Squamish, by bulker with container capacity *Westwood Anette*, has either been recovered or washed up on shore. "The response organisations and the Coast Guard were all on scene within a couple of hours," said Canadian Coast Guard environmental response superintendent Don Rodden. "The majority of the oil was underneath the dock so to contain the oil in and around the ship was our No. 1 priority." The oil-soaked shores, Squamish Estuary and wildlife have now become the central focus where response teams are removing oil-soaked debris and other material. According to Rodden the Squamish oil spill is the largest on B.C.'s West Coast in 15 years.

YM GREEN (Liberia)

London, Aug 9 — Following received from the owners of container carrier *YM Green* (64254 gt, built 2001), timed Keelung 0645, UTC, today: *YM*

Green had fire in No.4 hold discovered approximately three hours after sailing Singapore Aug 6. Vessel is now at Singapore anchorage where the hold is still very hot. (Note — Understand salvage services are being rendered to *YM Green* by SMIT Salvage BV. *YM Green* was scheduled to arrive Rotterdam Aug 21.)

London, Aug 9 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0700, UTC: Container carrier *YM Green* sailed Singapore 0800, local time, Aug 6 and returned to port next day. Vessel is currently at Raffles Reserve anchorage following fire on board.)

London, Aug 9 — A Cesam report, dated Aug 8, states: According to information received from Clyde & Co, Container Carrier *YM Green*, with some 5,000 containers on board, is currently off Malaysia with a fire in No.4 hold. The vessel, which is on voyage Kaohsiung, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Singapore, for Rotterdam, Hamburg and Antwerp, is being assisted under Lloyd's Open Form.

London, Aug 9 — Understand salvage services are being rendered to Container Carrier *YM Green* by SMIT Salvage BV under Lloyd's Open Form.

YONG AN 4 (Panama)

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

YONGXING (Hong Kong)

Zeebrugge, Aug 8 — General cargo *Yongxing* (18207 gt, built 1998) sailed Antwerp at 1626, local time, Aug 8, and anchored in the River Scheldt at 1721 hrs, due to engine trouble. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Zeebrugge, Aug 8 — General cargo *Yongxing* heaved anchor and proceeded seawards at 2017, local time. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

YUNG CHANG

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



BELGIUM

London, Aug 10 — General cargo *Euro Sea* sailed Antwerp at 2100, Aug 7.



ANJUM (North Korea)

Karachi, Aug 4 — Harbour-master's office, Karachi Port Trust, advised that general cargo *Anjum* is still under arrest by the court. They advised that the court has recently

cancelled five arrest orders but that there are still three more arrest orders still enforced by the court. — Lloyd's Agents.

EDCO (Egypt)

London, Aug 10 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS bulker *Edco* in lat 32 45 50.28N, long 79 53 9.3W at 1149, today, 3.1 nautical miles from Charleston, speed 0.1 knots.

ELWOOD (Panama)

Maassluis, Aug 4 — General cargo *Elwood* remains under detention at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

JAVA BASSET

See *Java Beagle*.

JAVA BEAGLE (Singapore)

Karachi, Aug 4 — According to Harbour-master's office, Karachi Port Trust, anchor handling tugs *Java Beagle* and *Java Basset* are still under arrest by the court, prospects of release unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

K.WIND (Liberia)

Halifax, Aug 4 — Understood part containerised general car *K.Wind* was placed under arrest because the Company went into receivership. The vessel departed Halifax Aug 3. — Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN LORD (South Korea)

London, Aug 10 — Bulker *Ocean Lord* sailed Hong Kong Aug 4 for Cigading.



PRUDHOE BAY, ALASKA

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated Aug 6, states: In a sudden blow to the U.S. oil supply, one-half of the production on Alaska's North Slope was being shut down today after BP Exploration Alaska, Inc. discovered severe corrosion in a Prudhoe Bay oil transit line. BP officials said they didn't know how long the Prudhoe Bay field would be off line. "I don't even know how long it's going to take to shut it down," said Tom Williams, BP's senior tax and royalty counsel. Once the field is shut down, in a process expected to take days, BP said oil production will be reduced by 400,000 barrels a day. That's close to 8% of U.S. oil production as of May 2006 or about 2.6% of U.S. supply, including imports, data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration showed. "We regret that it is necessary to take this action and we apologize to the nation and the State of Alaska for the adverse impacts it will cause," BP America chairman and president Bob Malone said in a statement. A 400,000-barrel-a-day reduction in output will have a major impact on oil prices, said Tetsu Emori, chief commodities strategist at Mitsui

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Bussan Futures in Tokyo. "But we can't really say for sure how big an effect this is going to have until we have more exact figures about how much production is going to be reduced." Malone said the field will not resume operating until the company and government regulators are satisfied it can run safely without threatening the environment. Officials at BP learned Friday (Aug 4) data from an internal sensing device found 16 anomalies in 12 locations in an oil transit line on the eastern side of the field. Follow-up inspections found "corrosion-related wall thinning appeared to exceed BP criteria for continued operation," the company said in a release. Workers also found a small spill, estimated to be about four to five barrels. The spill has been contained and clean-up efforts are under way, BP said. "Our production while all this is in place is going to be marginal," said Will Vandergriff, spokesman for Alaska Gov. Frank Murkowski. "That presents some technical problems because it's a high capacity line and it's meant to be filled." Vandergriff said he did not know exactly what potential problems a sudden drop in oil flow might cause the pipeline. Alyeska Pipeline Co. officials could not immediately be reached for comment. Forecast figures from the Alaska Department of Revenue said a 400,000 barrels of oil a day production drop would mean approximately \$4.6 million a day lost to the state. That is money going to both the state treasury and the state's oil wealth savings account, the Alaska Permanent Fund. BP said it was sending additional resources from across the state and North America to hasten the inspection of the remaining transit lines. About 40% of the lines have been inspected.

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated Aug 7, states: BP said today it had discovered corrosion so severe that it will have to replace 16 miles of pipeline at the huge Prudhoe Bay oil field, work that could shut down the nation's single biggest source of domestic crude for months and drive gasoline prices even higher. Oil prices climbed more than \$2 a barrel on the news, and gasoline futures rose, too. The West Coast is expected to be squeezed particularly hard, and the government is considering releasing oil from its emergency stockpile to ease the crunch. BP PLC said it would have to replace most of the 22 miles of so-called transit pipeline at Prudhoe Bay, which produces about 2.6% of the nation's daily supply, or about 400,000 barrels a day. BP discovered the extent of the corrosion with tests that were ordered by the federal government after a big oil spill last March at Prudhoe Bay, situated above the Arctic Circle, 650 miles north of Anchorage. The oil company said it was surprised to find such severe corrosion, and had gone 14 years without using a device called a "pig" to clean out its lines because it did not believe it was necessary. Bob Malone, chairman of BP America, said that in

a worst-case scenario, it could take weeks or months to replace the pipelines. However, the company said it would try to put portions of the network back into operation as they are repaired. BP officials said they did not immediately know how much it would cost to replace the lines. "We estimate it could take between two and three months to get it back on line," Bruce Lanni, an industry analyst with A.G. Edwards, wrote in a research note. "However, there are no assurances that it will return to current capacity, given the complexities and age of the reservoirs. Thus, we would not be surprised to see volume losses in the area of 5-10%." Steve Marshall, president of BP Alaska Exploration Inc., said tests on Friday (Aug 4) indicated that there were 16 anomalies in 12 areas in a transit line on the eastern side of Prudhoe Bay. Tests found losses in wall thickness of between 70% and 81%. Repair or replacement is required if there is more than an 80% loss. BP also said yesterday that workers found a small spill of about four to five barrels. Company officials said they did not believe a routine maintenance "pigging" of those lines was necessary because they carry clean crude from which water has been removed. Marshall said the company believed ultrasonic testing of pipeline wall thickness was sufficient, but he said the company had since learned otherwise.

London, Aug 9 — BP is scrambling to move oil from across the world to make up for lost production at its Prudhoe Bay oilfield in Alaska, shipping industry sources and brokers said today. Half of the field's output, some 200,000 barrels per day, was shut in yesterday. London Brent crude oil prices hit a record yesterday on news of the outage. BP's enquiries for fixtures ranged from Very Large Crude Carriers to Suezmaxes and smaller Panamax vessels, from places as diverse as the Middle East Gulf, West Africa the Mediterranean and the Caribbean. "They are out there for lots of vessels, with different discharge options," a source at one of the world's biggest oil tanker firms said. BP said it had contingency plans to replace the lost output including chartering vessels to move oil from different operational centres. "We are certainly looking at options to replace the lost oil from the North Slope," a BP spokesman said. "I'm sure other companies are doing the same." Leading shipbrokers said BP had made enquiries for VLCCs from West Africa, Arzew in Algeria and the Gulf. "They are sniffing out the market out for various options. They might also be keen on splitting them into million-barrel vessels — nothing is firmed up yet," one broker said of the larger potential hires. Very little had so far been confirmed, however. Broking sources said options included discharge in the US Gulf or US West Coast. Some enquiries were for early September loading. "They could lighter in the US Gulf and take supply

through the Panama Canal or they could take a VLCC right round to the West Coast," one broker said. A fleet of at least six 50,000-tonne Panamax oil tankers were fixed for the US West Coast on Monday (Aug 7), in reaction to the Alaskan oil field shutdown. — Reuters.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: BP continued deactivating the mammoth Prudhoe Bay oil field yesterday, but signals began to emerge that the shutdown might be shorter and less extensive than first feared. A BP spokesman, Daren Beaudou, said company managers along with state and federal regulators were studying options to possibly keep the western half of the field running. By late yesterday afternoon, workers had shut down the eastern half of the field, where severe corrosion was found inside a major pipeline that sprang a leak over the weekend (Aug 5-6). That brought Prudhoe's production down to about 200,000 barrels per day, half its normal output. A top federal pipeline regulator, meanwhile, questioned why BP announced its intent to shut down the entire field because of corrosion fears, and US Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman suggested the western half of the field might not have to be idled, as pipeline corrosion worries might not be as acute in that section of the field. US Sen Lisa Murkowski of Alaska said she had spoken with BP executives and got the same impression — that an enormous and extended oil shortage might be averted. Since early March, when a major pipeline at the heart of Prudhoe was found ruptured, leaking at least 201,000 gallons of oil onto the tundra, the British oil giant has been under intense scrutiny from regulators, members of Congress and federal criminal investigators. BP executives have repeatedly apologised to the nation for allowing the situation to deteriorate to the point of an extraordinary shutdown of the nation's largest oil field, and admitted its corrosion-testing program is inadequate. In mid-March, the US Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration issued BP with an order to better clean and test a handful of major infield pipelines, known as transit lines, and improve their leak-detection systems. Those systems failed to detect the big spring spill and the agency noted BP had no regular schedule for running corrosion-testing, bullet-shaped devices known as smart pigs through the transit lines. On Monday (Aug 7), BP executives said they would replace 16 miles of transit lines, suggesting that they were too riddled with corrosion to salvage. Replacing the lines will be a big chore, sure to interrupt the flow of at least some of Prudhoe Bay's oil. In the interim, however, the question is whether at least part of Prudhoe can continue to operate, averting a total and convulsive shutdown of the entire field. Aside from creating a supply pinch, the state of Alaska estimates it

would lose better than \$6 million a day in royalty and tax collections. The federal pipeline agency's administrator, Tom Barrett, said Monday that his office had inspectors in Anchorage and on the North Slope, and that BP managers and regulators were considering ways of keeping some of the field in service. Unlike pipes on Prudhoe's east side, pipes on the west haven't been tested for corrosion with a smart pig, Beaudou said. It was a smart pig that, in late July, turned up 16 bad spots in the steel wall of the pipeline that leaked on Sunday. That discovery surprised BP workers and made them begin to doubt whether the thousands of ultrasonic tests they had performed on the outside surface of west-side pipelines were good enough to spot severe internal corrosion, Beaudou said. So the company was proceeding along two tracks yesterday; fully shutting down the field, while also working with regulators on possible ways to keep running at least some of the field's oil-producing wells and pipelines. Ideas included rerouting oil through pipelines known to be safe, Beaudou said. Another idea, Barrett said, would be having people walk along the above-ground pipelines daily with infrared sensors to pick up embryonic leaks of hot oil running through the pipes, which are clad in insulation and a steel jacket that can cloak leaking oil before it actually drops onto the tundra. Barrett agreed with BP managers who have said the transit lines are not the kind that typically have corrosion-related leaks, because the lines carry only oil that has had corrosive water removed. Bodman yesterday attempted to ease supply worries by pointing out many options for keeping refineries supplied with crude oil to make gasoline and other fuels. He said crude inventories and supplies from abroad and the government's Strategic Petroleum Reserve could cover shortages.

RAJANPUR, PAKISTAN

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



Pollution

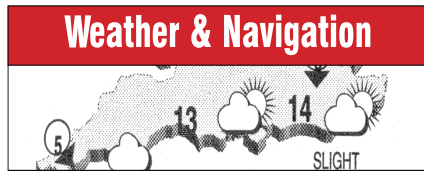
AEGEAN SEA

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The coast guard has taken samples of fuel from at least 24 ships that have sailed across the Saronic Gulf in recent days as part of its efforts to track down the vessel that caused large oil slicks to appear on Saturday (Aug 5) at two beaches in southern Athens, officials said yesterday. The samples have been sent to the state laboratory for tests. Officials hope they will then be able to match the samples with the substance that was collected at the beaches in Vouliagmeni and Varkiza. Coast guard sources said they believe that the oil

slicks, which were 20-30 meters wide, were caused by a leak from a large vessel as fuel was moved from one tank into another. The Greek coast guard has also asked for help from its foreign counterparts, as a number of ships that were in the area in the days leading up to the spill have since left Greek waters. Special teams were still cleaning up the slicks yesterday but dermatologists said that swimmers who came into contact with the oil slick have nothing to worry about as long as they washed themselves properly afterward.

BRYANSK REGION, RUSSIA

London, Aug 5 — Lithuania's oil refinery Mazeikiu Nafta is operating at minimum capacity after Russia's pipeline monopoly Transneft halted supplies indefinitely when a trunk line to Europe ruptured. Russia's Druzhba oil pipeline, which supplies an eighth of Europe's crude imports, sprung a leak near the Belarus border on Jul 29, spilling crude over at least 10 square kilometres. The ruptured segment of the pipeline may take as long as a year to repair.



ETHIOPIA

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Flooding has killed dozens of people in the city of Dire Dawa in eastern Ethiopia after a river burst its banks and swept sleeping residents away. Police in the city said at least 100 people had died, and rescue workers said they feared the final toll could be several hundred. Officials said 220 homes were destroyed when the Dechatu river overflowed late night. Over the past two years flooding has afflicted large areas of Ethiopia. Parts of east and south Ethiopia have been particularly hard hit, with hundreds killed and hundreds of thousands displaced. A heavy downpour hit Dire Dawa city, 500km east of the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, in the early hours of yesterday, residents said. The floods swept away vehicles and livestock, and destroyed markets and shops, witnesses said. Thousands of Dire Dawa's estimated 250,000 residents have been displaced by the flooding. Local police inspector Benyam Fikru said the rescue operation was still going on, and that bulldozers were being used to recover bodies from the sandy banks of the Dechatu river. Flooding often hits low-lying parts of Ethiopia during the June-to-September rainy season. Last year at least 200 people were killed - some by crocodiles in the floodwaters - when heavy rains pounded the same region.

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated Aug 6, states: Almost 200 people are reported to have died after a river burst its banks and floodwaters swept

through the city of Dire Dawa in eastern Ethiopia. The local police commissioner said 39 of the dead were young children. Officials said hundreds of homes were destroyed when the Dechatu river overflowed last night. A heavy downpour hit Dire Dawa city in the early hours yesterday, residents told news agency AFP. The floods also swept away vehicles and livestock, and destroyed markets and shops, witnesses said. Thousands of Dire Dawa's estimated 250,000 residents have been displaced by the flooding. "The death toll from the flood caused by the overflow in Dire Dawa reached 191 by 2030 hrs," regional Dire Dawa Police Commissioner Getachew Asres said. Last year at least 200 people were killed when heavy rains pounded the same region. The flooding also caused millions of dollars worth of damage, particularly to small farmers.

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers used earth movers and their bare hands to search through mud and debris for survivors today, a day after flash floods killed about 200 people in eastern Ethiopia. Survivors in Dire Dawa, some 300 miles east of the capital, Addis Ababa, spoke of their horror as flood waters crashed through their homes after a river burst its banks early yesterday following heavy rains. The waters flipped cars, swept away houses and severed power and communications lines. Officials put the toll at around 200, with 39 children among the victims. That was expected to rise. Though the search for survivors continued, officials believed there was little chance of finding more people alive. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi flew to the town of about 300,000 today. "We are doing everything possible we can for the people of Dire Dawa," Meles told journalists who accompanied him. "This will hurt the development of Dire Dawa but we will do everything we can to help them recover." Simon Mechale, head of the government's emergency arm, the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency, called for international help. "This is an unprecedented disaster," he said. "We are trying to take the lead in helping residents get the situation under control." A UN team was at the scene to assess the damage and what assistance they can provide. Local radio stations reported that witnesses and residents said more than 200 homes were destroyed by the floods. Radio stations also reported that area highways were cut off by the floods. (See issue of Aug 8.)

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Ethiopian rescue workers have dug for a third day through the devastation caused by a weekend flash flood that killed 210 people, searching for as many as 300 others still missing. Teams of police officers and soldiers using bulldozers and shovels have been clearing piles of mud and sand dumped in the eastern town of Dire Dawa after the Dechatu river burst its banks on Saturday (Aug

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5)night. "The death toll from the flood that hit Dire Dawa on Saturday has now reached 210 after more bodies were recovered," police inspector Benyam Fikru said. Some 10,000 people are estimated to have been left homeless by the raging waters from two rivers, the Dechatu and Dire Dawa rivers, which broke their banks after heavy rains, and swept through the town and adjacent areas.

INDIA

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Monsoon rains and floods have killed 42 people in southern and eastern India and displaced tens of thousands of others, officials said today. Forty deaths have been reported from the southern state of Andhra Pradesh since Wednesday (Aug 2) while two people were killed today in flash floods in neighbouring Orissa. The deaths were mostly due to collapsing houses, falling trees and electrocution after hundreds of electric poles were knocked down by strong winds. The airport in the port town of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh was closed after the runway was flooded and water entered the terminal building. "Nearly 25,500 people have been displaced and 3600 rendered homeless as landslides and floods have destroyed their homes," said disaster management official Debabratha Kanta. Navy boats and helicopters rescued people stranded on the roofs of their houses while rail and road traffic had been blocked in several areas by flood waters and landslides. The rains were expected to continue for another 24 hours.

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Flooding caused by monsoon rains has killed 69 people in western India in the past three days, and caused tens of thousands to flee their homes, an official said today. The deaths occurred in Maharashtra state, parts of which have been inundated by this year's monsoon, said the state's director general of information, Manisha Mhaiskar. Mhaiskar said 120,000 people had been evacuated from their homes due to flooding. In two towns — Hingoli and Nanded — people were pulled out by helicopter because the current was too strong for boats to reach them, she said. Nearly all those killed were swept away in floods or crushed by collapsing houses, she said. The monsoon has killed at least 481 people across India this year, with most drowning in floods, being crushed under landslides and collapsing houses, or getting electrocuted. However, many areas do not keep accurate death tolls, and the total number of people killed in the country is likely much higher. Officials in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh said yesterday that some 30 people had died there in the previous five days, most in coastal areas cut off by flooding. With tens of thousands of people either stranded or forced from their homes across much of southern of western India, soldiers were being called in to help with rescue and relief efforts.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Floods caused by monsoon rains forced the closure of a natural gas plant and petrochemical factories in western India, where scores of people have been killed and hundreds of thousands displaced in recent days, according to reports today. Heavy rains over the past two weeks have swollen rivers and flooded houses, forcing some 650,000 people from their homes in southern Andhra Pradesh state and the western states of Gujarat and Maharashtra. At least 145 people have died in the past week. Several low-lying areas in Mumbai, India's financial hub and Maharashtra's capital, remained flooded, and Indian television channels broadcast footage of people struggling through murky waters in villages and cities while air force helicopters and naval boats tried to rescue those stranded. Nearly 3.5 million people living in and around the city of Surat in Gujarat state were affected by the floods, the Press Trust of India news agency reported. More than 80% of the city was submerged by water, the agency quoted Police Commissioner Sudhir Sinha as saying. The Business Standard newspaper said several energy and fertiliser companies scaled back production after the closure of gas and petrochemical plants in the city of Hazira in Gujarat. Oil & Natural Gas Corp said it closed a plant in the city that supplies most of the gas used in northern India, while Reliance Industries also closed several petrochemical plants. Once the waters recede, restoring gas supplies could take up to a week, the Business Standard said, quoting unnamed officials at the Gas Authority of India Ltd. Across India, the rains have killed at least 527 people this year, with most drowning in floods, being crushed by landslides or collapsed houses, or being electrocuted. However, many areas don't keep accurate death tolls, and the total number of people killed is likely to be much higher.

NORTH KOREA

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Floods last month in North Korea killed at least 549 people and left 295 others still missing, a pro-North Korean newspaper in Japan said today. The floods, which were spawned by heavy rains in mid-July, also destroyed nearly 4,500 homes and damaged more than 3,000 others, according to the report by the Choson Sinbo newspaper, which is published by a pro-North Korean association linked to the Pyongyang regime. "Recovery efforts are proceeding at rapid speed as relief supplies are being sent to the afflicted areas," the newspaper said on its Website, which is monitored in Seoul. The heavy rains flooded nearly 40,000 of farmland and completely washed away more than 8,500 acres, the paper reported, putting a further strain on the impoverished communist country's ability to feed its 23 million people.

The death toll figure would represent a sharp increase from the official tally of 154 dead and 127 missing from the floods, according to the United Nations. The Red Cross said last week that 151 people had been killed and 29 left missing, based on government-provided figures. North Korea's official media has previously reported that "hundreds" were killed in the disaster, without giving specifics. North Korea has told international aid groups operating in the capital of Pyongyang that it does not want them to launch an emergency appeal on its behalf. In an indication of the scope of the tragedy, however, a North Korean official said last week that the country was in urgent need of food and would accept aid from South Korea. South Korea, a key provider of rice and fertiliser aid to the North, recently suspended its aid to the North to protest Pyongyang's refusal to discuss its missile launches in early July that drew international condemnation and raised regional tensions. However, the government has now said it would consider contributing to non-governmental aid shipments for the flood victims amid growing calls at home to help the impoverished North.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: North Korea has requested help from South Korea to cope with devastating floods, a South Korean citizens' group said today, a move that could improve inter-Korean relations chilled by the North's recent missile launches. It was the first time the communist nation has officially requested South Korean aid since flooding in mid-July spawned by heavy rains left at least 549 people dead and 295 missing. The North asked South Korea to provide food, blankets, medical supplies and construction materials and equipment including cement and trucks to help it recover from the disaster, said Park Ji-yong, an official at a South Korean committee working for reconciliation between the Koreas. The first South Korean private relief group sent flood relief to the North last week. North Korea had initially said it would handle the disaster on its own and rejected aid from South Korea's Red Cross, but a North Korean official said last week the country was in urgent need of food and would accept aid from South Korea. South Korea's Unification Minister Lee Jong-seok told a meeting of civic leaders Wednesday that Seoul plans to match and contribute more than the funds that civic groups raise for the North, an aid official said.

PAKISTAN

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Railway traffic between Karachi and other parts of the country was resumed yesterday after a span of seven days as railway authorities constructed alternative track at Ran Pathani, some 80 km from the port city, where the railway bridge was washed away by the recent torrential rains. As per details, yesterday first train Down-country

train, Khyber Mail reached Cantonment Station, Karachi at 1300 hrs through the alternative track at Ran Pathani, while the upcountry railway traffic was resumed as Allama Iqbal Express left Cantonment Station at 1400 hrs for its upcountry destination. The train services remained suspended for seven days, when a railway bridge between Ddhabeji and Ran Pathani was destroyed and washed away by the floodwater during the recent monsoon rain. Sources said the alternative track would be used minimum and a limited speed would be allowed for the track. Therefore, the down-country trains of Zkaria Express, Shah Runke Alam Express, Faisalabad Night Coach and Channap Express were halted at Hyderabad and the passengers of the respective trains would be brought to Karachi through buses, the sources maintained.

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Forty people have died after a bridge collapsed in heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan's north-western city of Mardan, according to authorities. At least 100 people had gathered to watch the flooded river when part of the bridge caved in. Troops and local people have resumed the search for those still missing, officials say. Weeks of heavy rain and landslides have killed hundreds of people and displaced many more in Pakistan and India. The 30ft high bridge collapsed in Mardan, a city about 60 miles north-west of the capital, Islamabad, yesterday. Relatives of the missing people spent the night in the open near the toppled bridge and many were helping in the search, local mayor, Himayatullah Mayar, said. Army troops were called out to join civilian aid workers and local residents who used steel cutters, sledge hammers and a crane to break concrete and lift debris.

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Flooding and heavy rains in north-western Pakistan in recent days have left 144 people dead and 97 others injured, a relief official said yesterday. The deaths occurred since Jul 26 when heavy monsoon rains began, causing floods and mudslides in various districts in the North West Frontier province, said Fazal Rabi Khan, the province's chief government relief official. Among the casualties were 41 people who died on Saturday (Aug 5) when a road bridge collapsed in heavy rain in Mardan city, tossing dozens of people into a flooded stream, Khan said at a news conference in the provincial capital of Peshawar. Thirty-nine other people died in separate incidents of flooding and rains triggering mudslides in the mountainous district of Mansehra, he said. The other deaths occurred in several other districts in the province including Karak, where at least 10 people drowned in a rain-swollen stream, Khan said. Rains, flooding and mudslides have left 16,000 homes either destroyed or partially damaged in the province, Khan said. No deaths were reported yesterday, but Khan

said that more rains and flooding were forecast in the coming days and government officials have been ordered prepare for possible flood situations.

TROPICAL STORM "CHRIS"

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Chris" rapidly ran out of steam this morning as it pushed across the eastern Caribbean, prompting forecasters to say it was unlikely to become a hurricane. At 0800, EDT, "Chris" had top maximum sustained winds of 40 mph, just 1 mph above the minimum to be a named storm and down 20 mph from yesterday night, according to the National Hurricane Centre in Miami. The centre of the storm was about 285 miles east-southeast of Grand Turk Island. The government of the Bahamas downgraded its hurricane watch to a tropical storm watch for the Turks and Caicos Islands and for the Southeastern Bahamas, including the Acklins, Crooked Island, The Inaguas, Mayaguana and the Ragged Islands. A tropical storm watch remained in effect for the coast of the Dominican Republic from the northern border of Haiti to Cabo Engano. A tropical storm watch means tropical storm conditions are possible within the next 36 hours.

London, Aug 4 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Chris" centre located near lat 20.9N, long 70.9W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 20 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west or 275 degrees at 13 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 1012 mb. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Forecast position lat 21.2N, long 72.8W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 35 knots, gusts 45 knots. Forecast position lat 21.5N, long 75.3W at 0600, UTC, Aug 5. Maximum wind 35 knots, gusts 45 knots.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Chris" was headed for the Turks and Caicos today as it pushed across the eastern Caribbean, scattering rain over Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands but no longer posing a hurricane threat to the region. "It's pretty much a skeleton at this point," said hurricane specialist Jamie Rhome at the National Hurricane Centre in Miami. At 0500, EDT, the storm had maximum sustained winds of nearly 40 mph, just above the threshold for a tropical storm. The centre of the storm, which was expected to weaken to a tropical depression today, was about 45 miles south-south-east of Grand Turk Island in the south-western Bahamas. It was moving west at about 15 mph, the hurricane centre said. The storm was expected to pass north of Haiti and the Dominican Republic later today. The Bahamian government upgraded a tropical storm watch to a tropical storm warning in the south-eastern Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The

warning included the Acklins, Crooked Island, The Inaguas, Mayaguana and the Ragged Islands. Tropical storm watches were issued for Long Island and the Exumas in the central Bahamas, and extended from Samana, Dominican Republic, along the northern coast of Haiti to La Mole St. Nicolas. Authorities said the US Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico could get up to five inches of rain from the system, which could cause flooding and mudslides in some areas. Northern Haiti should also get some rain. By yesterday afternoon, Puerto Rico's Fajardo River burst its banks and sent water gushing over a highway, temporarily shutting down the road on the US territory's north-east coast as the storm moved away from the island. There were no reports of major damage elsewhere in the Caribbean from the storm.

London, Aug 5 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical depression "Chris" centre located near lat 21.5N, long 75.6W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west or 270 degrees at 11 knots. Maximum sustained winds 20 knots with gusts to 25 knots. Forecast position lat 21.5N, long 77.5W at 1800, UTC. Maximum winds 20 knots, gusts 25 knots.

TROPICAL STORM "KAJIKI"

Manila, Aug 4 — Barge *Napocor Power Barge No.106* is still drydocked at Keppel Batangas Shipyard, Bauan town, Batangas province. Latest update from its owner reported that 90% of the vessel's bottom hull is being replated. Original completion date of first week of August will not be met because of extensive repairs involved. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TROPICAL STORM "MARIA"

London, Aug 6 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Maria" near lat 27.5N, long 141.6E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 305 degrees at 13 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 60 knots, gusts 75 knots. Forecast position lat 28.8N, long 139.5E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Forecast position lat 30.2N, long 137.5E at 0600, UTC, Aug 7. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots.

London, Aug 8 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Maria" near lat 33.0N, long 136.4E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 350 degrees at five knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots, gusts 65 knots. Forecast position lat 34.0N, long 136.3E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots. Forecast position lat 35.0N, long 136.5E at

0600, UTC, Aug 9. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots, gusts 50 knots. Dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over land.

TROPICAL STORM "SAOMAI"

London, Aug 6 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Saomai" near lat 15.3N, long 143.0E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 310 degrees at 14 knots. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Forecast position lat 17.3N, long 141.0E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots. Forecast position lat 19.1N, long 139.1E at 0600, UTC, Aug 7. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots.

TYPHOON "HAITANG"

Taipei, Aug 4 — According to information from the Kaohsiung Harbour Bureau, vessel *Eastern Rich*, ex *Yung Chang*, is still berthed at Pier No 11, Kaohsiung, ETD unknown at this stage. — Lloyd's Agents.

TYPHOON "PRAPIROON"

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Prapiroon" slammed into southern China today, packing heavy rain and 75-mph winds as authorities evacuated tens of thousands of people from their homes. The typhoon, which earlier killed six people in the Philippines, made landfall at 1920 hrs over a large swath of coastal Guangdong province, including the cities of Yangjiang and Dianbai, according to the state meteorological bureau. Authorities evacuated 65,000 people from parts of Guangdong and the neighbouring island province of Hainan, and ferry and railway services were suspended. More than 50,000 boats also were ordered to return to port in Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan provinces, official media said. Rescue teams throughout the area were alert for floods and landslides. Strong winds and heavy rains were forecast through Saturday (Aug 5) for large parts of Guangdong and Hainan, China's southernmost island and a popular tourist destination. The storm was moving northwest at nine to 12 mph, the meteorological bureau said. In Hong Kong, hundreds of airline flights were delayed, cancelled or redirected, stranding more than 3,000 passengers. At least one person was injured yesterday when empty shipping containers were toppled by high winds at a container terminal in the city. Philippine authorities said two people were also missing following lightning storms and flooding caused by the typhoon, which struck the country as a tropical storm. About 15,000 people were evacuated as parts of the northern Philippines remained inundated.

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated in southern China as Typhoon "Prapiroon" slammed into the

mainland today, pounding an area already battered by storms with more heavy rains and winds, state media said. "Prapiroon" made landfall at 1920 along a stretch of coastal Guangdong province, including the cities of Yangjiang and Dianbai, the Xinhua News Agency said. It said the storm was moving inland northwest at a speed of 9 to 12 mph. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. Stormy weather was forecast from Thursday to Saturday (Aug 5) for the provinces of Guangdong, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan and Hainan, China's southernmost island and a popular tourist destination. Authorities evacuated about 400,000 residents in low-lying areas of Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan, which lies about 370 miles southwest of Hong Kong in the South China Sea, Xinhua said. Ferry and railway services linking Hainan to the mainland were also suspended. Some 84,000 people were forced to flee their homes in Guangxi, Xinhua said. It didn't give a breakdown of the evacuations in Guangdong and Hainan. A total of 62,023 fishing boats and other vessels returned to port in the three provinces, Xinhua said. Rescue teams were ordered to be on alert for possible floods and landslides. In Hong Kong, at least one person was reported injured on yesterday when empty shipping containers were toppled by high winds at a container terminal. In separate incidents, a cargo vessel and barge ran aground on islands off the territory's coast amid the storm, a spokesman from the Government Flying Service said today. Dozens of crew members were rescued and there were no reports of injuries or deaths, spokesman Jack Chak said. By 1800, today, 130 flights had been delayed, 143 cancelled and 66 redirected, Hong Kong's airport reported. Ferry services were suspended. Cathay Pacific Airways, Hong Kong's biggest airline, said it cancelled the arrival and departure of all flights in Hong Kong until 0900, Friday because of excessive winds. "Prapiroon" killed six people in the Philippines, Philippine authorities said two other people were missing following lightning storms and flooding caused by "Prapiroon", which struck the country as a tropical storm. About 15,000 others were evacuated as parts of the northern Philippines remained inundated. This year's typhoon season in China started unusually early and storms have already killed more than 1,460 people, mainly in the densely populated southeastern provinces of Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hunan and Jiangxi. Chinese officials estimate more than 1 million houses have been damaged and millions of acres of farmland and forests destroyed. Also today, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies issued a \$4.8 million appeal to provide food, tents, and quilts for 240,000 people left homeless by floods unleashed by typhoon downpours.

London, Aug 4 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0005,

UTC: Chinese general cargo *Hai Yang Shi You 298*, BFJL, was evacuated by its crew in bad weather due typhoon "Prapiroon" yesterday afternoon.

London, Aug 4 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0010, UTC: Bulker *Yong An 4* grounded as a result of typhoon "Prapiroon." Vessel remains aground.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Flights and ferry services were disrupted in Hong Kong yesterday as typhoon "Prapiroon" stormed past, bringing heavy rain and strong gales. The typhoon, which killed two people in the Philippines, passed within 300 kilometres of Hong Kong yesterday morning as it edged across the south China Sea towards southern China. Hong Kong airline Cathay Pacific cancelled or postponed all flights to Taipei before noon, and ferry services between Hong Kong and Macau, which is closer to the path of the typhoon, were suspended. However, the worst impact was expected in southern China's Guangdong province and Hainan Island, where thousands of people have been evacuated from their homes. The typhoon was expected to make landfall there yesterday afternoon. Hong Kong raised a second-level storm signal on Wednesday (Aug 2) as the typhoon approached, bringing 78-kilometre-per-hour gusts that felled trees and toppled a stack of containers at the city's port. However, weather forecasters said there would be no need for a higher storm signal to be raised in the city of 6.8 million as the typhoon passed at its closest point late yesterday morning.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Officials evacuated at least 65,000 people and suspended shipping and some rail services as typhoon "Prapiroon" brought more torrential rain and strong winds to southern China yesterday. The eye of the typhoon was expected to bring force-12 winds to coastal areas of western Guangdong province later yesterday and early today, weather forecasters said. Provincial officials issued an emergency notice calling all vessels back to port early yesterday, after they were surprised by the speed of the typhoon's approach across the South China Sea, the official Xinhua news agency said. Rail passenger services were suspended across the bridge linking Guangdong with the island province of Hainan over the Qiongzhou Strait. "Prapiroon" is forecast to gain strength and move westwards across southern China at 15 kilometres per hour over the next 24 hours. Heavy rain hit most areas of Guangdong from Wednesday (Aug 2) and the provincial observatory warned government departments to prepare for possible high waves, landslides, flash floods over the next three days. Guangdong, Hainan and the neighbouring regions of Guangxi and Guizhou are expected to get 100 to 180 millimetres of rain by Saturday, the state meteorological office said. Hainan, Guangdong and Guangxi had

evacuated 65,000 people and recalled 53,200 vessels to harbour by Wednesday, the agency said.

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London, Aug 4 — At least 20 international flights to Hong Kong have been diverted to airports in the Philippines due to bad weather, air transport officials said today. Twelve flights were diverted to Manila international airport while eight were diverted to Clark airport, a former US airbase north of Manila starting late yesterday, the officials said. They included Cathay Pacific flights from Singapore, Ankara, Sydney, Melbourne and Penang and two British Airways flights from London. At least four of the diverted flights have since taken off for Hong Kong after the weather cleared, the officials added. More than 200 flights out of Hong Kong were delayed or cancelled yesterday due to strong winds brought by Typhoon "Prapiroon".

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated Aug 6, states: The death toll from Tropical Storm "Prapiroon" in southern China has risen to at least 55, with 17 people still missing, state media report. The storm made landfall on Thursday (Aug 3) in Guangdong and has also affected the provinces of Hunan, Guangxi and Hainan. It has forced the evacuation of some 530,000 people and caused an estimated 2.4bn yuan (\$300m) worth of damage. "Prapiroon" was downgraded from a typhoon on Friday but continues to pound the region with winds and rain. It has caused transport chaos in recent days, with thousands of passengers

stranded at Hong Kong airport. More than six million people were affected by the typhoon, officials said. At Hong Kong airport, the cancellation of more than 800 flights on Thursday left thousands of passengers stranded. More flights were delayed on Friday, as were flights from Nanning in Guangxi. Ferries between Hainan island, south of Guangdong, and the mainland were suspended before the typhoon arrived, while rail services were also disrupted. More than 53,000 fishing vessels were recalled to harbour, but 68 people had to be rescued from a barge off the Guangdong coast, Xinhua said.

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated Aug 7, states: Chinese state media reports the death toll in south China from floods and landslides caused by tropical storm "Prapiroon" has risen to 77. Xinhua news agency says Prapiroon has killed 26 people, destroyed 9,300 houses and damaged 20,000 hectares of crop land in southern Guangxi province. It says the storm has killed 51 people in neighbouring Guangdong province, causing economic losses of \$A88.7 billion since landing there last Thursday (Aug 3).

TYPHOON "SAOMAI"

London, Aug 8 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Typhoon "Saomai" near lat 21.7N, long 132.7E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 300 degrees at 14 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots, gusts 110 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds, 25 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds, 55 nautical miles in north-west quadrant, 50 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 100 nautical miles north semicircle, 90 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 1800, UTC, today: Position lat 23.4N, long 129.8E. Maximum sustained winds 95 knots, gusts 115 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds, 30 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds, 60 nautical miles in north-east quadrant, 45 nautical miles in south-east quadrant, 50 nautical miles in south-west quadrant and 55 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds 100 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 105 nautical miles north-west quadrant and 105 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Aug 9: Position lat 24.8N, long 126.7E. Maximum sustained winds 100 knots, gusts 125 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds, 30 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds, 60 nautical miles in north-east quadrant, 50 nautical miles in south semicircle and 55 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds 120 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 105 nautical miles south semicircle and 115 nautical miles north-west quadrant.

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Saomai" dumped torrential rain in northern Taiwan, disrupting air travel, as it headed for China where authorities

are preparing for the strongest storm to hit the country since 2004 when 164 people were killed. Saomai, with winds of 173 kilometers (108 miles) per hour and gusts of 209 kilometers per hour, was centered about 190 kilometers north of Keelung at 1200 hrs, Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau said on its Web site. The storm was heading west-north-west at 23 kilometers per hour, the bureau said. It was 154 km south-east of Wenzhou in China. Far Eastern Air Transport Corp., Mandarin Airlines and UNI Airways Corp. cancelled all domestic flights in and out of Taipei before 1500 hrs, the Transportation Ministry said. Eva Airways Corp., Taiwan's second-biggest carrier, cancelled six flights to Hong Kong and Macau. China Airlines, the island's biggest carrier, plans to offer normal services today, according to the ministry. The center of Saomai is expected to make landfall in either Zhejiang or Fujian province in eastern China this afternoon, the China Meteorological Administration's Web site said. As many as 200,000 people were evacuated in Zhejiang from the coastal cities of Ningbo, Wenzhou, Taizhou. Wenzhou has a population of 7 million, according to the Zhejiang provincial government's Web site. China's Fujian province evacuated 266,000 people working in coastal villages and ordered 36,000 cargo ships and fishing vessels to port. A 24-hour curfew is in place in the northern region of the province. "Saomai" is a supertyphoon, or Category 5 storm, with maximum sustained winds of 256 km per hour and gusts to 312 km per hour, according to Weather.com, a U.S.-based Internet weather company.

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Super Typhoon "Saomai", the strongest to threaten China in 50 years, slammed into the south-east coast today after forcing more than 1.5 million people from their homes. "Saomai", one of three storms to hit east Asia in the past few days, made landfall in Zhejiang province at 0925, GMT, hitting Cangnan county just after officials there declared a state of emergency, Xinhua news agency said. In one town, Longgang, nearly empty streets were awash with water, all shops were closed and the storm had already battered down trees, walls and billboards, and overturned pedicabs, the report said. Storm tracker Tropical Storm

Risk (www.tropicalstormrisk.com) had graded "Saomai" a category five "super" typhoon, its highest category, but reduced that to category four once it came ashore. There were no immediate reports of casualties and "Saomai" would move further inland at about 20 km per hour, Xinhua said. "Saomai" is packing winds of 216 kph and has outpaced forecasts," Xinhua quoted Li Yuzhu, head of the Zhejiang provincial observatory, as saying. Residents in the Wenzhou area, where Cangnan is located, had reinforced windows and doors against the storm

and stockpiled drinking water and food, state television said. Wenzhou airport had closed and hundreds of passengers were stranded because of cancelled flights, one airport manager said. "We don't know when we will open again," he said. Wenzhou, once a prosperous foreign treaty port and now a manufacturing centre, has a central population of 1.3 million, but there are 7.4 million in the greater Wenzhou area. Xinhua reported that Zhejiang had already evacuated nearly one million people, with another 569,000 people moved in the neighbouring province of Fujian, as heavy rain, strong winds and a high tide hit the area. Schools, theatres and stadiums had been turned into shelters for the displaced, a Wenzhou official said. Factories, shops and offices had been ordered to stop all activities "unrelated to battling the typhoon". Authorities moved 100,000 people in Cangnan alone and declared a state of emergency at 0900 GMT as "Saomai" brought winds as high as 184 kph over land, Xinhua said.

UNITED STATES

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The 12-minute supercell storm that hit Provo, Utah, Tuesday (Aug 1) caused more than 13 million dollars damage. The city's preliminary estimate was considered conservative, and Mayor Lewis Billings expects it to increase as further evaluation is carried out. The city filed a disaster declaration with Utah County, which filed its own declaration with the state. About 300 customers still were without power last night. That was down from 85 hundred immediately after the storm, accompanied by 80 miles per hour winds, blew through.

Earthquakes



ARGENTINA

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale was registered yesterday in Argentina. The quake was registered 27 km south-east of the city of Mendoza at a depth of 22 km. There is no information of material damage or injured people.

UNITED STATES

London, Aug 4 — A magnitude 5.6 quake struck in lat 52 128N, long 171.101E, Near Islands, Aleutian Islands, depth 3.6 km at 0745, UTC, today.

VANUATU

London, Aug 8 — A report, dated Aug 7, states: A magnitude 6.7 earthquake has occurred in Vanuatu in lat 15.87S, long 167.76E, depth 150 km at 1855, UTC, today.

VENEZUELA / COLOMBIA

London, Aug 6 — A quake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale struck between Colombia and Venezuela, geologists said. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. The tremor occurred at 1341, GMT, Friday (Aug 4), some 270 kilometres south-east of the Colombian city of Maicao, though its epicenter was located in Venezuela, the Colombian geological service said. Shocks were also felt in the cities of Cucuta and Bucaramanga, according to local media reports.



MOUNT MAYON, PHILIPPINES

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A volcano in the Philippines sent six explosions of ash about half a mile into the air today, prompting authorities to warn that an eruption appeared imminent and to evacuate tens of thousands of people. The Philippine Institute of Vulcanology and Seismology raised the alert for the 8,118-foot Mayon volcano to Level 4, the second-highest level. Officials also extended the government's permanent "danger zone" from 4.3 miles to five miles on the volcano's southern side. About 35,000 villagers were being evacuated today, and an additional 20,000 people will be moved out if there is a major eruption, said Governor Fernando Gonzalez of Albay province, about 210 miles south-east of Manila on Luzon island. Classes were immediately suspended in parts of Legaspi city, the provincial capital. Army trucks and government vehicles have been deployed to ferry residents to 34 evacuation centres, officials said. Those evacuated included people who had ventured back to the danger zone to tend crops in the fertile volcanic soil. Lava began flowing from the volcano on Jul 14 and has been slowly extending down Mayon's slopes. Before the explosions today, volcanologists said they had detected 21 low-frequency volcanic earthquakes over the previous 24 hours. Last week, the government deployed troops to keep sightseers away from the edge of advancing lava. Renato Solidum Jr, head of the volcanology institute, has said the danger could come from a collapse of the lava dome or sudden explosive eruption that could send pyroclastic flows - clouds of superheated gas and ash - racing down the volcano's slopes.

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The Philippines pushed for the faster evacuation of thousands of people near a shuddering volcano today, but some were reluctant to leave their homes and farms despite the risk of an imminent eruption. Disaster officials in the central province of Albay were trying to move

35,000 people from an 8-km (5-mile) danger zone on the south-east flank of Mount Mayon. The most active of the country's volcanoes has been belching ash and lava since July. Today, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology warned that Mayon could erupt at any time. "Yesterday we evacuated 60%, but the evacuation is still ongoing until we take everybody out," Albay Governor Fernando Gonzales said. Some villagers were refusing to abandon their livestock and vegetable plots for crowded schoolhouses, where families are being given shelter while they wait for Mayon to explode. Gonzales said the police would forcibly remove those trying to stay in the danger zone. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo urged residents "not to flirt with danger" and said evacuation centers were prepared to offer basic needs and services.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A volcano in the Philippines spewed ash today after the amount of gas coming from the crater dropped suddenly, worrying experts that something had blocked the flow of magma and could cause a bigger eruption. A drop in sulphur dioxide emissions in the 8,077-foot Mayon volcano could indicate that pressure is building up for an explosive eruption, said Renato Solidum, director of the Philippine Institute of Vulcanology and Seismology. "Either something is stuck there and there will be an explosion, or the magma coming out has less gas," he said. "So it still means we still need to be cautious." On Monday (Aug 7), the institute raised its alert for Mayon to Level 4 — the second highest level — after six explosions sent ash columns up to half a mile high. About 32,700 villagers have since been evacuated near the volcano in Albay province, about 210 miles south-east of Manila on Luzon island. Officials have declared a danger zone of five miles on the volcano's southern side. After today's eruption, which was obscured by clouds, the volcanology and seismology institute reported that Mayon was undergoing "a period of high unrest, which has a high probability of evolving into a hazardous explosive eruption." Despite such warnings, some residents have refused to leave farming villages close to the volcano.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Taliban fighters killed three NATO soldiers in an attack in southern Afghanistan today, a NATO spokesman said. The insurgents attacked the soldiers with rocket-propelled grenades near a school on the outskirts of the city of

Kandahar, a NATO statement said. Six soldiers were injured, but their wounds were not life-threatening, it said. The statement did not identify the soldiers' nationalities. A Canadian soldier from the NATO force was killed and four were wounded in roadside bombings near Kandahar today. NATO took over command of insurgency-racked southern Afghanistan from the U.S.-led coalition Monday (Jul 31).

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The US-led coalition said today that 25 Taliban were killed in a joint operation with Afghan forces in the country's south, while a gun battle near the capital killed one militant. The joint attack on the Taliban occurred yesterday in the village of De Adam Khan in Helmand province, a coalition statement said. NATO took charge of security in the south this week amid a barrage of violence that has left seven of its soldiers dead. However, the US-led coalition, which is not under NATO command, has retained responsibility for counterterrorism operations and can still operate there. Militants attacked a police checkpoint in a rare attack on the outskirts of Kabul, sparking a firefight that left one insurgent dead. Twelve men fired on the checkpoint for an hour before fleeing last night, said police official Ali Shah Paktyawal.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Goma, Aug 5 — Troops loyal to renegade general Laurent Nkunda clashed with the Congolese army in a town in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, leaving at least one government soldier injured, officials said today. The gunfight on the streets of Sake had stirred fears among aid workers and ordinary Congolese of an advance by Nkunda's troops on the provincial capital Goma, some 20 kilometres to the east. "The firing has stopped. There are fears and apprehensions. There was a small misunderstanding but there is nothing to worry about," Brig Gen GV Satyanarayana, commander of United Nations' forces in North Kivu, told Reuters from Sake. With Nkunda's fighters billeted in the same town as the army's 9th brigade, tension has been running high in Sake this week. — Reuters.

IRAQ

London, Aug 3 — A bomb strapped to a motorcycle exploded in the centre of the capital today, killing at least 12 people and injuring 29, police said. At least 13 other people were killed or found dead in various parts of the country. The attack near Rusafi Square in the Rashid Street shopping area apparently targeted fruit and vegetable vendors and commercial stalls, said police Lt. Ahmed Mohammed Ali. He said the bomb was hidden in a parked motorcycle. Several shops caught fire and many victims were driven to hospitals in private cars as ambulances were obstructed by concrete and razor-wire

roadblocks. The attack occurred as Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso was visiting Baghdad on a surprise trip. At a news conference, he announced a \$29 million loan for the reconstruction of Iraq. The road to recovery for Iraq's economy has been a slow one because of almost daily bombings, shootings, abductions and assassinations blamed on sectarian divisions between Iraq's Shiites and Sunnis. Today, gunmen shot to death four people in separate incidents in Baghdad, Amarah, Mosul and Basra, police said. The bodies of nine men were found floating in separate places in the Tigris River, police and morgue officials said. At least two of the bodies were blindfolded, bound and shot.

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Four separate roadside bomb attacks killed at least 19 people in Baghdad today, police sources said, as U.S. troops made new efforts to try to rid the capital of powerful militias and defeat insurgents. The deadliest bombing killed at least 10 people and wounded 69 in the al-Shorja market in central Baghdad. Earlier, two blasts targeting police and another aimed at one of Baghdad's busiest bus stations killed a total of nine people, said the police sources. Eight people were wounded in those attacks. The United States has boosted its troop levels in the Iraqi capital to try to stop insurgent and sectarian violence, which has raised fears of full-blown civil war, from escalating. But the campaign is likely to hit political minefields. Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's government has vowed to confront militias blamed for fanning tensions, but must tread carefully as some of the armed groups have close ties to political parties, including ones in his own ruling Alliance. The Shi'ite Islamist spoke up against his American allies after U.S. and Iraqi forces fought Shi'ite militiamen in Baghdad during a raid on a suspected death squad on Monday. "This operation is rejected and it was conducted without the agreement of the government, and it does not match the current national reconciliation environment in the country," Maliki told al-Iraqiya state television on Monday night. Police sources said two people were killed and 18 wounded in the operation in Sadr City, a stronghold of radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, whose supporters are part of Maliki's ruling coalition. The U.S. military said it backed up Iraqi forces in a raid to detain "individuals involved in punishment and torture cell activities". One U.S. soldier was hurt. The new campaign is an admission that a security crackdown in the capital ordered by the government and involving thousands of U.S.-trained Iraqi security forces has failed. The violence is claiming around 100 lives every day and sapping confidence in Iraq's new Shi'ite-led government. In further lawlessness, gunmen stormed a bank in Baghdad's northern Adhamiya district and killed at least

five people before walking away with only the equivalent of \$4,000. Maliki has presented Iraqis with a 24-point reconciliation plan that is long on promises and short on details on how he intends to ease attacks like Tuesday's roadside bombings. In an all too familiar scene, police picked up the dead and after the blasts and loaded them into vehicles that headed to Baghdad's overflowing morgue. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Sunday Baghdad was key to restoring security in Iraq. Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has extended the tour of duty for about 3,700 U.S. troops from the 172nd Stryker Brigade, based in Mosul, so they could be sent to Baghdad. The troops began arriving in the capital on Sunday. The top U.S. officer in Iraq, General George Casey, told a news conference on Monday U.S. and Iraqi troops would drive guerrillas and militia "death squads" from Baghdad and improve security by the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which falls in late September this year. As U.S. and Iraqi forces focused on Baghdad, violence continued elsewhere. Gunmen killed two employees of a private company in a small town near the northern city of Kirkuk, police said. In Falluja, west of Baghdad, gunmen killed a police lieutenant colonel and wounded his brother, police said.

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A series of bombings and shootings killed at least 31 people today, most in the Baghdad area, as more US troops were seen in the capital as part of a campaign to reduce Sunni-Shiite violence that threatens civil war. Three bombs exploded simultaneously near the Interior Ministry buildings in central Baghdad, killing 10 people and wounding eight, police Lt Bilal Ali Majid said. A couple of hours later, two roadside bombs ripped through the main Shurja market, also in central Baghdad, killing 10 civilians and wounding 50, police Lt Mohammed Kheyoun said. The blasts were the latest sign of the security crisis that prompted US commanders to bolster the American troop presence in the city. More US troops patrolled the streets of the Ghazaliyah neighbourhood, a mostly Sunni area and among the most violent parts of the capital. Elsewhere, gunmen in two cars stormed a bank in the Azamiyah district today, killing three bank employees before fleeing with the equivalent of \$5,500, according to the Iraqi Defence Ministry US officials fear progress elsewhere in Iraq will be undermined as long as the security situation in Baghdad remains precarious. US and Iraqi forces have launched a new bid to reclaim the streets from Sunni and Shiite extremists after Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's security plan for Baghdad failed to stem the violence. In other violence today, two Sunni brothers were slain in their car repair shop in southwestern Baghdad and four Shiites were gunned down in a series of attacks in Baqouba and Muqdadiah,

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two cities in Diyala province north-east of the capital, police said. A policeman was killed in a bombing in Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad, and a police sergeant was shot dead in his car in Baghdad, police said. Police also found two bodies, both shot in the head, in north-west Baghdad on Tuesday. Also today, police said two Iraqi journalists were killed in separate attacks the day before in Baghdad.

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: One Iraqi was killed and eight others were wounded during three explosions that occurred at about the same time today inside a huge market in Baqouba. The local police said that the explosions targeted a joint checkpoint for the Iraqi police and army, during whom a civilian was killed, and eight others were wounded, including three policemen and two soldiers. The paramedics are exerting major efforts to remove the victims from beneath the rubbles. A statement from the US army said that a US Marine was killed today in a non-hostile action in the western Iraqi Al-Anbar province. The US army said in a separate statement today said that two American soldiers were also killed yesterday during a hostile action in Al-Anbar. The local police in Waset province in southern Iraq discovered yesterday six unidentified bodies in Al-Suweriah town. It was reported, five of the bodies were removed from the Tigris whereas the sixth body was removed from a roadside belonging to a bodyguard of an oil installation. The Iraqi police in Al-Aziziyah district also discovered a body bearing stabs, suspected to belong to a member of an extremist group. The police also found yesterday 10 bodies in Al-Kout city and another four in Al-Madaen town.

ISRAEL-LEBANON

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Israel renewed airstrikes on Beirut's southern suburbs today, and Hezbollah retaliated by firing at least 132 rockets at northern Israel, 100 within several minutes, killing at least seven people in Acre and Maalot. It was the bloodiest day since eight people were killed Jul 16 near a train maintenance depot. Three weeks into the conflict, six Israeli brigades, roughly 10,000 troops, were locked in fighting with hundreds of Hezbollah guerrillas in southern Lebanon, and the battle looked likely to be long and bitter. Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Saniora said more than 900 people had been killed and 3,000 wounded, but he did not say whether the new figure, up from 520 confirmed dead, included people missing. At the United Nations, France circulated a revised resolution calling for an immediate cessation of Israeli-Hezbollah hostilities. It also spells out conditions for a lasting solution to the crisis, including: deploying peacekeepers; creating a buffer zone in south Lebanon free of Hezbollah militants and Israeli troops; the release of two

Israeli soldiers abducted by Hezbollah; and the "settlement of the issue of the Lebanese prisoners detained in Israel." So far, Washington has resisted calls for a cease-fire without simultaneous steps to deploy peacekeepers and tackle Hezbollah's disarmament. France insists the fighting be halted first to pave the way for a wider peace. Elsewhere, an emergency meeting of the Islamic world's biggest bloc demanded that the United Nations implement an immediate cease-fire and investigate what it called Israel's flagrant human rights violations. In fighting today: Three Israeli soldiers were killed when a rocket hit their tank in the Lebanese border village of Rajmil, the army said. In the border village of Taibeh, an Israeli missile crashed into a two-storey house, killing a couple and their daughter, Lebanese security officials said. Guerrillas clashed with Israeli troops, destroying a tank and two bulldozers and wounding its crew members, Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV said. The Israeli army said only a tank was lightly hit. In the first air raids on Beirut in almost a week, witnesses said at least four missiles hit the southern suburb of Dahieh, a Shiite Muslim area repeatedly shelled by Israel. In the southern town of Nabatiyeh, Israeli jets struck an ambulance working for a local Muslim group. Two people were injured in Israeli air raids on villages nearby, and artillery landed near a Lebanese army base in the town, Lebanese security officials said. Israeli warplanes fired more than a dozen missiles at roads and suspected guerrilla hideouts in the southeastern town of Rashaya, the security officials said.

Gaza, Aug 4 — Israel launched a series of air strikes in the Gaza Strip today, targeting militants, and wounding at least four people, witnesses and medics said. The latest strike wounded two people in the southern town of Rafah, medics said, where troops killed a total of five gunmen and three civilians in a day-long raid the army said was aimed at preventing rocket fire at southern Israel. Israel wounded at least one Palestinian in an air strike late yesterday in the same area, hours after five Palestinian gunmen and three civilians were killed there. An Israeli army statement said ground forces had targeted the area, on the outskirts of the city of Rafah, also to destroy what it called "terrorist infrastructure." The site of the Israeli campaign is near where militants seized an Israeli soldier in a cross-border raid on Jun 25. Troops backed by armoured vehicles carried out house-to-house searches in Rafah yesterday. Two air raids elsewhere in Gaza today destroyed a building used by Hamas and targeted another used by Islamic Jihad. An Israeli military spokeswoman said these air strikes had targeted weapons depots of both groups. Medics said two passers-by were wounded in one of the Israeli attacks, after those inside the building

were given 20 minutes warning to leave. — Reuters.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A major oil spill off the coast of Lebanon will be contained by the European Union's civil protection mechanism, following a request from the war-torn country's authorities. An estimated 10,000-35,000 tonnes of heavy fuel oil was released into the sea after the destruction of a storage tank at a power station in Jieh. In addition, a vessel sank in the same area, causing a further, although lesser, oil spill. Around 70-80 km of coastline north of Jieh has been affected by the spillages. Lebanon's Ministry of Environment called for the EU assistance, which will come through the Monitoring and Information Centre, mobilising member state services. Dispersants, booms, absorbents, skimmers, and specialised vessels from EU companies will be employed in the clean-up operation. "Wars do cause enormous human suffering as we are witnessing now in Lebanon, but another aspect is also the significant environmental destruction caused by it," said said Euroepan Commissioner Stavros Dimas, in charge of the MIC. "The recent oil spill off the coast of Lebanon could affect the livelihood and health of the Lebanese and people in neighbouring countries as well as the status of the marine environment in the region. With the help of the MIC, member states will be able to provide co-ordinated assistance, including experts and specialised materials."

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Israel's pounding of Hezbollah positions across Lebanon expanded today, with missiles targeting bridges in the Christian heartland north of Beirut for the first time, an attack that further isolates Lebanon from the outside world. Five civilians were killed and 19 wounded in the air strikes north of the capital, Lebanese security officials said. A Lebanese soldier and four civilians were killed in air raids near Beirut's airport and southern suburbs, security officials and witnesses said. The destruction of four bridges on the main north-south coastal highway linking Beirut to Syria further sealed Lebanon from outside links, as the Israeli naval blockade and earlier strikes against roadways have largely closed off other access points. Fierce fighting continued along the border, and Hezbollah said in a statement broadcast by the group's Al-Manar TV station that guerrillas had killed six Israeli soldiers near the villages of Aita al-Shaab and Markaba. The clashes came a day after a massive barrage of guerrilla rockets pounded northern Israel, killing eight people, and an offer by Hezbollah's leader to stop the attacks if Israel ends its air strikes. Two more rockets hit northern Israel early today, causing little damage. Israel's United Nations ambassador, Dan Gillerman, said that Sheik Hassan Nasrallah's offer of a truce was "a sign of weakness and he

may be looking for a way out." Gillerman warned against Hezbollah threats to launch rockets on Israel's commercial center of Tel Aviv. "We are ready for it, and I am sure that Nasrallah, as well as his sponsors, realise the consequences of doing something as unimaginable and crazy as that," the Israeli ambassador said today. The Israeli military said the targets of the latest attacks in the southern Beirut suburb of Dahieh were Hezbollah facilities and a Hamas office. Beirut media said Israel launched 24 bombing runs in an hour. South Beirut has been attacked repeatedly by Israeli warplanes since fighting began Jul 12. It is predominantly a Shiite Muslim sector largely controlled by Hezbollah guerrillas, and Israel has not struck Beirut proper since the start of the war. However, the strikes early today hit the affluent Christian locality of Jounieh, north of the capital, for the first time. The bombing against the coastal resort marked a sharp expansion of Israel's attack on Lebanon, which now threatens Christian areas where Hezbollah has no support and no presence. In the hills of southern Lebanon, Israeli artillery intensified bombing overnight. Despite Hezbollah's truce offer and continuing diplomatic efforts to broker a cease-fire, the Israeli army prepared to push up to Lebanon's Litani River, about 20 miles north of the border, as part of its campaign to force the guerrillas away from the border and make room for a planned international force to patrol the area. Since the fighting started, at least 530 Lebanese have been killed, including 454 civilians confirmed dead by the Health Ministry, 26 Lebanese soldiers and at least 50 Hezbollah guerrillas. Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Saniora said that one million people, or about a quarter of Lebanon's population, had fled the fighting. Sixty-eight Israelis have been killed — 41 soldiers and 27 civilians. More than 300,000 Israelis have fled their homes in the north, Israeli officials said. Despite Israel's efforts to crush Hezbollah, the guerrillas launched at least 200 rockets into northern Israel yesterday. The barrage underscored Hezbollah's continued ability to carry out unrelenting strikes. In response, Defence Minister Amir Peretz told top army officers to begin preparing for the next stage of the offensive in south Lebanon, a push to the Litani River, senior military officials said. Such a push would require further approval by Israel's Security Cabinet and could lead to far more casualties. The Israeli army said it had taken up positions in or near 11 towns and villages across south Lebanon as part of an effort to carve out a smaller five-mile-deep Hezbollah-free zone.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: An Israeli airstrike hit dozens of farm workers loading vegetables near the Lebanon-Syria border on Friday, officials said. Ali Yaghi, a Lebanese civil defense official at the scene, said at least 23

people were killed. The Israeli army said it had attacked two buildings where it suspected weapons were being stored, and it was checking reports that it had hit a vegetable storehouse and civilians. Yaghi said at least 11 workers were wounded and some likely were buried under rubble. A bulldozer was brought to the site to try to uncover survivors, he said. Yaghi said civilian pickup trucks and a Lebanese ambulance hauled the labourers, some killed by shrapnel or flying rocks, to the Syrian city of Homs. Roads to hospitals in Lebanon were cut off by Israeli airstrikes earlier in the day. Foreman Rabei al-Jabali said about 40 of the Lebanese and Kurdish laborers were hurt or killed. The attack occurred near the town of al-Qaa, about six miles from Hermel, a Hezbollah stronghold hit by at least three Israeli airstrikes since fighting began 24 days ago. The site run by a Lebanese company employed some 60 workers. It was unclear how many were there at the time of the attack.

Beirut, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The Israeli blockade has forced the Energy and Water Ministry to cut its daily deliveries of gasoline from five million litres a day to less than two million. A ministry statement on Monday said that on normal days it had been able to meet market demand easily, but that situation changed after Israeli forces cut off all land, sea and air routes to Lebanon when the war started on Jul 12. Most filling stations have shut down due the shortage, with only a handful in Beirut and north of the capital selling gasoline, albeit in small quantities. Syria, Jordan and the UN have offered to provide Lebanon with fuel oil and gasoline, but none has dared risk delivery under current conditions. Meanwhile, gas stations complain that motorists place a lot of pressure on them, with hundreds of cars lining up every morning to fill their tanks. "By the time half of these cars reach the pumping stations, we run out of gasoline," one station owner said. The ministry said Total and Mobil are supposed to deliver 2.5 million litres of gasoline to the local market in the coming days and some firms will deliver gasoline from their stocks. These supplies will last a few days. The ministry urged consumers not to rush to buy gasoline as this would create a panic. It added that some of the Syrian gasoline shipment did actually arrive in Lebanon and will be distributed soon. Bahij Abu Hamzeh, the president of oil importing companies, said that the Dora storage facility will deliver 1.5 million litres of gasoline to some parts of Beirut on Monday and Tuesday. He added that the UN agreed to escort the shipment of gasoline and fuel oil both on land and sea to ensure that they won't become targets of Israeli planes. The ministry is also working to secure sufficient fuel oil for hospitals because some of them may shut down in the coming days if they run out of fuel. — Lloyd's Agents.

Beirut, Aug 8 — General cargo *Georgios S.* arrived/sailed Saida on Aug 7 and discharged a Red Cross humanitarian aid cargo. Tankers *Afrodite* and *Bauciwill* arrive at Zouk, EDL Terminal. Tankers *Toem Gunhild* and *West Point* at Tripoli Oil Terminal if permitted by the Israeli Navy. — Lloyd's Agents.

Beirut, Aug 9 — Red Cross, WFP and UN vessels are now allowed to call at Beirut and Saida ports. The said aid vessels are carrying relief and aid supplies etc., The following vessels are expected to call at Beirut port: Yacht *Rainbow Warrior*. ETA today from Larnaca with relief supplies. General cargo *Kazim Genc*, carrying relief supplies by WFP. ETA Beirut Aug 12 from Mersin. Roll on roll off *Anamcara*, calling on a timecharter basis and which will carry cargo on behalf of the UN/NGO community. ETA Beirut Aug 14 from Larnaca. Roll on roll off container carrier *Cap Camarat*, which will carry relief supplies to the French Embassy. ETA Beirut Aug 18 from Marseilles. The above vessels are not allowed to enter Lebanese territorial waters without a special permission from the Israeli Navy. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Israel's Security Cabinet overwhelmingly decided today to send troops deeper into Lebanon in a major expansion of the ground war — an attempt to further damage Hezbollah and score quick battlefield victories before a cease-fire is imposed. The move came as fierce fighting was reported overnight with Hezbollah militants, and Arab broadcaster Al-Jazeera reported 11 Israeli soldiers had been killed in what would be the deadliest day for Israeli troops in Lebanon in four weeks of fighting. A minister said the offensive would not begin for two or three days so as not interfere with efforts to broker a cease-fire at the United Nations. However, senior military officials said it would start far quicker than that. Soon after the Cabinet voted 9-0 with three abstentions, a column of Israeli tanks and armored vehicles crossed into southern Lebanon and took up positions. Since the fighting began, at least 700 people have died on the Lebanese side. The Israeli toll stood at 103, including 36 civilians. In the six-hour meeting, Cabinet officials were told a new offensive could mean 100-200 more military deaths. At least 67 Israeli soldiers have been confirmed killed. Under the army's plan, troops would push to Lebanon's Litani River, about 18 miles from the border. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Defence Minister Amir Peretz will decide on the timing of the new push, said Trade Minister Eli Yishai, a member of the Security Cabinet. The offensive will not require a new call-up of reserves, Cabinet officials said. The government approved a call-up of some 30,000 reservists earlier this month. More than 10,000 troops are in Lebanon, many of them regular soldiers. They are fighting in a four-mile stretch, and

have encountered fierce resistance from Hezbollah. The decision on the wider offensive came a day after the commander of Israeli forces in Lebanon was sidelined in an unusual midwar shake-up, another sign of the growing dissatisfaction with the military, which has been unable to stop Hezbollah's rocket barrages. At least six missiles fired from Israel ships slammed into the south Beirut suburbs today, as residents were conducting a funeral for some of the 41 victims killed in Israeli airstrikes there three days earlier, police said. The Israeli military has declared a no-drive zone south of the Litani and threatened to blast any moving vehicles. Country roads and highways were deserted. In the Lebanese coastal city of Tyre, only pedestrians ventured into the streets. The Al-Jazeera report said 11 Israeli soldiers were killed in heavy fighting with Hezbollah guerrillas near the border. The Israeli army declined to comment on the report but had said earlier that 15 soldiers were wounded in overnight clashes. A Hezbollah statement said it killed or wounded 10 Israeli soldiers and destroyed a tank as it advanced toward the village of Qantara, north of the border. The column of Israeli tanks and armoured vehicles crossed into Lebanon from the Israeli town of Metulla under covering artillery fire and airstrikes, witnesses in the village of Bourj al-Mulouk said. The Israelis destroyed several houses as they advanced, the witnesses said, and took positions about three miles inside Lebanese territory on a hill across from the tip of the northernmost end of the Galilee panhandle. Israel also struck Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp, killing two people and wounding five. Lebanese and Palestinian officials said an Israeli gunship shelled the Ein el-Hilweh camp, but Israel's military said the attack was an airstrike that targeted a house used by Hezbollah guerrillas. Airstrikes also levelled a building in the Bekaa Valley town of Mashghara, trapping seven family members in the rubble. Five bodies were pulled out and the remaining two relatives were feared dead, officials said. At least 19 Lebanese civilians were killed yesterday in Israeli airstrikes. Rescuers pulled 28 additional bodies from the wreckage, raising the death toll to 77 Lebanese killed on Monday (Aug 7), the highest since the war began. Hezbollah fired more than 160 rockets at Israel today. Since the fighting began on Jul 12, a total of 3,333 have been fired at Israel, officials said. Diplomatic efforts moved slowly. Israel is sceptical of a Lebanese proposal to dispatch 15,000 soldiers to south Lebanon after a cease-fire and the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 8, states: Colombia will send an aircraft to evacuate more than 100 of its citizens fleeing the fighting in Lebanon, a senator helping to organise the mission said yesterday. "We're going to get more than 100

Colombians in the war there and bring them directly to Colombia," said Sen Jairo Clopatofsky. The Colombians are expected to travel overland to the Syrian capital of Damascus from Lebanon. With the help of the air force, an aircraft will leave tomorrow to pick up the citizens in Syria. The mission will also deliver some 650 pounds of medicine to be transported into Lebanon. Colombia's foreign ministry estimates there were about 2,000 citizens in Lebanon — all of whom also possessed Lebanese nationality — before the Israeli invasion. The government believes only about 200 remain.

NEPAL

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Nepal's government and communist rebels today agreed to restrict fighters and troops, lock up their weapons and resume a peace process that has been on the verge of collapse, officials said. Maoist rebels said they would confine their fighters and weapons to their quarters, while government troops would be restricted to barracks, settling a major dispute between the two sides. The agreement was reached at a meeting between Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and rebel leader Prachanda and his deputy Baburam Bhattarai. Earlier this week, the rebels had warned that peace talks were on the verge of collapse because of repeated violations of an earlier, temporary agreement with the government. The two sides declared a cease-fire and began peace negotiations in April after weeks of pro-democracy demonstrations forced King Gyanendra to give up his authoritarian rule. The two sides also handed over separate letters to United Nations representatives, asking them to be relayed to a high-level delegation that was in Nepal last week to assess the situation. The UN team was expected to deliver a report to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan this week so he could decide on the UN's future role in Nepal's peace process. "This is an important move that will move forward the stalled peace process that will restore peace in the country," said Home Minister Krishna Sitaula, who heads the government negotiating team. Rebel negotiator Krishna Mahara said the agreement had cleared much of the mistrust and differences between the two sides.

NIGERIA

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Three Filipinos working for a US construction firm were kidnapped in southern Nigeria early today, a day after a German was abducted in a region where the handling of oil revenue has caused strife between multinational companies and local communities. Four armed men blocked the vehicle of the Baker Hughes Inc employees on the road, fired in the air and then took them hostage, according to a colleague. State police spokeswoman Irejua Barasua confirmed the

kidnapping. The German taken yesterday was employed by construction giant Bilfinger Berger AG, based in Mannheim, Germany, which was contracted to build facilities for an international oil company. He was taken from his jeep and forced into a boat by 10 attackers, according to Barasua. Houston-based Baker Hughes is a construction and engineering firm working in Nigeria under a subcontract with Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas. No group claimed responsibility. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, which has kidnapped several foreigners in the past, said it was not involved in today's incident.

PAKISTAN

London, Aug 5 — An explosion damaged a state-owned gas pipeline in southwestern Pakistan today, leaving many domestic consumers without natural gas supplies but causing no injuries, police said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack in Rajanpur, a town about 600 kilometres west of Quetta, and local police chief Mohammed Arif said they were still investigating. He gave no further details, but authorities have blamed renegade tribesmen for previous attacks in Baluchistan province of which Quetta is the capital. Tribal militants in the area have waged a violent campaign to press the government for an increase in royalties for resources extracted in the region.

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Two gas pipelines were damaged in explosions in Pakistan's Balochistan province early today, disrupting gas supply to several cities in Punjab, the GEO television reported. The explosion occurred near Doli check post in Sui, some 285-km south-west of Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan, the private television report stated. Authorities have cordoned off the area, and a bomb disposal squad was called to ascertain the nature of the explosion, according to the report.

Karachi, Aug 8 — A gas pipeline of state owned gas utility- Sui Southern Gas Co Ltd (SSGC) was blown up in Pat Feeder area in Balochistan Province of Pakistan today, according to local media. Company official said an 18-inch diameter pipeline was blown up in Pat Feeder area near Sui, the town where the main production plant for Pakistan's largest gas field is located. "The damage has caused a shortfall of 110 mcf of gas per day but we have made up the deficiency from other supply lines," the official added. He said supplies to consumers remained unaffected and the repair work on the damaged pipeline was likely to be completed within 48 hours. Nobody has claimed responsibility for the attacks on the pipelines. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PHILIPPINES

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The son of a senior rebel commander was killed in a U.S.-

backed Philippine offensive against an al-Qaida-linked Muslim militant group, officials said today. Troops were still searching for two Indonesian suspects in the 2002 Bali bombings who were seen recently on Jolo island. Ismin Sahiron, son of Radullan Sahiron, the one-armed Abu Sayyaf commander, was killed in the four-day-old offensive in the jungles of Jolo, said Col. Mohammad Nur Askalani, acting chief of staff of the military's Southern Command. The father and son, who also had an amputated arm, are among 14 Filipino militants on a U.S. Defense Department list offering rewards for information leading to their capture. Officials said about 200 guerrillas had been contained around Indanan, sometimes splitting into smaller groups to elude troops. Officials have said the offensive has killed at least three guerrillas, but Askalani said he could only confirm Sahiron's death during his visit to Indanan.

SRI LANKA

Trincomalee, Aug 4 — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers attacked army camps and exchanged artillery and mortar fire with troops today, as a Norwegian peace envoy flew to the island in a bid to halt a slide back to civil war. Small pockets of rebels continued firefights with troops in the eastern Muslim town of Muttur, where dozens of injured civilians awaited evacuation and where aid workers have been unable to reach because of the fighting. There were other isolated attacks in the north-central district of Vavuniya. At least 15 civilians, 12 Tigers and one soldier were killed in fighting yesterday. The military says it has killed more than 70 rebels in the past week and the Tigers say they have the bodies of 40 troops ready to hand over. However, each side dismisses the other's claims. Dozens of badly wounded people, including several children, were ferried across Trincomalee harbour in gunboats to the town of the same name yesterday, where the hospital is overflowing with casualties. — Reuters.

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: At least two people, one of them a three-year-old boy, have been killed by a car bomb in Colombo, police and witnesses said. The bomb went off near a girls' school in a residential area of the city. A Tamil government minister said the target was one of his party colleagues. The blast comes as the Tigers and military continue heavy fighting in the Trincomalee district in the north-east of the island. Police say the bomb was attached to the van that Mr Sivathanan, the alleged target, was travelling in. Mr Sivathanan was in intensive care in a Colombo hospital but his life was not in danger. A number of other people were injured in the blast. Meanwhile, a French relief agency, Action Against Hunger, said two more of its workers have been found dead in the town of Muttur, in Trincomalee district. Action against Hunger has suspended operations on

Sunday (Aug 6), 15 aid workers were found dead in their compound lying face down and shot at close range. There has been widespread international outrage at the killings, which came as government and rebel forces fought over a water dispute. Both sides have accused each other of the killing of the aid workers. The two new bodies were found in a car, they had apparently been killed while trying to flee the scene of the attack on the aid group's compound.

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Tamil rebels today released water from a disputed reservoir in Sri Lanka, ending a 19-day blockade that sparked some of the worst fighting between government troops and guerrillas in four years. In the capital, meanwhile, a car bomb killed two people, including a three-year-old girl, police said. On Jul 20, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels blocked water supplies to 60,000 people in government-controlled villages in north-eastern Trincomalee district, 135 miles north-east of Colombo. The group said the move was aimed at forcing the government to fulfill the needs of people in rebel-held villages. "The government used this issue to harass our people attacked them forcing displacement and starvation. Therefore we decided to open the gates," rebel spokesman Daya Master said. The rebels wanted "security of civilians who must travel between government and LTTE areas; to remove the ban on items imposed by the army; and to incorporate drinking water supply to their areas," a statement said. After initial talks failed, the government began an offensive to capture the areas around the reservoir, and violence spread to adjoining villages in Trincomalee, killing scores and displacing tens of thousands of people. In Colombo, a van carrying a former Tamil lawmaker opposed to the Tamil Tiger rebels exploded in front of a girls' school, killing an occupant and a girl who was walking by, authorities said. The apparent target of the attack, S. Sivathanan of the Eelam People's Democratic Party — which bitterly opposes the Tamil Tiger guerrillas — escaped with injuries, party leader Douglas Devananda said. He blamed the Tiger rebels for the bomb. Also today, relatives buried 17 international aid agency workers — 16 from Sri Lanka's ethnic Tamil minority and a Muslim — who were slain in the volatile north-east. The bodies were found in the seaside town of Muttur, where the rebels and government forces fought each other last week. Their slaying triggered international condemnation, prompting the Sri Lankan government to order a thorough investigation. The slain aid workers were doing post-tsunami relief work in Muttur for the Paris-based Action Against Hunger agency when fighting broke out between the rebels and the government. Also today, suspected rebels killed three security personnel

in two separate incidents in north-eastern Trincomalee and eastern Ampara, military spokesman Maj Upali Rajapakse said.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The Sri Lankan government today reclaimed control of a key canal that had been blocked by Tamil rebels in north-eastern Sri Lanka in what appeared to an easing of a crisis that has sparked some of the fiercest fighting since a 2002 cease-fire. Hours later, however, the rebels accused the military of shelling guerrilla-held areas. The government said the water supply for some 60,000 people in government-held villages in the Trincomalee district had been restored. The rebels blocked it on Jul 20 after accusing the government of reneging on a pledge to boost water supplies in rebel-held territory. The government launched an offensive to reopen the canal, and ensuing clashes raised fears of a return to full-scale warfare. Estimates of combatants and civilians killed have ranged from about 100 to 300. The rebels announced yesterday that they were reopening the reservoir sluice gates that feed the canal, in the face of heavy government assaults, and the government declared its mission a success today. Separately, a roadside bomb exploded late yesterday near an ambulance in the rebel-held north, killing five Tamils, including a doctor and two nurses, senior rebel leader Seevarathnam Puleedevan said, blaming the army. The military denied responsibility for the blast. The Tamil Tigers began fighting in 1983 for a separate homeland for the country's 3.2 million Tamils, accusing the 14 million Sinhalese majority of discrimination. A 2002 cease-fire put a halt to the bloodshed, but the truce has nearly collapsed in recent months. Renewed fighting has killed more than 900 people, half of them civilians, since December, cease-fire monitors say.

UGANDA

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated Aug 7, states: A Ugandan government delegation has arrived in Sudan for peace talks with the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which could start tomorrow. Ugandan spokesman Robert Kabushenga told the BBC that a team of his colleagues was flying to the talks in the city of Juba, Sudan. Mr Kabushenga said the LRA would also take part, and the discussions would focus on ending the 20-year conflict. However, the LRA said it would only send civilian negotiators. It said it would not send anyone from its fighting force. The LRA has declared a unilateral ceasefire, starting last Friday. There had been uncertainty over whether the negotiations would proceed, as scheduled today. Last week the LRA said it would not send its most senior leaders to the peace talks because of fears for their safety. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has offered the rebels a full and guaranteed amnesty and protection as long as they renounce violence.

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UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: British police on Thursday said they had thwarted a plot to blow up aircraft in mid-flight between Britain and the United States and were holding 21 people after overnight raids. “We are confident we have disrupted a plan by terrorists to cause untold death and destruction,” said London police Deputy Commissioner Paul Stephenson. “Put simply, this was intended to be mass murder on an unimaginable scale.” Both countries stepped up security, causing severe delays at airports following the announcement of the plot, which a police source said was believed to involve a “liquid chemical” device. Unconfirmed media reports said anywhere from six to 10 planes had been targeted in the plot. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security raised the threat level for all commercial aircraft to “high” and U.S. authorities banned liquids, including drinks, from U.S. commercial flights. Britain’s security services upped the threat level in the country to “critical” from “severe”, the highest of its five ratings, which means “an attack is expected imminently”. “The police acting with the security service MI5 are investigating an alleged plot to bring down a number of aircraft through mid-flight explosions, causing a considerable loss of life,” Interior Minister John Reid said. The security alert comes 13 months after four British Islamist suicide bombers killed 52 people and injured about 700 on London’s transport network. The nationality of those being held was not immediately clear. Last month, the global militant group al Qaeda called on Muslims to fight those who backed Israel’s attacks on Lebanon and warned of more attacks unless U.S. and British forces pulled out of Iraq and Afghanistan. Al Qaeda hijacked passenger aircraft in September 2001 to destroy the World Trade Center in New York, and Briton Richard Reid was arrested in December 2001 for trying to blow up a plane headed to the United States. The British Airports Authority said it had asked all European carriers to suspend flights to London’s main Heathrow airport, where tighter security measures caused severe delays. Shares in European airlines fell on the news, with British Airways shares opening nearly 5 percent lower. The pound also fell against the dollar and the euro. Airlines said no hand baggage would be let on planes leaving British airports, banning electrical or battery powered items, including laptops and mobile phones. All liquids were also being removed from passengers on flights to the United States. Long queues formed at London’s Heathrow airport as passengers were subjected to thorough searches. Britain has been criticized by Islamist militants for its military campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan. British Prime Minister Tony Blair has also come under fire at home and abroad for following the U.S. lead and

refusing to call for an immediate ceasefire in the conflict between Israel and Lebanese Hizbollah guerrillas. In a speech on Wednesday, Reid said Britain was in the most sustained period of severe threat since the end of World War Two and warned there was no room for complacency. Blair’s office said the prime minister, who is on holiday in the Caribbean, had briefed President Bush on the operation during the night and had been in constant contact with Britain over the situation. Independent terrorism expert Paul Beaver said hand luggage was a weak spot in airport security. “Hold baggage and cargo can be ‘sniffed’ for explosives. You can’t do that for hand luggage at the moment. The technology is there, but it’s time consuming and expensive.” Beaver said the nature of the suspected plot suggested a connection to al Qaeda. “In the last two months al Qaeda promised that it would avenge Iraq and Afghanistan by attacking British and American aviation assets — I see a direct link with that,” he said. The Home Office Web Site showed the threat rating had been raised to “critical” from “severe” earlier on Thursday. Britain has a five level rating for security threats, ranging from low to critical, which is the highest level.

Labour Disputes

**CHILE**

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The world’s largest copper mine in northern Chile was shut down today as workers went on strike demanding higher wages. The mine, controlled by Anglo-Australian mining giant BHP Billiton, is responsible for eight per cent of the world’s total copper output. Workers at the Escondida mine halted work at 0800, local time, when the first shift of labourers refused to work. Labourers overnight turned off the engines of mineral processing equipment. The nearly 2,000 workers at the mine are demanding a 13% pay raise and a \$US30,000 bonus, which they say reflects the fact that the price of copper has nearly quadrupled on the international market over the last three years. The workers turned down a last-minute company offer on Friday (Aug 4) of a three per cent pay raise and a \$US17,000 bonus per miner. The strike had been brewing for weeks and the news did not surprise global markets.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 8, states: BHP Billiton declared “force majeure” on copper concentrate contracts today because of a strike at its Escondida mine in Chile. BHP said the strike, which started yesterday, meant the world’s largest copper mine was operating at about 40% of its capacity, forcing the suspension of cathode production and

threatening future deliveries of copper concentrate to customers.

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Copper in Shanghai rose amid concern that supply growth may lag behind demand because of a strike at Chile’s Escondida. Union leaders at the mine, which supplied 8.5% of global mined copper last year, shelved talks yesterday after the lack of progress at a meeting a day earlier. BHP Billiton will meet the union today at 1700, local time. BHP has said it may stop deliveries to smelters in Asia and Europe because of the stoppage. “It looks like the strike’s impact to production at the mine may be quite big” as negotiations are still inconclusive, Yuan Fang, a metal futures trader at Shanghai Dongya Futures Co., said by phone today. Copper for delivery in October rose as much as 2,520 yuan, or 3.7%, to 70,210 yuan (\$8,812) a tonne on the Shanghai Futures Exchange. Pedro Marin, a union spokesman at Escondida, said leaders are evaluating whether to return to the negotiating table. “We are committed to continuing discussions with the union to reach a mutually agreeable outcome,” Emma Meade, a spokeswoman at BHP Billiton in Melbourne, said in an e-mail today. BHP Billiton offered a rise of three percentage points above the inflation rate compared with workers’ demands for a gain of 13 percentage points.

NIGERIA

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Owners of fuel tankers, who are transport contractors to the major oil marketers, have embarked on a strike to protest at the high cost of diesel, which they say is affecting their profit margin. Nigerian Tribune was told by an impeccable source in the oil marketing industry that the strike would paralyze petroleum product distribution activities nation-wide as the tanker owners who operate under the umbrella of National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) own “hundred per cent of the trucks being used for fuel transportation by the major marketers.” With the strike in effect, the NARTO members have withdrawn their trucks which means that only the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation owned trucks could be lifting products from the depots. The Nigerian Tribune source said that some of the conditions given to them and were yet to be met by the major oil marketers included the payment of five per cent withholding tax which the major marketers were not remitting to the Federal Government coffers since they started the deduction. Other reasons are the constant increase in the price of Automotive Gas Oil (AGO) known as diesel, which was about N65 per litre as at the time of negotiation but has now risen to N93 per litre. Meanwhile, the national operations coordinator of NARTO, Alhaji Lawal Isa, in a notice of suspension of service he sent to all

the depots across the country, insisted that until the matter was resolved, they would dis-continue services under the prevailing condition. Efforts by the Nigerian Tribune to speak with the Special Depot Manager (SDM) of the Nigeria National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Apata, proved abortive, as he was said to be in a crucial meeting.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Nigeria's oil tanker drivers are striking over failure by oil companies in Nigeria to fulfill their agreements. Nigeria's National Association of Road Transport Owners claims that the major companies in Nigeria have failed to honour 40 agreements. "We reached over 40 agreements with the major marketers, out of which only one was met. We have exhausted all avenues for discussion and our patience has been stretched to its limit," the head of Nigeria's Road Transport Association, Lawal Isa said. Nigeria's oil companies need the trucks to transport their products within and outside Nigeria. Nigeria's transportation facilities are poor. Nigeria's strike has affected the country's oil industry. Northern Nigeria's filling stations have been closed since the strike began. Nigeria's busiest state, Lagos, has been characterized by long lines at filling stations.

Awards & Settlements



PATENT LITIGATION, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated Aug 7, states: An \$18.4 million patent litigation settlement charge propelled Cutera Inc. to a \$9.05 million loss in the second quarter. The 195-worker company makes lasers and other light systems used in cosmetic treatments. It reported revenue in the quarter ended June 30 of \$24.4 million, up from \$17.6 million last year in the same quarter.

Railway Accidents



BINGOL, TURKEY

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Four private security officers were injured today in the south-eastern Turkish province of Bingol when a landmine laid on the railway track exploded as a freight train passed over it. The injured security workers were taken to the state hospitals in Bingol and Genc. Security forces have launched operation in the region to crackdown on the perpetrators. The PKK, which stepped up its terrorist activities in southeastern Turkey, randomly targets

trains in the region, planting landmines on railroad tracks. Six rail security personnel were killed and eight civilians wounded when a mine explosion hit a passing train July 2005 in the same province. PKK militants have increased their activities in the region following the ending of the bilateral cease-fire in 2004.

DALNERECHENSK, PRIMORSKY TERRITORY, RUSSIA

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: About fifty metres of the railroad, an electric line support and four switch crossings were damaged when a train derailed off the Transsib railroad near the city of Dalnerechensk in the Primorsky Territory. Nobody was hurt, the Emergencies Ministry's Far Eastern regional centre reported. The derailed 32 empty tank cars are lying on the line, blocking traffic. Considerable forces of repair workers are mobilised to clear the line. Four repair trains arrived there. According to the preliminary information, the traffic will resume on the Transsib line tomorrow. Dozens of cargo trains have gathered on the railroad. Conveyance of passengers to Vladivostok and Khabarovsk is organised there. More than 700 people will be carried by buses to the Primorsky territorial centre. The causes have yet to be established.

Robberies & Thefts



DRAWINGS, MUSEUM, RUSSIA

London, Aug 8 — Drawings by a famous architect worth millions of dollars have been stolen from a state archive, officials said today, raising fresh concerns about the security of Russia's museum collections after a major theft at the famed State Hermitage. Drawings by the late architect Yakov Chernikhov, widely admired for his avant-garde and constructivist designs, disappeared from the Russian State Archive of Literature and Art, according to Russia's cultural heritage body, Rosokhrankultura. The agency said it did not know exactly how many drawings had been stolen but that 274 of them — worth an estimated \$1.3 million — had been recovered on the Russian antiques market and abroad. The announcement came just over a week after Russia's State Hermitage museum revealed that more than 220 artworks worth around \$5 million had been stolen. Three suspects were detained in connection with the crime, including the son and husband of a late Hermitage curator who had been in charge of the collection when the theft occurred. The Hermitage, started by Catherine the Great in 1764, has vast holdings of antiquities, decorative art and Western art that include world-renowned collections of Italian Renaissance paintings and 17th- and

18th-century Dutch and Flemish paintings as well as impressionist works. Rosokhrankultura said it became aware of the Chernikhov thefts after nine missing drawings were sold at auction by auction house Christie's on June 22. Cultural officials warned that staff thefts at Russia's cash-strapped museums were a major problem, blaming chronic money woes since state funding for culture dried up after the 1991 Soviet collapse. The head of Russia's federal culture agency, Mikhail Shvydkoi, said the Hermitage thefts showed an urgent need to modernize museum cataloging systems and complained that staff salaries are too low. Tracking inventories and securing collections at most Russian museums remains antiquated. Curators often keep inventory records by hand, writing them out in notebooks.

Computer Systems



LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated Aug 7, states: A runway guidance system failed at Los Angeles International Airport today with more than a dozen aircraft preparing to land, causing flight delays that rippled across the country, airport and air traffic officials said. Tom Winfrey, spokesman at the airport, said instrument landing equipment on one of its two runways used for landings failed at about 093, PDT. Winfrey said landing and take-off patterns were reconfigured within 45 minutes of the outage, allowing operations to return almost to normal. It was not clear when the landing guidance system would be fixed. The Federal Aviation Administration was investigating the cause of the incident, which occurred three weeks after a power outage at a Los Angeles-area air traffic facility disrupted radar and radio systems used by controllers to track aircraft. Federal safety officials are reviewing that case. An FAA spokesman in Washington, Ian Gregor, said the runway failure today nearly halved the airport's arrival rate to 32 aircraft per hour at one of the busiest times of the day. Delays of more than 90 minutes affected some services from major airports like Chicago O'Hare, Dallas-Fort Worth, and Newark in New Jersey. Departing flights in Los Angeles were set back by about an hour, according to the FAA Web site. The airport's instrument landing system is an electronic signal that operates around-the-clock and helps guide aircraft to runways when they are not clearly visible from the cockpit. The weather in Los Angeles was overcast, so the electronic guidance was crucial for safe landing operations. There were between 14

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and 17 aircraft configured for landing on the two runways when the outage occurred, officials said. Tony Vella, a controller at the FAA center in San Diego that handles high altitude flights in the region, said controllers had to scramble to funnel them into one runway.

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A computerised system that guides arriving aircraft onto a runway at Los Angeles International Airport failed yesterday, marking the second serious problem to disable the world's fifth-busiest airport in the past three weeks, officials said. The latest malfunction caused flight delays across the nation. The malfunctioning equipment, called a localiser, acts as a beacon to guide arriving aircraft onto runways. It is most crucial when it is foggy or hazy. It was foggy at the airport yesterday. The problem was compounded because one of the airport's four runways was closed for a major construction project. To compensate, one of the departure runways was handling both departures and arrivals, and it was that shared runway that had the problem. The localiser failed shortly before 0900, PDT, and reduced the number of landings — usually about one a minute — to 32 an hour, the Federal Aviation Administration said. Airport authorities responded by reversing the direction of the runways so that the faulty equipment was no longer needed, bringing the number of landings back to a normal level. Flights were forced to circle the airport, and some aircraft were ordered to remain on the ground at other airports, officials said. Arriving flights were held up to 90 minutes. Departures were also delayed, and several flights were cancelled. Technicians were able to repair the system shortly after noon, PDT. Officials were investigating the cause of the equipment's failure. The airport was hit with a major power failure on Jul 18 that backed up flights across parts of the western United States and Canada. Air traffic controllers said the localiser flickered off intermittently on Saturday (Aug 5), but that each time it came back up after a few minutes. Technicians found nothing wrong with the beacon after the outages, said Diane Aceves, an air traffic controller and local president of the National Air Traffic Controllers' Association. FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said it took more than three hours to fix the system yesterday because the technician, who works at several airports in the region, was not at LAX at the time.

Miscellaneous



COLLAPSE OF HOTEL UNDER CONSTRUCTION, JAMAICA

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Firefighters

searched for bodies or survivors today after a part of a huge resort under construction in northern Jamaica collapsed, killing one worker and injuring 16, police said. The collapse yesterday evening was the latest misfortune to hit the Bahia Principe, a 1,918-room hotel in Runaway Bay planned to be Jamaica's largest resort. Despite the search, it wasn't clear whether any workers were missing. Police said eight of the injured have been released from the hospital. Engineers will inspect the damage to determine when work on the \$200 million project can resume, said George Ho Sang, head of public works in St. Ann Parish. The St. Ann Parish council has ordered work to cease at the site about 90 miles north of Kingston. Grupo Pinero, the Spanish firm developing the resort, won't comment until the investigation was complete, said Richard Ardito, a company spokesman.

GAS LEAK AT COAL MINE, SHANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Eighteen miners were killed in a coal mine gas leak in Ningwu County, North China's Shanxi Province. A collapse happened in the ground within the mining area of Dahuiyao Coal Min in Ningwu County around yesterday noon, which opened a permanently closed area beneath the coal mine shaft and caused a fire, producing large amount of harmful gas, said sources from Shanxi Provincial Bureau of Work Safety. Altogether 34 miners were working beneath the shaft when the accident happened. Three of them escaped the site of the accident. Rescuers later lifted 14 more miners out of the shaft, of whom, one died in hospital.

GREENPEACE PROTEST AT NELSON, NEW ZEALAND

Wellington, Aug 4 — Fishing (general) *Chang Xing* sailed from Nelson at 1315, Jul 30. — Lloyd's Agents.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Aug 5 — A 27-year-old Thai man has died of bird flu, the country's second death this year and its 16th victim since the H5N1 virus swept across parts of Asia in late 2003, a senior health official said today. The man died on Thursday (Aug 3) in the province of Uthai Thani, 220km north of Bangkok, after having contact with sick chickens, Prat Boonyawongvirot, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Public Health, said. "It is confirmed that this man has died of H5N1," Mr Prat said. Thailand has stepped up surveillance after a 17-year-old Thai male died in late July amid fresh outbreaks of the disease following an eight-month lull. The 27-year-old man is believed to have caught the virus after it killed scores of chickens on his farm. "He buried them without any protection and that's why he caught bird flu," said Thawat Suntrajarn, chief of the Department of Disease Control. The man's wife was not sick,

but was being monitored after she cooked and ate some of the dead birds, he said.

Fires & Explosions



FOREST, SPAIN

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated Aug 7, states: A man trying to put out a blaze threatening his home became the third person to die in the dozens of forest fires raging in north-western Spain, many started intentionally, a government official said today. The man's body was found late yesterday in the Campo Lameiro area of the region of Galicia, the official at the Spanish national government's Galician office said. The head of Galicia's regional government, Emilio Perez, has referred to arsonists taking advantage of scorching summer temperatures which have dried out woodland as "fire terrorists." He asked the Spanish army to help evacuate people in danger from the fires, which have struck as Galicia is full of tourists enjoying what is usually some of Spain's greenest scenery. Two women were killed on Friday (Aug 4) when their car failed to outrun a forest fire in Cerdedo. Local media said about 5 000 hectares was alight at the weekend, and the Galician government said there were 79 fires today.

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated Aug 9, states: Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero interrupted his summer vacation today to visit crews fighting 134 forest fires, many started deliberately in wooded areas of north-west Spain, officials said. Zapatero flew to Santiago de Compostela, in the Galicia region. Residents are shrouded in smoke and dust as they work to put out a forest fire near Vilarchan, north-western Spain, today. Emergency services are fighting 110 forest fires today in wooded areas of north-west Spain, many started deliberately, officials said. The fires have charred about 25,000 acres of forest and scrubland, mainly between Vigo and Santiago de Compostela, an area known for its fjord-like sea inlets. Five people have been arrested on suspicion of starting fires, regional prosecutor Alvaro Garcia Ortiz said. One of the five was ordered to be held in custody on provisional charges pending trial, another has been released on bail, a police spokesman said. Firefighters had managed to bring 49 fires under control, but high winds and very dry conditions were fanning another 62 blazes, said spokeswoman Iria Mendez.

HOTEL, KING SALMON, ALASKA

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: At 0305, today morning police dispatcher Theresa

Coghill got a call from the manager at the Quinnat Landing Hotel in King Salmon. He told her the hotel, the village's largest, was on fire. Officials say no one was hurt in the blaze. By this afternoon, officials had declared the two million dollar hotel a total loss.

PREMISES, MEERUT, INDIA

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated Aug 7, states: A major fire erupted in a plush shopping mall-cum-multiplex in an upmarket locality in Meerut. The fire is suspected to have been caused by a short circuit in the basement of the PVS Mall in Shastri Nagar area. The screening of films was on in the three cinema halls located in the basement when the fire erupted. Authorities claimed that all the people inside have managed to come out. The fire, which broke out at around 1915, IST, was initially brought under control by fire tenders from Meerut but it suddenly erupted again and spread to the first floor of the mega mall. Immediately after the fire, the whole area plunged into darkness as electricity supply snapped and thick smoke billowed. Meerut Divisional Commissioner Dev Dutt Sharma said all people from the cinema halls were taken out to safety and the area was combed thrice to look for possible trapped people before the fire erupted again. So far, there has been no report of casualty, he said adding that all the hospitals in and around Meerut have been asked to be in a state of readiness. Dev Dutt Sharma said an inquiry will be conducted to ascertain whether there was any negligence in the eruption of the fire.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 8, states: Thirty to forty per cent of the plush shopping mall-cum-multiplex in an upmarket locality in Meerut has suffered severe damages as a major fire engulfed the building last night prompting the district administration to order an inquiry into the incident. There was no casualty in the fire that broke out in PVS Mall in Shastri Nagar area of the town on Monday night due to a suspected short circuit in the basement of the building. Though the economic loss caused due to the fire could not be ascertained immediately, a senior police official at the site said that about 30-40% of the building has suffered severe damages. One portion of the building which houses a super market has almost damaged completely while the other side that has multiplex has no major damages. District Additional District Magistrate has been asked to conduct an inquiry and he will be assisted by Superintendent Engineer (PWD) and Superintendent Engineer (Power). The probe will also ascertain whether adequate fire-fighting arrangements were made at the time of the construction of the mall. The overnight operation of the fire brigade is still on though the fire

was completely brought under control at around 0400 hrs. The smoke is still coming out of the building, fire brigade sources said.

PREMISES, NEWRY, NORTHERN IRELAND

London, Aug 9 — Fires which swept through four business premises in Newry were probably started by incendiary devices, the Fire and Rescue Service has said. About 125 firefighters tackled blazes which erupted at about 0215, BST. JJB Sports and Carpetrite have been destroyed, whilst TX Maxx and MFI have been badly damaged. About 20 homes were evacuated during the incident. The police said a forensic examination of the scene would take place throughout the day, and the fires were being treated as suspicious.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Northern Ireland police asked store owners in Newry to search their premises for firebombs after buildings and stores in the city owned by DSG International Plc and JJB Sports Plc were destroyed in blazes early today. "We have not ruled out the possibility that the fires may have been caused by incendiaries," police said in a statement without saying who may be behind the blazes. Carpetright Plc and closely held Dunnes Stores were also among the companies whose outlets were damaged. Investigators suspect dissident republicans, RTE Radio in Dublin reported, referring to paramilitary groups that split from the mainstream Irish Republican Army. The IRA wants the province to cease being part of the U.K. and favors a united Ireland. More than 150 firefighters were involved in tackling the fires at two locations in Newry, close to the border with the Republic of Ireland. Nearby homes were evacuated and the area was sealed off for forensic examination, police said. The Federation of Small Business said further attacks on businesses in the town were possible.

PREMISES, SHARJAH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Karachi, Aug 5 — Warehouses of Gulf & Safa Dairy Companies in Dubai Airport Road gutted by big fires according to local report. In Sharjah, a wood factory warehouse was completely destroyed in a morning blaze. Four firefighters and an employee of the Gulf and Safa Dairy Companies were hurt as they suffered minor suffocation while trying to put out the fire that started at about 1000 hrs. Dubai Police immediately sent out to ambulances where they were treated on the spot. Five cars belonging to the Gulf and Safa Dairy Companies that were parked inside the warehouse were also destroyed in the three-hour blaze. According to the Civil Defence Operations Room, they received the fire alarm at 1015 hrs prompting a firefighting team from the Al Qusais Civil Defence Station to rush to the scene. Firefighters from Al Rashidiyah, Al Hamriyah and Al

Karama followed to help put out the fire. Defence investigators said the fire started at the main warehouse where packaging materials and refrigerators were kept. Damages of both the warehouses are being investigated. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Aug 10 — A huge fire destroyed the privately owned 14 warehouses in Sharjah Industrial area No. 2, in United Arab Emirates on Tuesday (Aug 8) night. The fire was started around 2000 hrs and firefighters from Sharjah, Dubai and Ajman, in addition to the emergency patrols took part in fire fighting operations, which last for three hours. No one was injured in the blaze. Most of the warehouses stored flammable materials such as paint, petroleum products, car spare parts and plastic items. Some 20 warehouses were affected by the fire and 14 were completely destroyed. Civil defence officials and experts are investigating the cause of the fire and estimating losses. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PREMISES, SOUTH MEMPHIS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated Aug 4, states: As of 2130 today Memphis firefighters were still at a South Memphis fertilizer plant. There was an explosion and fire at the plant just before 1600 hrs. 103 firefighters and other emergency officials responded to the scene at 400 East Brooks Road. No one inside the Pro-Serve company was injured. As a precaution, homes near the plant were evacuated. Fire officials say the explosion was sparked by sodium chlorate. The chemical itself isn't combustible but it can cause other substances to catch fire. If inhaled, it can cause a sore throat, coughing and dizziness. The chemical can give off irritating fumes. Which is why emergency officials asked people nearby to either leave their homes or stay inside. As of 2100 today officials said the air was safe.

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Memphis firefighters worked late into the night yesterday to quench the flames of a three-alarm fire that ignited after two explosions at a south-west Memphis agricultural chemical plant. Smoke from the fire, which started about 1600 hrs, poured from the building for hours. When the flames were contained, firefighters backed off and waited for the results of chemical monitors to determine what their next move would be. The company's sprinkler system helped to keep the flames from spreading beyond the rear of the building, where the explosions occurred. A Memphis police helicopter circling above gave officials a better view of the blaze. Fire officials planned to use a police robot to get video from inside the building, before sending in a hazmat team.

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A Memphis chemical plant, at the center of a huge explosion and fire yesterday afternoon,

exploded into flames once again early this morning. Just before 0300 hrs, Memphis Firefighters were called back to the Pro-Serve Inc. plant on Brooks Road. It was the second time in just 10 hours that crews were called to the plant. The Memphis Fire and Police Departments have shut down much of the area surrounding the plant, and police are urging people to stay out of the area. The Memphis Fire Department has called a 1500 hrs press conference to discuss details of this latest blaze.

PREMISES, WATERTOWN, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated Aug 4, states: According to Chief Gaumont of the Watertown Fire Department, the fire is currently contained in the ductwork of the building, and they are now going to allow the fire to burn itself out. Gaumont says the fire is at a “slow smolder,” and they do not want to open the ducts as it would allow oxygen to get to the fire. Crews will remain on scene until the blaze burns itself out. Mill Street will remain closed until further notice. Fire departments from as far away as Fort Drum are responding to a blaze at Knowlton Specialty Papers in the City of Watertown. Watertown Fire Department has issued a recall of all shifts to respond. A ladder truck from Fort Drum is also responding to the scene. According to fire officials on scene, the fire started in a piece of machinery and spread into the ductwork of the building, making it difficult to put out. One thing about the building that has firefighters taking extreme caution is the presence of four 100 pound cylinders of Hydrogen. Officials say they are being “extra careful” with the presence of the volatile gas. The area is closed off to traffic while firefighting efforts are ongoing.

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated Aug 5, states: A fire that broke out yesterday at a central New York paper plant flared up again this afternoon. The fire at Knowlton Specialty Papers Incorporated in Watertown broke out in a ventilation duct around 1400 yesterday afternoon. Fire officials said the fire started when a paper sheet ignited while undergoing a drying process in an oven at 250 degrees Fahrenheit. The sheet tore, and fell from the building’s second floor down to the first. Firefighters spent much of yesterday afternoon and evening putting out the fire, and were able to prevent an explosion. The blaze was reignited this afternoon, and now part of the factory has been shut down. The air ducts will need to be replaced, and company officials say they’re already moving forward with the cleanup. The insurance company is expected to visit the plant Monday (Aug 7) to assess the damages. A company spokesman said a third of the plant’s work force may be impacted depending on what needs to be done where the fire occurred. Production is expected to continue on

Monday despite the damage, and two-thirds of the plant’s employees will be back to work as usual.

REFINERY, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Part of the Caltex oil refinery in Sydney’s south has been shut down due to a fire. More than 35 fire fighters from six brigades have responded to the potential emergency situation at Kurnell. The blaze, which the company describes as “small”, was in a part of the complex that had been shut down for maintenance. The Fire Brigade’s Gordon Boath says crews are now mopping up chemicals. “The fire has been extinguished and the substance is now being purged to prevent it reigniting,” he said.

WILDFIRES, PORTUGAL

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Over 700 firefighters were battling 14 wildfires burning out of control in central and northern Portugal today as temperatures soared above 40 degree Celsius, emergency services said. More than 280 firefighters backed by 59 vehicles were struggling with the worst fire at Aguiar de Sousa near the northern town of Paredes.

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated Aug 7, states: In northern Portugal, about 600 firemen were battling eight fires, two of which were threatening nearby towns. Portuguese authorities have declared an orange alert as temperatures were set to remain high with humidity below 20%.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Another wildfire has broken out in northwest Nebraska. The newest blaze began yesterday in the Oglala National Grasslands, some two miles from the Wyoming border. Wildfires in the northwest part of the state have burned tens of thousands of acres of mostly rugged, rural land for a week. Firefighters got something of a break with the latest blaze, in that a lot of people and equipment were immediately available. A special crew of so-called “hot spot” firefighters joined those from Harrison, assisted by three helicopters, in taking on the latest blaze. The fire has consumed more than 1,000 acres. The cost of fighting the fires was approaching \$2 million. Some \$1.5 million was spent battling fires in the Chadron area; the remainder covered costs of firefighting near Harrison. Success in bringing most of the fires under control meant some of the 700 firefighters provided by the federal government could prepare to leave the area. The fires claimed more than 100 square miles, 43 in Dawes County near Chadron, and 59 in Sioux County in the Harrison area.

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Mother Nature gave firefighters battling the Red Eagle Fire a break yesterday as predicted high winds failed to materialize although fires continued

to burn in areas with high fuel loads, according to Timber Weller, fire information officer. A portion of Highway 89 running south from St. Mary was closed for nearly a week, reopening at noon yesterday. Weller said 490 firefighting personnel were able to keep the fires within the established lines except for one location near the origin of the fire in the south-west corner. Weller said the fire has now burned 26,500 acres and is 40% contained. He added that crews hope to have the fire totally under control by Aug 14. He said an additional heavy helicopter was brought in late yesterday, which brings to five the number being used to fight the Red Eagle Fire. Today, Weller said the weather reports are for more favorable firefighting conditions with lower temperatures and higher humidity.

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters are nearing the \$2 million mark as the battle against a 12,000-acre blaze south of Livingston heads into its second week, officials said yesterday. The lightning-caused Big Creek fire has sapped \$1.9 million in resources since Jul 29, and that tab is mounting daily, fire information officer Erin Fryer said. Containment remains at 40%. Fifteen structures have been lost since the blaze blew up amid high winds last weekend, including three homes and six cabins. Another 50 homes were threatened. Evacuation warnings for the North Glastonbury and South Glastonbury subdivisions have been lifted, but Dry Creek Road remains closed, said Marilyn Krause, another fire information officer. The Big Creek fire was burning about 29 miles south-west of Livingston. Firefighters today are expected to continue strides they made yesterday. That includes patrol and mop-up efforts around the subdivisions, removing hazardous downed fuels where necessary, and shoring up fire lines along the northern and western perimeters, Fryer said. As many as 495 firefighters from local, state and federal agencies were assigned to the Big Creek fire as of yesterday.

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated Aug 6, states: Firefighters in the Mendocino National Forest are continuing to make progress against the Hunter fire despite problems presented by rough terrain and weather. As of yesterday, the fire had grown to 7,600 acres and was 40% contained. Public information officer Rick Hartigan said firefighters have had success containing the fires’ north side. A bulldozer line allowed firefighters to perform a burnout in the area, depriving the fire at that end of its fuel. “It’s currently holding the fire; it’s not expanding at the north end,” Hartigan said. Mop-up operations and patrol were expected to continue. Meanwhile, firefighters at the south end of the fire were working to contain the flames which continued to spread south despite the fact that the wind has been blowing from the south for the last couple of days. The

fire is burning in the valleys, which is allowing it to follow available fuel sources without being affected by the winds blowing over the ridge-tops. Low-hanging smoke in these valleys and drainages have been complicating efforts to fight the fire. Hartigan said firefighters cannot be sent into an area to fight the fire unless they can see where the fire is and how it is moving, because there is a danger that firefighters could get flanked by the fire. The smoke also makes it difficult for helicopters and other aircraft to work those areas because pilots can not see where the fire is and thus won't know where to drop retardant or water. There is also a risk that firefighters in the area could be hit by a water drop, which can weigh in excess of 16,000 pounds. Earlier in the week there was some concern among fire officials that the Hunter fire and East fire might combine and cause greater problems for firefighters. Those two fires are now butted against one another on opposite sides of the Black Butte River, where the water and lack of available fuel have stalled their advance, Hartigan said. Since it started, the East fire has grown to 4,983 acres and is now 67% contained. So far no structures have been damaged by the Hunter fire. There are currently 607 firefighters on scene, backed up by 22 engines, 21 water tenders, six bulldozers, three Type 1 helicopters and one Type 2 helicopter.

London, Aug 7 — A press report, dated Aug 6, states: Smoke hung over areas of Montana today as a dry weekend ended and wildfires continued to burn, including a Glacier National Park blaze that had flames licking guardrails on U.S. 89. The Red Eagle Fire, 45% of which has been in the park, also burned some trees along the highway south of St. Mary, information officer Karen Semple said. Altogether the Red Eagle Fire had burned about 27,000 acres, or 42 square miles, and was about 50% contained. Containment is measured by the shallow trenches dug by crews, trenches intended to help restrict a fire's spread. The fire's perimeter exceeded 52 miles. Some 590 firefighters and five helicopters were among the resources used against the blaze. Other fires burning yesterday included the Big Creek burn on Gallatin National Forest and private land some 29 miles south-west of Livingston. The fire was mapped at 12,000 acres and was 42% contained. In the Bitterroot Valley, the Gash Creek fire had burned 3,450 acres, some in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness. Fifty-five percent of the fire was contained.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A fast-moving wildfire burned nine structures north of Spokane, Washington, and forced the evacuation of residents from as many as 50 homes, authorities said today. The fire quickly grew to nearly three-quarters of a square mile in windy weather yesterday, but it was not expected to spread today and firefighters had it encircled with fire

breaks, said Steve Harris, a spokesman for the state Department of Natural Resources. The cause of the fire had not been established and the number of burned homes among the nine structures was unclear. Harris said some were primary residences. "The fire did a lot of jumping. That's one of the reasons it was difficult to suppress — it kept spotting ahead of itself," Harris said. In north-central Washington, crews were battling two blazes north-east of Winthrop that had charred more than 116 square miles of national and state forest land. They were 10% contained, officials said. In Idaho, 29 new lightning-sparked fires were reported yesterday in the Salmon-Challis National Forest. North of Stanley, Idaho, a two-week-old fire had blackened more than eight square miles of forest and threatened 10 homes that had been evacuated. Crews still needed to complete 18 more miles of containment lines to encircle the blaze, officials said. "It's a running battle mainly because it's very rugged, steep, and hard to get people in to where fire is at," David Eaker of the Great Basin National Incident Management Team said of the blaze near Stanley. Firefighters in Southern California today contained a fire that had burned a third of an acre in Riverside County and had threatened some 200 homes at one point. A larger blaze in the county was 5% contained. The fire, which had charred 1.2 square miles, had forced the temporary evacuation of 10 holiday cottages yesterday.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: At 9,415 acres and 60% contained, the Hunter fire is now on the wane, according to Fire Information Officer Wendell Peacock. Firefighters have been working against the flames for almost two-and-a-half weeks since the fire was started by lightning strikes in the Mendocino National Forest Jul 23. Lightning strikes from that storm started several fires in the Mendocino National Forest and are believed to be the cause of the East Fire, which met up with the Hunter Fire on Friday (Aug 4). On Sunday morning, the Arizona Central West Zone Incident Management Team, led by John Philbin, joined forces with the California Incident Management Team led by Rocky Oplinger to fight the Hunter fire under a "unified command." Oplinger was in charge of the team fighting the East Fire. Philbin's team is expected to continue work at the north end of the Hunter fire, where things have cooled over the last few days. Firefighters in those areas are continuing mop-up operations and seeking out hidden collections of hot embers. The northern edge of the fire is not expected to generate any more activity. Oplinger's team is working the south end of the fire, which is considerably more active, Peacock said. The fire has continued to make short runs up the walls of valleys and drainages and raced up the side of some trees. In some cases, operations had to be delayed as firefighters were

pulled off the line because there was no clear evacuation routes for them. Despite setbacks, Peacock said the firefighters expect to meet their containment date of Thursday. There are currently 652 firefighters on scene at the fire, backed up by 22 engines, 25 water tenders, six bulldozers, three Type 1 helicopters and one Type 2 helicopter. Firefighters have come from as far away as Hawaii, Alaska and Kentucky to help. No structures have been damaged by this fire and only minor injuries have been reported among firefighting staff.

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated Aug 9, states: The Cottonwood Fire near Lake Isabella is now 100% contained, according to officials. "As of 1800 yesterday, it's contained, but it's still not out," said Sue Rocha of the Ridgecrest BLM office this morning. "We're downsizing, but we're still going to have folks assigned here through the weekend." The fire started on private land Saturday afternoon and burned onto federal lands administered by Bureau of Land Management and Sequoia National Forest. Although the fire is contained, Rocha cautioned that smoke might still be seen. "There will be still interior smoke, but there should not be any flare ups along the fire edge, because we mopped up within 200 to 300 feet of the fire's edge," she said. "On Friday, the Ridgecrest field office of the BLM California Desert District zone is going to take the fire back over." The Ridgecrest zone will continue to manage the fire through the weekend, Rocha said. Several summer homes and outbuildings on Sorrell Peak Road, near Landers Meadow and Mace Meadow in the Piute Mountains were threatened during the fire. One outbuilding, two vehicles, and other private property were destroyed by the quick moving fire during the initial attack. Resources committed to the fire: 20 fire engines, 17 hand crews, 3 dozers, 6 water tenders, 3 helicopters and 3 air tankers. A total of 511 firefighters and support personnel from many different states were assigned to the blaze. Crews from BLM-California Desert District, BLM-Bakersfield District, U.S. Forest Service, Kern County Fire Department and many other fire agencies are assisting in the effort. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Officials said that nationally, 390 wildland fires were reported so far this week and residents are urged to be alert as fire conditions remain dry with extreme fire danger.

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated Aug 9, states: Fire crews worked today to protect summer cabins in north-central Washington after two large wildfires merged and continued to grow. The fires have burned more than 74,800 acres, or nearly 117 square miles, of national forest north-east of Winthrop and about 18 miles south-west of the Canadian border, fire information officer Tom James said. Nearly 2,100 firefighters were assigned to the blaze, which was 10%

contained. "The weather has been looking pretty good. The humidity is up and the temperature is down a little bit," James said. In eastern Washington, firefighters did not expect much growth in a fire that burned more than two-thirds of a square mile and destroyed nine structures about 40 miles north of Spokane. Authorities were still determining how many homes were among buildings damaged, said Steve Harris, fire information officer for the state Department of Natural Resources. A handful of homes remained evacuated. "It's pretty well burned out, and we are doing mop-up," Harris said. The fire started as a result of people burning trash, Harris said. No charges had been filed, and Harris could not yet say whether the people responsible would be billed for the costs of firefighting efforts. Officials estimated damages would exceed \$500,000. In central Washington, a fire near Stehekin on Lake Chelan was 30% contained at 4,200 acres, or about 6.5 square miles. Fire crews continued trail-protection efforts along the Entiat River to protect against a separate blaze that has burned 4,100 acres about 40 miles north-west of Entiat.



AIRCRAFT HIT BY TURBULENCE ON A FLIGHT FROM TURKEY TO JAPAN

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: At least six people were injured today when a Turkish airlines aircraft hit severe turbulence while en route to Japan from Turkey. Narita International Airport officials said that two crew members and four passengers were injured when a Turkish Airline plane hit turbulence. The flight hit turbulence over the Pacific Ocean shortly before landing at Narita airport. The six injured passengers were taken to a hospital for treatment.

C-FBUO

London, Aug 9 — Cessna 185F (Skywagon) C-FBUO, operated by Tweedsmuir Air Services, crashed near Mount Downton, British Columbia, at 1400, PDT, Aug 7, while on a flight from Kluskoil Lake to Nimpo Lake. The two persons on board were killed.

C-GCHN

See C-GFGD.

C-GFGD

London, Aug 9 — Cessna 172P (Skyhawk) C-GFGD, operated by Brampton Flying Club, and privately operated Cessna 182T (Turbo Skylane) C-GCHN collided near Caledon Village, Ontario, at 1234, EDT, Aug 4. Both aircraft were destroyed. The two

persons on board C-GFGD and the one person on board C-GCHN were all killed.

CRASH, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A light aircraft with six people onboard has crashed on a golf course in Buckinghamshire. Six people were pulled from the wreckage and taken to hospital after the aircraft came down in woods close to the 13th hole of Denham Golf Course. A Denham Airfield spokesman said the aircraft crashed near the airfield at about 1900 BST as the group returned from a day-trip to Teesside. Police said the 57-year-old pilot was seriously injured. The pilot, four other men aged 53, 52, 45 and 43 and a 10-year-old boy were also taken to Wexham Park Hospital. 'Sealed off' The passengers are all said to be in stable conditions. The aircraft, believed to be a twin-engine Cessna 310, took off from Denham airfield, where it is kept by the owner, at 1200, BST, today. A spokesman for Thames Valley Police said members of the public had reported a twin-engine aircraft going down in a wooded area of the golf course, close to the airfield which is near Gerrards Cross. Air Accident investigators and Thames Valley Police will continue examining the wreckage tomorrow.

CRASH, DARRA, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A pilot, whose aircraft has crashed into a house at Darra in Brisbane's south-west, is in a medically-induced coma. Police say blue smoke was seen coming out of the aircraft before it crashed into a house on Monier Road just after 1100, AEST. It appears the pilot tried to make an emergency landing in a park but clipped power lines and hit the roof of a house. The aircraft landed upside down in the backyard and caught fire. Home owner Brett McDonald helped the pilot out of the burning wreckage. Ambulance officers say the pilot has sustained burns and is in a coma in hospital. Police say no one else has been injured.

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Air safety investigators say it may take some time to find the cause of yesterday's light aircraft crash in Brisbane's south-west. The Cessna clipped the roof of a Darra home, before coming down in the backyard and bursting into flames. The pilot was rescued by an occupant of the house and remains in hospital with burns to his arms and legs. Ian Brokenshire from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau says experts will return to the accident scene today. "Following our initial work on-site yesterday afternoon, we'll be having five investigators on-site today putting in a full day starting the investigation," he said. "They'll be assessing the site and checking the components of the

aircraft and making sure that all the parts and components of the aircraft are at the accident site. We will be accessing recordings from air-traffic control and reviewing those recordings later on."

CRASH, DEL NORTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

See N5262R.

CRASH, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Seventeen people were killed today when an aircraft crashed in the far east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, said the United Nations peacekeeping mission. UN spokesperson Sylvie van den Wildenberg said: "The plane was carrying 14 passengers and three crew. There were no survivors." "The plane, an Antonov 28 of the local company Air Traset, crashed about 50km north of Bukavu, capital of Sud Kivu Province, as it was about to land."

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The bodies of all 17 people killed in an aircraft crash in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo have been recovered, an airport spokesman said today. All 14 Congolese passengers and three crew members, two Russians and a Congolese, were killed when their jet crashed yesterday about 30km north of Bukavu as it was about to land at the city's airport. The corpses of the Russian crew members were due to be repatriated to Russia, via Entebbe in Uganda, today, the airport spokesman said. The twin-engined turboprop, an Antonov 28 operated by local company Air Traset, was en route from the mining town of Lugushwa some 130km south of Bukavu in the Mwenga region with a cargo of mining material.

CRASH, MEDANO PASS, COLORADO, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated Aug 4, states: The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash of Piper PA-24 piloted by Pueblo Community College President Mike Davis. Mr Davis, who was alone in the on a flight to Durango, crashed yesterday in a rugged area that required a four-hour climb to cover the two miles to the crash site near Medano Pass. Officials said they were unable to bring the victim's body out.

CRASH, VICTORIAN ALPS, AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Four men are being treated at the Latrobe Hospital, east of Melbourne, after being rescued from an aircraft crash site in the Victorian Alps this morning. Police are describing the men as the walking wounded, suffering only bumps, and bruises, and mild hypothermia from their forced landing in rugged bushland near the Thomson Dam north of the Latrobe Valley. Police and paramedics at the crash site have

described the landing as miraculous. The men were flying from Merimbula in New South Wales to Melbourne late yesterday when they were forced to land. Paramedics were trying to reach the party on foot. But the helicopter air ambulance managed to fly to the crash site under a heavy blanket of cloud this morning to winch the men out.

EMERGENCY LANDING AT SUBIC BAY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PHILIPPINES

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A Federal Express cargo aircraft made an emergency landing at the Subic Bay International Airport (SBIA) at noon today due to a problem with the aircraft's landing gear. Ejuliet Villaran, SBIA operations officer, said the pilot of Air FedEx 8 MD-11 advised them that the aircraft would return for an emergency landing 30 minutes after leaving the airport at 1100 hrs. Villaran said the aircraft, which was bound for Hong Kong, landed safely. She said FedEx officials informed them that the aircraft's landing gear had been fixed and it would leave the SBIA for Hong Kong at 1600 hrs today.

EMERGENCY LANDING, HERBERTON AREA, QUEENSLAND

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Three people have had a lucky escape, when the small aircraft in which they were travelling was forced to make an emergency landing in far north Queensland. The Piper Cherokee had to come down on a road just outside Herberton this afternoon. The male pilot, his wife and a 10-year-old, were on their way to Atherton when they heard strange noises. When the pilot turned the aircraft around, the engine stopped, leaving him to glide to safety from 5,000 feet up. The Civil Aviation Safety Authority will investigate the incident.

INCIDENT AT ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated Aug 7, states: Orlando International Airport officials say a Northwest Airlines flight had trouble during take-off this afternoon and never made it off the ground. An airport spokesman says Detroit-bound Flight 529 never made it into the air after a pilot saw smoke coming from one of the engines around 1545 hrs. A Northwest Airlines spokesman says the pilots aborted take-off due to an engine that shut down. Two of the aircraft's tyres blew out as the pilots' slowed it down on the runway. No injuries were reported among the 146 passengers on board the Airbus 320. All the passengers were bused back to the terminal, where they were being rebooked on other flights. The aircraft was towed off the runway. The airport spokesman says the airport's other three runways are operating normally this afternoon.

INCIDENT ON FLIGHT FROM SAO PAULO TO RIO DE JANEIRO

Rio de Janeiro, Aug 9 — A jet owned by leading Brazilian airline TAM landed safely yesterday after one of its doors fell off and crashed to earth next to a supermarket shortly after departure from Sao Paulo. No one was hurt in the incident, a TAM spokeswoman said. The Fokker 100 with 79 people aboard en route to Rio de Janeiro returned to the airport safely 18 minutes after taking off. TAM has been replacing its Fokker planes since the Dutch aircraft maker went bankrupt 10 years ago. — Reuters.

N1221P

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated Aug 5, states: Several people are hospitalized after a Piper PA-23-150 crashed while trying to land at the Ontario Airport yesterday afternoon. Four people were on board the aircraft which crashed into an onion field near the Ontario Airport. The aircraft crashed on landing after it lost power, bounced on the runway and landed in an onion field. There was quick emergency response, with more than a dozen emergency vehicles on the scene in a matter of minutes. Ontario Police Sgt. Mike Esplin says the aircraft was carrying a family of four from Kansas that was en route to Washington state for a family reunion. Two men and two women were on board. Two men were taken to Holy Rosary Hospital in Ontario with what is being described as minor injuries. A large plume of smoke was seen coming from the crash. The fire was quickly brought under control. The airport is still open and the FAA is on its way to investigate the crash.

N4693Y

London, Aug 4 — Piper PA-25-235, N4693Y, operated by Central Flying Service Inc., during aerial application manoeuvre, hit a powerline and crashed five miles southeast of Underwood, North Dakota, at 1939, local time, Aug 3. The one person on board was fatally injured. The aircraft was destroyed.

N502WQ

London, Aug 7 — Air Tractor AT-502 N502WQ crashed near Madera, California, at 1130, Aug 5, while on a local flight from Chowchilla, CA. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N5262R

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated Aug 4, states: A small aircraft crashed this afternoon in Del Norte County injured two people and damaged a house. Wilma Madden, an administrative assistant for the Del Norte County department that manages the Crescent City airport, said that the details of the crash were not yet known, but it appeared that the aircraft clipped the tops of some trees and then flipped over, "moderately" injuring both people on board. The incident occurred just west

of Gasquet Flat Road in Gasquet, according to Madden. The aircraft landed on private property and caused substantial damage to a house, but she said no one on the ground was injured. The National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the incident. Madden said the aircraft would be recovered and taken to Jack McNamara Field Airport in Crescent City.

London, Aug 7 — Cessna 172M (Skyhawk) N5262R crashed into a house in Gasquet, California, at 1930, Aug 4, while on a flight from Gasquet. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board suffered minor injuries.

N59BA

London, Aug 7 — Embraer EMB-110P (Bandeirante) N59BA, operated by Business Air Freight, crashed near Bennington, Vermont, at 1313, Aug 4. The one person on board was killed.

N6156U

London, Aug 7 — Aviation International Rotors CH-54A crashed near Happy Camp, California, at 0247, Aug 4, while carrying out firefighting operations. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N7367Z

London, Aug 6 — A press report, dated Aug 5, states: State police say a small aircraft taking off from a private runway crashed in the woods of Windsor, New Hampshire, this afternoon but no one was injured. Police say the pilot is a local resident but did not release a name. Fire officials were dealing with a small fuel spill as a result of the crash but police say they found the pilot unharmed. A neighbour reported hearing the aircraft flying around before it went into the trees. An investigator from the Federal Aviation Administration responded to the scene to conduct the investigation.

London, Aug 7 — Cessna 172N (Skyhawk) N7367Z crashed near Windsor, New Hampshire, at 1855, Aug 5, while taking off from Windsor. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was not injured.

N7533F

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A 1962 single-engine Champion aircraft towing an advertisement for twin lobsters crashed yesterday at bustling Kalmus Beach on Cape Cod. Matthew Benard, according to Barnstable Police, piloted the aircraft. Benard was the only person aboard and intentionally landed in the water to avoid hitting anyone on the ground, police said. According to witnesses, the aircraft came very low over a sand dune, then quickly nose-dived into about 10 feet of water. Benard jumped out of the aircraft and swam to shore, where a police boat picked him up. Benard was taken to Cape Cod Hospital as a precaution, police said. Officials do not yet know what went wrong with the

aircraft. The crash is currently under investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration.

N86188

London, Aug 7 — Cessna A188B (AG Wagon) N86188 crashed near Bassfield, Mississippi, at 1630, Aug 4. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The one person on board was killed.

N9904E

London, Aug 7 — Cessna 182P (Skyline) N9904E crashed near Shelter Cove, California, at 2200, Aug 5. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

NORTH FORK RESERVOIR AREA, COLORADO, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A single engine airplane crashed, yesterday, near North Fork Reservoir, Colorado, killing one of two occupants on board and sending the other to a Colorado Springs hospital. The name of the deceased will not be released until next of kin has been informed. The injured person also was not identified. A call was received at the Chaffee County Sheriff's office shortly after 1030 hrs, yesterday, reporting a, aircraft crash on public land near the reservoir, on the eastern side of Mount Shavano, and the aircraft was located about 1140 hrs. One male occupant was flown by emergency medical helicopter to Colorado Springs for treatment. The other occupant of the aircraft was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident. Chaffee County officials as well as Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board officials are investigating the crash.

TURBULENCE DURING FLIGHT FROM ISTANBUL TO NARITA AIRPORT, JAPAN

London, Aug 9 — A press report, dated Aug 8, states: A Turkish Airlines Airbus A340-300 aircraft carrying 191 passengers flying from Istanbul was hit by turbulence this morning, injuring two cabin crew members and five passengers as it was approaching Narita airport, its destination, according to airport and police officials. The aircraft was hit by the turbulence at around 1020 hrs over Niigata and Ibaraki prefectures, and it landed in Narita about 30 minutes later, the authorities said. Of the seven injured, three women were taken to hospital. A crew member broke some ribs. The remaining seven sustained light injuries, according to the police. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport has dispatched two Aircraft and Railway Accidents Investigation Commission investigators to probe the accident. The aircraft departed for Istanbul in the afternoon after an inspection found no abnormalities, according to the airport officials. A local weather observatory said a typhoon was approaching and a dense rain cloud was observed in the morning over the

southern part of the Boso Peninsula, near Narita. An upward current could have been generated inside the cloud, it said.

Product Recalls



FORD MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: US car firm Ford is to recall 1.2 million trucks, sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and vans over concerns about potential engine fires. The recall, one of the largest ever, is over fears about the speed control deactivation switch system, which could corrode over time, overheat and ignite. It followed "exhaustive investigations" by the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). And it comes after Ford announced second quarter losses of \$254m. The group blamed the losses on an increase in pension curtailment costs related to job cuts. Ford also said that its luxury division will not be profitable this year. The company has been facing calls to restructure in the face of widening losses and declining vehicle sales. Like many US carmakers it has been under pressure as its large vehicles, such as SUVs, become more costly to run in the face of rising fuel prices, while its Japanese rivals have seen their smaller cars gain in popularity. The recall relates to vehicles powered by petrol or natural gas and equipped with speed control. Those models included in the recall are: 1994-2002 F-250, F-350, F-450 and F-550 F-Super Duty trucks; 2000-2002 Excursion SUVs; 1994-1996 Econoline vans; 1996-2002 E-450 vans and 1998 Explorers and Mountaineers. The recall does not involve similar vehicles with diesel engines.

HONDA MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

Detroit, Aug 3 — Honda Motor Co. Ltd is recalling nearly 1.2 million cars and motorcycles to amend incorrect contact information in its owner's manual for a vehicle safety hotline, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said today. The U.S. agency said "the language in the owner's manual is not in accordance with the current mandatory requirement." The recall includes 2006 and 2007 Honda and Acura models. — Reuters.

TOYOTA MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 9 — The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has upgraded an investigation into reports of excessive wear of a front chassis component that could lead to suspension failures in 2003 and 2004 Toyota Tundra pickups. It has also opened a separate investigation into 2004 and 2005

Toyota Sienna minivans after getting reports of four injuries that happened when the liftgates shut unexpectedly. The new recall probes add to continuing quality concerns at the Japanese auto giant. Last month, the Japanese government rebuked the company because of the growing number of recalls. They are up sharply in the past year and a half, undermining Toyota's once-sterling reputation as the industry leader in quality.

Port Conditions



ITALY

Genoa, Aug 7 — Port situation/berthing delays: Genoa: No vessels are waiting for berths. Savona: No vessels are waiting for normal berths. One vessel is waiting for a special berth. La Spezia: No vessels are waiting for berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

PANAMA CANAL

Balboa, Aug 9 — Projected queue as of 2400, Aug 10 is 28 vessels. Present waiting times as follows: Panamax: One day both directions. Regulars/unrestricted vessels: Little or no delay in both directions. — Lloyd's Agents.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, Aug 7 — Cargo operations at the Poro Point Port in San Fernando City, La Union province in northern Philippines were disrupted Saturday (Aug 5) as government port authorities attempted to take over the port from private company operating the facility. Four bulk carriers and several smaller cargo vessels were stranded as there were no stevedores to load or unload cargo. Cargo trucks were likewise unable to enter the pier as port workers barricaded the entrances to prevent government officials from enforcing an order evicting the operator from the state-owned port. The Poro Point Port, a major seaport specialising in breakbulk cargo, is currently being operated by the Poro Point Industrial Corp. under contract with the state company Poro Point Management Corp. Early this year, the Poro Point Management Corp. terminated the Poro Point Industrial Corp's contract to operate the port. The port operator was able to obtain a court injunction against the termination of the contract in July. Despite the injunction, however, officials of the Poro Point Management Corp. attempted Saturday to evict the port operator from the facility. After a tense standoff the officials eventually withdrew. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SYRIA

Aleppo, Aug 6 — Waiting time is presently two days at both at Lattakia and three days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	14-Aug-2006	Coal: 1 vessel loading at berth; 4 vessels due by 22/8; there will be a maintenance shutdown from 07.00 16/8 to 07.00 22/8; no vessels will be loaded during this period.
Brisbane	14-Aug-2006	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 3 vessels due by 27/8.
Dalrymple Bay	14-Aug-2006	Coal: DBCT berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 6 waiting; DBCT berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; other vessels not scheduled: 5 vessels waiting; 29 vessels due by 14/9.
Esperance	14-Aug-2006	Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed; 2 vessels due by 24/8.
Gladstone	14-Aug-2006	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels loading, 1 berthed, 8 waiting; 30 vessels due by 21/9; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 10 vessels due by 4/10. Aug 9: Grain: 1 vessel due 17/8 to load wheat; no delays expected.
Hay Point	14-Aug-2006	Coal: Berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 6 vessels due by 20/8; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 5 vessels due by 20/8; 6 vessels due by 12/9, not yet scheduled for berthing.
Newcastle	14-Aug-2006	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 7 waiting; 41 vessels due by 1/9; 3-5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 8 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 16 vessels due by 28/8; 3-4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 3 vessels off port awaiting coal.
Port Hedland	14-Aug-2006	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 3 vessels due by 15/8; there will be a nine day shiploader shutdown starting ca. 19/8; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 7 vessels due by 25/8; 7 other vessels due by 1/9, no e.t.a. received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 3 vessels due by 24/8; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 7 vessels due by 24/8; 1 other vessel due 23/8, no e.t.a. received; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel due 21/8.
Port Kembla	14-Aug-2006	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 14 vessels due by 22/9.
Port Walcott	14-Aug-2006	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 9 waiting; 9 vessels due by 30/8.
Whyalla	14-Aug-2006	Iron ore: 1 vessel anchored; 7 vessels due by 28/9.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	14-Aug-2006	Sixteen vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (8 coils, 1 containers), 7 discharging (2 metals, 2 billets, 1 containers, 1 clinker, 1 copper concentrate); 1 vessel in roads to discharge iron ore; 11 vessels due, of which 4 to load (2 coils, 1 steel sheets, 1 wheat), 7 to discharge (1 benzene, 1 coal, 1 coils, 1 copper concentrate, 1 zinc/copper concentrate, 1 clinker, 1 iron ore concentrate).
Varna	14-Aug-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 7-13 August: Thirty-three vessels in port operating of which 20 loading (2 bulk wheat, 2 ore, 1 scrap, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 1 bulk clinker, 1 equipment in packing cases, 7 soda, 1 TSP, 1 bulk silica sand, 1 kaolin, 1 containers, 1 bulk cement), 7 discharging (3 bulk coal, 1 equipment in packing cases, 1 raw phosphate, 1 petcoke, 1 clay), 6 discharging/loading (5 containers, 1 equipment in packing cases/miscellaneous cargo); no vessels waiting in roads.sand, 1 bulk kaolin), 9 discharging (2 containers, 1 metals in packages, 6 bulk coal), 7 discharging/loading (6 containers, 1 equipment in packing cases); no vessels waiting in roads.
Egypt		
Adabiya	14-Aug-2006	Four general cargo vessels at berth (loading/discharging).
Alexandria	14-Aug-2006	Thirty vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 23 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 2 container vessels; 15 vessels at inner anchorage, 5 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	14-Aug-2006	Twenty-two vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 14 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 4 container vessels; 1 vessel at inner anchorage, 19 at outer anchorage.
Dekheila	14-Aug-2006	Ten vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 1 general cargo, 6 bulk carriers, 2 tankers, 1 container vessel; no vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	14-Aug-2006	Five vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 1 general cargo, 3 container vessels.
Suez	14-Aug-2006	Nine vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 5 general cargo, 4 passenger vessels; 3 tug boats; 2 vessels dry-docked.
Suez Canal	14-Aug-2006	Twenty-one vessels transiting Northbound, 26 Southbound.

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Port Conditions

Mozambique

Maputo	11-Aug-2006	Seven vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading (1 citrus, 1 bulk sugar, 1 mineral coal, 1 bulk wheat), 1 discharging bulk aluminium, 1 loading/discharging containers, 1 other vessel; 2 vessels due to berth 11/8, 1 to load citrus, 1 to discharge petcoke; 21 vessels due by 18/8 of which 9 to load (2 citrus, 2 ferro chrome, 3 bulk sugar, 1 aluminium, 1 mineral coal), 7 to discharge (2 fuel, 1 petcoke, 1 bulk wheat, 2 bagged rice, 1 bulk aluminium), 5 to discharge/load (4 containers, 1 containers/general cargo).
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Pakistan

Karachi	15-Aug-2006	Two vessels loading at berth (1 rice, 1 cement), 9 discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 coal, 1 chemicals, 1 DAP, 3 sugar, 1 general cargo, 1 peas), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 coal, 1 SBM); 7 vessels due (5 containers, 1 general cargo, 1 ethanol), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	15-Aug-2006	Two cement vessels loading at berth, 3 vessels discharging at berth (1 MEG, 1 sugar, 1 metcoke); 3 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 7 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 containers, 1 sugar, 1 fuel oil, 1 iron ore, 1 HSD oil).

Russia

Novorossiysk	14-Aug-2006	Sixteen vessels in port operating, of which 14 loading (1 cement, 1 bulk NPK, 1 scrap, 1 pig-iron/steel billets, 1 steel sheets/coils/steel billets, 1 steel sheets, 4 wheat, 1 slabs, 2 steel billets, 1 vegetable oil), 2 discharging (1 debars, 1 vegetable oil); 2 vessels waiting in roads, both to load, of which 1 soda ash, 1 wheat; 66 vessels due, of which 61 to load (2 bulk ammonium nitrate, 7 wheat, 6 copper, 4 steel billets, 3 pipes, 4 DRI, 6 slabs, 2 HBI, 4 aluminium, 1 steel sheets/coils, 1 steel billets/WRIC, 4 bulk urea, 1 steel billets/coils, 1 tin plate/steel billets, 2 vegetable oil, 2 coils/H-beams, 2 coils, 1 cellulose, 1 WRIC, 1 WRIC/coils/steel sheets, 1 bulk cement, 1 scrap, 1 blooms, 1 bulk NPK, 2 diesel oil), 2 to discharge (1 maize, 1 debars), 3 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 4 tankers berthed, all loading, of which 2 crude oil, 1 diesel oil, 1 fuel oil; 5 tankers in roads, all to load, of which 4 crude oil, 1 diesel oil; 6 tankers due, all to load, of which 3 crude oil, 3 fuel oil, 1 diesel oil.
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Spain

Bilbao	14-Aug-2006	Thirty vessels operating (4 tankers, 26 other vessels), of which 9 loading, 12 discharging, 9 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	14-Aug-2006	Twelve vessels in port operating of which 10 discharging (7 steel products, 1 gas, 1 fruit, 1 vehicles), 2 discharging/loading general cargo; Outside commercial wharf: no vessels; no delays expected.

Sri Lanka

Colombo	14-Aug-2006	South-west monsoonal rains being experienced. 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. Nine vessels loading at berth (8 containers/feeders, 1 cement blocks on pallets), 17 vessels discharging at berth (11 containers/feeders, 2 bagged soya bean meal, 1 bagged fertiliser, 2 Ro/Ro, 1 bulk cement); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 containers/feeders, 1 Ro/Ro); 4 vessels dry-docked; 7 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.
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Ukraine

Illichevsk	14-Aug-2006	Five vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading (1 ore, 1 coal, 1 billets, 1wheat), loading/discharging containers; 2 vessel in roads, both to load, of which 1 steel products, 1 coal; 28 vessels due, of which 19 to load (12 steel products, 3 coal, 2 barley/wheat, 1 ferro nickel, 1 pig-iron), 9 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol	14-Aug-2006	Twelve vessels in port operating, all to load, of which 7 steel, 3 fire-clay, 1 wheat, 1 barley; 11 vessels in roads, of which 10 to load (6 steel, 3 fire-clay, 1 coke), 1 to discharge containers; 59 vessels due, of which 57 to load (28 steel, 14 coal, 4 fire-clay, 1 wheat/barley, 3 wheat, 2 barley, 1 bran, 1 ammonium saltpetre, 1 coke, sunflower beans, 1 pitch), 2 to discharge (1 containers/equipment, 1 heavy lift cargo).
Odessa	14-Aug-2006	Twenty-one vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (6 metal, 1 scrap, 1 peas, 2 timber, 1 barley, 1 general cargo), 5 discharging (1 metal, 3 luggage, 1 bananas), 3 discharging/loading containers, 1 passenger vessel; 7 vessels in roads, of which 4 to load (1 metal, 1 wheat, 1 coal, 1 wheat flour), 3 to load/discharge containers; 79 vessels due, of which 44 to load (32 metal, 3 pig-iron, 1, 2 ore, 1 ferro alloy, 2 wheat, 3 timber), 6 to discharge (2 metal, 1 ore, 2 oil, 1 barley), 29 to discharge/load containers.

USA

Beaumont, TX	15-Aug-2006	No new restrictions in draft (normal 40 ft. 0 ins. f.w. max. deep draft enforced). Louis Dreyfus terminal: no delays.
Galveston, TX	15-Aug-2006	No new restriction in draft (normal 39 ft. 6 ins. b.w. max. deep draft enforced - 40 ft. with ideal conditions). Channel open under normal traffic; ADM-Farmland terminal: 2-3 days delay.

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Port Conditions

Houston, TX	15-Aug-2006	No new restriction in draft (normal 39 ft. 6 ins. b.w. max. deep draft enforced - 40 ft. with ideal conditions). Channel open under normal
Kalama, WA	15-Aug-2006	Kalama export terminal: 4 days delay; United Harvest terminal: no delays.
New Orleans, LA	15-Aug-2006	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: no delays; Cargill-Wes wego: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 3-5 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 3 days delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 3-5 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 3-5 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Paulina: 2-3 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 2 days delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 3 days delay; Mile 158.0 Myrtle Grove midstream terminal: no delays; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 3 days delay. Nine-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to decrease to 2.0 ft. above sea level by 24/8. Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to Pilottown - 47 ft. for all vessels (24 hours); Pilottown to Nola - 47 ft. for all vessels (24 hours); New Orleans to Mile 180 - 45 ft. (24 hours) and up to 47 feet on a case-by-case basis; Mile 180 to Baton Rouge - 45 ft. for all vessels (24 hours); Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 23 ft. as per last report of the Bar Pilots. It is highly recommended that MRGO is excluded in fixtures until further notice, as plans to restore the 36 ft. project depth have not been published.
Portland, OR	15-Aug-2006	Columbia Grain terminal: 3 days delay; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays.
Seattle, WA	15-Aug-2006	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 3 days delay.
Tacoma, WA	15-Aug-2006	Temco terminal: no delays.
Vancouver, WA	15-Aug-2006	United Harvest terminal: no delays.

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