

Aug 25 2006

Diamond city's flood disaster to swamp Indian companies with motor claims

Second year of heavy claims will make insurers wary of this of cover, writes Shirish Nadkarni in Mumbai — Friday August 25 2006

INDIAN insurance companies which have sold motor policies in the industrial town of Surat are bracing themselves for a cascade of claims resulting from the Gujarat floods.

According to initial reports from surveyors, around 50,000 cars and 75,000 two-wheelers in Surat, India's diamond capital, have been either damaged or fully submerged after floods inundated roads and houses with between 4 ft and 21 ft of water, depending on the locality.

Claims

The figures comprehensively swamped even Mumbai's huge tally of motor claims, involving 16,000 cars and 30,000 two-wheelers, in the July 26 floods last year, producing claims aggregating Rs2bn (\$43m).

Motor insurance has traditionally been a loss-making portfolio for Indian insurance companies and private insurers have over the past five years been extremely choosy about offering cover when they know that their state-run counterparts have had to fork out in claims as much as 400% of premiums collected.

Although insurers now collect roughly 4% of the declared value of a vehicle as

annual premium for comprehensive insurance, heavy claims in successive years after severe flooding in Mumbai and Surat are bound to make them even more chary of taking on motor insurance in the future.

"Both public and private sector general insurance companies are holding meetings to evolve a common strategy for dealing with flood-related claims," said Mahendra Dhruva, national president of the Institute of Insurance Surveyors and Adjusters, after the Surat emergency.

Submerged

"Most of the cars have been fully submerged as the flood levels reached even the second floor level of houses in some areas. So the vehicles are likely to be a dead loss."

Mr Dhruva added that surveyors had suggested to insurance companies that customers could be provided with three options — terms for a complete write-off, a lumpsum payment for repairs or reimbursement of actual repair expenses.

The surveyors' report states that around 30,000 Maruti-Suzuki vehicles, 12,000 Hyundais, 3,000 Hondas and another 5,000 vehicles of various brands have been damaged.

Insurance companies that will face the maximum number of motor claims include the four public sector insurers, New India Assurance, National Insurance, Oriental Insurance and United India Insurance, which are obliged to insure any vehicle that is presented to them. Affected private insurers include Iffco Tokio, Bajaj Allianz and HDFC Chubb.

Pressure

"The problems due to motor claims in Surat are going to be much more magnified than they were in Mumbai as there will be enormous pressure on repair facilities," said Shirang Samant, managing director and chief executive of HDFC Chubb General.

"The cost of repairs and replacement will increase due to an imbalance in demand and supply, as is always the case."

Maruti Udyog, the Indian joint venture with Suzuki Motors of Japan, has the largest number of damaged cars to deal with and has plans to shift the vehicles to higher ground so that they can be serviced and provided with spare parts.

Company officials said that additional manpower was being brought in through Maruti authorised service stations outside Surat as well as Gujarat.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
AMAR	general	SGP	ABS	10,208	14,860	1980	Had fire in lat 05.46N, long 89.04E, and while being assisted by <i>Bright Artemis</i> collided with it causing a 1.3 million gallon oil spill.
BARTOL KASIC	ro-ro	HRV	HV	2,296	400	1989	Had engine breakdown and contacted the pier at Split South Port, by its bow Aug 16. Tug <i>Argus</i> assisted to safe anchorage. 18 injured, One badly. Investigation under way.
BRIGHT ARTEMIS	crude oil tanker	SGP	NK	146,463	261,284	1992	When manoeuvring to assist Amar in lat 05.46N, long 89.04E, 290 miles west of the Nicobar Islands Aug 15 collision occurred. 1m x 5m gash in starboard hull. Spilled about 4,500 tons of crude oil.
CELEBRATION	passenger	PAN	LR	47,262	6,405	1987	Struck the sea floor with propeller while docking at Nassau Aug 15, damaging propeller and one engine and spilling 53 gallons of lube oil. To return to Jacksonville.
DEWI PARWATI	general	PAN	BV	6,301	8,930	2001	In collision, in fog, with general cargo <i>Shinfutaba</i> (which sank) about 20 km off Cape Irozaki, Shizuoka Prefecture, Aug 12. Picked up all five crew. Sustained 3 metre crack to bow. Anchored off Shimoda. 24 ton oil slick reported.
ICE FLAKE	reefer	CYM	BV	5,978	6,928	1987	Reported a fire in the engine-room off Maputo in lat 26 31S, long 33 07E, off Maputo, Aug 11. Fire extinguished and proceeding to Durban, for repairs, at 2.5 knots. Tug assisting. Reported Aug 16 at DORMAC repairing.
IRAN PIROOZI	container	IRN	GL	25,391	33,835	2003	Reported off Flushing Aug 15 with machinery damage. Awaiting tow to Antwerp. Arrived Antwerp Aug 16.
LUNG YUAN NO. 3	general	CHN	—	668	—	—	Sank 15 miles off Taitzu, Taiwan, Aug 13, due to being contacted by fishing Hunghui.
MAYA EXPRESS	ro-ro	PAN	—	9,588	3,911	1973	Sank in lat 12 33N, long 81 41W, Aug 10. Fourteen crew rescued, one missing. Several vessels on scene.
MIDAS	bulker	PAN	—	20,350	35,208	1976	Arrived off Karachi Aug 1 due engine problem and minor leakage in No.1 hold. Hold repaired Aug 15 and ETC engine repairs Aug 20.
NT 1517	tank	CAN	—	1,252	—	1973	While under tow of Edgar Kototak, in Kugluktuk, NWT, Aug 8, became holed in way of fuel tank, affecting seaworthiness and losing 1,000 litres of diesel in lat 67 51.46N, long 115 07.8W.
ODYSSEA VOYAGER	tug	VUT	ABS	1,063	1,051	1973	Had fire in engine-room 10 miles off Grand Isle Aug 11. Forty people rescued. Extinguished Aug 12. To be inspected when cooled down.
SHINFUTABA	general	JPN	—	499	1,349	1989	In collision, in fog, with general cargo <i>Dewi Parwati</i> and sank about 20 km off Cape Irozaki, Shizuoka Prefecture, Aug 12. All five crew picked up. 24 ton oil slick reported.
TAHOMA REEFER	reefer	VCT	RS	3,684	4,392	1980	Fire on board at Monrovia Aug 10. Towed out of port to a position near the breakwater. Fire due to an electrical fault.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AL MAHA (North Korea)

London, Aug 17 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0949, UTC: Bulker *Al Maha* (6860 gt, built 1973), Tartous for Nikolayev, reported mechanical failure near Kalimnos Island, in lat 37 03N, long 27 05.5E, at 2300, local time, Aug 16. The vessel is still in the same position, attempting to effect repairs.

AMAR (Singapore)

See *Bright Artemis*.

BARTOL KASIC (Croatia)

Rijeka, Aug 16 — Roll On Roll Off *Bartol Kasic* (2296 gt, built 1989), operating on regular route from Rogac, Solta Island, at berthing at Split South Port contacted pier by its bow today around 0845, today. First reports indicate one person is severely injured. Motor tug *Argus* assisted the ferry and enabled safe anchoring of the ferry. Investigation is already under way. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Roll On Roll Off *Bartol Kasic* with more than 300 people on board crashed into a concrete pier while trying to dock in Split today, injuring at least 18 passengers, police in the city said. The injured, including six seriously hurt, were rushed to a hospital, police said. At least 15 cars parked in the hull of the vessel were damaged. The Ministry of Tourism, Development and Maritime Affairs said that both engines on the ship had broken down and that two anchors subsequently released by the master failed to prevent the accident. A full investigation was under way, they said. The ferry was carrying passengers from the island of Solta.

BBC TEXAS (Italy)

See *Capella*.

BENEGAS (Panama)

Amman, Aug 14 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Benegas* remains at Aqaba, waiting to proceed to Dubai for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

BILLY STAR (Philippines)

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

BITUMEN EXPRESS (Singapore)

London, Aug 14 — Information received from Singapore, dated today, states: Asphalt tanker *Bitumen Express* (3305 gt, built 1982) had discharged about 3,100 tonnes of its cargo of bitumen at the Chinese port of Zhapu, near Ningbo, when it left port to shelter from the oncoming typhoon. On its way back into port about 1200, Aug 11, its mast struck a river bridge under construction, causing the mast

to collapse. Vessel continued back into port and is now alongside waiting to discharge the remaining 500 tonnes of bitumen before repairs are carried out to the mast. There were no injuries.

London, Aug 16 — Asphalt tanker *Bitumen Express* sailed Zhapu Aug 13, with ETA Kaohsiung Aug 17.

BOULARIBANK (Isle of Man)

Manila, Aug 12 — Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Boularibank* (18663 gt, built 1984) arrived at Sta. Ana Anchorage, Davao, on Aug 9. The vessel was reportedly brought to Davao due to fire in cocoa/copra cargoes in cargo holds 1, 2 & 3. Initial report indicates the vessel sustained no damage, except maybe, some minor at the cargo holds. Representatives from different interests are reportedly already in Davao and discussing the matter. — Lloyd's Agents.

BRIGHT ARTEMIS (Singapore)

London, Aug 15 — Crude oil tanker *Bright Artemis* (146463 gt, built 1992) spilled about 1.3 million gallons of crude oil in the eastern Indian Ocean, following a collision with general cargo *Amar* (10208 gt, built 1980), yesterday, the tanker's operator, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, said today. It said the accident took place when the tanker manoeuvred near *Amar*, which was in distress about 300 miles west of India's Nicobar islands. The exact amount of the spill was not clear, the announcement said. The tanker was carrying about 74 million gallons, or 1.76 million barrels, of crude. It had left port in Oman bound for Japan. There were no reports of injuries on board the tanker, which had a Croatian master and crew of 23, or the *Amar*. Mitsui said the spill had been reported to Singapore and Indian Coast Guard officials. The Singapore Coast Guard reported today that the *Amar* has a fire on board and was drifting, exact position unknown.

London, Aug 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A tanker carrying crude oil from the Middle East to Japan spilled oil in the eastern Indian Ocean, tanker owner Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd. said today. The crude oil leaked on Monday afternoon about 290 miles (470 km) offshore west of Great Nicobar Island when oil tanks of crude oil tanker *Bright Artemis*, were damaged. The leak may have reached about 4,500 tonnes, Mitsui O.S.K. said in a statement. *Bright Artemis*, a single hull very large crude carrier (VLCC), was transporting about 250,000 tonnes of crude oil from the Mina al Fahal port in Oman and Ras Tanura in Saudi Arabia. The tanker crew was rescuing staff from general cargo *Amar*, that had caught fire, when the vessel touched the tanker, damaging its crude tanks. Mitsui O.S.K. said the leak had been contained and there was no risk of further spills. It did not say when clean-up work would start. *Bright Artemis* was continuing eastward, carrying the remaining crude, a Mitsui O.S.K. spokesman said, adding that he

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did not know if it planned to stop at a port. The buyer of the crude oil was Cosmo Oil Co., Japan's fourth-largest oil refiner, and the tanker had been scheduled to deliver it to Chiba, eastern Japan.

London, Aug 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of tons of crude oil are believed to have spilled in the Indian Ocean from Japan-operated crude oil tanker *Bright Artemis* after it collided with general cargo *Amar* on Monday (Aug 14), the Japanese shipping company Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd. said in a press release today. As much as 4,500 tons of crude oil may have spilled into the seas after the collision with at around 1500, Tokyo time, (0600 UTC). The accident happened at lat 05 46N, long 89 04E, the company said. A hole of about five square metres was rammed into the tanker at the collision when it went to rescue crew members from the cargo vessel after receiving help messages. No casualties or other damages to *Bright Artemis* have been reported. The tanker has taken measures to stop further oil spill, the release said. The tanker was sailing towards Japan after it loaded near 250,000 tons of crude oil from Amman and Saudi Arabia.

London, Aug 15 — Following press release from Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd: Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. (MOL, President: Akimitsu Ashida) reports that the MOL-owned crude oil tanker *Bright Artemis* has sustained damage to her hull when trying to rescue the crew of general cargo *Amar*. The incident led to a crude oil spillage from *Bright Artemis* between Sri Lanka and Sumatra Island on Aug 14. The outline of events is as follows: 1. Overview: On the morning of Aug 14 (local time), *Bright Artemis* received a distress signal from *Amar*, which was on fire, and immediately proceeded to the position about 290 miles west of the Great Nicobar Island in the Indian Ocean. At about 1300, local time, *Amar* was swept by a wind wave and struck *Bright Artemis*. *Bright Artemis* has a gash of about one metre in height and five metres in length on the starboard (approximately 1.7 metres above the water line). The amount of oil spillage from two damaged tanks is still under investigation, but is estimated to reach to about 4,500 tons. *Bright Artemis* carried 249,997 tons of crude oil from Mina Al-Fahl (Oman) and Ras Tanura (Saudi Arabia), and was headed to Japan. According to the report from *Bright Artemis*, the location of the accident is located 5 degrees 46 minutes north (latitude) and 89 degrees 04 minutes east (longitude). *Amar* crew members on board were rescued by another vessel and are confirmed to be safe. There is no report of any engine malfunctions or any injuries from *Bright Artemis*. 2. Response: *Bright Artemis* transferred oil from the damaged tanks to other tanks in order to stop further oil spills. As a result, the oil surfaces have been lowered below the gashes of the damaged tanks and thus,

the possibility of further spillage has been prevented. The vessel is currently proceeding eastward, adjusting its speed to minimize any turbulence. Maritime Port Authority of Singapore and the Indian Coast Guard have been informed of the incident. On Aug 14, MOL established Emergency Control Headquarters headed by President Ashida, to respond to any emergency situations.

London, Aug 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Shares in Japanese shipper Mitsui O.S.K. Lines fell after the company said today that one of its tankers was involved in an accident that resulted in an oil spill. Mitsui O.S.K. shares finished down 2.88%, worse than the 0.3% fall in the Nikkei 225 index. The company said that crude oil tanker *Bright Artemis*, which was carrying crude from Saudi Arabia to Japan, spilled as much as 33,000 barrels of oil into the Indian Ocean yesterday afternoon. It was the largest oil spill ever involving a Japanese shipping company, according to reports. The accident took place 290 miles west of the Great Nicobar islands, between Sri Lanka and the Indonesian island of Sumatra, according to a statement on the company's website. No one on the vessel was injured. The ship, which was carrying nearly two million barrels of crude, spilled the oil after its holding tanks were damaged in a collision with burning general cargo *Amar*, which it was assisting. The tanker's starboard side sustained a five-metre-long and one-metre-high gash. After taking measures to prevent further leakage, *Bright Artemis* proceeded eastwards, the company said. According to reports, the company said there were no plans for a clean-up as the oil would disperse naturally.

London, Aug 15 — Crude oil tanker *Bright Artemis* spilled 4,500 tonnes of its liquid cargo into the eastern Indian Ocean after being holed by general cargo *Amar*, during a failed rescue operation. The leak from the tanker, on Monday afternoon (Aug 14), occurred some 290 miles west of Great Nicobar Island. MOL spokesman Kenji Shikano said the single-hull vessel, which was loaded with 249,997 tonnes of crude oil, was heading towards Singapore at reduced speed, yesterday, on an undamaged engine. It will be inspected in Singapore, Penang or another south-east Asia port, to assess damage to the hull. He said it had not yet been decided where the inspection would be carried out or what subsequent action would be taken. This will be agreed once the full extent of the damage has been assessed. As a result, there has been no decision whether to transfer the oil to another vessel or to continue the voyage to Japan after emergency repairs. Speaking from Tokyo, Mr Shikano said the vessel, which was between Sri Lanka and Sumatra, in lat 05 46N, long 89 04E, when the accident occurred, would approach the Singapore/Penang area tomorrow. *Bright Artemis* was holed after trying

to rescue the crew of *Amar*, which was on fire about 465 km west of the Great Nicobar Island. The tanker sustained a five-metre-long, one-metre-high gash on the starboard side, about 1.7 metres above the water line, after *Amar* was swept into the tanker by strong winds and waves, at about 1300, local time, Aug 14. MOL estimated about 4,500 tonnes of oil had spilled into the water from two damaged tanks, before the crew was able to transfer the remaining crude to the other tanks. "The spill has been contained and there is no risk of further leaks," Mr Shikano said. "The impact on the environment should be limited because the spill occurred far from land." Mr Shikano added that an oil response team had been mobilised in Singapore, but he believes the oil will disperse in the ocean as the tanker was far from any landmass. The Indian Coast Guard is maintaining vigilance for any environmental pollution. "We hope the oil will churn and disintegrate in the high seas, but we are watching closely," said senior coast guard officer SP Sharma from Port Blair. None of the 23 crew on board *Bright Artemis* was injured. They comprise a Croatian master and three other Croatian officers, one Canadian and 18 Filipinos. The crew of *Amar*, which can carry 218 teu, was rescued by another vessel and is reported to be safe. The tanker was headed to Japan after loading cargoes of Murban and Arab light crude at Mina Al-Fahl and Ras Tanura, for Tokyo-based Cosmo Oil. *Bright Artemis* was due to discharge the cargo at Cosmo Oil's Chiba refinery. MOL said the Maritime Port Authority of Singapore and the Indian Coast Guard were told of the incident and the company launched its emergency control headquarters in Tokyo headed by President Ashida. Meanwhile, news of the incident dragged down MOL's share price, which fell 2.9% to close at •808 (\$6.93) yesterday, down •24 on the day, although the price had dropped 4.3% to •796 earlier in the day before rebounding.

BRILLIANCE (Hong Kong)

London, Aug 17 — Bulker *Brilliance* anchored off Tubarao Aug 6.

BSLE ENDURANCE (Cyprus)

Balboa, Aug 15 — General cargo *BSLE Endurance* is now berthed at Cristobal and the owners are arranging for repairs to be carried out locally, ETC late August. — Lloyd's Agents.

BULOU NI CEVA (Fiji)

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: The inter-island vessel, passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva*, which ran aground over two months ago is apparently leaking fuel, while stranded on a reef about 50 metres away from the shoreline in Rotuma, said the island's Member of Parliament Jioji Konrote. Mr Konrote said the claims by the ship-owners that they pumped fuel into drums and

out of the ship were not correct and very misleading. "We are very concerned with the environmental problem this may cause because Rotuma is basically a small island and it is worrying how much time they are taking to address the problem," he said. Mr Konrote said a distressed resident on the island, Mere Epeli, who lives just metres away from the stricken vessel, said she had been told by a crew-member that oil was seeping from the vessel. Mr Konrote said he was told that about 9-10,000 litres of oil had been in the vessel's fuel tank when it ran aground on Jun 14 after both engines on the vessel encountered engine problems and a freak wind forced it on a reef to the north of the island. Kadavu Shipping chairman, Sela Nanovo said he had received no such report from his employees on Rotuma. "I've just had two men return from visiting the ship and they have reported nothing of the sort," said Mr Nanovo. He said the delay in the processing of their insurance claim was holding salvage efforts back. "We are trying to avoid that (fuel leak) at all costs and, if the insurance companies do not come back to us on time, we just cannot do anything," he said. It is understood that the four crew-members, the last of those who were still stranded on the island, are on their way back to Suva. The other 25 members of the original crew were brought back to Suva. Two Fiji Island Maritime Seafarers Association (FIMSA) officers have conducted an on-site assessment of the vessel. Dominion Insurance spokesman, Vikash Kumar, said because the company's claims were likely to take a while Kadavu Shipping should hire a salvage operator to clear the vessel from the reef as their claim was processed. "Claims of this magnitude takes insurers a considerable time to finalise. The delay in this case was due to the extensive investigations and damage assessments that were necessary and which were duly carried out by a chartered loss adjuster," said Mr Kumar. He said delay in processing the claims was due to the unfavourable weather conditions that made it impossible for the survey team to reach Rotuma for a first hand inspection of the vessel. "The loss adjuster had submitted their report which was then subjected to a legal opinion," he said. "The owners of the vessel also have a duty to take all reasonable precautions to mitigate further losses and that includes salvaging the vessel by proper means and by hiring the services of the professionals while their claim is under process," said Mr Kumar. "The claims process is almost near completion and a decision on the claim would be reached soon," he said. Environmental group Green-peace has similarly expressed concern at the potential damage and oil spill which could affect Rotuma's pristine marine ecosystem.

CALA PALMA (Italy)

Bremen, Aug 10 — The fire on board refrigerated general cargo *Cala Palma* is now under control. Due to intensive

intervention by the Fire Brigade, the engine-room and the deckhouse could be protected. But all cargo holds appear to have burnt heavily. The Fire Brigade estimates that it will take days before the fire can finally be extinguished. "The complete inner vessel has burnt out" is a quote from the local newspaper. First discussions with the owners and the liability insurers of the yard were said to have been scheduled for today. The cause of the fire is still unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 11 — In the afternoon of Aug 10 the fire on board refrigerated general cargo *Cala Palma* could be finally extinguished when the Fire Brigade, with the help of breathing apparatus, got the last of the four cargo decks under control. Then the cargo holds were opened, which led to a temporary increase of fumes which could then escape. Afterwards the first clearing up operations commenced. No people other than fire fighters are allowed on board yet, so the amount of damage can be assessed only in the forthcoming days. The decks of *Cala Palma* have been deformed, but it is thought that the structure of the hull remains intact. How the contract for the following similar lengthening works to *Cala Pula*, *Cala Pino* and *Cala Pedra* can be fulfilled, has also to be assessed as the yard capacity is limited.

Bremen, Aug 11 — The newspaper reports today that the fire on board refrigerated general cargo *Cala Palma* had been extinguished in the uppermost deck yesterday. The hull of the vessel appears to be undamaged with the exception of the deck plating which is distorted. Today there will be a search for remaining small fires in the vessel's holds. Only next week it will be possible to inspect the damages in detail. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 14 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The damage on refrigerated general cargo *Cala Palma* is in the region of more than 10 million Euro. The vessel is still warm, the two lower decks are filled with water and foam. Now it is clear that the fire started on deck 4, starboard side. It was caused by a so-called "welding tear" which flew through the room.

London, Aug 15 — An initial inspection of the fire-damaged refrigerated general cargo *Cala Palma* has estimated that the repair bill will be in excess of Euro 10 million, according to industry sources. A section of the vessel was engulfed by flames while undergoing lengthening work at the Lloyd Werft shipyard at Bremerhaven. Work on the vessel, which arrived at Bremerhaven on July 10, was close to completion when the blaze occurred last week. The additional repair work will include the replacement of the ship's isolation and cooling system as well as of a considerable number of steel plates, particularly in the deck areas. Lloyd Werft has been asked to take part in the tender. Shipowner Seatrade will also continue with the lengthening of

the remaining three *Cala Palma* sister vessels at Lloyd Werft, a contract which is due to be completed by January next year. The damaged *Cala Palma* will have to leave dry dock to allow space for lifting work on a new midship section for the second sistership. According to the preliminary findings of Bremen's local investigation department, the fire broke out in the starboard foreship cargo hold area of the *Cala Palma* on deck four, but not in the vicinity of the midship lengthening section. During the two days of fire, which started on Aug 8, temperatures of up to 600 degrees caused the melting of the firemen's helmets and shoes during their attempts to enter the cargo hold. Firefighting was limited to pumping foam into the cargo holds and cooling of the hull from outside. These measures meant that the engine-room and the accommodation block of the ship were saved. Smoke emissions reached such a level that six people were taken to hospital and the authorities considered the evacuation of 20,000 inhabitants of some Bremerhaven districts. Management at Lloyd Werft were not available for comment.

CAPE FINISTERRE (Antigua & Barbuda)

Balboa, Aug 10 — Refrigerated general cargo *Cape Finisterre* (6421 gt, built 1990) is reportedly arriving Balboa p.m. Aug 12 under tow of tug *VB Coiba*. No other information available at this time. — Lloyd's Agents.

Balboa, Aug 14 — Refrigerated general cargo *Cape Finisterre* arrived Balboa anchorage, under tow of tug *V.B. Coiba*, at 0614, Aug 12. Vessel reportedly has a fractured intermediate shaft and we understand intention is to effect repairs at Balboa. — Lloyd's Agents.

CAPELLA (Russia)

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The search for refrigerated general cargo *Capella*, which sustained a hole in her side in the collision with general cargo *BBC Texas*, resumed in the Sea of Japan today. Tug *Rubin*, of the Sakhalin search-and-rescue department, was sent to the presumable location of *Capella*, from a shipyard. Tug *Topaz*, which had been looking for *Capella* for eight days, is going back to Vladivostok base for replenishing of fuel reserves. *Rubin* is searching the area south of Moneron, where *Capella* was seen a week ago, riding on its port side at an angle of 80 degrees. *Capella* and *BBC Texas* collided on Aug 3, and *Capella* sustained a hole of five square metres. Maritime services keep searching for *Capella*, because it endangers the navigation in the northern area of the Sea of Japan. The vessel is still carrying 80 to 130 tonnes of fuel, which may leak and damage the environment of Sakhalin and Hokkaido.

London, Aug 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The search for

refrigerated general cargo *Capella*, which was struck by general cargo *BBC Texas* near the Japanese island of Hokkaido earlier this month was called off yesterday. Rescuers said *Capella*, which carried 80-130 tonnes of fuel, must have sunk. In the Aug 3 collision, *Capella*, punctured by *BBC Texas*, quickly developed an 80-deg list through a five-metre hole, but remained afloat. Currents were drifting it toward Sakhalin. The vessel was last seen on Aug 5, after which it was lost sight of. The search was conducted by rescue vessels *Topaz* and *Rubin*. Acting director general of the Sakhalin rescue department Igor Zhdanov said *Rubin* finished the search in the offshore zone from Cape Lopatin to Cape Krilion yesterday. It found no traces of *Capella* or its petroleum products.

CARLOS ALVAREZ (Argentina)

Buenos Aires, Aug 10 — At 0600, local time, today, a fire began on board fishing (general) *Carlos Alvarez* (331 gt, built 1988). The vessel's position within Mar Argentino (Atlantic Ocean) was lat 46 19S, long 65 32W. According to information supplied by the Argentine National Coastguard, the situation has now been controlled. A helicopter is trying to rescue the 30 crew members. The weather conditions in the area are good. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 11 — Following navigation warning issued Aug 10: Fishing *Antonio Alvarez* towing fishing (general) *Carlos Alvarez* in lat 46 21S, long 65 27 W, line length 300 metres, speed four knots, course 265. bound for Caleta Paula.

Buenos Aires, Aug 11 — While fishing (general) *Carlos Alvarez* was 150 km off Caleta Paula, around 29 crew members were rescued by Argentine National Coastguards and by a fishing boat that was nearby at the time of the accident. This information has been supplied by Conarpesa, the ship owners. Argentine National Coastguard will be able to give more information about the current situation of the crew members once *Carlos Alvarez* arrives at port today. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 14 — A press report, dated Aug 13, states: Fishing (general) *Carlos Alvarez* which caught fire and was being towed to Comodoro Rivadavia went down Friday (Aug 11) with two seamen unaccounted for, reports the Argentine Coast Guard. Fire broke out in *Carlos Alvarez* 160 kilometres offshore Comodoro and most of the 30 members of the crew were rescued by another vessel from the company, *Antonio Alvarez* with air support from the Argentine Coast Guard. The Coast Guard has yet to inform details of the fire but survivors said it started at stern and rapidly spread to the engine-room and cabins. As to the two missing seamen, "they either were trapped in the engine-room or jumped overboard", said a spokesperson for the Coast Guard. Apparently the master's quick reaction and call for help plus the fact

several other vessels were operating in the area was crucial in rescuing the crew.

London, Aug 14 — Following notice to mariners issued Aug 11: In lat 46 25.22S, long 66 45.22W fishing (general) *Carlos Alvarez* "sunken".

CELEBRATION (Panama)

London, Aug 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The propeller of passenger (cruise) *Celebration* (47262 gt, built 1987) struck the sea floor while docking today in the Bahamas, spilling oil and damaging the vessel, the Miami-based cruise company said. *Celebration* was forced to abandon its planned stop in Nassau and return to its homeport in Jacksonville, Fla., a Carnival Cruise Lines spokeswoman said. The ship spilled an estimated 53 gallons of lubricating oil into the water, spokeswoman Jennifer de la Cruz said in an e-mail from the company's headquarters in Miami, Fla. The company said it had notified authorities, including the U.S. Coast Guard. The vessel was scheduled to return to its homeport Thursday morning as scheduled. Shipboard technicians were expected to examine the ship as it returned to the United States. Passengers were to receive a \$50 per person shipboard credit for the missed call at Nassau as well as a 25% discount off a future cruises, she said.

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Celebration* cancelled a scheduled stop in Nassau after one of its propellers struck the sea floor while trying to dock yesterday morning, spilling about 53 gallons of lubricating oil, the Miami-based cruise line said. *Celebration* returned to its home port of Jacksonville and is expected to arrive there tomorrow morning as planned. Carnival spokeswoman Jennifer de la Cruz said the lubricant oil was not visible and appeared to have fully dissipated yesterday afternoon. The ship's propeller was damaged in the accident and one of its engines was not functioning properly as a result, forcing the crew to operate with the other engine, she said.

London, Aug 16 — A Carnival itinerary change notice, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Celebration* departure Aug 17: Unfortunately, the ship experienced a technical problem with the propulsion system on the previous cruise. This is only impacting the cruising speed. All other systems and hotel services are operating normally. Our technical team is working on the problem, but repairs will not be completed prior to this cruise. Due to the reduced cruising speed, we will be forced to cancel our scheduled call in Freeport. We will now offer a visit to Nassau on Saturday from 0730 hrs until 1830 hrs. Carnival will provide guests that sail on this new cruise with a \$100 per person credit to their onboard Sail & Sign account. In addition, guests that sail will receive a 20% discount off a future three to seven day Carnival cruise (excluding Alaska, Christmas and New Years) departing prior to Dec

13, 2007. This discount applies to the cruise fare only. Please understand that this offer is non-transferable. Shore excursions pre-purchased for Freeport will be automatically refunded to your Sail & Sign account.

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated Aug 16, states: According to the Coast Guard, passenger (cruise) *Celebration*, will not be allowed to return to the port of Jacksonville until it passes an inspection. The vessel's propeller struck the sea floor, while docking in the Bahamas, and was damaged, causing the vessel to spill an estimated 53 gallons of lubricating oil into the water, spokeswoman Jennifer de la Cruz said in the company's headquarters in Miami. The vessel was expected to be in Jacksonville waters at about 1730, Aug 17. The Coast Guard will meet the vessel at sea and conduct tests on the vessel. "We have directed the vessel to remain outside the port until Coast Guard inspectors can go onboard, conduct an investigation, and verify the vessel is safe to enter the port," said Coast Guard Cmdr. Jim McLaughlin. Inspectors boarding the vessel tomorrow will carry out a steering test and check the vessel's engine. The vessel will not be allowed into the port and the passengers will not be allowed off until the Coast Guard say there is no danger to the vessel or the environment. "The vessel is no danger right now. The people on board are in no danger. We want to make sure when the vessel does arrive in Jacksonville, it is going to be coming into congested waters, that the vessel is safe and will not pose a risk to the Port of Jacksonville," McLaughlin said. The Coast Guard said if everything goes according to plan, passengers would get off the vessel tomorrow afternoon. The Coast Guards are also investigating the cause of the vessel's damage. Carnival Cruise Lines said each passenger on board the vessel would receive a \$100 credit and get a 25% discount on a future cruise. They said they are hoping to turn the vessel around, tomorrow, for a cruise scheduled to depart that day, although they anticipate the vessel will have to travel at a slower rate of speed, causing a change of itinerary.

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard inspected Jacksonville's sole passenger (cruise) *Celebration* late yesterday and cleared it to navigate the St. Johns River and return home after the vessel was damaged in an accident in the Bahamas on Tuesday (Aug 15). About 1100, Tuesday, *Celebration* scraped one of its propellers across the ocean bottom as it was attempting to dock in Nassau. The accident caused the vessel to spill about 53 gallons of lubricating oil in the water and affected operations of one of the ship's two engines, reducing the vessel's speed as it limped across the Atlantic back to its home port with about 1,500 passengers. The oil had fully dissipated by Wednesday, Carnival said in a statement. The *Celebration*

was three days out of Jacksonville, having left on Saturday and stopped off in Key West on Monday. The day that passengers were to spend in Nassau was cancelled and the vessel immediately turned for home. Earlier in the day, the Coast Guard said the vessel could not return to the Jaxport Cruise Terminal until officers determined that it was not leaking oil and that its steering and propulsion systems were adequate for the trip up the river. "The ship will not enter the river until it is deemed safe," said Coast Guard Cmdr. James McLaughlin Wednesday afternoon. The passengers were in no danger, McLaughlin said, but the Coast Guard wanted to make sure the vessel could be properly steered in a close environment with other vessels nearby. Technicians aboard the vessel had been examining the vessel since it began its trip home, and additional technicians were scheduled to board the vessel when it arrives. The cruise company released no information on when or how the vessel would be repaired. The Coast Guard inspection took about two hours, and no problems were found, so the *Celebration* did not have to stay in open water. Because the vessel was allowed to proceed to the cruise terminal, the Coast Guard avoided having to pull it into dock by tugboats so passengers could disembark. Wednesday afternoon, Carnival and the Jacksonville Port Authority were planning on the vessel making its usual Thursday departure on a four-day trip. "The fact that this happened in the Bahamas and it sailed all the way back to Jacksonville indicates that it's probably seaworthy," JPA spokesman Robert Peek said. "They're planning on a normal ship operation." If the vessel does head out of port this afternoon, its itinerary will be slightly affected. The scheduled call on Friday that the *Celebration* typically makes at Freeport on its four-day cruises has been cancelled, although it will still visit Nassau on Saturday before returning to Jacksonville on Monday. "The problem is only affecting the *Celebration's* sailing speed," the company said. Guests on the current voyage are being provided a \$100 per person shipboard credit for the missed call at Nassau as well as a 25 percent discount off a future cruise. Those on the voyage scheduled for today will also receive a \$100 credit and a 20 percent discount off a future cruise. Passengers may also opt to cancel the cruise and receive a refund.

CEMFJORD (Cyprus)

London, Aug 10 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 1557, UTC: Bulk cement carrier *Cemfjord* is now under tow of tug *Shrove*, bound Londonderry. ETA at Foyle Buoy 0500, BST, Aug 11.

London, Aug 11 — Following received from Coastguard Belfast MRSC, timed 1420, UTC: Bulk cement carrier *Cemfjord* was reported at 0720, UTC, today, to have been towed to the north entrance to the Foyle estuary, where it was safely at anchor. Vessel is now berthed alongside at Londonderry.

CHARLOTTE MAERSK (DIS)

London, Aug 16 — Container Carrier *Charlotte Maersk* arrived and sailed Kaohsiung Aug 2, arrived Busan Aug 5 and sailed Aug 7. Container Carrier *MSC Jessica* arrived Singapore Aug 14.

CLIPPER FALCON (Bahamas)

Port Said, Aug 15 — While bulker *Clipper Falcon* (11542 gt, built 1995) was transiting the Suez Canal with the northbound convoy on Aug 14 it ran aground at Ismailia due to steering gear trouble. The vessel moored at the Great Bitter Lakes to effect the necessary repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Said, Aug 17 — Bulker *Clipper Falcon* has completed repairs and been granted a seaworthiness certificate. The vessel will continue its voyage later today, with the northbound convoy. — Lloyd's Agents.

CLIPPER MERMAID (Bahamas)

London, Aug 12 — Bulker *Clipper Mermaid* sailed Claymont Aug 10.

CMA CGM ALGER (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Aug 12 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0741, UTC: Container carrier *CMA CGM Alger* is still aground, and salvage operations are under way.

Piraeus, Aug 14 — After removal/transhipment of bunkers into lightening tanker, and discharge of part of containers onto barges, container Carrier *CMA CGM Alger* was successfully refloated by our salvage tug *Matsas Star* at 1615, local time, on Saturday (Aug 12). After refloating and diving survey performed, bunkers and cargo were reloaded to *CMA CGM Alger*. — Loucas G. Matsas Salvage & Towage Maritime Company.

London, Aug 15 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0820, UTC: Container Carrier *CMA CGM Alger* is currently under tow for Piraeus, where ETA late tonight.

London, Aug 16 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1151, UTC: Container carrier *CMA CGM Alger* is currently at Piraeus anchorage.

COUGAR ACE (Singapore)

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated Aug 10, states: Vehicle carrier *Cougar Ace* is now moored at Icele Seafoods in Wide Bay. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation says the ship is now at a less-severe 57-degree list. Salvage crews are trying to rig discharge hoses closer to the waterline and increase the pumping rate to rid the cargo deck of water. Crews are not sure if the source of the water was from ocean water or ballast tank overflow.

London, Aug 14 — Coast Guard Alaska press release, dated Aug 11, states: The Unified Command, working to right vehicle carrier *Cougar Ace*, travelled to Dutch Harbor Wednesday (Aug 9) to oversee the mooring of *Cougar Ace* and the continued salvage efforts. Swells on

Monday forced the discontinuation of salvage team efforts and the relocation of the *Cougar Ace* to Wide Bay, Unalaska Island. *Cougar Ace* remains moored at the Icele Seafood's Mooring Buoys in Wide Bay north-west of Dutch Harbor. The Coast Guard cutter *Sycamore*, vessel *Makushin Bay*, tug *Gladiator*, tug *Sea Victory*, and vessel *Redeemer* with Kashaga Barge are on-scene supporting salvage and pollution response contingency operations. *Sycamore* is conducting an hourly security broadcast notifying mariners that there is a .5 nautical mile security zone around the vessel. The salvage team is continuing to remove water from the No.9 cargo deck today. As of 1700 yesterday the vessel was listing at 58 degrees. No pollution or debris have been sighted in the discharged water. As the vessel is dewatered computer models are updated for the next stage of re-ballasting. The Incident Command Post and Joint Information Center in Anchorage have been disbanded.

London, Aug 15 — A United States Coast Guard Press Release, dated Aug 13, states: Vehicle carrier *Cougar Ace*: As of late Aug 13, pumping operations have reduced the list to about 18 degrees.

London, Aug 16 — A Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd, press release, dated Tokyo today, states: Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. (MOL, President: Akimitsu Ashida) reported that the MOL-operated vehicle carrier *Cougar Ace* has been towed to a calm area in the Bering Sea to ensure the safety of recovery operations. At present, it is being moored at Dutch Harbor. The hull, which had been listing severely, was restored to a nearly upright position on Aug 15, JST. This completely eliminated threat of submergence, and the vessel is now moored safely. Safety measures will be executed to secure the cargo, hull, and engine of *Cougar Ace*, and preparations will get under way for towing to a discharging port.

COURTNEY

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Dredger *Courtney* capsized and later sank in 800 feet of water in Lake Michigan, about 21 miles from Frankfort, according to the U.S. Coast Guard. The Coast Guard is investigating the barge, which sank Sunday (Aug 6). *Courtney* is owned by King Co. in Holland, according to a press release. The barge can carry up to 10,000 gallons of diesel fuel, but the amount of fuel onboard is unknown. Officials said it is unlikely any fuel would make landfall based on the depth of water and type of diesel fuel onboard. Coast Guard officials said recovery of the barge isn't feasible. The barge was under tow from Ludington to Escanaba when it capsized.

DAYANA (Panama)

London, Aug 14 — A Coast Guard Miami press report, dated Aug 11, states: The Coast Guard continues to search for one person from Roll On Roll Off *Dayana* (9588 gt, built 1973,

ex *Maya Express*, and not as before reported in issue of Aug 11) that sank last night 100 miles east of San Andres, Colombia. The Panamanian government notified the Coast Guard that *Dayana* had sunk and requested assistance at approximately 1850 yesterday. Coast Guard cutter *Gallatin* arrived on scene at approximately 2100 hrs. and immediately began searching for the missing crewmember. The crew of *Gallatin*, saved four people, recovered one deceased and continues searching for the remaining person. Good Samaritan vessels also responded. Bulker *Patagonia*, bulker *Osprey I* and combined chemical & oil tanker *Stolt Creativity* assisted in saving nine of the 15.

DEWI PARWATI (Panama)

See *Shinfutaba*.

EDGAR KOTOKAK (Canada)

See *NT 1517*.

EDWARD L.RYERSON (U.S.A.)

Troy, Mich, Aug 10 — Bulker *Edward L. Ryerson* (12170 gt, built 1960), just a little over two hours out of Superior, Wis, experienced mechanical trouble and had to turn around and head back to port yesterday afternoon. It is not known the extent of the difficulties, but it is expected to head for Fraser Shipyard upon its arrival at Superior. The vessel had left the Superior entrance at 1400 hrs down bound with a load of taconite from the BNSF facility at Allouez. A press report reported the vessel was expected back in Superior at 1830 yesterday, to have a water line repaired by Fraser Shipyard. - Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping News.

Troy, Mich, Aug 11 — Bulker *Edward L. Ryerson* departed Superior, early this morning. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping News. (See issue of Aug 14.)

Chicago, Aug 16 — bulker *Edward L. Ryerson* had a deteriorated six inch sea water cooling line to the main lube oil cooler leaking. Repairs, six feet of pipe renewed, have been completed. The vessel is currently in operation, and is now headed to Superior, Wisconsin, to load cargo. — Lloyd's Agents.

EVCO CREST (Canada)

See *Evco No.92*.

EVCO NO.92 (Canada)

London, Aug 15 — Tug *Evco Crest* (56 gt, built 1969) was towing two empty gravel barges *Evco No.90* and *Evco No.92* (1711 gt, built 1969) along Fraser River, BC. Upon arriving at the Kits Buoy *Evco Crest* reported missing *Evco No.92P*. and that the barge ran aground off Sea Island, BC, in lat 49 10 16N, long 123 16 26W, at 0435, PDST, today.

London, Aug 15 — Following received from Victoria, BC, RCC, timed 2020, UTC: Barge *Evco No.92* is believed to be still aground.

FANTASY I (Panama)

London, Aug 14 — Understand salvage services were rendered under Lloyd's Open Form to chemical tanker *Fantasy I* (12927 gt, built 1982) by SMIT Salvage BV, after the vessel grounded in San Lorenzo roads. The vessel was refloated Aug 12. (Note — According to LMIU AIS, *Fantasy I* was in lat 34 44 5.58S, long 57 50 19.31 W, at 0220, UTC, Aug 14, course 76.5 deg, speed 7.3 knots.)

Buenos Aires, Aug 15 — Chemical tanker *Fantasy I*, loaded with 20,800 tonnes vegetable oil, grounded at Km 456.8, 1757, local time, Aug 8. The draught was of 9.85 metres. *Fantasy I* was refloated at 1730, local time, Aug 12 with the assistance of tugs *Buny, Domingo B* and *Alianza Rosario*. — Lloyd's Agents.

FEDERAL ELBE (Cyprus)

Lisbon, Aug 16 — Bulker *Federal Elbe* is presently at Lisnave ship yard, Setubal. She should be accepted in dry dock Aug 21 to repair the rudder which should take about eight days, but some more repairs will be performed. — Lloyd's Agents.

FEUERLAND (Germany)

London, Aug 11 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: On the way from Hamburg to Cuxhaven the former expedition ship *Feuerland* sustained a water ingress, which led to a machine failure, in the afternoon of Aug 7. The ship had to be towed into port and was berthed at the "Alte Liebe". The water had poured in through damaged deck plating. The vessel, the construction of which was based on a fishing vessel, was built in Busum in 1927. It served the fireland and Cape Horn researcher Gunther Plueschow as the base for a first survey by air with a Heinkel He 24 W waterplane. *Feuerland* was used in the Argentine after Plueschow's death in 1931 as a multi-purpose ship and also served in the Falkland-war as *Penelope*. After having been bought by a German owner this year it was returned to Germany on the deck of container carrier *Monte Cervantes*. It is to be converted to a museum ship in Busum where it is expected to arrive Aug 12 in spite of the mishap.

London, Aug 14 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Exhibition ship *Feuerland* reached Busum Aug 11.

FINNMAID (Finland)

Messina, Aug 10 — Passenger ro/ro *Finnmaid* arrived Augusta Aug 9 from Ancona. — Lloyd's Agents.

GAO HE (China)

Aden, Aug 16 — Understand from local agent of Container Carrier *Gao He* that she is still at Hodeidah Anchorage for the engine repairs, ETC unknown to them. — Lloyd's Agents.

HAI YANG SHI YOU 298 (China)

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

HALTEN

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Aug 16 — General cargo *Halten* arrived Halmstad Aug 7 and sailed Aug 8. The vessel subsequently arrived Neustadt Aug 9 and sailed Aug 10.

HELGA SPIRIT (Bahamas)

London, Aug 13 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC: Timed 1340, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Helga Spirit* (62929 gt, built 2005), inbound to Teesport in ballast, reported hydraulic failure six miles north-east of Teemouth, in lat 54 41.19N, long 00 58.59W. The vessel is unable to raise its anchor, which is presently dragging, and is maintaining position with its engine. Engineers are currently assessing the situation.

Timed 1825, UTC: *Helga Spirit* has now returned to a secure anchor, although engines remain at immediate readiness. The on-board engineers have ordered the necessary spares to complete repairs. Delivery is expected tomorrow. The master will provide an update with an expected duration of the work at that time. Weather forecast for next 48 hours: Wind north-west, force 5 to 6 (fresh breeze to strong breeze) becoming variable force 3 or 4 (gentle breeze or moderate breeze).

London, Aug 14 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1658, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Helga Spirit*: There has been a delay in the arrival of spare parts, which expected tomorrow with engineers to rectify problem. Wind north-west, force 5 to 7 (fresh breeze to near gale). Outlook variable becoming south-east force 3 or 4 (gentle breeze or moderate breeze).

London, Aug 15 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1640, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Helga Spirit*: Engineers hope to have repairs completed by 2100 hrs.

London, Aug 15 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC: Timed 2130, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Helga Spirit* is now underway bound Teesport. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Helga Spirit* was in lat 54 38 16N, long 01 09 09W, 2.3 nautical miles from Teesport, speed 4.9 knots at 2128, UTC, today, course 206 degrees.)

London, Aug 15 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 2224, UTC, Aug 14: All repairs on crude oil tanker *Helga Spirit* now complete and vessel is alongside in Teesport.

HUNGHUI (Taiwan)

See *Lung Yuan No.3*.

HYUNDAI ADVANCE (Panama)

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: An agreement has been reached in a dispute over compensation for an oil spill in the Pearl River Delta in 2004. The owners of the two vessels involved in the collision will pay local authorities and affected people US\$8.5 million,

according to Guangzhou Maritime Court yesterday. "The one-and-a-half year long case has come to successful conclusion," said Hu Houbo, a spokesman of the court. "Both sides are satisfied with the result." The collision occurred on December 7, 2004, when the Panama-registered container Carrier *Hyundai Advance* was sailing towards Singapore from Shenzhen Port and German-registered Container Carrier *MSC Ilona* was on its way from Shenzhen to Shanghai. The collision broke the fuel storehouse of *MSC Ilona*, leaking more than 1,200 tons of heavy oil. The spill, the biggest-ever in the river, was 9 nautical miles long and 600 metres wide, seriously damaging the oceanic environment and ecology in the waters off Guangdong Province. Guangdong Maritime Bureau received US\$4.132 million for its work cleaning up the spill; Guangdong Provincial Bureau of Ocean and Aquatic Products Industry received US\$3.5 million for its efforts to restore fishing resources; and AIU Insurance Company Shanghai branch US\$18,000 for damaged cargo. The remaining US\$850,000 went to 96 compensation claimants from Hainan Province, who were affected by the pollution. The Hainan claimants withdrew their claim in July on the condition that the two bureaus lodged a compensation claim on their behalf.

ICE FLAKE (Cayman Islands)

London, Aug 12 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1136, UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Ice Flake* (5978 gt, built 1987), cargo citrus fruit, reported a fire in the engine-room off Maputo, in lat 26 31S, long 33 07E, at 1530, UTC, Aug 11. The fire has been extinguished and the vessel is proceeding to Durban at 2.5 knots. Position at 0715, UTC, Aug 12, lat 26 53S, long 33 03.3E. A tug is proceeding to assist, ETA on scene 1500, UTC.

London, Aug 12 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1725, UTC: Refrigerated general cargo *Ice Flake* has now restarted its engines and is to move to a position 15 miles offshore before the tug, which has now arrived on scene, connects up a tow.

London, Aug 14 — A press report, dated today, states: According to an as yet unconfirmed report, refrigerated general cargo *Ice Flake* has sustained fire damage in its engine-room. This has since been extinguished. It is understood that Dormac, Durban, has secured the contract to repair the ship in Durban.

Durban, Aug 15 — Refrigerated general cargo *Ice Flake* is currently at outer anchorage. Vessel is unable to enter now due to high winds. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 16 — Refrigerated general cargo *Ice Flake* is currently at DORMAC undergoing repairs.

INDIA ROSE (Republic of Ireland)

London, Aug 16 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 0200, UTC: Coastguard salvage tug *Anglian Prince* tasked to proceed

to stand by fishing (general) *India Rose* (507 gt, built 2004), on voyage from Killybegs to shipyard at Skagen, where due evening, Aug 17). Position at 0115, UTC, lat 58 43.42N, long 05 03.71W, drifting easterly at approximately one knot. Vessel was losing lubricating oil from main engine. Alarm system was activated and has now shut down the main engine. Sump now full of seawater. Tug tasked for counter pollution and accident prevention reasons. No pollution. Lochinver RNLi lifeboat proceeding to stand by the vessel and hold it if required. Weather in area: North-north-east force 5 (fresh breeze), passing heavy showers, gale warning in force for Hebrides.

London, Aug 16 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 0315, UTC: At 0240, UTC, Lochinver lifeboat arrived on scene and connected a towline to fishing (general) *India Rose*. *Anglian Prince* is currently proceeding, ETA 0630, UTC, and negotiating a contract to tow casualty to Stornoway for repair.

London, Aug 16 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 0939, UTC: Coastguard tug *Anglian Prince* arrived on scene of fishing *India Rose* at 0642, UTC, and connected tow at 0754, UTC. Tow now proceeding to Stornoway, ETA 1330, UTC.

London, Aug 16 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1637, UTC: Fishing (general) *India Rose* safely alongside (at Stornoway) 1630, UTC.

INFINITY (Bahamas)

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Celebrity Cruises announced cancellation of a 10-night Alaska voyage a month from now on passenger (cruise) *Infinity* (90228 gt, built 2001) as a result of the pod problems that have plagued its Millennium-class ships. Celebrity said problems with the electrical system of one of the ship's two propulsion pods has forced reduction of the ship's maximum cruising speed from 22 to 19 knots, making it difficult to maintain scheduled itineraries. The company announced that when *Infinity* concludes its 10-night West Coast / Alaska cruise on Sep 13, it will go into dry dock at in Victoria, British Columbia, for replacement of the pod. The cancelled sailing date is Sep 13. Celebrity expects *Infinity* to return to service on Sep 24 when it is scheduled to sail on a 14-day repositioning cruise from San Francisco through the Panama Canal to Fort Lauderdale. The ship will depart San Francisco one day later than scheduled and will skip Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Because the cruise has been shortened by one day, guests will receive a \$500-per-stateroom onboard credit, a \$200 future cruise certificate, and free overnight accommodations in San Francisco on Sep 23. In 2003, Celebrity Cruises filed a \$300 million lawsuit against Rolls Royce and Alstom Power Conversion, co-

producers of the ship pod-propulsion system, to recover lost revenue and costs associated with failing pods. Celebrity has been very proactive in reaching out to passengers booked on the cancelled cruises, and once again is offering guests booked on the cancelled *Infinity* sailing a full refund and a free Celebrity cruise from North America.

IRAN PIROOZI (Iran)

London, Aug 15 — Container Carrier *Iran Piroozi* (25391 gt, built 2003) was reported off Flushing today with machinery damage. While repairs were being carried out a tug was instructed to standby. (Note — *Iran Piroozi* sailed Hamburg 0750, Aug 14 for Antwerp.)

Zeebrugge, Aug 15 — Container Carrier *Iran Piroozi* was reported with engine problems at approximately 0815 today. Vessel later anchored off Flushing at 1445, local time, for repairs. Vessel is still at anchor awaiting tugs to tow the vessel to Antwerp. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Zeebrugge, Aug 16 — Container Carrier *Iran Piroozi* arrived Antwerp 0341, today, from Hamburg. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

KRIOS (Malta)

London, Aug 16 — According to Lloyds MIU AIS bulker *Krios* was anchored in lat 45 17.53N, long 73 55.51W, 10.4 nautical miles from Valleyfield.

London, Aug 16 — According to Lloyds MIU AIS bulker *Krios* was anchored in lat 45 17.53N, long 73 55.51W, 10.4 nautical miles from Valleyfield, at 1848, UTC, Aug 15.

LADY MOURA (Bahamas)

London, Aug 14 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Yacht *Lady Moura* has just been sighted in August in repaired state in Porto Cervo, Sardinia.

LAKE EXPRESS (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 14 — A Lake Express LLC announcement states: Due to a mechanical condition on board, ferry *Lake Express* (1757 gt, built 2004) is running the following revised schedule for Aug 13 and 14. Milwaukee Departure — 0600, CST, arriving in Muskegon at 1030 EST. Muskegon Departure — 1100, EST, arriving in Milwaukee at 1330, CST. Milwaukee Departure — 1400, CST arriving in Muskegon at 1830, EST. Muskegon Departure — 1900, EST arriving in Milwaukee at 2130, CST. The originally scheduled 1900 hrs Milwaukee and 2300 hrs Muskegon departures have been cancelled. Passengers with reservations on these departures should rebook or arrange for alternate transportation, otherwise credit will be automatically given for passengers for this leg of the voyage, in which there is no need to come to the terminal.

London, Aug 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Service on high-speed ferry *Lake Express* will be suspended from tomorrow through

Thursday to allow time for a damaged gear to be replaced on one of the vessel's four engine-drive mechanisms. The ferry, which carries cars and people across Lake Michigan between Milwaukee and Muskegon, is expected to be back in service on Friday, Lake Express LLC said in a release. The company said today that it will refund all prepaid fares and help affected customers find other modes of transportation. This time of year, the Milwaukee-based ferry normally makes three round trips daily, with each crossing taking 2 1/2 hours. Only two round trips, with each crossing taking 3 1/2 hours, were to be made today before repair work was to begin in the evening. The mechanical problem also affected schedules over the weekend. Lake Express President Ken Szallai said the ferry "can operate at relatively high speeds on just three of its four engines, and while this event has been problematic, it never compromised the safety of the ship or our passengers."

LARGS BAY (U.K.)

London, Aug 11 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, naval auxiliary tanker *Largs Bay* was in lat 36 43 37.24N, long 09 27 19.25W, at 1241, UTC, Aug 11, course 139.6 deg, speed 12.3 knots, nearest port Lagos, Portugal, at a distance of 51.9 nautical miles.

LITTLE STAR (Georgia)

See "United Kingdom" under "Port State Control".

LUNG YUAN NO.3 (China)

Taiwan, Aug 14 — General cargo *Lung Yuan No.3* (668 gt), call sign BR3161, length 45 metres, has sunk at/nearby 15 nautical miles off Yunlin's Taitzu port, Taiwan, on Aug 13, due to *Lung Yuan No.3* being sideswiped by fishing (general) *Hunghui*. — Lloyd's Agents Taiwan

London, Aug 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Coast Guard Administration (CGA) authorities reported general cargo *Lung Yuan No. 3*, a 601 tonne cargo vessel from Kaohsiung, sideswiped fishing (general) *Hunghui*, also from Kaohsiung, about 15 nautical miles (27.78km) off Yunlin's Taitzu port at around 0100 hrs, Aug 13. *Lung Yuan No.3* began to take on water from a large gash in its side, soon after the crash, causing it to sink very quickly, the officers said. All eight crew members were rescued by three CGA patrol boats, they said. Of the eight crew members, Ye Mintun, a deckhand from Myanmar who suffered cuts to his side, was airlifted to a hospital in Putzu, Yunlin County, for treatment. The other seven crew members were unharmed, the officers said

LYRA (Estonia)

See "United Kingdom" under "Port State Control".

MAERSK RIO GRANDE (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Aug 11 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS Container Carrier

Maersk Rio Grande was at anchor in lat 08 50 30N, long 79 31 19W at 0811 today.

MAMA LERE (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 14 — A Coast Guard Port Arthur press release, dated Aug 11, states: Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur is monitoring the pollution threat and structural integrity of tug *Mama Lere* (369 gt, built 1953), which is partially submerged and accompanied by a four barge tow. *Mama Lere*, began flooding while transiting from New Orleans to Houston at about 1100, this morning. The flooding began in the engine-room at Mile Marker 289 on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway near the West Port Arthur Bridge. Coast Guard small boats were in the area at the time of the sinking and rescued the five crewmembers on board. *Mama Lere* is believed to be carrying approximately 10,000 gallons of diesel fuel oil. The vessel is not obstructing navigation and the waterway currently remains open to traffic as monitored by Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur and Texas General Land Office have worked together to deploy over 2,500 feet of boom around the vessel, and individuals on scene are plugging the fuel vents on the vessel to mitigate any pollution. The cause of this incident is under investigation by MSU Port Arthur.

MANIC III (Canada)

London, Aug 15 — A fire broke up on board fishing (general) *Manic III* (62 gt, built 1977), with three persons on board, while fishing in lat 49 47N, long 66 41W, at 0115, EDST, today. A search and rescue operation was initiated. The vessel was towed back to Seven Islands by the CCG vessel *Cap de Rabast*. No injuries and pollution reported.

MANXMAN

Portsmouth, UK, Aug 15 — Ferry *Manxman*, intended for restoration, has been reduced to near sinking condition due to theft of copper from its engine-room. Pallion Engineering Sunderland where it was berthed say scrapping is now the only prospect. — Correspondent. (Note — *Manxman* was moored on the River Wear when water entered a hole near the engine-room on Jul 12, 1999. Vessel was subsequently repaired and refloated in Aug 1999, and berthed at Pallion Engineering.)

MARC MITCHELL (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Aug 11 — General cargo *Marc Mitchell* sailed Rotterdam 2210, Aug 9 for Lisbon.

MARGARA (Cayman Islands)

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated Aug 12, states: Emergency restoration efforts are underway in Puerto Rico following the grounding of product tanker *Margara* along the south coast of Puerto Rico. Scientists have identified 8,500 square metres of

impacted reef, including a relatively large thicket of staghorn coral, which was recently listed as "threatened" by the NOAA Fisheries Service under the Endangered Species Act. The emergency restoration work at the site is focused on the time-sensitive task of securing the salvaged corals, rebuilding portions of the impacted reef and removing toxic anti-fouling paint from the site. These efforts began on Jul 24 and are expected to continue for three to six months. *Margara* ran aground approximately two miles off the south-western coast of Puerto Rico on Apr 27. The initial grounding and subsequent vessel removal efforts crushed and buried a significant amount of reef and dislodged thousands of corals along the edges of the impact. No oil was spilled. "Coral reefs constantly face threats, and it is of paramount importance that we protect and restore them through concentrated, skilled and informed methods," said retired Navy Vice Adm Conrad C. Lautenbacher, undersecretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "This reef and all the species that call this habitat home will be here for years to come as a result of the co-operative work between NOAA and our partners in Puerto Rico." Rapid response by NOAA, the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, and the responsible party resulted in the salvage of thousands of pieces of hard and soft coral from the edges of impacted areas, along with more than 1,000 fragments of staghorn coral. An unusually high concentration of this species is present at the site.

MARRAKECH EXPRESS (Panama)

London, Aug 16 — Passenger ro/ro *Marrakech Express*, Tangier for Genoa, passed Gibraltar Aug 14, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 36 15.29.52N, long 03 51.6.7W, 30.2 nautical miles from Almunecar, Spain, speed 18.1 knots, at 0042, UTC, Aug 15.

Genoa, Aug 16 — Passenger ro/ro *Marrakech Express* sailed from Genoa for Tangier at 1200, Aug 12, with 190 cars and 412 passengers on board. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARVEL K.

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See "United Kingdom" under "Port State Control".

MAYA EXPRESS (Panama)

London, Aug 11 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1540, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Maya Express* (9588 gt, built 1973), ex *Dayana*, sank in lat 12 22N, long 79 48.2W, yesterday morning. Fourteen crew members rescued, one missing.

MELEK N.

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See "Gibraltar" under "Port State Control."

METIN AKAR (Turkey)

London, Aug 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A Turkish petroleum tanker (Combined chemical and oil tank *Metin Akar*, 16809 gt, built 1985) struck a pier at El Dekheila port, Alexandria, "Tuesday", causing damages worth about US\$12 million at the port, according to initial estimation. The master of the ship apparently increased the tanker's speed while he was anchoring at the pier. The tanker as a result hit the pier and severely damaging it, said Middle East News Agency (MENA). The port's Prosecution decided to form a technical committee to estimate the value of the damages. Meanwhile, the tanker would be kept at the port until the liable party pays to the expenses to repair the damages.

London, Aug 15 — Following received from Cairo RCC, timed 1920, UTC: The tanker involved in the accident at El Dekheila was Combined chemical and oil tank *Metin Akar* and the accident happened a week ago on Aug 7. (*Metin Akar* arrived Alexandria Aug 3.)

MIDAS (Panama)

Karachi, Aug 16 — Bulker *Midas* (20350 gt, built 1976), Indonesia for United Arab Emirates, 30,000 tonnes cement in bulk, due to engine problem and some minor leakage in number one hold, vessel called/anchored Karachi (off port) at 1200, local time, Aug 1. Understand from GAC Shipping Karachi the leakage of number one hold was repaired by divers on Aug 15. GAC further advised that the engineering workshop team is on board and they anticipate that engine repairs will be completed by Aug 20, when *Midas* will sail for UAE. — Lloyd's Agents.

Karachi, Aug 16 — Understand from Pakistan private sector marine engineers and experts-Indus Divers that bulker *Midas*, with 31,500 ton bulk cement, was rescued by them earlier this week. Undersood the vessel, laden with bulk cement from Indonesia to Dubai, had No.1 turbo-charger damage and engine rendered powerless about 13 nautical miles east of Karachi port. She drifted to 3.7 nautical miles from the Fairway buoy. Subsequently excessive ingress of seawater into her No.1 cargo due to cracks developed on port side plating and starboard shell plating holed at two places above the tank top. As a result, vessel was by the head. Later, the team of Indus Divers boarded the vessel 3.5 nautical miles off Karachi Port yesterday and started repairwork on ship side crack and holed to arrest the leakages. Doubler plates were welded on both the cracks from outside in No.1 hold and ship side. The holes sealed off and water tight. Vessel waiting for turbo-charger and main engine fuel pump repair in addition to electrical deck cranes repair. It will take a few days to make vessel ready. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

MIDLAND 2 (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Aug 11 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC: General cargo *Midland 2* (4993 gt, built 1989), Safi, inbound Victoria Wharf Plymouth, cargo fertiliser, aground in lat 50 21.7N, long 04 08.12W. Has pilot on board. Grounded between Fishers Nose and Royal Corinthian Yacht Club approximately two hours before low water. Went astern on engine and then requested dockyard tug and the Cattlewater & Harbour Commissioners tug through Longroom Port Control when it was realised she was fast. Tugs are standing by and will assist to lift her off on incoming tide. Vessel afloat at 0245, UTC, and confirmed tied up alongside Victoria Wharf at 0320, UTC. A further sounding of forward tanks has been taken and there appears to be no ingress of water.

London, Aug 16 — General cargo *Midland 2* arrived Ipswich at 1327, Aug 14, and was reported still in port at 0759, UTC, today.

MSC ILONA (Germany)

See *Hyundai Advance*.

NAMA (Panama)

London, Aug 15 — A SvitserWijsmuller Salvage BV report, dated Aug 11, states: After a quick and successful operation the general cargo vessel (general cargo *Nama*) that had grounded 20 miles off Kakinada was redelivered today, Aug 11. Immediately upon being contracted salvage personnel from India was moved in, followed quickly by personnel from The Netherlands. Initially the weather remained too bad based on which the authorities did not allow the salvage staff to board the casualty, during which time direct instructions to the crew on board were given to stabilise the casualty pending the refloating attempts. Soon thereafter the salvage crew was allowed to board and preparations began in earnest. This included the mobilisation in of required specific equipment as well as (preparations for) weight distribution adjustments. On Aug 9 the salvage tug from partners Sri Lanka Shipping arrived on site and the pre-laid out towage connections were made yesterday, despite the shallows around the grounding site. After controlled attempts lasting some three quarters of a day the casualty was finally refloated early morning this morning, with re-delivery of the casualty taking place at the inner anchorage early evening the same day.

NAPOCOR POWER BARGE NO.106 (Philippines)

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

NEW CARISSA (Panama)

London, Aug 15 — A press report, dated Aug 14, states: For seven years, wood-chip carrier *New Carissa* has refused to move from its spot off the Oregon coast. The broken chunk of the

vessel weighs 1,500 tons and is dug 40 feet deep into the sands of the North Spit. Salvage experts have set it on fire, pulled it in half and eventually walked away, wondering if it shouldn't just be left where it sits, 150 yards from the beach. Now the state of Oregon is ready to try again. It is negotiating with Titan Maritime Co, a Florida-based company that owns giant jack-up barges. The barges would be planted firmly in the sand, holding hydraulic pullers that would attempt to roll the vessel out of the sand and slice it apart, piece by piece. If the company succeeds, the remnant of a vessel, which has killed thousands of shorebirds and contaminated oyster beds after spilling 107,000 gallons of fuel, will live on only in memories. State officials have chosen to skip a public bid and negotiate directly with Titan. The state reasons that Titan owns the only jack-up barges capable of the mammoth job. Department of State Lands attorneys are already working out the details of the contract. Oregon has \$22.1 million to spend from a settlement with *New Carissa's* owner, Green Atlas Co. About \$18 million will pay for the vessel's removal, while the rest will go to legal fees. There are two roughly outlined plans, explained Steve Purchase, the state's assistant director for land management. The first, Purchase calls the "grab, pull and cut" method. Titan brings in two jack-up barges with six legs apiece. The legs will be driven into the sand in the surf line, and then hydraulics will jack work platforms out of reach of the breakers. "You have to be able to work above the surf zone," Purchase said. "These are some of the highest-energy waves in the world." The company will place 320-ton hydraulic pullers on the work platforms and attach them to the hull of the vessel with the aim of breaking the suction that keeps the vessel trapped in the sand. As the pullers roll the vessel out of the sand, crews will cut it apart. The idea is that the job will get easier as more metal is cut because the vessel will be lighter. Unless it breaks. No one knows how strongly the stern is attached to the hull of *New Carissa*. Given that it snapped in half when salvage teams tried pulling it from the sand shortly after the wreck, there is no guarantee it can be pulled out now without breaking again. "We won't know that until we actually try it," Purchase said. If it breaks, Titan moves to its backup plan; to cut the vessel off at the sand line. The how-to is a little more sketchy on this one. "We're pretty sure, based on discussions with a lot of different people, that it can probably be cut off at the sand line," Purchase said. But then there are the other pieces of the vessel, including a crane that was once attached to the main hull that collapsed into the water and is now as deep as 20-30 feet in the sand. "What marine people have told me is don't be surprised if those heavier parts work down in the sand," Purchase said. "We may not be able to find them, and they probably won't get

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removed." Secretary of State Bill Bradbury said the state must remove the wreck. Leaving it would hurt Oregon's credibility the next time a vessel grounds in the state, he said, allowing the vessel's owner to argue that there's no need to remove it. The other problem is liability, Bradley said. Now that the vessel's owner has paid its settlement, any injuries on the vessel would be the state's problem. If the contract is signed next month, work could begin as early as next summer, with the vessel gone by autumn.

NINA (Netherlands)

See "United Kingdom" under "Port State Control".

NORWAY (Bahamas)

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Norway*, now renamed *Blue Lady*, will be in court again today. Two days after the controversial cruise liner beached off the Alang ship breaking yard, the challenge to its entry will come up for mention in the Supreme Court. Gopal Krishna, India Co-ordinator of the NGOs' Global Platform on Ship breaking, said the issue will come up before the court's mentioning board. Environmentalists claim the vessel carries more than 1,200 tonnes of asbestos waste and unquantified amounts of cancer-causing polychlorinated biphenyls and heavy metals. They say they are not aware of any Supreme Court order permitting the beaching, and that no legal arguments on the matter have been heard. In turn, the official position within the environment ministry is that a technical committee allowed this after a review of all the data and inspections by the Gujarat Pollution Control Board as well as the Central Board.

NT 1517 (Canada)

London, Aug 15 — In Kugluktuk, N.W.T., tank barge *NT 1517* (1252 gt, built 1973) under tow by tug *Edgar Kotokak* (783 gt, built 1973) became holed in way of a fuel tank, affecting its seaworthiness and causing 1,000 litres of diesel to leak out in lat 67 51 46N, long 115 07 08W, at 1210 PDST, Aug 8..

NYK KAI (Panama)

London, Aug 17 — Container Carrier *NYK Kai* arrived Busan Aug 6 and sailed Aug 7, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 34 46.14N, long 128 55.1E at 1659, UTC, Aug 15, 13.8 nautical miles from Okpo, speed 20.9 knots.

ODYSSEA VOYAGER (Vanuatu)

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Tug *Odyssea Voyager* (1063 gt, built 1973) continued to burn, about 10 miles off the coast of Grand Isle, this afternoon. The U.S. Coast Guard rescued 40 people from *Odyssea Voyager* after receiving a distress call at 1700, Aug 11. The vessel reported a fire in the engine-room. A helicopter rescue crew,

from New Orleans, took two people from the vessel to West Jefferson Medical Center in Marrero, La. The injured men had been fighting the fire since 1430, Aug 11, and suffered minor injuries, according Petty Officer Susan Blake. One has some smoke inhalation and the other had a few lacerations, Blake said today. The Coast Guard transported the rest of the crew to Fourchon, La. "The vessel is still afloat and they are working diligently to put out the fire," Blake said. "When that's done a Coast Guard crew will go aboard to investigate the cause."

London, Aug 12 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 2250, UTC: The fire on tug *Odyssea Voyager* is out. The vessel is in position 10,5 nautical miles south of Grande Isle, in lat 29 09.57N, long 89 47.71W. the owners have a company vessel presently standing by. The Coast Guard are waiting until tomorrow morning before boarding the vessel, waiting for the vessel to cool down. They will then commence their inspection.

London, Aug 14 — A press report, dated Aug 13, states: A fire on tug *Odyssea Voyager* off the Louisiana coast was extinguished Saturday (Aug 12), a day after the US Coast Guard rescued 40 people from the vessel. The fire was out at 1320, and the safety zone around the 175-foot vessel was cancelled about an hour later, Petty Officer Susan Blake said. The Coast Guard planned to board the vessel today to investigate the cause of the blaze, Blake said. Two men suffered minor injuries fighting the fire that started in the engine-room. They were transported by helicopter to West Jefferson Medical Centre in Marrero, where they were treated and released. The rest of the crew was taken from the vessel, which was 10 miles off the coast, to Fourchon.

London, Aug 14 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1430, UTC: Tug *Odyssea Voyager*: There were still some hot-spots on board the vessel late yesterday. The aft section containing compressed gas tanks has been secured. A salvage plan is being looked at today.

London, Aug 14 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1445, UTC: Tug *Odyssea Voyager* is still being cooled as hot-spots remain on board. It is expected to be towed into port, possible Fourchon, La, later today. There is no danger of sinking as vessel did not have too much water pumped on board.

London, Aug 16 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1347, UTC: Surveyors expected on board tug *Odyssea Voyager* at 1400, UTC, to inspect her prior to towage about 2200, UTC. Destination of tow unknown pending results of survey.

OSTGARD (Netherlands)

See "United Kingdom" under "Port State Control".

PATRICIA ANNE NO.1 (Canada)

London, Aug 15 — Fishing (general) *Patricia Anne No.1* (74 gt, built 1929) reportedly ran aground on Yorke Island, Johnstone Strait, BC, in lat 50 26 07N, long 125 59W, at 0216, PDST, Aug 10 and had to be abandoned. The crew of four were rescued.

PHAYAO NAVEE (Thailand)

See "United Kingdom" under "Port State Control".

PHILIPP (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Aug 14 — General cargo *Philipp*, Greenock for Southampton, loaded with containerised cargo, including many cases of alcoholic beverages, grounded off Stranraer Jul 17. *Philipp* was refloated and arrived Liverpool the following day. The vessel has now entered the North Western Ship Repairers' facility in Liverpool pending possible repair. The owners of vessel have declared general average. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Philipp* was still in the same position as reported in issue of Aug 7 at 1652 today.)

POTOMAC (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A damaged lock at Wilson Dam is snarling commercial boat traffic on the Tennessee River, with barges backed up for miles on both sides of the dam in northwest Alabama. The main lock at Wilson Dam has been closed since Aug. 3, when a barge (being pushed by tug *Potomac*) became entangled in the lift gate. An auxiliary lock was opened after the accident, but it operates much slower than the main lock. The main lock can lift or lower a cluster of nine barges in about 45 minutes. The auxiliary lock requires about 75 minutes to move a single barge. Harley Hall, vice president of operations for Paducah, Ky.-based Tennessee Valley Towing, said it takes about five days from the time a tow of barges arrives in the area until the barges and towboat are allowed through the lock. Hall said that his company is paying \$4,200 a day for salaries of the crew and maintenance costs as its towboat waits in line to pass through the auxiliary lock. Last week, five of the company's seven towboats were caught in the traffic jam. Hall said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which operates the lock, is doing all it can to keep traffic moving on the Tennessee River, but it's hurting companies like his. Jim Davis, area manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said tows heading to industries that are in dire need of the products in a barge are allowed to move ahead of other boats in line. Closing the main lock caused riverboat *Mississippi Queen* to cancel two planned visits to Florence because the 382-foot-long riverboat is too large for the auxiliary lock's 300-foot-chamber. Davis said the corps plans to use a heavy-duty floating crane to lift the damaged gate out of place so it can be repaired. Once the damaged gate is out of the way, the corps may use a

temporary gate to operate the main lock until the logjam of barges and towboats can be cleared, he said. The temporary gate, which must be lifted and lowered by a floating crane, is not suitable for long-term use, Davis said. He said towboats will begin backing up again when the temporary gate is shut down.

PRIDE OF BILBAO (U.K.)

London, Aug 11 — Passenger ro/ro *Pride of Bilbao* arrived Portsmouth 0700, Aug 9 and sailed 1744 same day for Bilbao.

PRINCESS K. (U.S.A.)

Honolulu, Aug 15 — It was reported that fishing (general) *Princess K.* (101 gt, built 1967) went aground, this morning, on the west side of the Kewalo Basin channel, Honolulu, Hawaii. It was further reported that at the time she was being towed by fishing vessel *Adrymyttium*, but this has not been confirmed. — Lloyd's Agents.

Honolulu, Aug 17 — The fuel on fishing (general) *Princess K.* was removed and the vessel was pulled off the reef during the afternoon of Aug 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

REEF ZANZIBAR (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Aug 15 — Following received from the operators of roll on roll off *Reef Zanzibar*, dated today: *Reef Zanzibar* is currently at Zanzibar anchorage awaiting repairs, which are expected to last around 15 months.

ROGER BLOUGH (U.S.A.)

Troy, Mich, Aug 10 — Tuesday (Aug 8) evening bulker *Edgar B. Speer* was reported to tie alongside bulker *Roger Blough*. The pair were expected to depart Wednesday morning with *Roger Blough* alongside *Edgar B. Speer*. Both vessels are headed to Gary Harbour where they were estimated to arrive 2000, Aug 11. At 0200 today the pair were 14 miles NNW of Point Betsie Light. *Edgar B. Speer* is scheduled to proceed to Two Harbors to load after Gary and *Roger Blough* is scheduled to proceed to Sturgeon Bay for repairs. - Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping News.

Troy, Mich, Aug 14 — bulker *Roger Blough* passed through "Death's Door", connecting Lake Michigan and Green Bay at 09:00, EDT today. It was headed to Sturgeon Bay for replacement of its lost rudder. There was an unidentified tug pulling and another trailing tug. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping News.

ROTTERDAM (Netherlands)

See under "Miscellaneous."

SAMOTHRAKI (Greece)

London, Aug 16 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Passenger ro/ro *Samothraki* (9735 gt, built 1976) collided with the quay while making berthing manoeuvres at the port of Mytilene at 0105, Aug 16. The collision caused an indentation to the forward hull above the waterline

without causing a fracture or ingress of water. At the time of the incident the vessel was performing the schedule Limnos-Mytilene-Chios-Vathi-Kalymnos-Kos-Rhodes with 193 passengers 21 cars and two trucks on board. Following survey by the marine inspectorate the vessel continued normal scheduling at 0925.

SARA 3 (Panama)

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Middle East News Agency stated that Saudi security authorities were able to put out a fire which broke out in one of the "carriages" on passenger ro/ro *Sara 3* (11177 gt, built 1974) operated by Al Salam company docked in the port of Dhuba. The ship was carrying 950 passengers who were travelling to Egypt. None of the passengers were injured in the accident and the Saudi authorities cancelled the trip. The authorities were currently investigating the causes of the fire and requested the passengers to leave the port until the ship was allowed to resume its trip.

Jeddah, Aug 17 — Stevedores handling passenger ro/ro *Sara 3* at Dhuba port, stated that on Aug 11, a small fire broke out in one of the cabins which was immediately put out. This incident took place whilst alongside at Dhuba port. The vessel was inspected by port officials and was allowed to sail to Egypt. Further, the vessel is currently in Egypt (port not known). Not known if the vessel has been repaired in Egypt. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA JAGUAR (Marshall Islands)

London, Aug 12 — Crude oil tanker *Sea Jaguar* sailed Singapore Aug 10.

SHINFUTABA (Japan)

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Shinfutaba* (499 gt, built 1989) sank early yesterday after it collided with general cargo *Dewi Parwati* (6301 gt, built 2001) about 20 km off Cape Irozaki, Shizuoka Prefecture, resulting in a minor injury, according to the local coast guard office. *Shinfutaba*, with a crew of five, was loaded with sand when it hit *Dewi Parwati*, with 19 crew members, in dense fog. *Shinfutaba* sank at 0140 hrs. According to the Shimoda Coast Guard Office, Toshio Tomikawa, boatswain of *Shinfutaba*, was slightly injured. All five crew members of the *Shinfutaba* were rescued by *Dewi Parwati*. The collision left *Dewi Parwati* with a three-metre-long crack on the port side of its bow. On the instructions of the coast guard office, the vessel anchored off Shimoda port in the prefecture. In the area where *Shinfutaba* sank, a 24-ton oil slick measuring 100 metres by 250 metres resulted from the collision.

SOLAR 1 (Philippines)

Manila, Aug 12 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that Philippine-flag non specific tanker *Solar 1*, 998 gt, owned by Manila-based Sunshine

Maritime Development Corporation, sank off Guimaras island in the central Philippines at 1600 yesterday. The tanker was on voyage from the Petron Bataan Refinery in Limay, northern Bataan province, to Zamboanga city in the southern Philippines with a cargo of two million litres of industrial fuel. The tanker was passing through Guimaras Strait when it was battered by heavy seas and began taking on water. With water filling the engine-room and the vessel listing to starboard side, the 20-man crew abandoned before it finally sank. A passing vessel rescued 18 of the tanker's crew. Two crew members could not be found, however. The survivors were then taken to Guimaras island. The Philippine Coast Guard said that search and rescue operations were on-going for the missing crewmen. A Coast Guard oil spill response crew was in the area and had installed an oil boom to prevent any oil spill from spreading. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Aug 13 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that it would be convening a Special Board of Marine Inquiry to investigate the sinking of non specific tanker *Solar 1*. Philippine Coast Guard commandant Vice Admiral Artuhr Gosingan said that the Board would be convened at the Coast Guard Western Visayas District Headquarters in Iloilo City in central Philippines. The board would determine the immediate cause of the marine casualty as well as decide if there was negligence among the ship owners and officers of the *Solar 1*. The board can recommend administrative sanctions and fines against the shipowner as well as cancel the licenses of the vessel's officers. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Aug 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Non specific tanker *Solar 1*, loaded with about two million litres, 13,000 barrels, of bunker fuel sank off the coast of southern Iloilo City Friday afternoon (Aug 11), causing an oil spill along the Guimaras strait and threatening the Negros waters. In his letter to Police Regional Director Geary Barias, Capt. Luis Tuason Jr., commander of the Philippine Coast Guard in Western Visayas, said *Solar 1*, sank 30 nautical miles south-south-west of Iloilo City. Of the 18 crewmen on board, 16 were rescued. The two remain missing. The surviving crew are now in the custody of Mayor Diosdado Gonzaga, of Nueva Valencia, Guimaras. Tuason also said, based on the aerial survey conducted yesterday morning, the oil slick was found drifting in the vicinity of San Roque, Nueva Valencia, Guimaras. The spill was also threatening the western portion of Negros, including the waters of Bago City and the municipalities of San Enrique, Pontevedra, Pulupandan and Valladolid. The Coast Guard commander said, they have already mobilized the Oil Spill Combat Teams (OSCT), which is also being assisted by the spiller of Petron Corporation. "We will also send teams to assess the

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damage and start the clean up operation early this morning to minimize the effects of spilt oil. We have also informed the Provincial Governments of Iloilo, Negros and Guimaras, and the concerned municipalities," Tuason said. His office is also coordinating with the Coast Guard Station in Iloilo and the Guimaras Provincial Disasters Coordinating Council (PDCC). For their part, Vicfran Defante, head of the Negros Occidental Provincial Disaster Management Team also alerted the mayors of Bago, Pulupandan, Valladolid, San Enrique and Pontevedra to monitor their respective territorial waters.

London, Aug 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Non specific tanker *Solar 1*, with 20 crew, lead by its master Norberto Agoro, traversed from Bataan seas via Antique. The vessel was to discharge 13.5 metric tons bunker fuel in Zamboanga. It was reported that, due to strong winds and rough seas, the crew stopped in Antique, then took the Iloilo Guimaras straight, when the incident happened. Big waves battered their vessel until it was out of its control to remain afloat. In a radio interview, Agoro said he and his crew abandoned ship after big waves pounded on the vessel and brought it to the rocky portion of the island. He added that they discovered the two missing crewmen when they were already on board the lifeboat. The Philippine Coast Guard are checking if the tanker was overloaded when the incident happened, but Agoro denied, saying the loaded fuel did not exceed 14 metric tons.

Manila, Aug 14 — Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., has entered into an agreement with two salvage companies and a private oil spill response company to contain a growing oil spill resulting from the sinking of its coastal non specific tanker *Solar 1* off Guimaras island last Friday (Aug 11). The two local salvage companies include Harbor Star Marine Services and Malayan Towage and Salvage Corp. Also contracted to help prevent the spread of the oil spill is First Response Marine Services, Inc. Harbor Star has already deployed on-site an oil spill collection vessel. This will be followed by another tug. Malayan Towage and First Response Marine Services are likewise mobilising a tug each to join the oil spill response operation. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Aug 14 — Marine surveyors and Philippine Coast Guard personnel inspecting the area off Guimaras island where non specific tanker *Solar 1* sank confirmed that an oil slick sighted off the coast of Guimaras island had originated from the vessel. The Philippine Coast Guard reported that a strong and steady volume of bunker fuel was escaping from the vessel and forming a growing oil slick. The slick had spread to an area covering 15 square kilometres as of today. While Coast Guard personnel are still trying to determine the amount of bunker fuel escaping into

the sea, efforts to contain the spill are becoming increasingly difficult. "The oil booms we have lowered over the area can hardly contain the oil spill as strong winds and rough seas brought by the monsoon are spreading the oil over a larger area," Philippine Coast Guard spokesman Lt Cmdr Joseph Coyne Jr said today. The bunker fuel had spread to the southern and eastern parts of the Guimaras coastline and to five communities in Nueva Valencia town in Iloilo province. With the strong currents prevailing, it is expected that the coastal areas of Negros and Panay island will soon be affected. The Philippine Coast Guard also admitted that at this point nothing could be done to seal the holes in the vessel and pump out its cargo of oil because of the depth in which the vessel sank. The Coast Guard estimated that the vessel is under 3,500 feet of water. "Because the tanker sank in very deep waters, special equipment is needed to reach the vessel. Unfortunately, we do not have this kind of equipment," Coyne said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Aug 15 — A press report, dated today, states: There is a danger that the sunken non specific tanker *Solar 1*, beyond the reach of divers, could break up and explode, Capt. Luis Tuason Jr., Coast Guard commander in Western Visayas, said yesterday. The clean up of the oil spill from the sunken vessel could take from six to eight months, Tuason said. The tanker was carrying 13,000 barrels or two million litres of bunker fuel in the vessel's 10 tanks. The cargo costs around P40 million, said Felimon Antiporda, Petron vice president for supply and operations. The ships master, Norberto Aguro, told Coast Guard officials that around 0100 hrs, Aug 11, they sought shelter along the Guimaras Strait, due to big waves and strong winds. He reported that the ship's chain locker had taken in water. It resumed its course, around 0300 hrs, after it reported that it had pumped out the water, using submersible pumps. Aguro said he ordered the crew to abandon ship around 0400 hrs, after they lost control of the vessel, when it tilted on its starboard side, while being battered by strong winds and big waves. Sixteen of the crew survived but two, identified as Victor Morados and Art Ian Nabua, remain missing. Commander Harold Harder, Iloilo Coast Guard commander, said they only knew of the incident on Saturday morning after the recovery of the crew was reported. He said the crew did not issue a distress call according to marine regulations and procedures. Tuason said they have formed a committee to investigate the incident but he said their main concern now is to stop the seepage of oil from the tanker. He said there is danger that the tanks containing the bunker oil could break or explode because of water pressure. The tanker which sank to a depth of 603 metres (1,978.34 feet) is beyond the reach of

divers. It is doubtful if there is available equipment in the country to salvage a vessel at that depth, Tuason said. "We need the assistance of foreign salvage companies, because we cannot siphon the remaining fuel if we cannot reach the vessel," said Tuason. Tuason said the tanker's vents and tank covers could have given way because of the water pressure, but they could not estimate the damage to the tanker and the amount of oil that has been spilled, until the vessel can be examined. Antiporda said their company will offer all possible assistance to the cleanup and containment of the spill, even if the hauler is considered the spiller. He said they will bring in equipment to help in the Coast Guard operations.

Manila, Aug 15 — The Philippines is appealing for international assistance in raising the sunken non specific tanker *Solar 1* which sank with two million litres of bunker fuel and is the cause of what is turning out to be the country's largest oil spill disaster. "The Philippine Coast Guard is looking for an international salvor which has the capability to refloat or salvage sunken vessels in deep seas since the *Solar 1* has settled in the seabed of Guimaras Strait, with a depth of between 1,800 to 3,000 feet," the Coast Guard said in a statement. "The tanker is beyond the reach of divers and there is no available equipment in the country to refloat a vessel at that depth," Coast Guard spokesperson Joseph Coyne Jr. said. Marine surveyors believe that the tanker's vents and storage tank covers could have given way because of the intense water pressure releasing thousands of litres of fuel into the sea. The Coast Guard estimates that 200,000 litres of bunker fuel have escaped into the waters of Guimaras Strait since the vessel sank last Friday (Aug 11). "Over 10,000 litres of spilled oil is already considered major. An amount like this is a national emergency," Coyne said. The resulting oil spill has spread to over 24 square kilometres of sea as of today and was moving along the coast of Nueva Valencia town, the largest town in Guimaras island. Guimaras Gov. JC Rahman Nava said that a state of calamity was declared today in Nueva Valencia as thick, dark oil was covering the rich fishing grounds, mangroves and beach resorts of the town. The oil spill was also threatening a national marine reserve and fisheries research centre in Taclong Island in Nueva Valencia. Efforts are being made to evacuate the residents of the worse hit areas, the governor said. To cope with the disaster the Philippine Coast Guard said that it was dipping into an oil spill control equipment stockpile provided by the Japanese Transport Ministry through the OSPAR (Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in Asia) scheme. The equipment is stockpiled in bases located in Davao, Cebu and Manila. The Philippines is also calling on the Sulawesi Sea Oil Response Network, formed jointly with

Indonesia and Malaysia. The Network operates a supply base at Davao in Mindanao island. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated today, states: The Philippine Coast Guard yesterday called for mobilisation of all government agencies concerned and use of available resources to contain the impact of the largest oil spill ever to take place in the country caused by a sunken tanker on Guimaras Island, Iloilo. In a press conference at the PCG headquarters, Coast Guard commandant Vice Admiral Arthur N. Gosingan said, "With this foreseen environmental catastrophe, this concern is not only of the PCG but of all sectors, but to be led by the government, as the Guimaras oil spill is now considered as the biggest major oil spill in the Philippines." The oil spill emanated from non specific tanker *Solar 1*, which sank some 10 nautical miles south of Guimaras Island, Iloilo at about 1600, Aug 11, according to PCG Environmental Protection teams. Eighteen crew members were rescued while two were missing, said Gosingan. Investigation reports said the vessel departed from Lamao, Bataan, on Aug 9, heading for Zamboanga City. However, while passing through Guimaras Strait, the vessel encountered high waves and water entered through the chain locker. The vessel's crew pumped out the flooded portion of the vessel, but sensing that the situation was critical as the vessel continued listing to starboard, the master gave the order to abandon the vessel. Aerial surveillance conducted by the PCG over the weekend showed a "huge" trace of floating oil from the site of the sinking to the coastal areas of western and southern parts of Guimaras Island. Capt Luis Tuazon, commander of Coast Guard District Western Visayas, directed the district's floating units to continue their search and rescue operations for the missing crew members. Tuazon also notified domestic or interisland vessels plying the Guimaras Strait to be on the lookout for the missing crew members, as he directed the Oil Spill Response Team of his district to coordinate with WEISS Visayas regarding deployment of oil spill booms in the incident area. Also yesterday, Gosingan said the PCG was seeking help from renowned international oil response regional firms OSPAR and Suluwesi, as it looks for an international salvor with the capability to refloat the sunken vessel. Local government units in the threatened coastal areas of Western Negros and Eastern Panay Island were advised to construct or improve barriers to protect some identified affected areas.

Manila, Aug 16 — Six days after non specific tanker *Solar 1* sank in stormy seas of Guimaras Strait, hopes of finding the two missing crewmen alive are fading fast. Vice Admiral Arthur Gosingan, Philippine Coast Guard commandant said that the Coast Guard has ceased "search and rescue"

operations and shifted to a "search and recovery" mode for the two seamen. Arthur Gosingan said that Petron Corp should not be held liable for the worsening oil spill disaster resulting from the sinking. "Petron Corp. is only the charterer of the vessel. Primary responsibility for controlling and cleaning up the oil spill lies with Sunshine Maritime Development Corp, owner and operator of her." Earlier, the governors of the two provinces most affected by the oil spill, Gov. Joaquin C. Nava of Guimaras province and Negros Occidental Governor Joseph Maranon said that they would file a civil suit for damages against the state-owned oil refiner, Petron Corp, and Sunshine Maritime. Petron Vice Operations for Operations and Supply Felimon Antiporda, noted on the other hand, that responsibility for the oil spill lies with Sunshine Maritime. He also denied reports that the tanker was unseaworthy. He said she was classed and had passed international safety standards. Petron Corp. had chartered her to carry 2.0 million litres of bunker fuel from its refinery in Bataan to Zamboanga. As of press time today, the resulting oil slick has widened and feared to have damaged some 239 kilometers of coastline in the Municipality of Nueva Valencia and over 30 kilometers of coastline in the Municipality of Sibunag in Guimaras island. The extensive damage has forced the governor of Guimaras to widen the state of calamity to cover the entire province of Guimaras. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: The Philippine Coast Guard has set up blockades to contain a bunker fuel spill from entering the territorial waters of Negros Occidental and Iloilo. Coast Guard vessel *Ilocos Norte* and a tug equipped with spill booms were initially deployed yesterday in the territorial waters of Guimaras Island as authorities raced against time to minimise, if not contain, the destruction brought about by the spill from non specific tanker *Solar 1*, which sank last Friday (Aug 11). Aside from using spill booms and oil dispersants, indigenous materials such as rice and cogon straws were also shipped to the affected areas of Guimaras by concerned individuals and environmentalist groups, and are being used by fishermen in containing the spread of the oil spill. Lt Cmdr Bondon Chan, deputy district commander of Western Visayas Coast Guard, said yesterday that another Coast Guard vessel and a tug are expected to arrive at Iloilo in the next few days to join the clean-up effort. Chan said the Coast Guard had noted that the oil slick emerging from the vessel was getting smaller. Chan added that the vessel's owners had committed to send two more tugs to help in the clean-up. Governor JC Rahman Nava yesterday said more than 200 km of Guimaras coastlines had already been affected by the oil spill, which may soon hit the

territorial waters of Negros if it is not contained immediately. Badly hit by the oil spill are the Taklong Island marine reserve and the coastal area of Brgy La Paz, Nueva Valencia, which is facing towns and cities of central Negros, that were inspected yesterday by Chief Supt Geary Barias, chairperson of the Regional Disaster and Co-ordinating Council of Western Visayas. Barias described oil spill as a "major disaster of catastrophic proportion." He recommended that the Department of Health immediately look into the health of Nueva Valencia residents, especially of the children, who are now complaining of pulmonary respiratory ailments. Iloilo Governor Neil Tupaz yesterday said he will meet with Negros Occidental Governor Joseph Maranon and other governors of Western Visayas, to discuss whatever help they may extend to Guimaras. Nava is pushing for the removal of the sunken oil tanker as much as possible to maximise containment of the oil spill, before the start of the much-needed clean-up operations. "We have to do something to recover the remaining bunker fuel believed still trapped in the vessel," he said. Nava also advised fishermen in the affected areas to refrain from catching fish, which may have already been contaminated by the oil spill. George Gajardo, a fisherman, yesterday called on the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to issue a statement if the selling of fish taken from the affected areas should be banned in the markets.

Manila, Aug 17 — A survey team from the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF) is in the Philippines to help in fighting a large oil spill originating from non specific tanker *Solar 1*. Sunshine Maritime and Development Corp., owner and operator of the vessel, said that the British survey team reached Guimaras Strait today and are now assessing the extent of the oil spill. The team will survey the area and determine the best method for containing and cleaning-up the oil pollution. Contrary to local reports the survey team will concentrate on containment and clean-up response and not the refloating or retrieval of the tanker's cargo of 2.0 million litres of bunker fuel. Although the Philippine Coast Guard and local government officials are pressing for the removal of the tanker from Guimaras waters, the shipowner and the insurance adjusters are not too keen on this course of action. The tanker which is lying under at least 1,800 feet of water would require specialized equipment such as remotely operated vehicles (ROV) to reach such depths. "This would have to come from abroad and by the time the experts and specialized equipment have been mobilized, the cargo would have all leaked out or solidified," said officials of Stevens Adjusters, Inc. representing Shipowners' Mutual Protection and Indemnity Association (Luxembourg). P & I coverage for the *Solar 1* is provided by Shipowners

Mutual. The adjusters believe that the best approach to addressing the environmental disaster would be containing and cleaning up the oil spill. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

STADT MUNCHEN (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Aug 11 — Container Carrier *Stadt Munchen* arrived Buenaventura Aug 5 and sailed next day.

SUNDBYHOLM (Finland)

London, Aug 11 — Following received from Turku MRCC, timed 1148, UTC: Understand passenger (cruise) *Sundbyholm* has been refloated and has safely arrived in port.

TAHOMA REEFER (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Monrovia, Aug 10 — Refrigerated general cargo *Tahoma Reefer* (3684 gt, built 1980), cargo frozen fish, had a fire on board at Monrovia at 0100 today and was towed out of port to a position near the breakwater. Understand the fire was caused by an electrical fault. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Tahoma Reefer* arrived Monrovia Aug 3.)

London, Aug 12 — A press release from the US Navy, dated Aug 11, states: US Naval tug *Apache* responded to a fire on board refrigerated general cargo *Tahoma Reefer* on Aug 10 while repairing the port of Monrovia's damaged commercial pier and surveying the city's harbour. The engine-room of *Tahoma Reefer* burst into flames in the early hours of the day. Later that morning, just as smoke from the burning vessel was spotted from *Apache's* bridge, the US Embassy in Liberia phoned the vessel and asked the crew to respond. Using the vessel's rigid hull inflatable boat, *Apache's* Chief Mate Troy Bruemmer and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Pete Sharpe, officer-in-charge of the 12-member embarked Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 2 and three other crew members, rushed to the scene. "When we arrived, we witnessed the deck house of the vessel engulfed in flames," said Sharpe. "All the crew members and the harbour pilot were on the bow, some without lifejackets. We returned to our vessel to get more lifejackets and additional divers to assist." While the crew on board *Apache's* RHIB rescued the nine men on board *Tahoma Reefer*, the tug's civilian master, Capt Charles Rodriguez, put his ship into action. "As the chief mate, warrant officer and divers removed the crew from the starboard side, *Apache* approached the vessel's port side and commenced fighting the fire," said Rodriguez. Using the tug's starboard fire stations, *Apache* worked to put out the flames. More than four hours later the fire was under control. No crew members were injured during the operation.

TAURUS (Belize)

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Belize-flagged trawler *Taurus* (114 gt, built 1977) is on fire at port Nevelsk of Sakhalin

Island, an official at the Russian Ministry for Emergencies (RME) centre for Sakhalin Region has told Itar-Tass. The crew members were evacuated in time. No one has been hurt. The fire broke out aboard the trawler at 1440, Moscow time, on Tuesday (Aug 15). Efforts to put it out have been to no avail. *Taurus* has been towed to Nevelsk roadstead and is burning down, posing no hazard to other vessels.

TINIAN EXPRESS (Panama)

Honolulu, Aug 14 — Ferry *Tinian Express* was drydocked at the South Seaplane Ramp, Saipan, on Aug 12. — Lloyd's Agents.

TK BREMEN (Malta)

London, Aug 17 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: On Aug 15 general cargo *TK Bremen* (3992 gt, built 1982) sustained machine problems in the west harbour of Terneuzen. For safety reasons the vessel anchored there. A short time later tug *Atlas* arrived and secured the ship. Later the problems were solved and *TK Bremen* headed towards the North Sea.

TOPAS (Antigua & Barbuda)

Cape Town, Aug 17 — General cargo *Topas* (4028 gt, built 1999), which arrived Walvis Bay (in tow) at 1745 hrs, Aug 14, with main engine damage, is to effect repairs at the port. Estimated time to completion of repairs unknown as yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRANSFER (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated Aug 11, states: Part containerised general cargo *Transfer*, which ran aground on top of Belize's barrier reef twenty months ago, is still sitting on the reef with no indication that it will be removed any time soon. This is because the US \$500,000 paid out by a British insurance company to assist in the removal of the abandoned vessel has vanished, and so has the company paid to do the job. Martin Alegria, who heads the Department of the Environment, the legal body responsible for wrecks at sea, said this week that his department's hands were tied. There is little hope that the wreck will be removed any time soon. Alegria confirmed that a local company, identified as 3-D Marine of Belize City, was paid US\$500,000 to remove the wreck early last year. Initial attempts to dislodge the wreck using two small tugs from Guatemala failed to budge the vessel in July last year at a time when hurricane "Emily" threatened Belize's coastline. The vessel has since moved further onto the reef, causing extensive damage to the coral. Since then, 3-D Marine's only known officer, identified as Elliott Tulloch, is nowhere to be found. The Department of the Environment simply cannot find him, Alegria said, and the wreck remains on the reef near Lighthouse Reef Atoll, posing a greater danger than ever. According to reports, the reef in the immediate area

of the vessel is being threatened with chemical substances released from the rusted metal hulk. There are reports that over the past twenty months chemical substances have polluted the water and are harming the reef. The Department of the Environment has now turned to another local company, Perez Recycling Company, to dismantle the vessel. Alegria said his department had received a proposal from Perez to dismantle the vessel. Alejandro Perez of Perez's Recycling, said on Wednesday (Aug 9) that his proposal guarantees the removal of the vessel from the reef, but the economics of the job have to be worked out. Ariane Shipping Company, which owned the vessel, has already washed its hands of any responsibility. So has the MCW Shipping Agent of Miami, and its US insurance company Morton and Company. Alegria says that the Department of Environment has been seeking legal redress to deal with the issue of liability.

VERDI (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Aug 17 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Verdi* sailed Bremerhaven Aug 15 and subsequently arrived Rotterdam Aug 16.

WESTWOOD ANETTE (Bahamas)

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated Aug 11, states: Officials said today they had made a lot of progress cleaning up a massive oil spill from a vessel in the Squamish estuary a week ago. "The actions are going really well out there," Brian Clark, a spokesman with the environment ministry, said. "There's no more mobile oil out there." Bulker with container capacity *Westwood Anette* was leaving the small port in Howe Sound, about 60 kilometres north of Vancouver, last Friday (Aug 4) when it hit a piling. The collision punched two 15-centimetre holes in a fuel tank, spilling about 29,000 litres of thick bunker fuel into the pristine waterway. Federal and provincial officials said an estimated two-thirds of the oil had been mopped up from the marshy estuary and adjacent Howe Sound. "What we're intending to do is have it cleaned up to the point that there won't be a longer-term impact," Clark said. "You obviously can't get everything up but with grasses coming back up it should take care of most things." The government's strategy calls for a remediation plan and long-term monitoring, he added. "The provincial government is downsizing its staff on scene now and we will continue to monitor the estuary area, which is a conservation area, soon to be a wild-life management area," said Clark. He estimated about 90% of the spill's impact was in the marsh adjacent to the dock, with most of the oil contained underneath the terminal. Some flowed up the estuary. "A significant amount of oil went out into Howe Sound but most of it was collected," said Clark. "Our beach surveys suggest there's very limited

little tar balls on the beaches and those have been cleaned up.” The marsh’s sedges and other grasses have done a good job of soaking up oil, Clark added. The ministry hopes simply cutting the contaminated grass will allow new clean growth. The vessel’s owners are responsible for clean-up costs but their lawyer, David Jones, said he could not estimate what the final bill will be. Jones said initially it would be “tens of thousand of dollars” but now believes it is well in excess of that. The Transportation Safety Board is investigating the cause of the accident from a safety perspective. Coast guard spokesman Don Rodden said it was up to Transport Canada to decide whether the vessel’s owners should be prosecuted. “If there’s any charges for infringement of the Canada Shipping Act, that is enforced by Transport Canada,” he said.

London, Aug 16 — Bulker with container capacity *Westwood Anette* sailed Vancouver(CAN) 2225, Aug 12, arrived Seattle 1110, Aug 13 and sailed 0306, Aug 14, for Tomakomai.

WING ON IV

See “Typhoon ‘Prapiroon’” under “Weather & Navigation”.

YASAR KAPTAN II (Georgia)

See “Drugs Found On Georgia-Flagged Vessel At Alicante, Spain” under “Miscellaneous.”

YM GREEN (Liberia)

London, Aug 11 — A Cesam report timed 1459, Aug 10, states: According to various sources, Container Carrier *YM Green* with between 3,200 and 3,900 containers on board, is in Singapore roads where negotiations are in hand, with the authorities to allow the entry into the port in order to discharge the deck container there. Thereafter, the ship will return to the roads where an attempt will be made to open holds 3 and 4. Hold 3 is currently on fire and was flooded to a depth of eight metres. Hold 4 was also flooded but with to a depth which not specified yet.

London, Aug 14 — According to Yang Ming Transport Corp, Container Carrier *YM Green* has declared General Average and will be sailing from Singapore around Aug 23, with ETA Rotterdam Sep 8.

Port State Control



GIBRALTAR

Gibraltar, Aug 15 — General cargo *Melek N.* (1510 gt, built 1983) was detained in Gibraltar by the Maritime Administrator Surveyors. Grounds for detention: Deck cargo restricts navigation bridge visibility. — Gibraltar Port Authority. (Note — *Melek N.* arrived Gibraltar Aug 14 from La Spezia.)

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 14 — A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated today, states: General cargo *Phayao Navee* (15296 gt, built 1978) was detained at Bristol on Jul 5 in respect of 48 deficiencies in total, with three ISM non-conformities; emergency preparedness, maintenance of ship and equipment and resources and personnel not according to the vessel’s Safety Management System, also launching arrangements for survival craft not properly maintained, lifejackets not as required, and lack of control demonstrated during the abandon ship and fire drills. The vessel was released on Jul 15.

London, Aug 14 — A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated today, states: General cargo *Marvel K.* (1895 gt, built 1981) was detained at Briton Ferry on Jul 12 in respect of 19 deficiencies in total, with two ISM non-conformities; emergency preparedness, maintenance of vessel and equipment not according to the vessel’s Safety Management System. The vessel was released on Jul 19.

London, Aug 14 — A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated today, states: General cargo *Little Star* (1697 gt, built 1985) was detained at Gunness Wharf on Jul 14 in respect of 22 deficiencies in total, with one ISM non-conformity; maintenance of vessel and equipment not according to the vessel’s Safety Management System, also fire safety measures and emergency lighting not as required. The vessel was released on Jul 19.

London, Aug 14 — A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated today, states: General cargo *Ostgard* (2868 gt, built 2001) was detained at Aberdeen on Jul 14 in respect of three deficiencies in total, with improperly secured deck cargo prior to departure. The vessel was released on Jul 15.

London, Aug 14 — A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated today, states: General cargo *Nina* (3954 gt, built 1998) was detained at Liverpool on Jul 25 in respect of 16 deficiencies in total, with one ISM non-conformity, maintenance of vessel and equipment not according to the vessel’s Safety Management System and main engine-room dampers not closing fully. The vessel was released on Jul 29.

London, Aug 14 — A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated today, states: General cargo *Lyra* (1511 gt, built 1973) was detained at Howdendyke on Jul 26 in respect of 24 deficiencies recorded before the Port State Control inspection was suspended. The inspection revealed numerous SOLAS-related deficiencies, forward fore-castle bulkhead holed and the engine-room very oily, a major fire risk. The vessel was released on Aug 5.

Seizures & Arrests



AFRICAN SHARK (Bahamas)

Zeebrugge, Aug 15 — Bulker *African Shark* (18987 gt, built 1985), which arrived at Antwerp on Aug 11, has had its departure suspended due to detentions. — Lloyd’s Sub-agents.

AL ESRAA (Egypt)

London, Aug 11 — General cargo *Al Esraa* sailed Antwerp 0624, Aug 8, for Iskenderun.

BIGA (Canary Islands)

Bilbao, Aug 11 — General cargo *Biga* is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd’s Agents.

BOREAS (Cyprus)

Bilbao, Aug 11 — General cargo *Boreas* is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd’s Agents.

GOLDEN TRUST NO.1 (Panama)

Zeebrugge, Aug 15 — Bulker *Golden Trust No.1* (40512 gt, built 1980), which arrived at Antwerp on Aug 12, has had its departure suspended due to detentions. — Lloyd’s Sub-agents.

HE RONG (Panama)

Limassol, Aug 16 — Bulker *He Rong* (20502 gt, built 1977), which arrived Limassol Jul 22, is currently under detention. — Lloyd’s Agents.

NORDLAND (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Bilbao, Aug 16 — General cargo *Nordland* was arrested by the Santander Port Authority for non-payment of the corresponding port dues. She continues under arrest. Apparently she will be auctioned, date not known, by the Port Authority to be scrapped. — Lloyd’s Agents.

RASA (Georgia)

Limassol, Aug 10 — General cargo *Rasa* is still under arrest and she is at Limassol Anchorage. Sailing date not available. — Lloyd’s Agents.

SKY 75 (South Korea)

Wellington, Aug 14 — The Port company at Bluff, reported that trawler (All types) *Sky 75* is still at Bluff, no indication when they plan to leave. — Lloyd’s Agents.

SPSL 215 (Panama)

London, Aug 14 — a press report, dated today, states: The Federal High Court sitting in Benin has ordered the arrest of oil servicing barge *SPSL 215* (1793 gt, built 1981) over an alleged indebtedness of its operators to Access Bank Plc. The court presided over by Justice P. F. Olayiwola ordered the arrest of a vessel engaged by construction firm Sirpi-Alusteel Construction Limited following an ex-parte motion filed by the bank and

company SPSL 215 Liberia incorporated against the construction firm and two others. The others affected by the court's order include the chairman of the construction company, Mr Adawari Makpepple and the vessel in question. The order also directed the admiralty marshal to secure the assistance of Naval or other Maritime enforcement authorities to arrest, secure and preserve the vessel wherever it is located within the jurisdiction. In a 20-paragraph statement of claim filed by their counsel, Olisa Agbakoba (SAN), the bank is claiming \$7.5 million as special damages for actual losses and general damages for breach of contract. The plaintiffs averred that they lost \$5.5 million between Mar 2, 2004 and May 31, 2006 at the rate of \$6,500 per day expected revenue from the defendants. The plaintiffs further averred that the first defendant is now in financial crisis and planning to sell the vessel allegedly owned by SPSL 215 Liberia incorporated in which the bank claimed to have 100% controlling shares. Besides, the plaintiffs averred that sometime in December 2002, the bank gave N320 million overdraft facility to the defendants which was later increased to N400 million in February 2003 but which had not been redeemed. Besides the plaintiffs claimed that the first defendant is indebted to many creditors and they feared that any of the creditors might take over the vessel. Further, the plaintiffs expressed the fear that the first defendant will soon sell its assets in foreign jurisdictions to settle other creditors or even leave the jurisdiction of the court allegedly to escape justice. The defendants, however, insisted that they had valid defence for the suit brought against them and prayed the court to order the release of the vessel. While refusing to accept liability based on the plaintiffs' claim, the defendants promised to enter into a bond in respect of the order, for the vessel to be released, while assuring that to release that they would abide by all the terms and conditions the court may impose. Further hearing has been fixed for Aug 18 to hear the defendants' application.

Pipeline Accidents



CARROLLTON AREA, KENTUCKY RIVER, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated Aug 16, states: Two companies involved in a 260,000-gallon oil spill into the Kentucky and Ohio rivers last year have agreed to pay \$2.8million in fines to Kentucky and the federal government. Oil from a pipeline that ruptured in Owen and Carroll counties on Jan 26, 2005, washed as far downriver as Louisville. Under terms of a consent decree filed in US District Court in Frankfort yesterday, Mid-

Valley Pipeline Co. and pipeline operator Sunoco Pipeline L.P. will pay fines of \$1.4million to the United States and \$1.17million to Kentucky. The settlement also requires Mid-Valley and Sunoco to donate \$230,000 to a nonprofit conservation organization. In addition, the two companies will take steps to improve preparations for spill responses and will reimburse Kentucky for the more than \$120,000 it cost the state to respond to the spill, according to the Justice Department. The defendants already have reimbursed federal response costs of at least \$234,000, the federal government said. The companies also have paid the Louisville Water Co. more than \$400,000 for costs it incurred for treatment of oil-polluted water. "We think the civil penalty is a significant penalty because this was a significant environmental event," said Mark York, spokesman for the Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet, which was a party in the case. Sue Ellen Wooldridge, assistant attorney general for the US Justice Department's Environmental and Natural Resources Division, said in a written statement that "today's settlement will ensure that the defendants are being held responsible for their actions." Sunoco spokesman John McCann, whose company co-owns Mid-Valley and operates it, said, "We believe we have negotiated a settlement in good faith. And we will comply with the terms of the agreement." The oil spill harmed hundreds of migratory waterfowl and beavers and also affected drinking-water supplies, according to the Justice Department. The oil slick was more than 17 miles long. The spill was the result of a weld failure in a pipe 22 inches in diameter that had been laid in 1950, according to the complaint, and it took the companies hours to report it. The spill was originally estimated at 63,000 gallons, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency. The following month, the estimate was increased to 82,000 gallons, an amount still cited on an EPA Web site. York said he's not sure when or how it was revised to 260,000 gallons. The Kentucky fine will be distributed to various state environmental programs, York said. The federal fine will support a federal cleanup and liability fund. York said state officials have not decided which nonprofit group will receive the \$230,000 check from the companies. He said it likely will be one involved in environmental education and cleanup.

PRUDHOE BAY, ALASKA

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Alaska Governor Frank Murkowski imposed a state hiring freeze yesterday because of the millions of dollars in revenue Alaska is losing as a result of the Prudhoe Bay oil field shutdown, and said he would support hearings into BP's maintenance practices. The governor also said he would direct Alaska's attorney general to investigate

whether the state could hold the oil giant fully accountable for the state's losses. Earlier this week, BP said it would shut down Prudhoe Bay, the biggest oil field in the nation, because of a small leak and severe pipeline corrosion. Energy officials have said the pipeline repairs are likely to take months, curtailing Alaskan production into next year. The expected loss of 400,000 barrels per day at today's oil prices means the state is losing about \$6.4 million a day in royalties and taxes, Revenue Commissioner Bill Corbus said. The state receives 89% of its income from oil revenue; Alaska has no state sales tax and no personal income tax. The Prudhoe Bay shutdown will cut in half Alaska's total oil production and the resulting revenue. Without money coming in from Prudhoe Bay, Alaska's government can operate for only about two months before going into the red, Corbus said. "BP must get the entire Prudhoe Bay back up and running as soon as it is safely possible," Murkowski told a joint session of the state Legislature. BP, the world's second-largest oil company, said it would replace 16 miles of pipeline that carries oil from Prudhoe Bay to the 800-mile Trans-Alaska Pipeline. The Prudhoe Bay field accounts for 8% of U.S. domestic output. "We obviously apologise for the impact this is having on people, and we regret having to take these actions, but our focus is on safe operations and environmental protection, and that's the reason why we've undertaken the action we have," BP spokesman Neil Chapman said. Three Democratic legislators released a letter to Murkowski calling on the governor to hold hearings and have BP officials explain under oath what they did, or failed to do, to maintain Prudhoe Bay's pipelines. Murkowski said he would support the idea and "I fully expect hearings to occur." Murkowski questioned why BP abruptly shut down the entire Prudhoe Bay field after finding a leak of only four to five barrels. The state Department of Administration was still calculating the number of vacancies that would be affected by the hiring freeze. The freeze does not apply to essential employees, such as state troopers and prison guards. The state employs about 17,000 people and has 2,430 vacancies, said governor's spokesman John Manly.

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The nation's largest oil field got a reprieve of sorts as BP announced it would try to keep part of its North Slope production running while replacing corroded pipes that have caused two spills this year. Federal regulators late yesterday gave BP permission to keep the field's Western line operating, but ordered it to conduct more rigorous pipeline inspections. BP also must pass a series of tests before restarting pipes it shut down. BP said yesterday it was moving forward to replace the eastern transit lines that leaked, signing contracts with United States Steel Corp and

Nippon Steel Corp to supply 10 miles of pipeline. Sixteen miles will be replaced. BP is working to win contracts for the remaining materials. At the site of the most recent spill, motorised mops snaked through slender tundra grasses soaking up the mess. About 13,000 barrels of oil sat dormant in a 3-mile stretch of pipe above. Workers used ultrasound to listen for signs of weakness in the carbon steel pipe as about 140,000 barrels of oil flowed towards the trans-Alaska pipeline. BP planned to keep oil flowing from its western side, buoyed by signs that those pipes were in better shape following thousands of tests conducted after a massive spill of up to 267,000 gallons in March, said Craig Wiggs, an oil field manager. If the western side keeps flowing, capacity could increase to 185,000 barrels per day. Steve Marshall, president of BP Exploration Alaska, said a decision would be made early next week on what the company will do. However, to keep piping crude to the port of Valdez, BP must adhere to more thorough testing spelled out by the Department of Transportation that would require heat-seeking equipment to detect leaks and visual inspections of all 22 miles of transit lines. BP said it would comply with the order from the department's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration to survey all pipelines four times a day. The long-term plan would still be to replace the western pipeline. BP continued to accept responsibility for the lack of upkeep that led to shutdown. "BP is the operator of the field. We're ultimately responsible," said Kemp Copeland, manager of the Prudhoe Bay oil field. BP has a contract with Canadian company Acuren to provide corrosion inspections. The eastern side of the Prudhoe Bay pipeline had not undergone a high-tech inspection called "smart pigging" since 1992, although the western side had undergone the check in 1998 and was scheduled for the test this summer. BP, which operates the oil field, has not yet said exactly how much the project will cost and whether it will divide costs with ConocoPhillips Co and Exxon Mobil Corp, which share ownership of the field. For refineries that normally get supplies from Prudhoe Bay, analysts say the shutdown is unlikely to cause short-term problems because most have a stockpile that stretches 30-45 days. If the shutdown lasts several months, it could create further difficulties as refineries turn to other parts of the world for crude oil, said analyst John Thieroff with Standard & Poor's. A longer-term shutdown could cause a spike in West Coast gas prices because those refineries get about 30% of their oil from Alaska. However, Mark Gilman, analyst with The Benchmark Co., said the shutdown may have little impact on overall US gas prices, because other sources of crude oil could compensate for any potential shortfall.



POLLUTION

CALCASIEU RIVER, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES
 London, Aug 15 — A press report, dated Aug 11, states: Torrential rain was the primary cause for the spill from the Citgo refinery on Lake Charles, Louisiana, that closed the Calcasieu Ship Channel for nearly a month. An internal investigation into the incident at the PDVSA subsidiary's facility was released on today and plant boss Randy Carbo said the once-in-50-year rainfall, combined with several other factors, led to the spill on 19 Jun. "Our storm water tanks were not capable of holding all the storm water produced by this event," Carbo said. Wastewater tanks contained too much waste oil, so when the tanks overflowed, the waste oil floating on the top poured out of the tanks and into surrounding containment dykes. A separate state appraisal is continuing, which may result in large fines for Citgo.



WEATHER & NAVIGATION

AFGHANISTAN
 London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated Aug 9, states: Local authorities today pleaded for emergency relief for thousands of villagers made homeless by heavy rain and flooding that has ravaged provinces in eastern Afghanistan and left at least 35 people dead. In the worst hit areas in Ghazni, Paktika and Paktia provinces, officials complained they had still received little help since flooding began 10 days ago. In some areas, the presence of Taliban rebels has impeded efforts to assess the damage and deliver aid, they said. Three tons of medicine have been distributed to those affected in remote areas but more is needed, officials said. Gen Abdul Anan Raufi, police chief of Paktia province, said 17 people had died as a result of the floods and 50 families had been forced from their homes. "We urgently need assistance in food items and shelter," he said. In nearby Paktika province, 15 people died after rising waters flooded several districts, said Sayyed Jamal, the provincial governor's spokesman. Officials said at least three people died and an estimated 1,600 homes were destroyed on Friday (Aug 4) in Ghazni province, where the presence of Taliban rebels has hampered local officials from responding to flooding. The government is resorting to an informal network of private groups and local

residents to survey the damage and compile lists of those in need, said Abdul Rahim Zareen, spokesman for the Rural Rehabilitation and Development Ministry. The US military said in a statement that it plans to deliver enough aid to shelter and feed 9,000 flood victims.

ETHIOPIA

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from Ethiopia's worst ever flash floods climbed to 250 yesterday and was expected to rise as crews searched for more bodies, authorities said. Six days after a river burst its banks following torrential rains more than 10,000 people were still homeless and 300 remained missing. The search for victims of the flooding that hit Dire Dawa, about 310 miles east of the capital, Addis Ababa, has stretched for nearly 20 miles along the river. Police spokesman Binyam Fikru said the floods were blamed for 250 deaths. "This is the worst flood that we have ever recorded," Fikru said. "We are no longer looking for survivors. We are now concentrating on finding dead bodies." More than 600 rescuers have been using earth movers and their bare hands to dig through mud and debris after the deluge, which washed away people, cars, trees and entire buildings. The United Nations has released food aid for 10,000 people, and other agencies have provided blankets, clean water and other supplies. Some flood victims were sheltered in schools, while others remained where their former houses once stood, UN officials said.

London, Aug 15 — A press report, dated Aug 14, states: Torrential rains spilled a river over its banks in southern Ethiopia, killing at least 125 people as it submerged five villages, knocked down grain silos and swept away cattle, a police official said today. The disaster came a week after 256 people drowned when heavy rains caused flooding in an eastern town. Eight days of rain have made more than 15,000 homeless in Ethiopia, and UN agencies said several hundred people were still missing. Zeleke Menebo, deputy police commissioner for southern Ethiopia, said today that the latest deaths occurred yesterday and quoted local as saying the toll could rise. He said the Omo River burst its banks in the remote Omo Valley in Ethiopia's Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Regional State. He said the waters flooded five villages, stranding thousands of people and killed 700-800 cattle. The area is 435 miles south of Addis Ababa, with few roads or telephones to connect it to the rest of the country. Meanwhile police said the death toll from floods that hit the town of Dire Dawa, 310 miles east of Addis Ababa, on Aug 6 had climbed to 256. Five people were also killed last Wednesday (Aug 9) by flooding in northern Ethiopia after heavy rains.

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Ethiopia was bracing for a sharp rise in the death

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toll from flash floods that have claimed at least 456 lives, left some 250 missing and are spreading under the onslaught of heavy seasonal rains. New floods were reported north of Addis Ababa today as efforts continued to rescue up to 20,000 people marooned in the south, where 194 died at the weekend, and locate 250 missing in the east, where 256 drowned last week. Another six people died in the north of the Horn of Africa country. Officials in the remote Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's state said poor weather that hampered relief operations in the Omo River basin had lifted but feared for the worst as they discovered more inundated villages. "As there are four more villages that were unreachable for the last two days, there is a fear the death toll may rise," regional police spokesman Daniel Gezhegn said. Late yesterday, authorities said flood-related deaths in the region about 700 kilometers south-west of Addis Ababa had risen from 135 to 194 and that residents of at least seven villages were sleeping outside. Heavy rains had grounded emergency helicopter flights to the area, forcing rescuers to send supplies there by boat. Meanwhile, the search for some 250 people still unaccounted for in the eastern town of Dire Dawa continued apace as UN agencies and other relief groups operated in the area, officials said. More than 10,000 people are estimated to have been left homeless by the flooding there, about 500 km from Addis Ababa. And the state-run Ethiopian News Agency said floods from two rivers in the northern Amhara region had killed at least one person, submerging 13 villages and forcing nearly 13,000 from their homes in recent days. Of the 12,769 displaced, emergency personnel have rescued 4,518 people using boats, it reported, citing a local official in south Gondor, some 560 kilometers north of the capital.

NORTH KOREA

London, Aug 16 — A report from Australia, dated Aug 17, states: An independent aid group says about 54,700 people have been left dead or missing and 2.5 million others are homeless after last month's devastating floods in North Korea. South Korean group Good Friends says the mid-July floods were the worst in North Korea's history. The figure is by far the highest given for the floods and landslides, which were said to have wiped out entire villages. Good Friends, a long-term aid partner for North Korea, said early this month 10,000 people were believed dead or missing. It says the new tally is an "approximate" figure based on final counts in late July, but it has not revealed its sources. Good Friends says 231 bridges were washed away, along with vast tracks of farmland. Immediate confirmation has not been possible. North Korea's state media reported last month that at least "hundreds" were dead or missing in

the flooding. North Korea was lashed by a typhoon on July 10, followed by three days of heavy monsoon rains.

PHILIPPINES

London, Aug 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavy rains over the last few days triggered floods, landslides and big waves that have killed at least 24 people and left nine missing in the southern Philippines, disaster relief officials and reports said today. Field reports reaching the Office of Civil Defence (OCD) said swollen rivers and flash floods killed seven people in North Cotabato province, including six in the town of Makilala. Among the dead was an 8-month-old infant and two girls, 6 and 11. Huge waves killed a mother and her daughter in Sarangani province's Glan town. In Davao del Sur province's Sarangani town, a landslide buried a family, killing its matriarch and a 5-year-old boy. Four other family members were missing. In Misamis Oriental province, big waves killed a woman and a 2-year-old boy. Three other people were buried by landslides in Zamboanga del Sur province's Aurora town, while a storm surge left a man dead in Zamboanga del Norte province, the reports said. In Kapatagan town, in Lanao del Sur province, seven people died in flash floods that also injured 11 others, OCD spokesman Anthony Golez said. According to an OCD report, floods displaced over 15,000 people in the provinces of Misamis Oriental, Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley, Davao del Sur, North Cotabato, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, South Cotabato, and the cities of Cotabato, General Santos, Tagum, and Davao. The floods also caused an estimated 9.5 million pesos in damage to infrastructure, 26 million pesos in damage to houses, and 9.1 million pesos in damage to agriculture, the OCD report said. In Marikina City, authorities are preparing for a possible evacuation of residents near the Marikina River, which is threatening to overflow, according to a GMA Network. The report said the water level was measured at 40 metres. The critical level is at 70 metres, it added. Villages being monitored by authorities were Nangka, Concepcion Uno, Sto. Nino, and Malanday, the report said. The Tumana Bridge in Marikina has remained impassable to all types of vehicles since Sunday (Aug 13), the same report said. Seasonal monsoon rains and strong winds, combined with a high tide late last week, caused flooding in many coastal villages in the country's south and center, weather forecasters said. A new tropical storm tracking east of the country's main northern island of Luzon is expected to intensify the monsoon rains over the next two days, they said.

TROPICAL DEPRESSION "SONAMU"

London, Aug 14 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical depression "Sonamu" located

near lat 18.0N, long 130.0E at 0001, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 80 deg at 14 knots, position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, position based on centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds 30 knots with gusts to 40 knots. At 0001, UTC, Aug 15, position predicted to be near lat 19.5N, long 135.0E with maximum sustained winds of 40 knots and gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 40 nautical miles southeast quadrant and 35 nautical miles elsewhere.

London, Aug 16 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical depression "Sonamu" located near lat 30.2N, long 140.3E at 0001, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 360 deg at 32 knots, position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, position based on centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds 25 knots with gusts to 35 knots. At 0001, UTC, Aug 17, position predicted to be near lat 33.3N, long 133.4E with maximum sustained winds of 20 knots and gusts to 30 knots. Dissipated as a significant tropical cyclone over water.

TROPICAL STORM "HECTOR"

London, Aug 16 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Hector" located near lat 13.1N, long 116.5W at 0900, UTC, today, position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west or 270 deg at 13 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 1000 mb. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 50 north semi circle, 75 nautical miles south semi-circle. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Aug 17, position predicted to be near lat 14.0N, long 120.4W. With maximum winds of 60 knots and gusts to 75 knots.

London, Aug 17 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Hector" located near lat 14.5N, long 119.6W at 0900, UTC, today, position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west north-west or 290 deg at nine knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 989 mb. Maximum sustained winds: 60 knots with gusts to 75 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds: 30 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 90 nautical miles. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Aug 18: position near lat 16.6N, long 125.0W. With maximum winds of 70 knots and gusts to 90 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 50 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 100 nautical miles north semi circle, 80 nautical miles south semi circle.

TROPICAL STORM "KAJIKI"

Manila, Aug 15 — Repairs on barge *Napocor Power Barge No.106* were completed and the vessel was lowered from drydock Monday (Aug 14), the state-owned National Power Corporation (Napocor) said. The power barge is now awaiting a tug for towing to San Jose, Mindoro island where it

will be stationed as a floating electrical generation facility for the island. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Aug 16 — The National Power Corp. (Napocor) has been issued a final certificate of completion from the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) for the clean-up of the oil spill resulting from the running aground of barge *Napocor Power Barge No.106*, near Semirara island in December, 2005. The state-owned Napocor was earlier issued a provisional certificate of completion, to acknowledge its efforts in cleaning up the 114-hectare area, in Semirara island, affected by the oil spill. The final certificate of completion was given following the completion of Napocor's bioremediation and mangrove reforestation programs. Bioremediation involves the use of oil-eating microbes that consume petroleum-based pollutants. More than 210,000 litres of bunker C fuel oil were spilled due to the accident. The strong sea currents subsequently brought the spilled oil to Semirara island, affecting some 114 hectares of shoreline, sandy and rocky beach, and mangroves. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TROPICAL STORM "WUKONG"

London, Aug 14 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Wukong" located near lat 26.6N, long 137.4E at 0600, UTC. Movement past six hours 290 deg at three knots, position accurate to within 40 nautical miles position based on centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 75 nautical miles. At 0600, UTC, Aug 15, the centre is predicted to be near lat 27.2N, long 135.9E, with maximum sustained winds of 55 knots and gusts to 70 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds: 25 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 80 nautical miles north east quadrant, 75 nautical miles elsewhere.

London, Aug 16 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Wukong" located near lat 29.6N, long 135.0E, at 0300, UTC, today, approximately 350 nautical miles south east of Sasebo, Japan, has tracked west-southwestward at 12 knots over the past six hours. Maximum significant wave height at 0001, UTC, today, is 20 feet.

London, Aug 17 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Wukong" located near lat 31.3N, long 132.4E, at 0600, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 115 nautical miles north semi circle, 130 nautical miles south east quadrant and 125 nautical miles south west quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC Aug 18: Position near lat 33.1N, long 131.3E with maximum sustained winds of 40 knots and gusts to 50 knots.

TYPHOON "CHANCHU"

Manila, Aug 14 — Harbor Star Shipping Services reported that the 200-ton capacity sheerleg crane

needed to raise the wreck of tank barge *Billy Star* had finally arrived after 25-day wait. The floating crane arrived Sunday (Aug 13) is now docked at Keppel Batangas Shipyard's K-yard pier in Bauan town, Batangas province close to where the *Billy Star* sank. Refloating operations are due to start on Tuesday. Harbor Star salvors said that the *Billy Star* will be raised in one piece after which it will be brought to nearby Mabini town in Batangas where it will be dismantled by shipbreakers. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Aug 14 — Batangas Bay Carriers, Inc. owner and operator of product tanker *Malitam* has finally decided to proceed with repairs on the vessel rather than declare it a 'constructive total loss'. "After much careful thought, it was decided that it would make more financial sense to have the vessel repaired than to declare a total loss and purchase what could be a more expensive replacement," sources in the company said. Batangas Bay Carriers is now in the process of determining the best quotation submitted by a number of local shipyards for the drydocking of the vessel. In the meantime, afloat repairs to its superstructure and its engines will take place within the week. The company's engineers are now determining whether to have the engines, which was flooded when it ran aground, overhauled or replaced. The *Malitam* is presently moored at the del Pan area of Manila's Pasig River. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Aug 16 — Harbor Star Shipping Services reported that sunken tank barge *Billy Star* was raised today, using a floating sheerlegs crane. The barge is now suspended above the water on the crane near Keppel Batangas Shipyard's K-yard pier in Bauan. Harbor Star salvors said, however, that refloating operations had been stopped on the orders of the local government. The salvors said that *Billy Star* cannot be moved until certain issues with the municipal government of Bauan town are resolved. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Aug 17 — The Municipal government of Bauan town in Batangas province has ordered refloating operations for tank barge *Billy Star* stopped because of the failure of salvors to obtain a salvage permit from the local government. The *Billy Star* was refloated Wednesday (Aug 16) but remains suspended above water by a sheerleg crane near Keppel Batangas Shipyard's K-yard pier in Bauan town. The municipal government has threatened to impose heavy fines on the salvor and the shipowner if the vessel is moved. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Aug 17 — Local government officials have allowed the salvors of tank barge *Billy Star* to move the vessel out of Keppel Batangas Shipyard's K-yard pier in Bauan town today. Harbor Star Shipping Services, which has been contracted to refloat the vessel, said that the Municipal

government of Bauan allowed them to resume operations after all the necessary permits were complied with. Refloating operations were suspended yesterday after local government officials stopped the salvors from working because of the absence of certain permits. A sheerleg floating crane was used to hoist the *Billy Star* out of the water. The floating crane, with the *Billy Star* in suspension was then towed to nearby Mabini town, arriving at 1730, local time, today. The *Billy Star* will remain in Mabini town where it will be scrapped pending the issuance of environmental and other government permits. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TYPHOON "PRAPIROON"

London, Aug 11 — Hong Kong's government flying service has been commended by the Chinese government for saving the lives of 91 seafarers during typhoon "Prapiroon" last week. In a two-day operation involving three helicopters and British Aerospace Jetstream J41 aircraft, air crew initially airlifted 23 seafarers from the barge *Wing On IV*, which had run aground 172 km southwest of Hong Kong. Air crew were scrambled later the same day to rescue a further 68 seafarers on standby safety vessel *Hai Yang Shi You 298* (6701 gt, built 1983), which had sent out distress signal after running aground about 132 km southwest of Hong Kong. Two Super Puma helicopters rescued 56 crew from the vessel but due to extremely bad weather in Hong Kong the rescue of the remaining 12 seafarers had to be delayed until the following day when they were airlifted to safety. Commending the air crew, China's vice-minister of communications Huang Xianyao said: "President Hu Jintao, premier Wen Jiabao and vice-premier Zeng Qinghong want me to pass their heartfelt thanks to the government flying service team." China's state council, the country's highest decision-making body, also sent its thanks to the air crew. Flying services head Captain Brian Butt said: "It is one of the most demanding rescues we have ever undertaken. The wind was strong and the sea was high. The ship was pitching 45 degrees and rolling about 20 to 25 degrees side to side."

TYPHOON "SAOMAI"

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: The most powerful typhoon to hit China in five decades slammed into its south-eastern coast today, destroying hundreds of homes and battering the region with rain and wind after more than 1.3 million people were evacuated, state media reported. At least two people were killed. Typhoon "Saomai" was the eighth major storm to strike China in this summer's unusually violent typhoon season. Torrential rains were forecast in the next three days as it churned inland across crowded areas where tropical storm "Bilis" killed more than 600 people last month. "Saomai", with winds up to 135 mph,

made landfall at the town of Mazhan in coastal Zhejiang province at 1725 hrs and was moving north-west at 12 mph, the Xinhua News Agency said, citing weather officials. Xinhua said two people were killed in the city of Fuding, while 80 people were injured and more than 1,000 houses toppled in and around Mazhan. Before its arrival, at least 760,000 people were evacuated from flood-prone areas of Zhejiang and 569,000 from the neighbouring coastal province of Fujian, Xinhua said. The area is about 950 miles south of Beijing, the Chinese capital, which was not affected by the storm. In Hong Kong, airport officials said today that 10 flights between Hong Kong and Taiwan and the mainland city of Fuzhou had been cancelled and 16 flights delayed as of midafternoon. In the central and southern Philippines, two people died and seven others were reported missing after giant waves and heavy rains generated by the typhoon battered coastal villages this week, officials said. More than 200 houses built on stilts were destroyed as waves up to 10 feet tall ravaged the coast of Bongao, the capital of southern Tawi-Tawi province, before dawn yesterday, provincial Governor Sadikul Sahali said. A child died and another was reported missing, he said. Elsewhere, a man was killed as big waves washed away about 200 shanties in seaside villages in Talisay city on central Cebu island early yesterday, the civil defence office said. The typhoon passed across the Japan's Okinawa island group yesterday with winds up to 89 mph, prompting airlines to cancel 141 flights and affecting 24,000 passengers.

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Saomai", the strongest storm to strike China in 50 years, weakened to a tropical depression today but drenched the country's south-east after killing at least 104 people, blacking out cities and wrecking more than 50,000 houses. Another 190 people were missing after the storm, whose winds peaked at 170 mph, battered areas where more than 1.6 million people were evacuated before it hit late yesterday. Hardest-hit was Wenzhou, a coastal city where at least 81 people were killed and 11 were missing, the official Xinhua News Agency said. It said Wenzhou sustained \$560 million in damage, including more than 18,000 flattened houses. In Cangnan County on Wenzhou's outskirts, 43 bodies, including those of eight children, were found in the debris of collapsed houses where they sought shelter from the storm, Xinhua said. State television showed cars flipped over on rain-slicked streets, fallen trees and broken road signs. Exhausted evacuees sat in public buildings waiting out the storm. "Saomai" weakened to a tropical depression today, and torrential rains were forecast over the weekend (Aug 12-13) across China's south, from coastal

Zhejiang and Fujian inland to the poor rural provinces of Jiangxi and Anhui. Much of that region was still recovering from tropical storm "Bilis", which killed more than 600 people last month, many of them in mountain villages and other inland areas. Deaths were reported in Zhejiang province, where Wenzhou is located, and neighbouring Fujian province to the south, where power was knocked out in several cities, state media said. More than 32,000 houses were wrecked in Fujian, Xinhua said. Ahead of the storm, about one million people were evacuated from flood-prone areas of Zhejiang and 620,000 from Fujian, according to the government. More than 20,000 soldiers and paramilitary police were reportedly mobilised for relief work. The Fujian government said it sent 1,500 tents, 3,000 quilts and 50,000 pieces of clothing to storm survivors. Late today, the government announced that it was allocating \$21 million in disaster aid to regions hit by "Saomai" and other recent storms.

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated today, states: China's south-east braced for more torrential rain today after typhoon "Saomai" slammed into the region, killing 105 people and leaving another 190 missing. More than 20,000 soldiers and paramilitary police were mobilised for relief efforts after the storm blacked out cities and wrecked more than 50,000 homes. "Saomai" weakened to a tropical depression yesterday but was expected over the weekend (Aug 12-13) to drench a swath of China's south stretching from the coastal provinces of Zhejiang and Fujian to the poor inland provinces of Jiangxi and Anhui. More than 1.6 million people were evacuated from the path of Saomai before it struck late Thursday with winds gusting up to 170 mph, the official Xinhua News Agency said. However, it weakened to a tropical storm yesterday morning and by midday the Hong Kong Observatory said its winds had fallen, dropping it to tropical depression status. Authorities reported 104 deaths Thursday and yesterday and one more death today. Hardest-hit was Wenzhou, a coastal city where at least 81 people were killed and 11 were missing, the official Xinhua News Agency said. On Wenzhou's outskirts, 43 bodies including those of eight children were found in the debris of collapsed houses, Xinhua said. Torrential rains were forecast over the weekend in a swath of China's south stretching from coastal Zhejiang and Fujian inland to the poor rural provinces of Jiangxi and Anhui. The typhoon killed at least two people in the Philippines and dumped rain on Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Airlines cancelled hundreds of flights. In China, deaths were reported in Zhejiang province, where Wenzhou is located, and in neighbouring Fujian province to the south. More than 32,000 houses were wrecked in Fujian, Xinhua said. The government did not immediately announce statistics on

damage to housing in Zhejiang outside of Wenzhou. State television showed cars flipped over on rain-slicked streets, fallen trees and broken road signs.

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated today, states: China's death toll from typhoon "Saomai" rose to 114 today as authorities said some victims died when buildings used as shelters collapsed in the strongest storm to hit China in more than five decades. More rain was forecast today for inland areas, where the weakened storm was moving, as residents of the south-east coast cleared away the debris of wrecked houses. The death toll rose after rescuers found eight more bodies in Fuding, a coastal city in Fujian province, the official Xinhua News Agency said today. It said 183 people were still missing. In the inland province of Jiangxi, an elderly couple was swept away on Friday (Aug 11) as they checked on their farmland during the storm, Xinhua said. It said one member of the couple was dead and the other missing. Hardest-hit was the coastal city of Wenzhou, where at least 81 people were killed after the storm hit late Thursday with winds up to 170 mph, destroying more than 50,000 houses and blacking out six cities. Cangnan County on Wenzhou's outskirts suffered 43 deaths, some of them in the collapse of two-to-four-story residential buildings of reinforced concrete that were thought to be safe in high wind, said a spokesman for the Communist Party committee. The county evacuated 100,000 people ahead of the storm, said the spokesman. "Some people were killed because after they moved to friends' or relatives' homes, those homes collapsed," the spokesman said. "Other people were killed during the evacuation because billboards, trees or power poles fell on them." Total economic losses in Zhejiang and Fujian were estimated at \$1.4 billion, the China Daily newspaper reported on its Website. Rescue workers were handing out cooking oil, sacks of rice, clothes and bedding to thousands of people living in shelters in coastal Zhejiang and Fujian provinces. Local authorities were helping to disinfect drinking water, as well as areas with standing water to prevent disease, China Central Television said. Elsewhere in Zhejiang, a landslide killed six people in the city of Lishui, Xinhua said. Seven people were reported killed in Fujian, while Jiangxi suffered one death in its capital city, Nanchang. A flash flood triggered by heavy rains in north China killed at least seven people, Xinhua said.

London, Aug 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The reported death toll in China from Typhoon "Saomai" jumped to at least 214, after authorities in south eastern Fujian province said the number of fatalities there had increased to 125. "Saomai" has caused severe economic losses and fatalities in our province," the Fujian provincial government's water resources department said in a

statement posted on its website. "Our province has suffered 125 dead, with 108 missing, as a result of Typhoon No. 8." Previous state media reports had said 87 were killed in the province of Zhejiang, to the north of Fujian, and two in Jiangxi province, to the west. Saomai, the eighth typhoon to hit China so far this summer, was the most powerful to strike the mainland in half a century. The spike in the death toll was due to the discovery of extensive damage to fishing communities near the city of Fuding in Fujian's extreme north. "Fuding city has salvaged 97 bodies from the water, including 27 bodies of people who came from elsewhere and could not be identified," said the statement by the provincial government.

Beijing, Aug 14 — The death toll from the strongest typhoon to hit China in half a century has risen to 255, the official Xinhua news agency said today. About 140 people are still missing. The death toll jumped as the southeastern province of Fujian today raised the number of people killed there to 166 from about 40, Xinhua said, adding that most were fishermen from a single town. Saomai, graded a "super typhoon" with winds exceeding 134 miles per hour. The deaths in Fujian were mostly reported in the coastal town of Shacheng, bordering Cangnan to the north, where more than 10,000 vessels returned to harbour before "Saomai's" arrival. — Reuters.

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Villagers in south China today accused the government of failing to give adequate warning before typhoon "Saomai" slammed into the region last week and said the official death toll should be at least three times higher. State media said the typhoon killed 319 people after rescuers found another 24 bodies yesterday in waters off the port city of Fuding in Fujian, the province that was hardest-hit by the storm. By yesterday, 202 people had been confirmed dead in Fuding, the official Xinhua News Agency said. However, residents in Fuding and its surrounding villages say the number of dead is higher than reported and accuse the government of failing to warn the public adequately. Family members of the dead say at least 1,000 people were killed in the storm, Xinhua said on its Website. The total death toll in Fujian stood at 230, while neighbouring Zhejiang province reported 87 deaths. Two more people were killed in the inland province of Jiangxi, Xinhua said. The typhoon tore a 12-mile path of destruction through Shacheng, a village on the outskirts of Fuding, ripping off roofs and crumbling walls, said Sina.com, a news Website. More than 10,000 fishing vessels had taken shelter in Shacheng harbour, but thousands were sunk by the fury of the storm's winds, Sina said. In Nanzhen alone, 80 people were killed and hundreds more were missing, a villager said.

Earthquakes



FIJI

London, Aug 16 — A report, dated today, states: A magnitude 6.1 earthquake occurred in lat 21.17S, long 176.28W, depth 156 km at 2353, UTC, Aug 15.

MEXICO

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake rocked Mexico City today, causing skyscrapers to sway and frightening residents, but emergency officials said no major damage or injuries were reported. The US Geological Service estimated the earthquake had a preliminary magnitude of 5.9 and struck in Michoacan, 125 miles south-west of the capital. It was centred four miles north-west of the town of Huetamo and 59 miles below ground. Electricity and telephone service did not appear to be interrupted. Some buildings announced brief evacuations, and hundreds ran into the streets. The quake was too small and based too far inland to cause a tsunami, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said.

SOUTH PACIFIC

London, Aug 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A magnitude-6.5 earthquake shook the sea floor in the South Pacific today, but there was no tsunami warning, officials said. The quake struck about 110 miles southwest of Macauley Island, which is located in New Zealand's uninhabited Kermadec Islands, said the New Zealand geological agency, GNS Science. The islands are about 500 miles northeast of Auckland, New Zealand's biggest city. GNS Science said the quake may have been felt in New Zealand's North Island, but there were no immediate reports of damage.

Volcanic Activity



MOUNT MAYON, PHILIPPINES

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Mayon volcano in the Philippines could soon unleash a huge cloud of deadly gases and ash, experts warned today, as 40 000 people prepared for a second week in crowded evacuation centres. Four powerful ash explosions rocked the spectacular 2,460-metre peak yesterday, covering nearby communities to the north-west with a light layer of dust, government vulcanologists said. Mayon, where activity has picked up over the past week, is now belching a more lethal

"pyroclastic flow" of hot volcanic gas and dust, rather than slow-moving lava, said Ed Laguerta, head of the volcano monitoring observatory. Unlike the trails of lava that have been slowly flowing down the volcano's slopes for weeks, so-called "pyroclastic flows" can cover a wide area very swiftly, moving at speeds of about 60 kph "We want to give the volcano a wide berth," said Ernesto Corpuz, head of the volcano monitoring division of the Philippine Institute of Vulcanology and Seismology. The government has evacuated about 40 000 residents living in a six-to-eight-km danger zone around the volcano, herding them into 24 overcrowded evacuation centres, most of them schools. Many residents, however, still enter the danger zone to work on their farms, guard their belongings and attend to other personal matters. The full extent of the danger posed by the volcano is not readily apparent as its crater has largely been obscured by thick clouds for days, preventing the public from seeing the ash explosions.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Soldiers from the US-led coalition killed eight "extremists" in a firefight in eastern Afghanistan, a US military statement said. The eight militants attacked coalition troops on Wednesday (Aug 16) in the Asadabad district of restive Kunar province, the statement said today. "The coalition responded to the attack with small arms, machinegun fire and grenades," it added. No coalition casualties were reported, the statement said.

COLOMBIA

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Colombian rebels kidnapped two engineers and a helicopter pilot who were part of a seismographic oil exploration crew, an official said today. The three Colombian workers were abducted yesterday in the northwestern state of Choco near the border with Panama, said state Interior Minister Freddy Lloreda. "We understand that they were carrying out evaluations in the area, looking for places to explore for oil, when they were kidnapped," he said. Lloreda said that Colombia's second-largest guerrilla group, the National Liberation Army, or ELN, was believed to be responsible. Ting Song, head of South American operations for BGP, China's largest provider of oil seismic services, said the kidnapping victims were local contract workers, not BGP employees.

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated Aug 15, states: Colombian guerillas yesterday destroyed 85 tanker trucks with six bombs in

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Maicao, a town in the north-west Colombian department of La Guajira on the Venezuelan border, authorities told local media. Gasoline carried by the trucks belonged to a Venezuelan co-operative, which was going to be distributed in the La Guajira region. Colonel Alejandro Callejas, the head of police in the region, said the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia were responsible for the assault, because they had made public threats against the Venezuelan company, saying it had links to paramilitaries. The attack also injured two people when a bomb landed and exploded in their homes.

IRAQ

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A suicide bomber detonated a belt of explosives near a highly revered Shiite shrine in southern Iraq today, killing at least 35 people and injuring 122, an official said. The bomber blew himself up while being patted down by police near the Imam Ali mosque in the Shiite holy city of Najaf, said Dr. Munthir al-Ithari, the head of the city's health directorate. Shiite religious leaders in Najaf accused Sunni loyalists of former dictator Saddam Hussein of carrying out the attack. The Iraqi army said the death toll was 35, with 122 injured. A Sunni insurgent group, Jamaat Jund al-Sahaba, or Soldiers of the Prophet's Companions, claimed responsibility for the bombing in an Internet posting. It warned Shiites to stop killing unarmed Sunnis, "otherwise wait for such operations that will shake your regions like earthquakes." In other violence, 18 people were killed across the country, most of them in Baghdad, including four policemen who died in a gunfight with insurgents. Five bodies were also found today. The Najaf bombing occurred at about 1030 hrs in a market packed with pilgrims and shoppers in front of the Imam Ali mosque, which contains the tomb of Prophet Muhammad's son-in-law, Ali. It is one of the world's most sacred shrines for Shiites, the minority sect of Islam. Shakir Obeid Hassan, who was injured in the blast, said the suicide bomber was stopped at the last police checkpoint before the shrine, which was untouched, though all the stores facing the shrine were damaged, he said. The bloodshed has dashed U.S. hopes for an early drawdown in the 127,000-member US military force in Iraq. Instead, the US military is rushing about 12,000 American and Iraqi soldiers to Baghdad. Iraq's National Security Adviser Mouwaffak al-Rubaie said police arrested 20 al-Qaida members and killed one around the country in recent days.

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated Aug 12, states: Police found a dozen bodies trapped in a grate in the Tigris River, and a roadside bomb killed two US soldiers on a foot patrol south of Baghdad today as nearly 50 violent deaths were reported across Iraq. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki

banned a Kurdish extremist party from operating in Baghdad in a move seen largely as a gesture to Turkey, which had threatened to send troops across the border to destroy the group's bases in northern Iraq. Also today, a state commission said nearly 40 top officials of the past two governments had been ordered to appear in court to answer allegations of corruption. They include former ministers of defence, labour and electricity, the commission said. The 12 bodies were found in Suwayrah, 25 miles south of Baghdad, at one of a series of metal grates fixed in the river to block debris, Mamoun al-Rubaie of the Kut city morgue said. All were men between 35 and 45 years old and had been bound, blindfolded and shot in the head or chest, al-Rubaie said. They appeared to have been the victims of sectarian death squads that operate in the religiously mixed communities in the Baghdad area. Police also found 15 other bullet-riddled bodies of men who had been handcuffed and blindfolded in six neighbourhoods throughout the Baghdad area, police Lt Mohammed Khayoun said. Another 21 people were killed today, mostly in Baghdad but also in Hillah, Mosul and Basra. The roiling violence, especially between Sunni and Shiite Muslims in the Baghdad area, has alarmed US commanders, prompting them to order nearly 12,000 more American and Iraqi soldiers into the capital. The United States currently has about 32,400 troops in Baghdad and areas south of the capital, of which about 13,500 are in the city proper, Maj Gen James Thurman said today. US and Iraqi officials have said the reinforcements will focus on about four neighbourhoods where Sunni residents do not trust the Shiite-dominated Iraqi security forces. As part of the renewed security crackdown, the US military said today that 60 men had been rounded up the day before at a funeral in the southern Arab Jabour neighbourhood, a mostly Sunni district. The 60 were believed to include members of an al-Qaida-affiliated cell that "specialises in bomb making" and carried out car bomb attacks in the capital, a US statement said. "The group has been reported to be planning and conducting training for future attacks," it said. "Multiple forms of credible intelligence led the assault force to the location, later determined to be a funeral gathering, where the suspects were detained." Late today, Iraqi state television announced that 16 "terrorists" had been arrested for allegedly exploding a dozen car bombs in Baghdad and plotting to assassinate relatives of the prime minister in his hometown near Karbala. The independent Commission for Public Integrity said the corruption allegations had been filed against 39 top officials in the governments of former prime ministers Ayad Allawi and Ibrahim al-Jaafari, according to the commission's spokesman, Ali Shabbout. Shabbout said the officials included ex-Defence Minister Hazem

Shaalan and former Labour Minister Laila Abdul Latif, both of whom served in the Allawi government, and Abdul Muhsin Shalash, the electricity minister under al-Jaafari. Some have fled the country, but Abdul Latif was released on bail, Shabbout said. In a brief statement, the government said al-Maliki had banned the Kurdistan Workers Party, a rebel group fighting for autonomy in south-eastern Turkey, from operating in Baghdad. Al-Maliki told Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of the order during a telephone conversation today, the statement said.

London, Aug 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Car bombs and a rocket barrage struck a predominantly Shiite neighbourhood in Baghdad on Sunday (Aug 13), killing at least 62 people, a municipal official said. The rockets apparently were fired from a mostly Sunni district targeted by US troops in a crackdown against the sectarian violence roiling the capital. About 140 were injured in the attack on the Zafraniyah neighbourhood in southern Baghdad, which began about 1915 with two car bombs and a barrage of an estimated nine rockets, Defence Ministry spokesman Col. Saddoun Abu al-Ula said. He said the barrage heavily damaged three buildings, including a multi-storey apartment house that collapsed. Earlier Sunday, the US command announced that soldiers of the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division had arrested a key terrorist cell leader who was "directly linked" to the Jul 17 attack on an outdoor market in Mahmoudiya, about 20 miles south of Baghdad. The statement said the arrest was made Thursday but did not give the suspect's name.

London, Aug 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Fierce gunbattles broke out today between armed supporters of an anti-US Shiite cleric and Iraqi security forces after a raid on his office in this southern holy city, leaving many people injured, officials and witnesses said. The two sides exchanged gunfire near one of Iraq's holiest shrines containing the mausoleum of Imam Hussein, a revered figure in Shiite history. At least two soldiers lay motionless on the street, apparently shot. Minutes later, other soldiers lifted their limp bodies and ferried them away in trucks. It was not clear if they were alive. Four other soldiers also suffered gunshot wounds, but were on their feet. The fighting, which began early today, spread to at least four other parts of Karbala by afternoon in violation of a curfew. Gunmen in civilian clothes could be seen firing AK-47 rifles, machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades at army patrols and running away. Soldiers fired indiscriminately at groups of gunmen roaming the streets. The violence started after Iraqi soldiers raided the office of cleric Mahmoud al-Hassani before dawn, apparently because his supporters had taken over a field behind the building for security reasons, said Ahmed al-Ghazali, an

aide to the cleric. He claimed the soldiers opened fire but the cleric's supporters did not respond. Army officials could not be immediately reached to confirm the claim. Al-Ghazali said that later in the day, armed supporters of al-Hassani attacked police stations and police checkpoints. An indefinite curfew was imposed in Karbala, 50 miles south of Baghdad, after the clashes, said Ghalib al-Daami, a member of the Karbala provincial council.

ISRAEL-LEBANON

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Israeli warplanes and artillery pounded Hezbollah positions today in attempts to gain unchallenged command of strategic high ground and disrupt guerrilla rocket attacks across the border. Israel delayed a major ground offensive to give diplomacy time to work, but Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has decided to go ahead with a new ground push in southern Lebanon, after expressing dissatisfaction over an emerging cease-fire deal, Israeli government officials said. In far northern Lebanon, Israeli jets blasted a key bridge to Syria and killed at least 12 people. The conflict for the first time touched the entire length of Lebanon, from skirmishes on the Israeli border in the south to the airstrike on the northern frontier about 105 miles away, and sent the message that no place was safe from the widening Israeli attacks. It was not immediately clear whether Israel was trying to pressure the UN Security Council, which was expected to vote soon on a cease-fire resolution, or whether it was really determined to send troops deeper into Lebanon. The Israeli officials said Israel was upset about apparent last-minute changes that seemed to weaken the mandate of a multi-national force. Earlier, UN diplomats had reported progress on the cease-fire plan, with the US ambassador to the UN, John Bolton, saying a vote was possible today, and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was in New York to continue negotiations. Hezbollah sent another barrage of more than 150 rockets towards northern Israel, it said. Israeli rescue workers said eight people in the port of Haifa were wounded by shrapnel, but they estimated the Hezbollah attack at about 80 missiles by midday. The heaviest fighting continued around Marjayoun, an important hub just north of Israel's Galilee panhandle that juts into Lebanon. The city, which is mostly Christian, gives Israeli gunners a view of the Litani River valley and other areas used as launching grounds for Hezbollah rockets. Israeli tanks rolled into Marjayoun yesterday after coming under withering Hezbollah ambushes along the way. Hundreds of civilian vehicles joined a convoy escorted by UN peacekeepers leaving Marjayoun. The exodus — which was slowed by nearby Israeli shelling — included about 350 Lebanese soldiers and police

who were in the city when Israeli forces poured in. By taking Marjayoun, the Israeli army was closer to Beirut than at any time since the fighting began Jul 12 after a cross-border raid in which Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers and killed three. Powerful explosions resounded across Beirut. Local media reported Israeli warplanes hit Hezbollah strongholds in the southern Dahieh suburb. Israel also struck an area close to the Lebanese border crossing at Masnaa in the Bekaa Valley, about 30 miles south-east of Beirut, but there were no reports of casualties. Masnaa is the main crossing into Syria, and the main escape route for hundreds of displaced Lebanese who fled the country over land. In the propaganda war, Israeli planes dropped leaflets over parts of Beirut saying Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah is "cheating" the Lebanese and hiding the number of losses among the militiamen. The paper included the names of about 90 fighters Israel said were killed. Israel has imposed a virtual lockdown on traffic across southern Lebanon and key northern routes, seeking to cut off weapon and aid shipments to Hezbollah. The attack on the Abboudiyeh border crossing apparently reflected Israeli fears that Hezbollah was still being supplied via Syria, which is Hezbollah's main sponsor along with Iran. At least 12 people were killed in the attack on the bridge, spanning the northern border, security officials said. That left the northern coastal road as the only official border crossing to Syria open for those trying to flee war-ravaged Lebanon. At least two other Lebanese civilians were killed in attacks in other parts of the country, officials said. At the same time, Israeli forces were still locked in clashes with guerrillas along the southern border. Hezbollah reported it killed or wounded 15 Israeli soldiers near the border village of Aita al-Shaab. It also said Israeli forces suffered casualties near the southern village of Rachaf. More than 800 people in Lebanon and Israel have died since fighting erupted — 732 on the Lebanese side and 122 on the Israeli side.

Beirut, Aug 12 — An Israeli air strike killed several people in southern Lebanon today, security sources said, hours after the UN Security Council unanimously passed a resolution to end the month-old war. Air strikes hit other parts of Lebanon, Israeli forces battled Hezbollah guerrillas in the south and the Israeli army said it was broadening its ground offensive. The exact death toll from the air strike on the southern Lebanese village of Rshaf was not immediately clear but one source said up to 15 people could have been killed. The Security Council resolution adopted yesterday called for a halt to the fighting and authorised up to 15,000 UN troops to be deployed to enforce a ceasefire, but Israel said its offensive in Lebanon would not be halted yet. The Lebanese government

accepted the resolution and would issue a formal acceptance to the 15-nation Security Council today, an official source said. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told US President George W. Bush he backed the resolution, an Israeli government official said. Olmert will urge his cabinet to approve the UN resolution at a meeting tomorrow. An Israeli official said before the vote, however, the Israeli army would not stop its offensive in Lebanon until the cabinet met tomorrow to consider the resolution. Air strikes today also hit Beirut's southern suburbs, roads in the northern Akkar area, electricity pylons near Sidon, Lebanon's main road to Damascus near the Syrian border and the southern city of Tyre, witnesses and security sources said. Hezbollah said its fighters had ambushed Israeli forces as they tried to move on the southern village of Qantara from Taibeh. The guerrilla group said it had destroyed seven tanks in the fighting. The Israeli army said one was hit. At least 1,041 people in Lebanon and 124 Israelis have been killed in the war. The UN resolution called for a "full cessation of hostilities". Hezbollah should stop all attacks immediately and Israel should end "all offensive operations", it said. The Security Council said the planned UN force of up to 15,000 troops would be deployed to monitor a withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon and to help the Lebanese army maintain a ceasefire. After fighting stops, Israel must withdraw all its forces from southern Lebanon at the earliest opportunity, the resolution said. Lebanon is due to deploy its armed forces throughout southern Lebanon as Israel withdraws. — Reuters.

Beirut, Aug 13 — The United Nations said Israeli and Lebanese leaders had agreed to a ceasefire to take effect at 0500, UTC, tomorrow, as Israel reported its worst death toll yet in the month-long war against Hezbollah guerrillas. Israel, stepping up an offensive in southern Lebanon before the truce, said 19 of its soldiers were killed in clashes yesterday and that five declared missing after a helicopter was shot down were now feared dead. The Jewish state's worst single day for deaths in the war occurred as the United Nations prepared to deploy up to 15,000 troops to help enforce the ceasefire. The Israeli YNET News Internet site quoted an official in Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's office as saying Israeli troops would start withdrawing from south Lebanon within a week or two when the UN force and the Lebanese army arrived in the area. Olmert, who has backed a UN Security Council resolution passed on Friday (Aug 11) that set out ceasefire terms, was expected to ask his cabinet today to formally approve the deal. Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora said his government unanimously approved the resolution yesterday, and Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said his fighters would

abide by it once Israeli forces also adhered to it. "I am very happy to announce Olmert and Siniora have agreed that the cessation of hostilities and the end of the fighting will enter into force at 0500, UTC, Aug 14," UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said in a statement. "Preferably, the fighting should stop now to respect the spirit and intent of the Security Council decision, the object of which was to save civilian lives, to spare the pain and suffering that the civilians on both sides are living through." At least 1,067 people in Lebanon and 143 Israelis, including 104 soldiers, have been killed in the war, triggered on Jul 12 when Hizbollah guerrillas captured two Israeli soldiers in a cross-border raid. Israeli warplanes launched scores of strikes on more than 50 villages and towns across Lebanon today. Three civilians were killed and 13 wounded in a raid on the village of Ali Al Nahri in the eastern Bekaa Valley, security sources said. Helicopters lifted hundreds of Israeli troops into south Lebanon yesterday as part of an expanding offensive. Israel's Army Radio said today almost 30,000 troops were operating in southern Lebanon against Hizbollah. The Israeli army said it had killed more than 40 guerrillas in 24 hours. Hizbollah denied it had lost 40 fighters. Nasrallah said Hizbollah would abide by the UN resolution and co-operate with the U.N. and Lebanese troops, but would carry on confronting any Israeli soldiers on Lebanese soil. France is widely expected to lead the planned UN force, which will expand the existing UN Interim Force in Lebanon but have a stronger mandate. French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy made clear in an interview with *Le Monde* newspaper the mission of the new force would not include disarming Hizbollah by force. A senior Israeli commander, Major General Udi Adam, said some Israeli forces had reached as far as the Litani river in Lebanon. The river is a few kilometres from the border at some points but about 20 km away at others. Adam said at least 500 Hizbollah guerrillas had been killed in the war. Hizbollah has announced less than 100 deaths. — Reuters.

Beirut, Aug 14 — A local press report, dated today, states: Calm prevailed across Lebanon as soon as a UN-brokered ceasefire deal aimed at ending the month-long war in Lebanon entered into force at 0500, UTC, today. Israeli warplanes disappeared from the sky over the Lebanese capital, as well as the war-battered south and east of the country, police and press correspondents in the area said. Israel had launched an 11th-hour wave of air strikes on Lebanon before the agreed "cessation of hostilities" took effect. A Lebanese army sergeant was killed and six soldiers wounded in eastern Lebanon, when warplanes fired a missile on a van north of the ancient city of Baalbek, police said. Just before the ceasefire took hold, fighter jets also dropped leaflets over Beirut blaming Hizbollah and its Iranian and

Syrian "masters" for the destruction in Lebanon and warning that Israel would respond to any new attack. — Lloyd's Agents.

Beirut, Aug 14 — Roll on roll off *Amancara* arrived at Beirut port at 1130, local time, Aug 13, and berthed at quay No.13 from Larnaca with general cargo, five 40-foot containers, medicines, mineral water, 300 tonnes diesel oil, ambulances, nine UN cars and 10 cartons of insulin. ETD Aug 15. General cargo *Kazim Genc* arrived at Beirut at 1310, local time, Aug 13, and berthed at Quay No.14 with cargo of lentils, flour, pasta etc., ETD Aug 17. Passenger ro/ro *Princesa Marissa* arrived/sailed Beirut port Aug 13, from Larnaca. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Tens of thousands of Lebanese jammed bomb-cratered roads yesterday as they returned after a tenuous cease-fire ended 34 days of combat between Israel and Hizbollah. Highlighting the fragility of the peace, Hizbollah guerrillas fired at least 10 Katyusha rockets that landed in southern Lebanon early today, the Israeli army said, adding that nobody was injured. The army said that none of the rockets, which were fired over a two-hour period, had crossed the border and so it had not responded. The Israeli army said today it planned to begin relinquishing parts of southern Lebanon to the Lebanese army on Wednesday (Aug 16), and hopes to complete the evacuation of its forces by next week. In northern Israel, residents emerged from bomb shelters, hopeful that the barrage of nearly 4,000 Hizbollah rockets that had rained down on towns and villages since July 12 had ended, for now. Stores shuttered for weeks reopened and some people returned to the beaches in Haifa, which suffered most from guerrilla attacks. The conflict left nearly 950 people dead, 791 in Lebanon and 155 on the Israeli side, according to official counts. An estimated 500,000 Israelis and about 1 million Lebanese, or a quarter of the population, were displaced in the conflict, government officials said. The truce that took effect at 0800 largely held through its first day, although skirmishes between Israeli forces and Hizbollah left six guerrillas killed as both sides promised to retaliate when placed on the defensive. A United Nations force that now has 2,000 peacekeepers in south Lebanon is to grow to 15,000 troops, and Lebanon's army is to send in a 15,000-man contingent. The civilian toll was enormous, 692 in Lebanon and 39 in Israel, and damage to Lebanese infrastructure was sure to run into billions of dollars.

London, Aug 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Lebanon will start tomorrow to mop up 10,000-15,000 tonnes of oil that spilled into the Mediterranean Sea and covered the coast with sludge after Israel bombed a power plant over a month ago. Clean-up efforts had been hampered by fighting between Israel and Hizbollah guerrillas, but despite a

truce that began today, an ongoing Israeli sea and air blockade continues to slow the arrival of equipment and experts. "We are starting the clean-up operations as soon as tomorrow but the ceasefire has nothing to do with it. The blockade is still on so we cannot go into the sea yet," Environment Minister Yacoub Sarraf said. "So, we are going to start operations in Byblos port and we are still waiting for the embargo to be cleared." Mr Sarraf has called the spill the biggest environmental catastrophe in Lebanon's history. Israeli jets hit storage tanks at the Jiyeh plant south of Beirut on Jul 13 and 15. Mr Sarraf said satellite images indicated that it would cost at least \$US100 million to clean up, and that the longer the delay, the more areas it would reach and the harder to clean. "We are working in parallel with Cyprus and UNEP to try to define it," he said. "We are meeting in Athens on Thursday (Aug 17) to try to get an OK to go in the sea and survey it physically." Two UN experts arrived in Syria on Aug 8 to assess the spill that has reached 140km of Lebanese coastline and the Syrian shore. EU experts arrived last week. The spill threatens marine species such as bluefin tuna and sea turtles, ecologists and UNEP say, including the green turtle which is endangered in the Mediterranean. "This oil slick definitely poses a threat to biodiversity," said Ezio Amato, a biology expert at Italy's ICRAM marine research institute that works with UNEP. "Because tuna eggs float on the water surface, they can be directly affected by this oil slick with potential serious consequences for the tuna population in the Mediterranean." Black sludge has settled on the rocks, seabed and sand, including Ramlet al-Baida, one of the few white sandy beaches left in Beirut and where local ecologists say turtles nest. Turtle eggs hatch in July and with the oil in the way, baby turtles will be unable to get to deep water in time. Green Line, a local conservation group, is beginning its clean-up at a small fishing harbour off Beirut on Wednesday. It complains the spill has also caused economic damage by robbing fishermen of their livelihoods and discouraging tourism. "Hydrocarbon has been accumulating in marine life so in some areas the fish will be contaminated. The effects will last for at least six years," said Green Line's Wael Hmaidan. Kuwait and Norway have sent chemicals and equipment to clean up the oil, mostly heavy fuel which is tough to remove. "How damaging? I wish it was quantifiable. You have more evaporation of toxic waste, more dispersion of the slick, more poisonous soluble materials going in the sea," he said. "The chemical damage is already done."

Beirut, Aug 16 — A local press report, dated today, states: Lebanon's only international airport could be open as early as Thursday (Aug 17), senior officials said Monday, provided

Israel can be convinced to end its air blockade. "The final touches to rehabilitate the Rafik Hariri International Airport runways will be done today," Public Works and Transport Minister Mohammad Safadi told reporters. The airport has been shut down for more than a month after repeated Israeli air strikes holed its runways and set its fuel tanks ablaze. "The reopening of the airport from the technical point of view does not require a lot of time but there must be a political decision first," said the minister. "The main runway requires about two-and-a-half months to function properly again, but it will be capable of welcoming commercial and freight aircraft 72 hours after the cease-fire is properly implemented," he said. Regarding the rehabilitation and reconstruction of bridges and radars at ports, the minister said side roads would be temporarily used as a quick-fix solution to help Lebanese move about the country before major arteries are mended. "There are contacts taking place with all the major countries to secure transport activities for Lebanon by air and sea," said the minister, but would not specify which countries the government had contacted. Meanwhile, engineers were seen at the airport studying the damage and making assessments of the requirements to repair the runways. Aircraft carrying aid have been arriving at the airport, landing on small runways, where "the holes were temporarily fixed," an airport official said. The airport is being fully maintained, with security guards in place and cleaners keeping it in "top shape." Middle East Airlines said it was waiting for an official Cabinet decision before resuming regular flights. — Lloyd's Agents.

Beirut, Aug 16 — A local press report, dated today, states: Lebanon's power plants may soon be unable to provide any electricity to the rest of the country if tankers anchored off the coast of Cyprus do not deliver fuel in the coming days. "We are trying to secure enough fuel oil for the Zouk and Beddawi power plants but the ship owners are reluctant to unload their cargoes under the current circumstances," Energy and Water Minister Mohammad Fneish said. He added that the ministry was still negotiating with the ships' owners to dock at the ports and unload their cargoes. Sources said five vessels laden with fuel oil, kerosene and gasoline were in Cyprus awaiting final approval from Israel and the United Nations to go to Lebanon. Maritime insurance premiums in Lebanon and Israel skyrocketed after the war broke out, prompting many vessels to steer clear of the two countries. Israel is still imposing a tough naval, air and ground blockade on Lebanon in an attempt to pressure the government to disarm Hezbollah. Several key power plants in the South, North and the Bekaa Valley were targeted by Israeli war planes during the intense fighting. Since the start of the war on

Jul 12, Electricite du Liban has increased electricity rationing from six hours per day to more than 12 hours. Some areas, especially in the South and Beirut's southern suburbs, get no electricity at all. Sources fear that if the ships fail to unload fuel on in one week EDL will run out of fuel oil before the end of this month. But Fneish assured Lebanese that the ministry would seek all options to bring in fuel oil, adding that the government would not let the country's citizens down. "We don't want to create any panic. All that I can say is that we are doing our best to provide electricity," the minister said. The fuel-oil shortage will surely also affect the private generator owners who are providing electricity to some areas. In addition, Lebanon is still experiencing an acute gasoline shortage despite promises to deliver sufficient stocks to all gas stations. Syria has already delivered 300,000 litres of gasoline to Lebanon but some of this shipment ended on the black market. A 20-litre tank of gasoline is selling for more than LL50,000 on the black market but some gas-station owners say this phenomenon will end once all routes to Lebanon are open. — Lloyd's Agents.

Beirut, Aug 16 — The agent of below tankers informed us that they will arrive today at EDL Zouk Terminal Beirut and Deir Ammar Power Plant at Tripoli. Product tanker *Bauci* ETA Beirut at 1600, today, with cargo of fuel oil to discharge at EDL Zouk Terminal. Combined chemical and oil tanker *West Point* ETA Beirut at 1600, today, at meeting point, which is situated 270 deg, 65 miles west of Beirut port, with cargo of diesel oil to discharge at EDL Deir Ammar Power Plant at Tripoli. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: The Israeli army began handing over positions to the U.N. early today, stepping up its withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Hours later Lebanon's army moved south and began deploying below the Litani River, a senior military official said. The rapid developments aimed at ending 34 days of fighting came after Lebanon's government agreed to deploy troops near Israel's border for the first time in 40 years. A senior official in the Lebanese army said around dawn today that Lebanese troops, backed by tanks and other armored vehicles, had begun arriving south of the river in line with the U.N. cease-fire plan. The Lebanese Cabinet decision fell short of agreement on disarming Hezbollah, the Shiite Muslim militant group, which has insisted that it has the right to defend Lebanese territory as long as Israeli troops remain in the country. More than 50 percent of the areas Israel holds has been transferred to the United Nations peacekeeping force known as UNIFIL, the Israeli army said, adding the process would occur in stages and would depend on a stronger U.N. force as well as "the ability of the Lebanese army to take effective control of the area." The

army said it was the first time it had handed over territory to the United Nations, although it had redeployed some of its forces previously. The cease-fire plan calls for the 2,000-member U.N. force to increase to 15,000 and to be joined eventually by an equal number of Lebanese to assume control as Israeli forces withdraw.

Beirut, Aug 17 — A local press report, dated today, states: The gasoline and fuel oil shortage is expected to ease in the coming days with the arrival of two tankers today. "The Lebanese authorities have received permission from the UN and Israel to allow the two vessels to dock in the Zouk and Tripoli ports," Bahij Abu Hamzeh, the president of the Oil Importing Companies Association, said. He added that the Israeli Navy appears to be intercepting and boarding all vessels off the Lebanese coast to check cargoes. The four-week Israeli blockade of Lebanon has deprived the country of many basic needs, including gasoline, fuel oil and kerosene. A third tanker that is carrying 28,000 tons of gasoline is expected to arrive at one of the ports on Friday (Aug 18) or Saturday. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, which has so far largely ended the fighting that killed over 1,100 Lebanese, does not stipulate that Israel should maintain its blockade on Lebanon. Prime Minister Fouad Siniora urged the United States, the UN and all influential western nations to end the Israeli blockade. Officials fear that if the Israelis continue to prevent tankers from coming to Lebanon, the whole country will be deprived of electricity before the end of this month. Electricite du Liban, the state-owned electricity company, is supplying most areas with less than 12 hours of electricity a day. Abu Hamzeh said that if the tankers were able to unload their cargoes this week then Lebanon will have enough gasoline for at least another 10 days. Many countries have pledged to send fuel oil and gasoline once the blockade is lifted. Abu Hamzeh said Lebanon normally consumes 4.5 million litres of gasoline per day. "Now we are getting less than 2.5 million liters from Syria and other countries and this quantity does not satisfy the entire market," Abu Hamzeh said. The price of 20 liters of gasoline is now officially LL24,900 compared to LL22,000 before the war. On the black market, the price of 20 liters ranges between LL35,000 to LL50,000. The Energy and Water Ministry attributed the rise in price to the spiraling cost of oil on the international market. "The Finance Ministry is not getting a penny from the fuel oil or gasoline sold to pumping stations and consumers," Abu Hamzeh said. — Lloyd's Agents.

Beirut, Aug 17 — A local press report, dated today, states: Lebanon suffered at least \$3.5 billion in direct material losses from Israel's month-long bombardment, the head of the

Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) said yesterday. Fadl Shalak said that as long as there is political consensus, repairing the \$1.5 billion of damaged infrastructure could take as little as a year to 18 months, but rebuilding the \$2 billion of destroyed buildings will take a minimum of three to four years. "This is a huge loss for a small country like Lebanon and does not include indirect economic losses. What happened is catastrophic. I have seen all the wars in Lebanon and have never seen anything like this," he said, adding that the latest estimates are not final and do not include indirect economic losses. With the cease-fire in its third day, key players across all sectors of the economy convened meetings to assess the damages and draft recovery strategies. Waji al-Bisri, acting head of the Association of Lebanese Industrialists (ALI), estimated that \$200 million in direct damage was inflicted on the entire industrial sector, although dairy, cement, glass and prefab housing factories were hit hardest. "The closure is costing us an additional \$30 million per day," Bisri said in reference to Israel's naval blockade. "As long as the ports remain closed we can't go back to work normally so we're trying to lobby all the contacts we have to get it lifted." According to a statement released yesterday by ALI, 10 percent of total war damage was borne by Lebanon's industrial sector. The group plans to present a proposal to the Cabinet ministers, asking the government to reschedule the debts of clients whose finances deteriorated as a result of the conflict; give fiscal incentives to rebuild factories; scrap export and import duties on raw materials; reschedule VAT taxes; and assist the banking sector in "finding the appropriate mechanism to reschedule debts." Direct losses to the telecom sector are at least \$99 million, according to some estimates. A representative from the Telecom Ministry did not know exact figures and said "the minister is not talking about damage right now." Mohammad Shabib, the managing director of MTC Touch Lebanon, also said he did not know the extent of destruction of telecom infrastructure in the South. "We started to survey the damaged sites in all areas the moment the cease-fire went into effect," he said, "and we're working on a recovery plan with the ministry." The damage to the twin engines of Lebanon's service-oriented economy, tourism and real estate, will be the hardest to assess. Both depend on Lebanon's public image. Tourism accounted for 9 percent of national GDP before the onset of hostilities, and Tourism Minister Joe Sarkis was optimistic that the sector was on its way back to its pre-Civil War contribution of 20 percent. Sarkis plans to move ahead. "We are preparing to launch a big campaign of solidarity in Lebanon involving artists and other public figures so tourists come back to Lebanon," he said. "They will

comment on destruction, but also show them how it was before." — Lloyd's Agents.

Beirut, Aug 17 — It was declared by the National Media Agency that Beirut International Airport will resume its operation this afternoon receiving three aircraft: M.E.A., ALIA and British Airways. — Lloyd's Agents.

NIGERIA

London, Aug 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Three Filipino oil workers taken hostage in southern Nigeria were released Monday, hours after four other foreigners were snatched from a night club as gunbattles broke out throughout the country's oil hub of Port Harcourt. Nigeria's oil-rich southeastern delta has seen a spate of such abductions within the last week. Kidnappings and sabotage attacks by militants who argue that the impoverished region fails to benefit from its oil have cut Nigerian production by more than 20 percent since the beginning of the year, adding to volatility in global oil markets.

PAKISTAN

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated Aug 12, states: A bomb blew up a state-owned gas pipeline in south-western Pakistan today, leaving thousands without gas but causing no injuries, a spokesman said. Nobody claimed responsibility for the attack in Quetta, the capital of volatile Baluchistan province. Maqbool Ahmed, spokesman for Sui Southern Gas Pipelines Ltd, said work was under way to restore supplies. He gave no further details, but similar attacks have previously been blamed on renegade tribesmen who have launched a violent campaign to pressure the central government for increases in royalties for gas extracted in their areas.

SRI LANKA

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: The Sri Lankan military attacked Tamil Tiger rebels from land and air today, and the rebels retaliated in heavy fighting that killed at least 13 combatants, officials said. A Nordic cease-fire monitor warned that the situation was worsening. A senior rebel official, Seevarathnam Puleedevan, said at least 50 civilians had been killed and 200 injured in the government military operation, but a military spokesman said he was unaware of any civilian casualties. Puleedevan appealed to the International Committee of the Red Cross to help evacuate civilian casualties, saying there were not enough facilities locally available there to treat them. At least six government soldiers were killed and 49 wounded and admitted to hospital, a doctor said. A Tiger spokesman, Rasiah Ilanthirayan, said seven rebels had died and 15 others were wounded. "It is a warlike situation, our forces are retaliating with artillery fire and direct gun fire," Ilanthirayan said.

"The situation is worsening," said Robert Nilsson, a member of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission. "Hopefully there will be a change of heart, this has already gone too far." The fighting centred around a key reservoir and canal in Trincomalee district, which in recent weeks has seen some of the worst fighting since the country's 2002 cease-fire, with estimates of the number of combatants and civilians killed ranging from about 100 to 300. Dr B.G.M. Costa, a hospital doctor in Kantale, a town in the area, said the bodies of five soldiers had been brought in and 35 others were wounded. Two with critical injuries were flown to Colombo. Military spokesman Maj Upali Rajapakse said he was not aware of any civilian casualties, but said the rebels were "known for using civilians as human shields and they place their gun positions around civilian villages." The rebels closed sluice gates at the reservoir on Jul 20, cutting water to over 60,000 people living in government-controlled villages, after accusing the government of reneging on a pledge to boost water in rebel-held areas. The rebels announced on Tuesday (Aug 8) that they were reopening the gates, saying that heavy attacks on rebel areas by army troops were hurting civilians, and the military said yesterday that it had reclaimed control of the waterway. However, the government resumed shelling the area around the reservoir the same day, saying it needed to clear the area of rebels so they would not be able to block the water supply again. "From dawn today, the Sri Lankan army has launched a full-fledged offensive operation against our territories involving thousands of troops, heavy guns and bombardment," rebel spokesman Ilanthirayan said.

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated Aug 11, states: The rebel Tamil Tigers and the Sri Lankan Army pounded each other's positions with artillery, today, as the fighting spread from the east to the rebel-dominated north. The Tigers said troops were trying to breach a border that divides government territory from land controlled by the rebels in the northern Jaffna peninsula, and they said that hundreds of civilians were fleeing army shelling. Fighting that has raged in the east for 17 days was also spreading, they said, adding that the air force bombed a Tiger training camp, killing many rebels. Truce monitors confirmed artillery exchanges at three points along the Jaffna border, including the main entry point at Muhamalai. Goods travelling by land must pass through there to reach the army-held area of the peninsula, which is hemmed in by Tiger territory and guarded by 40,000 troops. "It is definitely very dangerous, opening up on several fronts," said Robban Nilsson of the unarmed Nordic mission monitoring the 2002 truce. An unidentified aircraft had fired rockets at the Palali airbase in Jaffna. The air force said

the base came under artillery fire. A witness in Jaffna reported hearing fierce shelling in the distance and said that the military announced an indefinite curfew over an emergency radio channel. Shops must now stay closed and people must stay off the streets. The Tigers said air force jets had pounded rebel positions in the eastern district of Batticaloa, south of a disputed waterway, near which fighting has been concentrated. The government said it will not halt operations until it controls the disputed sluice and an irrigation reservoir that feeds it.

Jaffna, Aug 12 — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels said today they had broken through army defences in the island's far north and were advancing on the government-held Jaffna peninsula, in the fiercest fighting since a 2002 truce. The Tigers said they had destroyed army checkpoints and were advancing along the main A9 arterial road that connects Jaffna to their stronghold. Aid workers reported pockets of fighting inside government territory near army defence lines and truce monitors received reports of fighting on beaches near Jaffna. Residents said hundreds were fleeing fishing villages near Jaffna. The military said it still controlled the whole peninsula and had killed 100 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels, but said a few might have got through. The Navy said it had sunk five Sea Tiger boats near Jaffna. "We have completely destroyed the army checkpoints at the Muhamalai border crossing, and we are advancing on Jaffna," a Tiger official at the rebel Voice of Tigers radio station said. He said that the rebels' feared Sea Tiger wing had attacked just south of Jaffna town and assaulted a navy base at the island's northern tip before dawn. Hundreds of residents fled villages near Jaffna, and sought refuge in Catholic churches. Expatriates headed to a UN compound after being warned to leave immediately. Around 40,000 troops are stationed in Jaffna, which is cut off from the rest of the island by rebel territory. In the east of the island, the Tigers rained artillery on the strategic port of Trincomalee, a vital maritime army supply line to Jaffna, before dawn. The military said there was some damage, but gave no details. A witness in Jaffna, where the army has declared an indefinite curfew to keep people in their homes, heard a fierce exchange of artillery fire to the east, and said electricity to the town had died. Sri Lanka's Tamils consider Jaffna their cultural homeland, and analysts say the Tigers are intent on recapturing it. Robban Nilsson of the unarmed Nordic truce monitoring mission said government fighting on new fronts in the north and east was very worrying. The military accused the Tigers of provoking the northern confrontation and the government has said it will not halt operations until it controls a disputed waterway in the east and an irrigation reservoir that feeds it. This was the issue which sparked the

fighting 18 days ago. The Tigers insist the land is theirs and say continued army attacks are effectively a declaration of war. Monitors said nearly 300 majority Sinhalese civilians in government areas had been given assault rifles near the sluice area. North of the town of Batticaloa towards a sluice gate on the waterway, the Red Cross say at least 15,000 Tamils are displaced behind rebel lines having spent days under shellfire. A further 30,000 people are in camps in government territory. The Tigers have long demanded a separate homeland for ethnic Tamils in the north and east of Sri Lanka but President Mahinda Rajapakse has ruled this out. The rebels say any return to stalled peace talks is a distant prospect. — Reuters.

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Tamil Tiger rebels have offered to renew peace talks after weeks intense fighting that brought Sri Lanka close to resuming its civil war, a senior government official said today. The offer by the rebels was conveyed through a Nordic cease-fire monitoring mission and has been accepted by the government, said Palitha Kohona, chief of the government's peace secretariat. After learning of the rebels' offer, "we gave a very positive answer, and we said we will start talks immediately," he said. Officials were waiting for word from the Tigers to set a time and place for the talks, Kohona said. The offer came two days ago, and the government is still prepared to talk despite yesterday's assassination of a senior peace secretariat official in a suburb of Colombo, the capital, he said. The government blamed the rebels for the assassination of Ketheesh Loganathan, deputy chief of the secretariat, which has co-ordinated the government's side of a Norway-brokered peace process. Loganathan, a Tamil, was shot at his home, and the government's peace Website said the rebel group killed Loganathan "in its quest to eliminate prominent Tamil citizens of Sri Lanka opposed to the ruthless brutality" of the rebels.

Colombo, Aug 14 — Seven people were killed and 17 others were injured today, when a security forces convoy escorting a Pakistan embassy vehicle was hit by a Claymore fragmentation mine, officials and bomb squad officers said. A driver from the convoy said the embassy vehicle was slightly damaged, but no one was hurt. He refused to identify any passengers in the vehicle. The Pakistani ambassador was uninjured, the bomb squad said. "Seven people were dead on arrival. We have 17 other people who are injured and being treated now," Colombo National Hospital director Hector Weerasinghe. The blast shook the windows of the Reuters office in the capital, and hit just hours after a suspected Tamil Tiger front threatened to attack civilians if the military continued attacks on Tamil Tiger rebel territory. The rebels had earlier today accused the government of bombing an orphanage in rebel

territory and killing 43 schoolgirls. A driver from the convoy which was escorting a Pakistan embassy vehicle said he believed the convoy had been hit by two Claymore fragmentation mines. The embassy vehicle was slightly damaged, but nobody in it was injured. — Reuters.

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Government troops killed over 50 Tamil rebels when the guerrillas staged a fresh attack on Sri Lanka's Jaffna peninsula, officials said, a day after the president said the door was still open for peace talks. Troops beat back the attempt by the rebels to overrun their defences and killed the guerrillas in fierce close-quarter fighting in the early hours on the northern peninsula, the defence ministry and military officials said. President Mahinda Rajapakse said yesterday the door remained open for peace talks with the Tamil Tigers but stressed soldiers would take defensive action if necessary. The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) launched the seaborne attack on army bunkers at Kilali on the peninsula's southwestern edge, defence ministry spokesman Upali Rajapakse said. "We have successfully repulsed the attack," Rajapakse said. "We have seen at least 50 bodies of Tigers ahead of our defence line after the battle that lasted several hours." He gave no soldier casualty figures. But military officials who wished to remain unnamed said they had recovered 56 rebel bodies and at least six soldiers were killed and 60 wounded in the intense battle. The guerrillas landed at Kilali after travelling in waves of boats across the Jaffna lagoon, officials said. The military fired on them with rocket launchers before the two sides battled at close quarters. There was no immediate reaction from the guerrillas to the military claims, but the pro-rebel Tamilnet.com website said heavy overnight fighting was reported in the peninsula.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated Aug 11, states: British officials today identified 19 of the suspects accused of planning to blow up US-bound aircraft in the biggest terrorist plot to be uncovered since 9/11. In Pakistan, officials reported signs of an al-Qaida connection and said they had detained a "key person" in the case. Travellers saw shorter lines at airports as flight schedules slowly returned to normal, one day after the disclosure of the alleged conspiracy severely disrupted British air traffic. British police have arrested 24 people suspected of involvement in the plot. At least one was reportedly a woman with a small child; two others were converts to Islam. One of the suspects reportedly worked at Heathrow Airport. The Bank of England said it had frozen the accounts of 19 people arrested yesterday. The men, ranging in age from 17 to 35, had Muslim names, many of them common in Pakistan. Pakistani officials said they

were British-born. In addition, five Pakistanis have been arrested in Pakistan as suspected “facilitators” of the plot, a government official said, as well as two Britons arrested there about a week ago. The Pakistani Foreign Ministry named British national Rashid Rauf as a “key person” under arrest. Investigators said the planners sought to use common electronic devices to detonate liquid explosives to bring down as many as 10 aircraft. The bombs were to be assembled on board the aircraft, apparently with peroxide-based solution and everyday carry-on items such as a disposable camera or a music player, two American law enforcement officials said. A federal law enforcement official in Washington said at least one martyrdom tape was found during raids across England yesterday. Such a tape, as well as the scheme to strike a range of targets at roughly the same time, is a hallmark of al-Qaida. Home Secretary John Reid said Britain was grateful for Pakistan’s co-operation and that officials believed the main suspects were in custody. However, the threat level in the UK remained at “critical,” the highest level. Agents in Pakistan arrested at least seven people, including two British nationals of Pakistani origin who provided information on the terror plot, a senior government official said today. The arrests were made in the eastern city of Lahore and in Karachi, the official said. Two were Britons arrested about a week ago, he said. The five Pakistanis were arrested on suspicion they served as local “facilitators” for the two Britons, the official said. Airline passengers faced a second day of disruptions and disappointment as airports struggled to restore flight schedules. “It is going to be another difficult day today, both for airports and for passengers, but there is cause for optimism that we will get more flights off today,” said Stephen Nelson, chief executive of British Airports Authority, which runs Britain’s major airports. At Heathrow, Europe’s busiest airport, around 70% of flights were running, and most inbound flights arrived on time, although flights from the United States — which increased security measures in the wake of the threat — were heavily delayed. The raids in Britain yesterday followed a months-long investigation, but US intelligence officials said authorities moved quickly after learning the plotters hoped to stage a practice run within two days, with the actual attack expected just days after that. The test run was designed to see whether the plotters would be able to smuggle the needed materials on board the aircraft, the officials said. Targeted were United, American and Continental flights from Britain to major US destinations, which counter-terrorism officials said probably included New York, Los Angeles and Washington. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said the

individuals plotted to detonate liquid explosive devices on as many as 10 aircraft. The raids were carried out at homes in London, High Wycombe and Birmingham. Police still guarded homes in High Wycombe, where the Muslim community expressed outrage that their community and children had been thrust into the international spotlight. New security measures banning liquids and gels on flights remained in place today. The threat of liquid explosives led to a ban on carrying nearly any kind of fluid on board an aircraft. Mothers tasted baby bottles in front of airport security guards to prove it contained milk or formula, not a component of an explosive.



NIGERIA

London, Aug 10 — Two Norwegians have been taken from a ship off the coast of Nigeria “Two Norwegians have been kidnapped from a Norwegian-operated ship,” according to information adviser Trine Broe-Andersen at the Foreign Ministry (UD). The two are employees of shipping company Trico Supply and were reportedly kidnapped along with two Ukrainian colleagues, according to Bjørn Endresen, director of the company. “I cannot say anything other than that we have a kidnapping situation. We have four employees who were taken offshore in Nigeria and we are working frantically to get them released,” Endresen told Aftenposten.no. The four were taken just before midnight on Tuesday from anchor handling tug/supply *Northern Comrade* just outside the oil rich Niger Delta region, the UD said. The kidnapers came on board and forced the Norwegian master, another Norwegian and the two Ukrainian citizens. A ransom demand has been made but the company would not divulge the amount. Endresen said that Trico Supply, with offices in Fosnavag, is co-operating with police, Interpol and Norway’s National Criminal Investigation Service (NCIS). Trico’s office in Nigeria has specialists working on the matter. The Norwegian ambassador to Nigeria, Tore Nedrebo said Wednesday evening that there was a good chance the hostages would be released within 24 hours. “This is no separatist movement behind the kidnapping of the Norwegians. A local community in the Niger Delta has taken responsibility for the kidnapping,” Nedrebo told news agency NTB. The demands by the local Bayelsa are said to be linked to an economic claim the community has against the Nigerian oil company that has hired in the boat the four kidnap victims were on. Trico Supply confirmed that their personnel

in Nigeria had been in contact with the kidnap victims. “They report that those kidnapped are being treated well,” said a press release that announced that negotiations for release had begun. Endresen said that the company has procedures to deal with the long-standing threat of kidnapping that foreign nationals face in Nigeria. “There is not so much we can do on the boat but on land, during movement of personnel, we take precautions,” Endresen said. Acting UD press spokesman Frode Overland Andersen said that Norwegians were generally urged to register at the embassy in Nigeria and to monitor the latest travel advisories issued by the USA and Britain.

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated Aug 16, states: Two Norwegian and two Ukrainian oil workers being held hostage in Nigeria have been freed, as the Government promises to crack down on a surge in unrest in Africa’s largest oil producer. The four workers were taken a week ago from a vessel (anchor handling tug/supply *Northern Comrade*) servicing an offshore oil rig operated by Peak Petroleum, in partnership with Equator Exploration. Peak is in dispute with a local community over jobs and other benefits. About 16 foreign oil workers have been kidnapped in five separate abductions in the past two weeks in the oil-producing Niger Delta. Nine have been released. “We are going to be firm and say no to violence and hostage-taking,” President Olusegun Obasanjo said in a statement. “Wherever we find hostage-takers now, we will hunt them down. We will not accept this any longer.” He ordered the military and police to meet criminals in the delta “force for force”. Mr Obasanjo has also threatened to sanction companies caught paying ransoms, a practice which analysts say has fuelled the violence. The four men have been released after Peak struck an agreement to include the community in their benefits package, with the blessing of the local government.



CANCER DRUG PRICING, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated Aug 10, states: The Connecticut Attorney General said yesterday GlaxoSmithKline Plc has agreed to a \$70 million settlement over cancer drug prices. Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said in a statement the settlement will provide restitution to consumers in Connecticut, New York, Nevada, Montana and Arizona who suffered from a “decade long company scheme to inflate the price of two cancer drugs,” Zofran and Kytril.

HARRASSMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A federal jury awarded \$3.7 million to a former suburban Chicago police officer who claimed his bosses retaliated against him after he discovered evidence of corruption in the village of Stickney. Under Monday's (Aug 14) ruling, Richard Hare Sr will receive \$1.7 million in compensatory damages from the village and \$1 million in punitive damages each from Mayor Donald Tabor and Police Chief John Zitek. The 15-year police veteran filed a suit in 2002 alleging that Tabor and Zitek retaliated against him after he and five others brought evidence of corruption to the Cook County state's attorney's office. Hare claimed tactics included demoting him, taking away his car and trying to revoke his gun licence. In 2000, he testified before a grand jury that money, guns and drugs had disappeared from the police department's evidence room. Neither Tabor nor Zitek has been criminally charged. Tabor said he plans to appeal the ruling.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A jury in Lexington County, South Carolina, yesterday awarded \$30 million to the estate of Dr Asif Sheikh, who died in 2002 in unusual circumstances at Lexington Medical Centre, 17 hours after he was operated on. The jury deliberated for three days before deciding that Lexington Medical Centre — the county's largest hospital system — was responsible for Sheikh's death, along with Dr Gail Capell, the anaesthesiologist for his operation. The \$30 million was one of the highest, if not the highest, jury awards in Lexington County within memory and one of the highest ever for medical malpractice in the state, lawyers said. Sheikh family lawyer Geoffrey Fieger of Detroit argued that a lethal cocktail of narcotics delivered to Sheikh during a routine operation killed him. Defendants argued Sheikh, 58, died of an undetected heart problem or from the stress of recovering from double knee-replacement surgery. The \$30 million was for actual damages, including the loss of Sheikh's income, said during trial to be about \$470,000 a year, and loss of his companionship and role as a father. The jury found no liability against defendant Midlands Orthopaedics or against Midlands surgeon Dr Tom Gross. Sheikh had been on the hospital's board, was chief of the hospital orthopaedics board and belonged to the Midlands Orthopaedics group. The jury found Lexington Medical Centre 98% responsible for the \$30 million award and Capell 2%. However, the hospital, or rather, its insurer, will not pay anywhere near that amount. Fieger and Lexington Medical Centre lawyer

Weldon Johnson reached an agreement early in the trial that limited the hospital's exposure to \$270,000 if the jury found hospital nurses, and not doctors, liable. The jury ruled today that hospital nurses and other non-physician staffers were responsible. Also, under state law regarding liability of public hospitals, the county-operated hospital is only liable for a maximum of \$1.2 million in damages.

WRONGFUL CONVICTION, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated Aug 11, states: The city of Boston agreed to pay \$3.2 million to a man whose wrongful conviction in the shooting of a police officer led the city to revamp its fingerprinting unit. The settlement with Stephan Cowans, who was freed in January, 2004, after more than six years in prison, equalled what is believed to be the largest amount the city ever paid in a wrongful conviction case. Cowans, 35, was sentenced to 35-50 years in the 1997 wounding of Sgt. Gregory Gallagher after the police department's fingerprinting unit matched him to a print that the shooter left behind on a glass of water. Cowans was exonerated by DNA evidence through the New England Innocence Project, and the fingerprinting unit was shut down. A report found that its officers lacked proper training and were unprepared to do complex analyses. As part of the settlement, Cowans agreed to drop claims against the city, the Police Department and Gallagher, who had identified Cowans as the shooter, Boston city attorney William Sinnott said.

**CALVERT CITY, KENTUCKY, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A train slammed into the back of several parked coal cars in western Kentucky today, injuring three railroad employees and derailling the train's engines, a company official said. The cars were in the process of being switched when the Paducah and Louisville Railway, Inc., train hit them, P & L spokesman Tom Garrett said. The train's operator was hospitalized after the crash in Calvert City, about 20 miles east of Paducah. Two other P & L employees were treated for minor injuries, Garrett said. Two of the train's five engines derailed and the others came part way off the tracks. The train cars that were hit were also damaged, Garrett said. P & L officials were trying to determine how the train ended and cars ended up

in the same place at the same time. Garrett said the tracks would be back to normal within a day.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated Aug 12, states: A CTA Blue Line train heading towards O'Hare International Airport derailed early this morning on the city's Northwest side, delaying more than 130 passengers and raising concerns about rail safety. No one suffered serious injuries as a result of the accident, officials said, but three people were transported to Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Centre. The four-car train derailed at around 0320 hrs on above-ground tracks near Central Avenue, between the Jefferson Park and Harlem Blue Line stations, Chicago Transit Authority spokeswoman Wanda Taylor said. Service on a northwest section of the Blue Line was shut down for nearly three hours. The derailment was a result of a track-switching problem, officials said. As the train attempted to switch northbound tracks, two of the train's four cars correctly swapped tracks, while the other two remained on a separate track, officials said. There were no reports of smoke or fire. Two cars derailed, but did not detach from the track or hit the ground, officials said. One rail operator was on the train at the time, and that person underwent drug and alcohol screening following the derailment-standard procedure in any CTA accident.

DALLAS, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated Aug 11, states: Four Union Pacific locomotives derailed in downtown Dallas early today. The accident took place on a bridge over Stemmons Freeway, near the old Texas School Book Depository building in the West End. Union Pacific spokesman Joe Arbonna said one of the engines was on its side. Three others left the tracks but did not overturn. DART spokesman Morgan Lyons said the derailment would have no impact on light rail or Trinity Railway Express commuter traffic. No injuries were reported. The cause of the derailment was under investigation.

KAZICHENE, BULGARIA

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated Aug 16, states: The last five cars of a passenger train passing through the Kazichene train station derailed on today at about 1405, local time, the press office of the Bulgarian railroad company told said. Another train, travelling en route Burgas to Sofia hit the derailed cars and its engine has derailed as well. There are no people injured in the incident. The Bulgarian Railroad Company announced that it would provide alternate transport for the passengers in both trains. Night trains en route from Sofia to Burgas and back will be diverted through the town of Karlovo.

Computer Systems



LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Federal officials said yesterday they did not know what is causing a critical instrument landing system to fail at Los Angeles International Airport. The system, a beacon that guides aircraft to one of the airport's runways, has shut off twice within a week, most recently for about 40 minutes on Monday (Aug 14). That created delays of up to 45 minutes as controllers kept aircraft circling. "We haven't found the cause of the problem," said Steven Zaidman, vice president of technical operations for the FAA's Air Traffic Organisation. "At this point, we're maintaining technicians 24-7, full-time, to reserve the instrument landing system and reset it" whenever it shuts itself off. The Federal Aviation Administration, which owns and maintains the equipment, has drawn fire from the head of the city airports department, politicians and the air traffic controllers' union. "This is clearly a systemic problem with the equipment," Lydia Kennard, executive director of Los Angeles World Airports, said on Monday. "We believe there's something fundamentally wrong with the equipment. It has to be fixed or replaced." The malfunctioning equipment, called a localiser, is most crucial when conditions are foggy or hazy, as they were on Aug 7 when the equipment flickered off for several hours, creating 90-minute arrival delays. Zaidman, speaking in a conference call with reporters yesterday, said 46 flights were delayed during last week's outage, and 13 delays were attributed to Monday's problem. The airport averages 1,800 daily flights. In some cases when the instrument landing system is not working, pilots can land by relying on their own vision, FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said. Other times, he said, they will pull up and circle until the system is functioning. Zaidman said technicians have not been able to tell whether the problem lies with the localiser antenna array at the end of the runway, the computerised system next to the runway or the cables running between them. Zaidman said any number of things could be causing the outage, including corrosion, dust or problems with the circuit board or cable pins. He said the technician that reset the localiser on Monday found one of the cable pins was pushed in too far, but added that officials do not believe that was the cause of the repeated outages. The malfunctioning system is one of eight localisers placed at each end of the airport's four parallel runways, one of which is closed for construction.

Miscellaneous



DRUGS FOUND ON GEORGIA-FLAGGED VESSEL AT ALICANTE, SPAIN

London, Aug 14 — The Turkish captain and second officer of general cargo *Yasar Kaptan II* (3493 gt, built 1974) have been arrested at Alicante, Spain, for allegedly smuggling 22kg of heroin. Spanish police said Aug 10 the two seafarers were arrested after the Georgia-flagged vessel had called at Alicante to unload fertiliser. Spanish police arrested two other men who were about to collect the heroin cache. A source at Alicante's pilotage company, *Pilotos de Alicante*, said the *Yasar Kaptan II* arrived from Valencia on Aug 8. The Captain and second officer arrested at Alicante were expected to appear in court Aug 11. (Note — *Yasar Kaptan II* sailed Valencia Aug 7.)

POWER LINES DAMAGED BY CRANE BARGE, TOKYO, JAPAN

London, Aug 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A raised construction crane on a barge moving downriver hit high tension lines yesterday morning in Edogawa Ward, Tokyo, causing blackouts in the capital and neighbouring prefectures for nearly three hours that brought rush-hour transportation to a halt. The power failure, which occurred at about 0738 hrs, affected approximately 1.39 million households and offices in areas that included Ota, Setagaya and Minato wards as well as parts of Chiba and Kanagawa prefectures, according to Tokyo Electric Power Co. Tepco managed to reroute its electricity supply to Tokyo from other facilities, and power was restored to all affected areas by 1044 hrs, the utility said. According to the Chiba Prefectural Police, the barge operated by Mikuniya Kensetsu, an Ibaraki Prefecture-based construction firm, was on its way to a dredging operation when it raised its crane up 33 metres while being moved down the Old Edo River. The crane then made contact with the power lines, which transmit 275,000 volts from Chiba Prefecture to Tokyo. "We didn't realize there was a power line," the barge operator reportedly said. Tepco said the massive blackout occurred because a backup power supply cable was also damaged in the accident. The mishap caused numerous delays across the transport network. East Japan Railway Co. said the Keiyo Line, which runs from Tokyo to Soga, Chiba Prefecture, stopped running. More than 19,000 commuters were affected by the halt, which lasted approximately 20 minutes. Tokyo Waterfront New Transit Yurikamome, or the Yurikamome Line, halted for three hours. Some of its commuters

were forced to get off a train and walk along the Rainbow Bridge to the next station. The Ginza, Tozai and Toei Shinjuku subway lines halted services for about an hour. Tokyo Metro Co., the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Transportation Bureau and Tokyu Corp. reported that a combined 254,000 commuters were affected by the blackout. Takahiko Tanaka, who commutes from Edogawa Ward to Chiyoda Ward, said he was about half an hour late for work because the Tozai Line had stopped. The Metropolitan Police Department announced that traffic lights stopped working in at least 440 locations in the Tokyo area, although no accidents were reported during the power failure. All traffic lights were back on again by 0830 hrs. The Fire and Disaster Management Agency received 71 emergency calls from areas affected by the incident, mainly reporting halted elevators and other problems resulting from the power failure. No serious injuries were reported. Tokyo Disney Resorts in Maihama, Chiba Prefecture, which was expecting 100,000 visitors yesterday, delayed the opening time by 52 minutes to check the safety of the attractions. Some rides were still not in service as of noon due to checkups.

ROTTERDAM (Netherlands)

Poznan, Aug 17 — Agent of passenger (cruise) *Rotterdam* stated that the vessel was to leave the port but not today or tomorrow. The exact date is still unknown, the destination is probably Kaliningrad but not confirmed yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

Fires & Explosions



BUILDING, SACKVILLE, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

London, Aug 14 — A press report, dated Aug 13, states: At least five businesses and about 30 apartments have been destroyed, after a major fire in Sackville, southeastern New Brunswick. The Friday (Aug 11) night fire destroyed the Dixon Block, a 150-year-old building that was one of the last wooden structures still standing in downtown Sackville. Crews from several area fire departments fought the blaze, but were unable to save the three-storey building. No one was hurt, and most of the apartments are rented by Mount Allison University students, who are away for the summer. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

FOREST, FRANCE

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated Aug 15, states: A large forest fire near the French Riviera resort of Saint Tropez that threatened luxury properties and forced the evacuation of 4,000 people has been brought under control, firefighters said today. The

blaze, which began yesterday outside Ramatuelle raced through 56 hectares of woodland, a fire service commander, Colonel Eric Grohin, said. It occurred on a long holiday weekend, at a time when Saint Tropez was brimming with holiday makers. Most of the million-euro properties scattered through the area were unscathed, though an unoccupied century-old chateau suffered damage to its roof and pool area.

FOREST, SPAIN

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Spain's Prime Minister has interrupted his holiday to visit Galicia in the north-west of the country as hundreds of forest fires continue to ravage the region. Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero toured the affected areas and promised more help would be provided to help put out the blazes which have killed three people and scorched at least 10,000 hectares since last week. The Socialist leader said 12,000 elite military engineers will support firefighters. He also laid blame on criminal elements for starting the blazes and promised all necessary efforts would be made to bring them swiftly to prosecution. With 7,000 fire fighters on the job, backed up by 500 vehicles and 60 aircraft, Galician authorities say around 70 fires are still out of control.

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated Aug 12, states: Hundreds of paratroopers joined the struggle to control scores of forest fires in north-western Spain, while more than 20 suspected arsonists have been arrested. Defence Minister Jose Antonio Alonso, who visited firefighting crews and charred areas, announced today that the government had deployed 400 paratroopers to help in the prevention and control of fires in sensitive areas such as airports or electric power stations. Thousands of firefighters and soldiers and hundreds of volunteers tackled the flames throughout the night. Of 71 blazes in the northern Galicia region, 28 had been brought under control, regional environment spokesman Alfredo Suarez said. More than a week of wildfires has charred more than nearly 25,000 acres of forest and scrubland, mainly between the port city of Vigo and the regional capital of Santiago de Compostela. A total of 24 people have been arrested since Aug 1 on suspicion of deliberately starting many of the fires, said Emilio Perez Tourino, leader of the regional government of Galicia. He said that 15,000 people were working daily to fight the blazes in Galicia. A 45-year-old woman was arrested yesterday after she was caught standing with a box of matches and a candle amid bushes in a woodland area, the regional government said in a statement. Earlier this week, Spain asked the European Union for help in combating the blazes. Italy, France and Portugal have committed equipment and personnel, while Andorra, Morocco, Germany and the Czech Republic have offered aid.

London, Aug 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Crews battling hundreds of forest fires for the past two weeks in Spain's northwestern Galicia region have managed to control all but four blazes, officials said today. None of those fires is considered serious, and rain is forecast for tomorrow, the rural affairs department of the Galician regional government said. Cooler temperatures and the absence of wind have helped the 8,000 firefighters, soldiers and other people battling the fires, a department official said. A total of 1,750 fires broke out in Galicia from Aug 1-13, a figure the official said was well above average, although she did not have comparable figures for other years. Four people have died. Officials blame arsonists in most cases and 27 people have been arrested on suspicion of arson. Another 38 new fires were ignited today, although all but two of them were brought under control over the course of the day, the official said.

RECYCLING PLANT, WINDSOR AREA, ONTARIO, CANADA

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated Aug 15, states: Dozens of firefighters have brought under control a massive fire that blazed at a recycling plant near Windsor, Ont. today. An evacuation order was lifted by dinner time for residents in the south-western Ontario town of Amherstburg. They were allowed to return to 360 nearby homes after officials determined the smoke wasn't considered to be a health risk. Amherstburg fire Chief Richard Murray said the blaze at Enviro-Tech Plastics was expected to be extinguished by 1900, ET. The fire started early this afternoon, and sent plumes of smoke which grew to roughly the size of two football fields about 20 metres high over the area. The smoke could be seen as far away as Detroit. Windsor's hazardous materials team was sent to the site to monitor air quality, and neighbouring fire departments were called to help control the fire.

WILDFIRES, PORTUGAL

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Portugal remains on its second highest fire alert but the biggest fires are now said to be under control.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated Aug 10, states: Heat and wind dropped off a bit yesterday, giving firefighters the upper hand on half a dozen area wildfires. The Red Eagle Fire near St. Mary continued to burn westward into rock outcroppings in Glacier National Park. Fire Information Officer Kim Nelson said it's up to 30,000 acres, but it is 70% contained and poses no immediate threat. There are 718 firefighters involved with the Red Eagle Fire. Two fires north of Lincoln have been contained and a dozen firefighters are mopping them up, Lincoln District Forester Sadie Campbell said

yesterday. Firefighters also made advances yesterday on the Ford Creek Fire near Benchmark in the Rocky Mountain Front, completing a backburn to bolster a fire line on the north flank. Choteau District Ranger Mike Munoz said the fire is about 191 acres in size and 10-20% contained. Firefighters also jumped on three new lightning-caused starts in the Rocky Mountain Front.

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated Aug 11, states: A wind-driven brush fire in Nevada's Sierra foothills spread to more than eight square miles today, threatening two subdivisions just west of Reno. Nearly 60 homes were threatened by the fire, which broke out near the small community of Verdi and was burning just east of the California line, Reno fire department spokesman Steve Frady said. About 800 homes were in the area. The fire was largely burning on US Forest Service land, but edged across Reno city lines. Winds gusting up to 25 mph drove the flames in different directions. Two people were caught in the fire area after it broke out this afternoon and one apparently received a leg injury, Frady said. Firefighters led both to safety. At least seven small air tankers were on the scene along with helicopters, 36 fire engines and a force of some 200 firefighters on the ground. Sightseers clogging the narrow roads in the area were hampering firefighters, Frady said. Elsewhere, firefighters from Australia and New Zealand arrived in Idaho today to help battle wind-whipped wildfires across dozens of square miles. The National Interagency Fire Centre in Boise was tracking 64 active large fires across the western US today that had burned more than 600 square miles. Idaho and Oregon each had 10 large fires, followed by Montana with eight and California with seven. The fire centre used a long-standing partnership agreement with Australia and New Zealand to bring in nearly 50 foreign reinforcements. "They come with the skills we need at a time when we need them," said Tom Frey, international program manager at the nation's firefighting headquarters. The first wave of foreign fire specialists included 15 helicopter managers, 26 mid-level fireline managers and five liaison officers to help integrate the foreign forces into fire management teams. "They use a command system very similar to ours and their training and fitness requirements are much like ours," Frey said.

London, Aug 15 — A press report, dated Aug 14, states: Firefighters today gained ground on a wildfire along the northern edge of Los Angeles County that temporarily closed a major freeway and knocked out electricity to more than 4,000 homes, authorities said. The blaze had scorched more than six square miles, or 4,000 acres, of hillside, fire dispatchers said, and was 60% contained. Winds up to 15 mph blew the flames in the direction of Frazier Park, a community of about 2,200

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residents, but authorities said no homes were immediately threatened. Two outbuildings were damaged. The blaze broke out yesterday and damaged a Southern California Edison substation and at least six power lines, company spokesman Jeremy Rawitch said. By last night, power was restored to all but 75 customers, Rawitch said. The fire also forced the partial closure of Interstate 5 for more than three hours. The cause was under investigation. One firefighter was treated for heat exhaustion, officials said. A second wildfire northeast of San Jacinto in Riverside County burned more than 300 acres of steep mountainous terrain and was contained, said Captain Julie Hutchinson with the California Department of Forestry. It had been sparked by fireworks on Saturday (Aug 12), Hutchinson said.

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A wind-whipped wildfire threatened hundreds of homes under an evacuation order south of Casper, and firefighters today eyed a weather forecast that could create conditions for the fire to spread. Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal declared a state of emergency as the blaze covered 7,000 acres, or 11 square miles. Officials said winds forced firefighters to pull back in places because embers were blowing across fire lines and creating spot fires behind firefighters. “The weather report isn’t favorable for tomorrow,” said State Forester Bill Crasper last night. Temperatures were predicted in the 90s again today, and isolated thunderstorms were possible. The fire was about five miles south of Casper, but it was moving south-east, away from the city, towards scattered rural subdivisions. Crasper estimated about 225 firefighters were on the fire, but said he expected numbers to go up significantly as more crews are pulled from other fires elsewhere. “We’re still calling for resources all around the country. With the fire activity going on about the country, resources are hard to come by,” Crasper said. Elsewhere, cooler air helped firefighters in southern California advance on a blaze that charred about 7.5 square miles and temporarily cut power in northern Los Angeles County on Sunday (Aug 13). Germain Aguilara, spokesman for the Los Angeles County Fire Department, said they hoped to have the fire fully contained by tonight. “The crew keeps advancing on it,” Aguilara said. “As long as the wind out there is not erratic, that will help us make progress.” In Washington state, about 550 Army soldiers were undergoing basic fire training before being dispatched in 20-person crews to help on a 141-square-mile wildfire in the Okanogan and Wenatchee national forests. In Idaho, a blaze in the Salmon-Challis National Forest, seven miles north of Stanley, had grown to more than 25 square miles and was threatening vacation cabins. In Montana, a 50-square-mile fire in the north-western part of the state near the Canadian border showed little

activity, and was 75% contained. Meanwhile, residents of nine homes in Ravalli County were asked to be prepared to leave as a fire south-east of Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park grew to less than a square mile. Lightning in northern Nevada also started 10 brush fires in Elko County along a 100-mile stretch from Interstate 80 to near the Idaho line, authorities said yesterday. Five firefighters were treated after their truck overturned, but the most serious injury was a broken arm, authorities said.

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: More firefighters and equipment arrived to help fight a wildfire that’s threatening subdivisions south of Casper. By noon, the fire had burned about 9,600 acres, 15 square miles, on Casper Mountain. The fire was burning in pine forest about five miles south of Casper, near the center of the state. Gov. Dave Freudenthal earlier declared a state of emergency as the flames moved toward the subdivisions. About 300 homes were evacuated.



7T-VHG

Genoa, Aug 14 — Algerian C130 cargo aircraft, 7T-VHG, during flight from Algiers to Francoforte, crashed near Piacenza, Northern Italy, at about 2016, local time, Aug 13. Three crew members killed and damage reported to some buildings and farmhouses. Aircraft reportedly exploded into pieces. — Lloyd’s Agents.

C-FHMF

London, Aug 15 — Helicopter Transport Services McDonnell Douglas 369E helicopter was transporting two line cutters from base camp to a position a few miles west of Davy Lake, Saskatchewan. About four miles west the pilot executed a descending 180 degree turn over a small lake. During the turn, a high rate of descent developed, and the helicopter struck the water, overturned and submerged about 100 feet from the shore at 0830, CST, Aug 13. All occupants were able to evacuate. One passenger was unable to reach shore and is missing.

CRASH INTO LAKE TELETSKOYE, SIBERIA, RUSSIA

London, Aug 14 — A press report, dated today, states: An amphibious aircraft, presumably carrying three crew, crashed in the Republic of Altai early today, the Interfax news agency reports. The aircraft crashed into Lake Teletskoye near the mouth of the Uba River 10 kilometres east of the village of Artybash in the Turochaksky district, the press service of the Siberian Regional Emergency Situations Centre has announced, citing a report received at 0320, today.

The aircraft’s tail can be seen on the lake’s surface, it said. The aircraft could have been carrying three people. A rescue team was urgently dispatched to the site of the crash, the press service said.

CRASH, COLDWATER AREA, BRANCH COUNTY, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES

See N208BY.

CRASH, NORTH WEST TERRITORIES, CANADA

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Six people flying out to attend a funeral were found dead yesterday in the wreckage of a small commercial aircraft that crashed in a remote, mountainous area of the Northwest Territories. “There had been a drowning and these people had attended the funeral of the drowning victim,” said RCMP Sgt. Larry O’Brien. “We can’t confirm identities yet, our members are still working on that.” However, a relative of some of the victims identified them as Judith Pierrot, a young child; Farrah Grandjame, a teenager; and adults Gary Grandjame, Kenny Stewart and Alfred Mazazumi. The pilot also died. RCMP said the North-Wright Airways aircraft left Fort Good Hope with five passengers and a pilot, and was due to arrive in Norman Wells about 1315. But when it didn’t arrive by 1450, a search and rescue effort was mounted by RCMP along with civilian personnel. “When the aircraft was reported missing, several aircraft were sent up from Norman Wells, commercial planes, to search for it,” said O’Brien. “In addition, a helicopter left Norman Wells with one of the local RCMP members on board, and it was these aircraft that were able to find the crash.” An emergency locator transmitter signal was picked up which pointed to a specific area where the aircraft had gone down somewhere between the two communities. When the crash site was found, there were no survivors. “Our investigators will be deploying tomorrow morning,” said Lee.

CRASH, VICTORIAN ALPS, AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated Aug 11, states: The Civil Aviation Safety Authority is investigating Wednesday night’s (Aug 9) aircraft crash near the Mt Baw Baw ski resort in Victoria. Three men and a Melbourne pilot were on their way from Merimbula to Melbourne in a hired Cessna aircraft, when they were forced to land in bad weather. They were rescued early yesterday morning after spending the night in the snow. Peter Gibson from CASA said the pilot had more than 30 years’ flying experience and was also a flight instructor.

INCIDENT AT JACKSON-EVERS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ATLANTA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A jetliner strayed off the runway last night at an airport and got stuck in the mud, stranding more than 200 passengers for hours,

authorities said. The Delta Airlines jet, bound for Atlanta from San Francisco, was diverted to Jackson because of bad weather in the Atlanta area, an airport official said. After refueling, pilots edged off the runway at Jackson-Evers International Airport and the aircraft became stuck. Dirk Vanderleest, airport chief executive officer, said none of the 223 passengers were injured. He said Delta was sending another passenger jet to pick up those stranded in Jackson. The second plane was due around midnight. The jet stuck in the mud won't be moved until daylight.

N133BH

London, Aug 15 — Piper PA-23-250 (Apache) N133BH crashed near Chippewa County Airport, Sault Saint Marie, Michigan, at 0918, Aug 14, while on a flight from Waukesha, Wisconsin, to Sault Saint Marie. The aircraft was destroyed. The four persons on board were killed.

N168PT

London, Aug 14 — Robinson R44 Astro N168PT crashed into the ocean off Astoria, Oregon, at 1530, Aug 13, while on a local flight from Vancouver, Washington. The three persons on board were killed.

N208BY

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft crashed in south-west Michigan this morning, killing one man and seriously injuring another. Another aircraft reported an aircraft down just after 1014 hrs, about a mile west of the Branch County Airport, in Batavia Township. Coldwater Police said two men from Jackson were on board the biplane, a small aircraft commonly used for training. The passenger, Thomas Bolenbaugh, 81, died on the scene after the fuel tank caught fire. The pilot, Richard Dix, 71, was able to get out of the burning aircraft. A volunteer with the Bronson Fire Department dragged him to safety in a nearby corn field. Dix was airlifted to a hospital in Kalamazoo. He is in serious condition tonight, being treated for head and spine injuries. Coldwater Fire Department, Bronson Fire Department and Coldwater Police responded to the crash. It is now being investigated by the Branch County Sheriff's Department and the Federal Aviation Administration.

London, Aug 14 — Acro-Sport II N208BY crashed near Coldwater, Michigan, at 1409, Aug 12. One of the two persons on board was killed and the other was seriously injured.

N355EV

London, Aug 14 — Eurocopter AS 350B3 (Ecureuil) N355EV, operated by Ventures Acquisition Company LLC, crashed near Yellow Pine, Idaho, at 2356, Aug 13, while on a flight from McCall, ID. The aircraft was destroyed. The four persons on board were killed.

N4509T

London, Aug 12 — Piper PA-32-300 (Cherokee Six) N4509T crashed on take-off from Saipan Aug 10. The

aircraft was destroyed. Three of the seven persons on board were seriously injured.

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated Aug 11, states: A 29-year-old man, a Japanese national, was in critical condition last night after he and six others on board a Piper PA-32-300 (Cherokee Six) aircraft (N4509T) were injured when the aircraft crashed a minute after take-off from Saipan International Airport early yesterday morning. The aircraft was en route to Tinian. "The pilot reported to the airport traffic control that he was going down, and proceeded to crash," said National Transportation Safety Board investigator Wayne Pollack. NTSB officials will be dispatched to determine the cause of the crash, which was unknown yesterday. "A post-impact fire consumed the aircraft," Pollack said. Pollack said based on information provided by Saipan officials, the crew and the passengers had "non-life threatening but serious injuries." The crash occurred at 0215 yesterday. Commonwealth Ports Authority officials described the crash as "a forced landing" that took place half a mile south-east of the airport's Runway 25. According to Ports Authority officials, the pilot had told air-traffic controllers the aircraft was losing power before it crashed. Ports Authority fire and rescue units were dispatched, as well as other emergency responders. "The plane is currently being secured at the crash site until the NTSB can inspect and determine the cause of the crash," said Ports Authority acting Executive Director Regino M. Celis. Taga Air, managed by top executives of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, is the registered owner of the aircraft.

N6506C

London, Aug 10 — Piper PA-28R-201 Arrow III) N6506C crashed near Salida, Colorado, at 1700, Aug 7, while on a flight from Utah. One of the two persons on board was killed and the other was seriously injured.

N7059S

London, Aug 12 — Robinsin R22 Beta N7059S crashed near Tucson, Arizona, at 1605, Aug 7, while on a flight from Tucson. One of the two persons on board was killed.

NORTH FORK RESERVOIR AREA, COLORADO, UNITED STATES

See N6506C.

Product Recalls



LAPTOP BATTERIES, WORLDWIDE

London, Aug 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The world's largest manufacturer of personal

computers, Dell, is to recall 4.1 million of its notebook computer batteries because of a fire risk. Most batteries are in computers sold in the United States but more than 1m are believed to be outside the US. Dell says it knows of six instances since December when the batteries, made by Sony, overheated or caught fire. The US body responsible for consumer safety says it is the biggest recall of electrical products in its history. A spokesman for the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Scott Wolfson, said users of affected laptops should only run the machines on a power cord. The Sony lithium-ion batteries were placed in laptops shipped between April 2004 and July 2006. They were included in some models of Dell's Latitude, Inspiron, XTS and precision mobile workstation notebooks. "In rare cases, a short-circuit could cause the battery to overheat, causing a risk of smoke and or fire," said Dell spokesman Ira Williams. "It happens in rare cases but we opted to take this broad action immediately." Dell plans to launch a website telling customers how to get a free replacement battery, the Associated Press news agency reports. No injuries have been linked to Dell laptops with defective batteries, the company was quoted as saying. The CPSC has identified 339 incidents in which lithium batteries used in laptops and cell phones, not just Dell products, overheated between 2003 and 2005. Some incidents involved minor skin burns or actual injuries as well as property damage, Mr Wolfson said.

Port Conditions



BANGLADESH

Karachi, Aug 17 — The congestion surcharge of US\$ 130 per 20-foot container levied by five Chittagong feeder operators at the Bangladesh's main seaport of Chittagong Port is expected to be withdrawn from today and a formal notification will be issued later today. According to local media report, a meeting held in Singapore between the Singapore-based Chittagong Feeder Trade Committee (CFTC) and the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) decided in principle to withdraw the surcharge. They, however, said the decision on the surcharge withdrawal will be effective depending on the positive outcome of the discussion with legal advisers of the CFTC relating to the cases filed by the country's garment exporters. It is said the meeting between the CPA and the CFTC has been continuing since Monday last to hammer out a decision on the withdrawal of the surcharge. It has been delayed due to a hitch between the CFTC and the garment exporters over who will first act to

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break the stalemate. The feeder operators wanted the garment exporters to first withdraw the writ petition filed in the High Court. Similarly, the garment exporters said they would do the same if the feeder operators removed the surcharge first. Earlier, the High Court stayed the imposition of surcharge for a period of two months, and subsequently the appellate division retained the order. The Advance Container Line limited (ACL), HRC Shipping Limited, Orient Express Line (Singapore) Limited, QC Container Line Limited and Sea Consortium Limited imposed surcharge since Jun 5 due to recover operational cost due to rise in turnaround time at Chittagong port. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated Aug 11, states: A ferry terminal in Halifax harbour is temporarily out of service after an elevator motor overheated and set off the sprinkler system. A news release from the city said the Woodside ferry terminal would be out of operation for several days. The incident occurred yesterday evening when an elevator motor overheated, causing the sprinklers to turn on and knock out the electrical panel. Repairmen are at the site today, checking to see how extensive the damage is. The entire site is temporarily inaccessible, as the second

entrance on the harbour level is closed off due to work on a sewage treatment plant.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, Aug 11 — The Philippine Ports Authority wrested control of the state-owned Poro Point Port in San Fernando City, La Union province in northern Philippines from the private company operating the facility on Monday (Aug 7). Over the weekend, employees of Poro Point Industrial Corp, the company operating the port, had barricaded the facility to prevent its take-over by government authorities. Government authorities were able to force their way into the facility on Monday and officials from the port regulatory agency, Philippine Ports Authority, took over management of the port. Authorities were only able to restore operations to one of the port's two piers as the other pier remained barricaded. Poro Point Port, a major sea port specialising in breakbulk cargo, is part of the former US Air Force facility known as Wallace Air Station. The 216-hectare facility has since been transformed into a special economic zone, and operation of the port has been contracted out to Poro Point Industrial Corp. While the company holds a valid contract to provide cargo handling services at the port, the state Bases Conversion and Development Authority and its subsidiary the Poro Point Management Corp have in

recent months been trying to terminate the cargo handling contract. The Philippine Ports Authority, on the other hand, has justified its take over of the port citing the private operators' lack of an environmental compliance certificate and alleged violations of environmental laws. — Lloyd's List Correspondent. (See issue of Aug 8.)

Manila, Aug 13 — Management and operation of the Poro Point Port in La Union Province, northern Philippines, was restored to Poro Point Industrial Corp Friday (Aug 11) after the Philippine Ports Authority withdrew from the facility. The Philippine Ports Authority gave up operating the port following the issuance of a temporary restraining order by the regional trial court in La Union province on Aug 10. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Aug 15 — Port operations at Poro Point were interrupted again yesterday after security officials from the state Bases Conversion Development Authority took control of the port's main gate and refused entry to port stevedores. The absence of stevedores disrupted operations at the port's two piers and prevented the unloading of rice from a Vietnamese vessel which had arrived at Poro Point on Aug 13 to deliver a shipment of rice for the National Food Authority. Appeals made by the National Food Authority to the Bases Conversion and Development Authority to have the vessel unloaded were unsuccessful. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

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	21-Aug-2006	Coal: One Three vessels arrived; 13 vessels due by 15/9. .
Brisbane	21-Aug-2006	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Two vessels due by 30/8.
Dalrymple Bay	21-Aug-2006	Coal: Two vessels loading at berth; 13 vessels arrived; 26 vessels due by 14/9.
Dampier	21-Aug-2006	Iron ore: Parker Point A berth: One vessel arrived; 12 vessels due by 2/9; Parker Point B berth: 1 vessel arrived; 10 vessels due by 10/9; Parker Point C berth: 1 vessel arrived; 1 vessel due 21/8; East Intercourse Island: Maintenance shutdown 22/8-6/9.
Esperance	21-Aug-2006	Iron ore: Three vessels due by 4/9.
Gladstone	21-Aug-2006	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Two vessels at berth; 6 vessels arrived; 33 vessels due by 23/10; Barney Point: 12 vessels due by 15/10. Aug 9: Grain: 1 vessel due 17/8 to load wheat; no delays expected.
Hay Point	21-Aug-2006	Coal: Six vessels; 12 vessels due by 12/9.
Newcastle	21-Aug-2006	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: Three vessels loading at berth; 11 vessels arrived; 35 vessels due by 8/9; 4-7 days delay expected; Dykes 4+5: 12 vessel loading at berth; 5 vessels arrived; 17 vessels due by 8/9; 4-5 days delay expected.
Port Hedland	21-Aug-2006	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: Four vessels due by 29/8; "B" berth: 1 vessel loading at berth; 3 vessels arrived; 5 vessels due by 28/8; 4 other vessels due by 9/9 at A or B berth 2/4; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island "C" berth): 2 vessels due by 24/8; (Finucane Island "D" berth): 1 vessel loading at berth; 1 vessel arrived; 7 vessels due by 1/9; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel due 21/8.
Port Kembla	21-Aug-2006	Coal: One vessel loading at berth; 1 vessel at anchor; 14 vessels due by 20/10.
Port Walcott	21-Aug-2006	Iron ore: Six vessels arrived; 16 vessels due by 4/9.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	21-Aug-2006	Nine vessels in port of which 4 loading (3 coils, 1 profiles), 5 discharging (1 coils, 1 lead/zinc concentrate, 1 copper concentrate, 1 salt, 1 iron ore); 1 vessel in roads to discharge copper concentrate; 8 vessels due of which 3 to load (1 barite concentrate, 1 coils, 1 wheat), 5 to discharge (1 coal, 1 jet oil, 1 kaolin, 1 iron concentrate, 1 clinker).

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Port Conditions

Varna	21-Aug-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Balchik: Thirty-seven vessels in port operating of which 19 loading, 12 discharging, 6 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.
Egypt		
Adabiya	21-Aug-2006	Four vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 3 general cargo, 1 container vessel.
Alexandria	21-Aug-2006	Thirty-one vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 23 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 3 tankers, 3 container vessels; 9 vessels at inner anchorage, 6 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	21-Aug-2006	Twenty vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 18 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier, 1 tanker; no vessels at inner anchorage, 12 at outer anchorage.
Dekheila	21-Aug-2006	Thirteen vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 3 general cargo, 6 bulk carriers, 2 tankers, 2 container vessels; no vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	21-Aug-2006	Five vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 1 general cargo, 4 container vessels.
Suez	21-Aug-2006	Nine vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 6 general cargo, 3 passenger vessels; 4 tug boats; 2 vessels dry-docked.
Suez Canal	21-Aug-2006	Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 31 Southbound.
Estonia		
Tallinn	21-Aug-2006	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): One vessel loading oil products at berth; 1 vessel due, with 4 days berthing delay expected.
India		
Kolkata	21-Aug-2006	9 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Iron Ore, 4 vessels discharging (Containers, Logs-2, Edible Oil), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers, 2 vessels waiting to load Containers, 1 vessel waiting for discharging Edible Oil; 2 vessels working at midstream and discharging Pulse; 4 vessels under repair; 3 vessels due (Pulse, Furance Oil, Liquids).
Haldia	21-Aug-2006	11 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Iron Ore, Steel), 7 vessels discharging (Liquid Ammonia, Crude, CTPH, Palm, Coke, Excav, General Cargo), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers ; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 2 vessel waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load); 5 vessels due (Containers, Crude, LPG, Steel).
Paradip	21-Aug-2006	8 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading Iron Ore, 5 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, RP Coke, Super Kerosene Oil, Steel Pipes); 3 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 1 vessel awaiting at anchorage to load; 16 vessels due.
Vizakhapatnam	21-Aug-2006	16 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Iron Ore-2, Thermal Coal-2, POL Products), 10 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, Urea-3, Crude, Wheat, DBM, Timber Logs, Rock Phosphate, POL Product), 1 vessel loading and discharging General Cargo & Granite; 7 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (3 to load, 4 to discharge); 39 vessels due (Iron Ore-10, Feid Spar, Container-5, Food Grains, Product Tankers-4, Urea-2, DAP, Coking Coal-2, Caustic Soda, Timber-2, Petroleum Coke, Steam Coal-2, Alumina, Lime Stone, Lam Coke, General Cargo, POL & Crude Oil).
Chennai	21-Aug-2006	19 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Granite Block-2, Molasses, Naptha, Iron Ore), 12 vessels discharging (Wheat-2, Pulses, Steel Coal-4, Coking Oil, Orthoxyln, Steel Plate/Project/ General Cargo), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load & discharge); 3 vessels due (Tug, Supply, Steel Coil).
Tuticorin	21-Aug-2006	11 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Fly Ash, General Cargo-2, Salt), 7 vessels discharging (Oil Cake, Thermal Coal-2, Wheat, DAP-2, Rock Phosphate); 6 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (2 to load, 4 to discharge), 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to load, 1 to discharge).
Cochin	21-Aug-2006	4 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading General Cargo, 1 vessel discharging Palmolein, 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers.
New Mangalore	21-Aug-2006	5 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Pig Iron-2, POL Product), 2 vessels discharging (Fertilizer, LPG); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 14 vessels due (Crude Palm Oil-2, Fertiliser-2, POL Product-3, POL Crude-3, Iron Ore (Fines)-2, Timber Logs, Methonol).
Mormugao	21-Aug-2006	3 vessels working at berth and discharging (Naptha, Met Coke-2); 1 vessel working at midstream and loading Iron Ore; 3 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge; 4 vessels under dry docked; 5 vessels due (Urea, R. P. Coke, Coking Coal-3).
Mumbai	21-Aug-2006	24 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (Steel/Project/Mach-4, Bagged Sugar, POL-2), 16 vessels discharging (Pulses/Logs/Steel/Mach-8, Rock Phosphate-3, Palm Oil Product, Bagged Sugar-2), 1 vessel loading and discharging Steel/Project Cargo; 2 vessels working at midstream and discharging POL; 1 vessel not ready to work at anchorage to discharge, 3 vessels awaiting order at anchorage to discharge, 4 vessels waiting order at anchorage (1 load, 3 to load and discharge); 12 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 6 vessels under arrest; 34 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 26 vessels due (Contaners-8, Oil, General Cargo-17).
J.N.P.T.	21-Aug-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels discharging (Edible Oil, Cement), 5 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load and discharge; 1 vessel due Containers.

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Kandla	21-Aug-2006	17 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (Agriculture Product,Cement-2, Rice, Blocks, Chemical, Naptha), 9 vessels discharging (S. Boil, Mic.,Chemical-2, St. Product-2, Coils, MAP, MOP, DAP), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels working at midstream and discharging (Timber Logs, Steel Cargo) ; 17 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (5 to discharge, 12 to load), 7 vessels not ready to work at anchorage (4 to discharge, 3 to load).
Ennore	21-Aug-2006	1 vessel operating at inner anchorage loading Iron Ore, 1 vessel discharging at anchorage Thermal Coal, 3 vessels due (MV Achilleus (Iron Ore), MV APJ Jad (Thermal Coal), MV Tamil Anna (Thermal Coal).
Israel		
Ashdod	22-Aug-2006	One vessel loading general cargo at berth, 5 discharging general cargo at berth, 6 loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 1 car carrier); 11 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (7 general cargo, 4 bulk cargo), 8 waiting at anchorage to load/discharge containers; 11 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay.
Haifa	22-Aug-2006	Two vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 bulk cargo), 4 loading/discharging at berth (2 car carriers, 2 tankers); 2 bulk cargo vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge, 1 tanker waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 4 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 11 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	22-Aug-2006	One vessel discharging general cargo at berth; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge general cargo; 3 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Mozambique		
Maputo	22-Aug-2006	Nine vessels in port operating of which 4 loading 4 discharging, 1 discharging/loading; 1 other vessel; 19 vessels due by 1/9 of which 5 to load, 11 to discharge, 3 to discharge/load.
Pakistan		
Karachi	21-Aug-2006	One vessel loading cement at berth, 7 discharging at berth (3 coal, 2 sugar, 1 general cargo, 1 peas), 2 loading/discharging containers at berth; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load cement, 6 waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 coal, 1 vehicles, 1 general cargo, 1 sugar, 1 soybean meal); 1 vessel awaiting orders; 5 vessels due (2 containers, 3 general cargo), with no delays expected.
Port Qasim	21-Aug-2006	Two vessels loading cement at berth, 3 discharging at berth (1 sugar, 1 VCM, 1 iron ore); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (2 cement, 2 containers), 5 waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 sugar, 1 carbon oil, 1 other); QICT berth: 2 vessels loading/discharging containers.
Poland		
Gdansk	21-Aug-2006	Seven vessels in port operating of which 5 loading at berth (2 coal, 2 bulk cargo, 1 general cargo), 2 discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 tanker); 12 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 24 vessels due.
Gdynia	21-Aug-2006	Fourteen vessels in port operating of which 7 loading at berth (2 coal, 2 general cargo, 2 bulk cargo, 1 grain), 4 discharging at berth (2 bulk cargo, 1 general cargo, 1 tanker); 25 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 3 awaiting orders (3 bulk cargo, 1 general cargo); 45 vessels due.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	21-Aug-2006	Ten vessels in port operating of which 9 loading, 1 discharging debars; 4 vessels in roads, all to load (1 DRI, 1 aluminium, 1 cellulose, 1 wheat); 69 vessels due of which 64 to load, 2 to discharge (1 maize, 1 containers), 3 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 2 tankers loading crude at berth; 1 tanker in roads to load crude oil; 9 tankers due, all to load (6 crude oil, 1 fuel oil, 1 diesel oil).
Slovenia		
Koper	21-Aug-2006	Port working normally. Eight vessels berthed of which 1 discharging/loading containers, 1 car carrier discharging/loading vehicles, 3 discharging bulk cargo, 1 loading bulk cargo, 1 loading sawn timber/general cargo, 1 discharging general cargo; 14 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 3 to discharge/load containers, 1 car carrier to discharge/load vehicles, 2 tankers to discharge liquid cargo, 3 vessels to load sawn timber/general cargo, 2 to load bulk cargo, 2 to discharge bulk cargo, 1 Ro/Ro to discharge/load vehicles.
Spain		
Bilbao	21-Aug-2006	Sixteen vessels operating (3 tankers, 13 other vessels), of which 5 loading, 6 discharging, 5 loading/discharging.
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	21-Aug-2006	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority berthing at break bulk berths if there is container congestion; conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 & 2 are facing delays in navigation after commissioning of SAGT 1 & 2 berths (former QEQ 1 & 2). Seven vessels loading at berth (6 container/feeders, 1 bagged rice), 20 vessels discharging at berth (14 container/feeders, 2 bagged fertiliser, 2 bulk cement, 1 bagged maize, 1 bulk clinker); no vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 5 container/feeders waiting at anchorage to discharge; 4 vessels dry-docked; 5 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays for general cargo, bagged cargo, containers/feeders expected.

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Port Conditions

Ukraine

Illichevsk	21-Aug-2006	Sixteen vessels in port operating of which 10 loading, 5 discharging (3 steel products, 2 ore), 1 discharging/loading containers; 5 vessels in roads, all to load (4 steel products, 1 sunflower oil); 24 vessels due of which 18 to load, 6 to discharge/load containers..
Mariupol	21-Aug-2006	Fourteen vessels in port operating of which 13 loading (4 steel, 2 fire-clay, 1 wheat, 1 wheat/barley, 4 coal, 1 ammonium saltpetre), 1 discharging/loading equipment/ slabs; 13 vessels in roads of which 10 to load (3 steel, 1 coal, 4 fire-clay, 1 equipment, 1 wheat), 2 to discharge (1 equipment/containers, 1 equipment), 1 to discharge/load heavy lifts; 60 vessels due of which 57 to load, 3 to discharge/load.
Odessa	21-Aug-2006	Twenty-one vessels in port operating of which 12 loading (8 metal, 2 coal, 2 wheat), 7 discharging (1 metal, 1 ore, 2 passenger vessels, 2 baggage, 1 sand), 2 discharging/loading containers; 9 vessels in roads of which 3 to load (1 metal, 1 pig iron, 1 ore), 1 to discharge metal, 5 to discharge/load containers; 63 vessels due of which 33 to load, 3 to discharge (1 bananas, 1 citrus, 1 oil), 27 to load/discharge containers.

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