

## Malacca pirates and terrorists 'not linked'

**THE US has found no links between pirate attacks in the Malacca Strait and terrorist groups in southeast Asia.**

The rise in well co-ordinated attacks on shipping by heavily armed pirates in the Malacca Strait has prompted fears terrorists were linking up with the pirates to launch a terrorist strike on shipping in the region.

However Thomas Fargo, commander in chief of the US Pacific Command, said US intelligence services had found no evidence that pirate attacks were linked to the Jemaah Islamiah terror group.

"I don't have any direct linkages between the pirates and the JI but we do know that terrorists have used the maritime opportunities to advantage," he told a media briefing in Kuala Lumpur.

### Planning

The JI group is closely associated with al-Qa'eda and was behind the Bali bombing in October 2002, while earlier that year Singapore detained members of the group who it said were planning to attack warships at the US naval base in the country.

Senior Singapore government ministers have warned repeatedly in recent months that terrorists could link

up with pirates in the region to hijack tankers or liquefied natural gas carriers in the Malacca Strait and turn them into floating bombs or sink them, blocking the strategic waterway. The warnings have formed part of a push by the republic to spur action on maritime security in the region.

Admiral Fargo was visiting Malaysia primarily to discuss maritime security with top officials from the country including Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

### Furore

The two nations mended fences following a furore that the US wanted to station its own troops in the Malacca Strait. Admiral Fargo said that the US fully respected Malaysia's territorial integrity over the strait and had never intended to deploy its own security forces in the region. However, it does want to provide assistance such as training to further improve maritime security co-operation between Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

"On the Strait of Malacca, we believe that it is important that we share information so that each country can take appropriate action in its territorial waters," Admiral Fargo said.

"We can help train (troops) and clarify procedures. This is what we have been saying all along. In hunting for

terrorists, we would work together with nations to share intelligence and build capacity."

The US wants to put in place a system whereby it knows exactly what ships are where, not just in the Malacca Strait but worldwide, much like that that already exists for the aviation industry.

"We know what an aircraft is carrying, its cargo, the number of passengers, its destination and time of arrival. We need (this kind of information) to get that on maritime vessels. This can be achieved through sharing of information, good tracking systems and capacity-building by nations," he said.

- Eight pirates, believed to be Acehese rebels in disguise, last night fired at and sank the general cargoship Ika Murni (541 gt, built 1977) which was on its way from Indonesia's Riau province to North Sumatra province, abducting its master and a technician.

Survivors said their boat, which was carrying 500 tons of copra, leaked when the pirates fired at it after the vessel's master refused to give them the hundreds of thousands of rupiah they were demanding.

**Marcus Hand**  
Lloyd's List Correspondent

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
AMINA	general	LBN	—	2,675	3,704	1977	Grounded off Yenikoy Jun 11. Coast Guard vessel and tug to assist. Arrived Tripoli, Lebanon Jun 16. Voyage: Constantza (ROM) to Tripoli. Cargo: Lumber.
BARBAROS OKTAY	general	TUR	—	6,284	10,056	1975	Had fire in accommodation, between Novorossiysk and Ereğli, Jun 13. Tug Sonduren arranged for fire-fighting operation. When extinguished will be towed to Kdz, Ereğli. Reported Jun 22 still lying "as is". Cargo: Steel slap.
CAPTAIN JACK	passenger	USA	—	171	—	—	Drifted aground South of Cosmos Pass, Davison Inlet, Alaska, Jun 9. Subsequently fire broke out on board. Crew and passengers evacuated. Still aground Jun 14. All hazardous materials removed. Not expected to be salvaged.
CELTIC SPIRIT	general	BHS	GL	2,978	4,001	1976	Grounded on Krassi shoal, west of Suur-Pakri island, in lat 59 20.9N, long 23 47.1E, Jun 13. Initial refloating attempts failed and still aground on rocks Jun 16. Refloated by tug Tugev Jun 18 and anchored. Voyage: Tallinn (EST) to Warrenpoint (GBR). Cargo: Sawn timber.
FORTUNE PRIDE	fishing	CAN	—	102	—	1988	Reported taking water 50 miles SE of Halifax, in lat 44 17 09N, long 62 10 17W, Jun 10. Pump not keeping up. Additional pumps requested.
GRIETJE BOS	trawler	NLD	—	419	—	1981	In collision with a small fishing vessel in lat 53 35.8N, long 06 35.2E, Jun 11. Small vessel capsized. 2 crew members rescued & taken to hospital, 1 missing. Small vessel subsequently sank.
NONA MARY	passenger	GRC	HR	2,206	861	1972	Reported aground in lat 36 46.48N, long 24 35.2E, Ag. Efstathios, 400 metres from Psathi, Jun 16. Awaiting diver survey. Refloated same day by tug Atlas. Towed to Perama, where repairing.
NORDICA	general	CYP	GL	3,731	6,275	1980	On arrival at Gibraltar on Jun 13 underwent Port State Control investigation as listing to port. Detained on discovery of a crack in the hull.
ORION 1	general	NGA	—	3,994	3,650	1972	Sustained engine breakdown while transiting the Dardanelles, Jun 15. Anchored near Dardanelles. Subsequently towed to anchorage off Gelibolu for inspection and repairs. Still lying "as is" Jun 21.
THOR HAWK	container	DIS	BV	1,964	2,784	1992	Anchored 100 miles off Kochi port due engine trouble Jun 11. Not been able to engage tug for towage to Kochi for repairs. Towed to Kochi, where arrived Jun 19. Voyage: Yokohama (JPN) to Mumbai (IND).
WILLOW	general	BHS	BV	1,560	1,400	1983	Reported main engine breakdown due injector problem in lat 49 02N, long 04 54W, Jun 13. Taken in tow and anchored in Tor Bay Jun 14. Proceeded on passage Jun 16. Arrived Antwerp Jun 18.

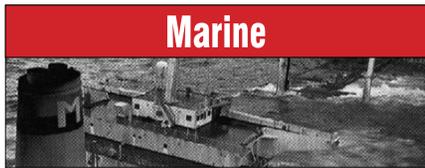
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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



### ALADIN (Cyprus)

Ferrol, Jun 10 — General cargo *Aladin*, Annaba for Flushing, with iron tubes, is proceeding to Ferrol in tow of tug *Ibaizabal Tres* because a fishing net is entangled in the propeller. The vessel is expected to arrive around 1900, local time, today. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 11 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 0450, UTC: General cargo *Aladin* has now safely arrived in Ferrol.

Ferrol, Jun 15 — Understand from agents of general cargo *Aladin* that the problem is with the vessel's engine, not with the propeller. Repairs are now expected to complete on Jun 21. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ALAMO (Chile)

London, Jun 14 — Bulk *Alamo* arrived Puerto Montt Jun 10 and sailed Jun 12.

### ALGOISLE (Canada)

Toronto, Jun 10 — Bulk *Algoisle* is back sailing. On Jun 8 it was in Hamilton. Today it is at Port Weller but has no destination. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ALGONTARIO (Canada)

Troy, Mich., Jun 14 — Bulk *Algontario* is back on the drydock in Thunder Bay, fuelling speculation it will be repaired in time for the fall grain rush. The vessel was damaged in a grounding in April, 1999 in the St. Marys River and has been laid up at the Canadian lakehead ever since. The vessel was in the drydock earlier this year, but removed so necessary repairs could be carried out on a saltwater vessel. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

### ALGOSTEEL (Canada)

London, Jun 16 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1315, UTC: Bulk *Algosteel* (18423 gt, built 1966) struck Buoy 46 on the Maumee River, near Toledo, on Jun 14. Understood the vessel only sustained cosmetic damage and proceeded on voyage.

### AMINA (Lebanon)

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 11, states: Lebanese general cargo *Amina* (2675 gt, built 1977), cargo lumber, ran aground off Yenikoy while passing through Istanbul Strait, sources said today. While one tug and a coast guard boat were sent to the scene to assist the vessel, it was dragged by the current. The cargo ship anchored off Pasabahce. (Note — *Amina* sailed Constantza Jun 10 for Tripoli.)

### ASTRIDA (Latvia)

Gothenburg, Jun 15 — The Latvian Board of Shipping who have investigated the circumstances of the sinking of fishing *Astrida*, now confirm that ro-ro *Vladimir* (15893 gt, built

1988) had been in contact with *Astrida*, after *Vladimir* had been investigated in the port of Baltimore. — Westax Marine Services AB. (Note — *Vladimir* arrived St Petersburg May 12 and sailed May 18 for Baltimore where it arrived Jun 3. Vessel subsequently sailed Jun 7 for Charleston)

### BARBAROS OKTAY (Turkey)

Istanbul, Jun 15 — General cargo *Barbaros Oktay* (6284 gt, built 1975), Novorossiysk for Eregli, with steel slap, had fire break out in accommodation at 0520, local time, Jun 13. Tug *Sonduren* arranged for fire extinguishing operation. Upon completion of fire extinguishing operation vessel will be towed to Kdz.Eregli. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Barbaros Oktay* sailed Novorossiysk Jun 12.)

### BB 1138 (Bangladesh)

Chittagong, Jun 15 — General cargo *BB 1138* was towed to Dhaka on May 10 for repairs. Reportedly the vessel is still under repair. — Lloyd's Agents.

### BERGE NICE (French Southern territories)

Santiago, Chile, Jun 10 — Lpg *Berge Nice* arrived Asmar, Talcahuano, to repair. The task is highly complex because the ship is of the last generation, with a high technology and with a hull of special steel for transport of liquid gas to low temperatures. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 12, states: A Punta Arenas appeal court imposed a retention ruling, equivalent to US\$4 million, against Lpg *Berge Nice* involved in an oil spill in the Magellan Strait, close to Punta Arenas early May which contaminated 10 kilometres of vital fisheries for coastal operators and local processing plants. *Berge Nice* which last May 12 was involved in a collision with anchor handling tug/supply *Seacor Laredo*, spilling several tons of fuel and sustaining a wide 20 metre long gash, three metres above the water line. The tug's bow was flattened and three crewmembers suffered serious injuries. The tanker transporting 33,000 tons of Argentine liquid propane gas underwent emergency repairs in Punta Arenas with special heat proven steel plates flown in from Japan and is now in Talcahuano's main shipyard after having unloaded. The tug is still in Asmar's shipyard. Punta Arenas press reports that besides the private demand and retention ruling equivalent to US\$4 million, both vessels, under Chilean law, also have been forced to a precautionary bank guarantee equivalent to US\$600,000 each to cover environmental damage and clearing operations occurred as a consequence of the collision. The Chilean Navy investigation into the accident has yet to be concluded.

### CAPE AFRICA (Taiwan)

London, Jun 15 — Following received from bulk *Cape Africa* Joint Operations Committee, timed 0900, today: On Saturday (Jun 12) the second cofferdam

was fitted adjacent to bulk *Cape Africa's* hold No.4 and was sealed in place on Sunday. After a partial structural collapse of the cofferdam, it is still in place and is affording protection to port side No.4. The salvage team now await the arrival in False Bay on Jun 24/25 of bulk *Bandar*, that will be used for the purpose of lightening *Cape Africa* by removing some 80,000 tonnes of its iron ore cargo. It is expected that at least five full, good-weather working days will be needed in order to complete the partial cargo removal. *Cape Africa* will then have been sufficiently lightened to enable it to be towed to a port where repairs can be undertaken. After the lightening operation, the area of extensive structural damage to hold No.3 will be above the waterline. Salvage tug *Smit Amandla* remains on the scene, with the *S.A. Agulhas* offering logistical support.

#### **CAPTAIN JACK (U.S.A.)**

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment (MSD) Ketchikan is investigating the grounding and fire of passenger *Captain Jack* (171 gt, built 1943) that occurred near an island south of Cosmos Pass outside of Davison Inlet Wednesday (Jun 9). The 105-foot vessel, based in Ketchikan drifted and grounded with six people and a dog on board, prompting Coast Guard Air Station Sitka to launch the ready Jayhawk helicopter crew to the scene. *Captain Jack's* crew declined an offer by the Coast Guard rescue crew to lower a pump to the vessel. The helicopter then departed the scene to Ketchikan to refuel and embark MSD Ketchikan marine investigators. When it made an additional pass over the vessel on its return trip to Sitka, the aircrew saw the vessel fully engulfed in flames. The crew and passengers safely evacuated ashore in the remote village of Edna Bay. The cause of the fire was unknown. Alaska Commercial Divers will attempt to inspect the vessel Thursday, while MSD conducts interviews with the crew.

London, Jun 12 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 0730, UTC: *Captain Jack*, WF3170, remains aground in the same position off Ketchikan. The vessel has sustained hull damage, fire has been extinguished.

London, Jun 14 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1835, UTC: Passenger *Captain Jack*, WF3170, remains aground in the same position. All hazardous materials have been taken off the vessel.

#### **CELTIC SPIRIT (Bahamas)**

Tallinn, Jun 14 — General cargo *Celtic Spirit* (2978 gt, built 1976), Tallinn for Warrenpoint, with sawn timber, ran aground west of Suur-Pakri island, Estonia, on Krassi shoal, in lat 59 20.9N, long 23 47.1E Jun 13. Attempts at refloating have failed and the vessel is still aground. There is no pollution reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

Gothenburg, Jun 15 — General cargo *Celtic Spirit*, Bekker port for

Warrenpoint, with wood, grounded three nautical miles west of Suur-Pakri, late Jun 13. Two tugs tried to pull the vessel off the ground, but failed. *Celtic Spirit* is listing 10 deg and is on a rough bottom with heavy rocks. A larger tug is required for a new attempt, to avoid discharging the cargo. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Jun 16 — Following received from managers of general cargo *Celtic Spirit*, dated today: The vessel is still aground and endeavours to establish the best method to refloat the vessel are still in progress.

#### **CONGER (Cyprus)**

London, Jun 11 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 0505, UTC: Bulk *Conger* was successfully towed to Ferrol and remains there at present.

London, Jun 13 — Understand salvage services were rendered to bulk *Conger* by Tsaviris Russ (World Wide Salvage & Towage) Ltd under Lloyd's Open Form, dated Jun 9.

Ferrol, Jun 16 — Bulk *Conger* is expected to be taken in tow by tug *Marzamemi* on Jun 18 bound for Rotterdam to discharge its cargo of soya. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CORCOVADO (Chile)**

London, Jun 14 — General cargo *Corcovado* arrived San Antonio Jun 11.

#### **CUU LONG 1 (Vietnam)**

London, Jun 11 — Understand product tanker *Cuu Long 1* arrived Maoming previous Jun 5.

#### **DA PENG HAI (China)**

London, Jun 10 — Bulk *Da Peng Hai* arrived Ilichevsk Jun 1 and sailed Jun 7.

#### **DELTAGAS (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Maassluis, Jun 11 — Lpg *Deltagas* (3011 gt, built 1992) "touched bottom" and sustained hull damage at Flushing roads May 1. Vessel anchored May 2 and proceeded to drydock De Schroef in Terneuzen May 5. Vessel departed Terneuzen May 23. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Deltagas* arrived Zeebrugge May 24 and sailed May 25, subsequently arriving Fawley May 26.)

#### **DOMIAT (Egypt)**

London, Jun 11 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 0500, UTC: Bulk *Domiat* is still aground. Cargo offloading operations will have to be completed prior to refloating.

London, Jun 13 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 0835, UTC: Bulk *Domiat* remains aground, with cargo lightening operations still under way.

London, Jun 14 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1650, UTC: Bulk *Domiat* was refloated yesterday afternoon and taken to Danish waters for inspection.

Gothenburg, Jun 15 — Bulk *Domiat* was pulled off the ground on Jun 13, with the assistance of three tugs. Before this attempt, a total of 1,000 tons of potash was discharged onto a barge. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Malmo, Jun 17 — Bulk *Domiat* was refloated at 1310, local time, Jun 13, after part of the cargo had been transhipped. The vessel was assisted by three tugs. *Domiat* was then taken to Rodvid roads where divers inspected the bottom. No leakage. The Class gave permission for the vessel to continue to India and to dry-dock before the end of September. The vessel loaded the transhipped cargo and sailed for India at 0100, local time, Jun 17. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ELEFThERIA (Panama)**

Ancona, Jun 11 — Understand bulk *Eleftheria*, fully laden with approximately 30,000 tonnes of soya beans from Brazil, on time charter to "Bunge Co" was involved in a collision with bulk *Hakki Deval* off the coast of Algeria. It is reported the incident happened on Jun 7. There were no injuries to the crew, but *Eleftheria* suffered damages on the starboard side to side wing tank and No.1 hold. Water is entering into the hold but is being controlled by pumps. Vessel is being towed to Ancona where time charterers/receivers should start discharge of part of the cargo. The towage contract was reportedly signed with tugowners Tsaviris of Piraeus. The vessel is expected to arrive at Ancona late today or tomorrow. General Average security (Lloyd's Average Bond) is reported to have been signed by cargo underwriters as well as average guarantee. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ancona, Jun 15 — At 1530, local time, Jun 12, bulk *Eleftheria* moored in the port. At 1845, unloading started. The vessel was boarded by representatives of London P&I Club (surveyors and lawyers), cargo insurance surveyors, receivers representative and surveyor. United Kingdom P&I Club of colliding vessel bulk *Hakki Deval* appointed a surveyor on Jun 14. Understand that sound cargo has been unloaded from hold No.1 of *Eleftheria*. Although the hold is damaged further cargo could be unloaded after shifting of vessel to another dock, subject to the harbour-master's authorisation. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ELENA X. (Greece)**

Piraeus, Jun 16 — Product tanker *Elena X.* sailed from Preveza on Jun 8, destination Eleusis port. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ELM (Netherlands Antilles)**

Plymouth, Jun 10 — General cargo *Elm* sailed Plymouth Jun 9. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Jun 9.)

#### **EMIL NOLDE (Malta)**

Istanbul Jun 17 — C.c. *Emil Nolde* (4059 gt, built 1991), Gemlik for Port Said, sustained engine breakdown at 0520, local time, today, and anchored off Dardanelles for necessary repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ENSCO 7500 (U.S.A.)**

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated Jun 12, states: It could take up to \$1 million to repair a 120-foot section of wharf on the east side of the Pascagoula

River that was damaged when it was struck by a dry dock holding a semi-submersible drilling platform (drill platform *Enasco 7500*) a preliminary estimate shows. The damage occurred Jun 2 when the dual carrier dry dock holding the drilling platform broke its moorings at the Signal International west bank yard during a severe thunderstorm and was blown across the river, where it hit the wharf. Winds clocked at 74 mph pushed the barge, which was several stories high, across the river with 39 men aboard. It destroyed up to 120 feet of concrete-and-steel reinforced dock, folding 20-foot slabs of concrete like they were cards, before coming to a halt. It narrowly missed a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration research ship. The Coast Guard Marine Safety Office in Mobile is investigating, but Coast Guard officials have said it could cost from \$500,000 to \$1 million to repair the wharf. Port of Pascagoula Director Mark McAndrews said the estimate was an initial figure based on an inspection of the wharf's dock and pilings. "We still have people over there who are continuing to inspect the wharf," he said. "We still don't know yet what may be damaged under the surface." McAndrews said inspectors still need to look at the wharf's sheet piling, its retaining wall and other areas hidden from view. The port is insured to cover the repairs, he said.

#### **ERIKA (Malta)**

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: The French Court of Appeal has dropped all proceedings initiated against the Malta Maritime Authority and its executive director Lino Vassallo in connection with the non specific tanker *Erika* disaster. The Court of Appeal in Paris ruled yesterday that the MMA was an extension of the Maltese state and therefore the administration of the Malta Flag was covered by the states' "immunity of jurisdiction." In December 1999, *Erika*, a Maltese registered oil-tanker, sank off the coast of France, spilling 10,000 tonnes of oil in one of the worst environmental disasters. The toxic cargo coated the seabed and washed up on the coastline, prompting a long and expensive operation to get rid of the muck. In a somewhat unexpected twist of events last September, Parisian inquiring magistrate Dominique de Talance held Mr Vassallo and the MMA personally responsible for "endangering the lives of others" and of having been "an accomplice in pollution". There were no fewer than 76 plaintiffs claiming damages in the criminal proceedings. Whilst 74 of the parties refrained from indicating the exact extent of their claim at the start of proceedings, the French state and the League for the Protection of Birds filed a claim for E76 million and E14 million respectively, besides unquantified damages. It was estimated that plaintiffs could have claimed damages of more than E1 billion. Mr Vassallo and MMA chairman Marc Bonello appeared before the French judge last September. But the

authority's lawyers maintained that the magistrate was violating Mr Vassallo's and Dr Bonello's state immunity, given that they were representing a Maltese government authority. The two MMA officials sought recourse to the French Appeals Court, claiming that the magistrate had no jurisdiction over a foreign government or a state official exercising his normal duties. When the magistrate still went ahead and summoned the two MMA officials to appear again last December, they were instructed not to do so, given that they were still awaiting the Appeals Court's ruling. Their absence in court provoked the magistrate to threaten to issue a warrant of arrest against Mr Vassallo and Dr Bonello. The legal counsel representing both Mr Vassallo and the MMA in France maintained that the authority had in fact abided by the established international regulations governing ship registration, adding that the French court had no jurisdiction to uphold or refute the local authority's decision. The Court of Appeal of Paris appointed a sitting for May 10 during which further arguments were presented, based on the fact that the expert's report on which Ms de Talance relied had been declared inadmissible by the Supreme Court. The court yesterday accepted the arguments of state immunity and decided in favour of the MMA and Mr Vassallo, stating that since they were acting on behalf of the Maltese state they should benefit from immunity of jurisdiction. There is no right of appeal against this decision of the Court of Appeal. Interested plaintiffs may however file proceedings attacking the validity of the decision within five days. Both Dr Bonello and Mr Vassallo expressed their satisfaction at the decision. In a statement the MMA said: "Despite the general conviction that MMA's and Mr Vassallo's conduct were correct, responsible and professional - as was confirmed by the conclusions of various technical inquiries into the incident - the government acted strongly to protect the sovereignty of the state, its entities and their officials". The MMA said it had always maintained that, according to international law, the French courts did not have the necessary jurisdiction to press charges. The MMA and the Maltese authorities cooperated extensively with the French authorities in the investigation. Dr Bonello and Mr Vassallo expressed their appreciation for the government's support, particularly from Communications Minister Censu Galea and Anthony Borg Barthet, who was Attorney General at the time. The MMA and Mr Vassallo were assisted by Franco Vassallo of the legal firm Mamo TCV, together with his French colleagues Renard and Associates. Since the incident, the Maltese government has been trying to rid itself of the tag that the Maltese maritime flag is one of convenience.

#### **EUROPEAN VIKING**

See *Viking Europe*.

#### **EVITA (Norway)**

London, Jun 14 — Information received from Sandnes states: Crude oil tanker *Evita* sustained only minor damage and is now back in normal service.

#### **FAIR MARE (Liberia)**

London, Jun 10 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: The master of crude oil tanker *Marivic* advised the Ministry today that his vessel had rendered assistance yesterday to crude oil tanker *Fair Mare* which had a fire breaking out in the engine-room while sailing off the coast of Oman. From the 31 crew members two are unwell and another was transported to a local hospital by helicopter. Three are missing. The fire was extinguished with vessel's own means and it is due to arrive Fujairah in tow by tug *Diva*.

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Three crew members of crude oil tanker *Fair Mare* were missing after fire broke out in the engine-room, the Greek merchant marine ministry said today. Crew brought the fire on board the vessel under control and the tanker was towed to Fujairah, the ministry said. The cause of the fire, which occurred in the Gulf of Oman, was not immediately established. A spokesman for the owners said one crew member was evacuated by helicopter to a hospital in Oman.

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

London, Jun 11 — Bulk *Fetish* sailed Montevideo Jun 6 for Fortaleza.

Buenos Aires, Jun 15 — After the refloating of bulk *Fetish*, the Argentine Coast Guard performed surveys on board and found no damages. Later in the Alpha Zone, the Argentine Coast Guard performed underwater surveys and ascertained that the vessel was in perfect condition. The vessel resumed navigation and is already at its destination: Natal, Brazil. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **FORTUNE PRIDE (Canada)**

London, Jun 10 — Fishing *Fortune Pride* (102 gt, built 1988) reported taking on water in lat 44 17 09N, long 62 10 17W, 50 nautical miles south-east of Halifax, at 0555, UTC, today. Pump not keeping up. Vessel requested additional pumps.

#### **GLACIER EXPLORER (U.S.A.)**

Anchorage, Jun 14 — Passenger *Glacier Explorer* is still under repair, ETC not known. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GRIETJE BOS (Netherlands)**

London, Jun 11 — Following received from Den Helder MRCC, timed 0440, UTC: Trawler *Grietje Bos* (419 gt, built 1981) was in collision with a small fishing vessel in lat 53 35.8N, long 06 35.2E, at 0034, UTC, today. The small fishing vessel capsized; two of its crew were rescued and taken to hospital, while the search for the third crewman is still ongoing.

London, Jun 11 — Following received from Den Helder MRCC, timed 1040,

UTC: The fishing vessel is reported to have sunk. The search for the missing crewman proved unsuccessful and has now been terminated.

#### **HAKKI DEVAL (Turkey)**

See *Eleftheria*.

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

London, Jun 17 — Bulk *Hernes* arrived Gdansk Jun 14.

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

See *Stewart J. Cort*.

#### **HOPE 1 (Panama)**

See "Romania" under "Port State Control."

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

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Vehicle *Hyundai No.105*, which sank off Batam island, should be removed from the water as it was a danger to other vessels, the Batam port authority said yesterday. The vessel has remained in water near the industrial island since it capsized on May 22. It was carrying some 4,000 cars and 990 tons of fuel. Batam port authorities urged the vessel's owner to raise the wreck as it could endanger other large vessels sailing through the 40-metre deep waters near Singapore. Shipping authorities and PT Salvindo were still pumping fuel from the vessel into a tanker belonging to state oil firm Pertamina.

#### **INTERMAC 404 (U.S.A.)**

London, Jun 12 — Ray McDermott, S.A., a subsidiary of McDermott International, Inc, announced Jun 10 that its barge *Intermac 404* (394 gt, built 1976) capsized yesterday (Jun 9) off the coast of South America while returning to the United States from a project off the coast of Southern Argentina. There were no personnel on board the barge and no injuries were sustained. The cause of the incident is under investigation and potential salvage options are being evaluated. The barge, which was under tow by a third party vessel, was transporting various items, including a plough and welding equipment.

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: J Ray McDermott has started an investigation into how barge *Intermac 404* capsized off the Brazilian coast while returning to the US from a project in Argentina. The Houston-based contractor is evaluating options to salvage the barge, which was transporting a variety of equipment including a plough and welding gear. The cause of the incident is unknown at present.

#### **KRITI AMETHYST (Greece)**

Curacao, Jun 7 — Chemical/oil carrier *Kriti Amethyst* sailed Curacao Jun 1 for Kingston (JAM). — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **LAINÉ (Panama)**

Buenos Aires, Jun 10 — Ro/ro *Laine* arrived San Nicolas Jun 7 and is waiting to unload 10,000 tons of "siderurgic" products. — Lloyd's Agents.

Buenos Aires, Jun 17 — Ro/ro *Laine* entered San Nicolas port at 1800, Jun 12. Vessel unloaded 10,765 tons of siderurgic material and sailed at 0340, Jun 14, for Campana. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: State transportation officials fired the captain and first mate of ro/ro *Leconte*, which ran aground on a reef last month, saying the men made serious errors leading to the accident. Capt. Harvey Williamson and Chief Mate William Petrich altered the vessel's course without first checking charts and plotting a course, according to the state Transportation Department. They also failed to see a navigation aid before running aground at full speed on the Cozian Reef, the agency said. "There were no mechanical failures, no engine problems have been determined, no problems with steering, the weather was fine," Nona Wilson, a department spokeswoman, said today. "So the conclusion is that they were just negligent." Ronald Leighton, Alaska representative of the Masters, Mates and Pilots union, did not object to the agency's findings but said the men should not have been fired. He added that the state failed to provide the men with a hearing before disciplining them. Leighton also said the two men had signed a settlement with the Coast Guard that included an eight-month suspension of their licenses, followed by one year of probation. The settlement also called for the men to attend a management class and talk to other members of the fleet about how to prevent such accidents. The vessel was en route from Angoon to Sitka in south-east Alaska on May 10 when it hit the reef in the Peril Strait. The vessel took on water, forcing the evacuation of 86 passengers and 23 crew members. The state estimates it will cost about \$3 million to repair the vessel.

#### **LIBERTADOR SAN MARTIN (Panama)**

Buenos Aires, Jun 14 — Product tanker *Libertador San Martin* arrived Buenos Aires Jun 7 and entered Tandanor Jun 11. It is expected to drydock today or tomorrow. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **LIL (Panama)**

Moji, Jun 14 — Bulk *Lil* arrived Shimonoseki Jun 13 and sailed the same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **LINDOS (Malta)**

Yokohama, Jun 16 — The local agent in Hachinohe reports that no damage was observed at the inspection of bulk *Lindos*. The vessel is now in Shimizu and will depart on Jun 19. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MAERSK BAHRAIN (Bahamas)**

See *Pelican I*.

#### **MAJOR HUBAL (Malta)**

Houston, Jun 14 — Bulk *Major Hubal* sailed Houston Jun 12. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MISS BERDIE (U.S.A.)**

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing *Miss Berdie* (178 gt, built 1987) ran aground at South Beach yesterday afternoon. The official cause of the grounding was unknown. Three persons on board were uninjured, and Coast Guard officials hoped to get a line to the boat and tow it off the sand at high tide last night. The boat is owned by Stan and Roberta Schones of Siletz.

London, Jun 16 — Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 2135, UTC: Fishing *Miss Berdie* is still aground 150 yards south of Yaquina Bay (approximately lat 44 41N, long 124 05W). Salvors are on scene and now awaiting high tide.

#### **MORNING EXPRESS (Panama)**

Busan, Jun 12 — Product tanker *Morning Express*: Temporary repairs were completed at Yeosu Jun 10. It is understood that the vessel will be sailing Yeosu for Hyundai Mipo Dockyard Co, Ltd, Ulsan, for permanent repairs this afternoon. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **NCC MEKKA (NIS)**

London, Jun 11 — Following press release received from Odfjell today: We deeply regret to inform that the second injured crewmember passed away last night. Since the accident on board chemical/oil carrier *NCC Mekka* he has been under intensive medical treatment at a specialist hospital in Rio de Janeiro. A Maritime Enquiry was held on board the vessel on Jun 9 while the ship was at anchor in Rio de Janeiro. The enquiry was administered by the Norwegian General Consul in Brazil and attended by Maritime Investigator John Ramsøy from the Norwegian Maritime Directorate (NMD) and Odfjell's Risk Manager, Capt. Toralf Srenes. Several witnesses were heard during the Enquiry and a survey of the area of the explosion was also carried out. At the time of the explosion cargo tank No.1, centre starboard was in the process of being cleaned and indications are that the explosion originated inside this tank. No breaches of procedures or failure of relevant equipment were found during the enquiry and the following inspection of the area. During the enquiry it became obvious that the crew had reacted swiftly and done an outstanding job with fire fighting and first aid. The fire was extinguished in a very short time and heat transfer and potential escalation of the fire into other tanks were avoided. The vessel will stay in Rio de Janeiro for the next few days to carry out further inspections in order to establish what repairs are necessary.

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

London, Jun 16 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0555, BST, today: Passenger ro/ro *Nona Mary*, SVLV, (2206 gt, built 1972), reported aground in lat 36 46.58N, long 24 35.02E, at 0122, local time. Vessel still aground awaiting diver survey of hull. No pollution. Milos Port Authority handling case.

London, Jun 16 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Passenger ro/ro *Nona Mary* grounded at the rocky islets of Ag. Efstathios, about 400m from the port of Psathi, Kimolos island, at 0122, Jun 16. On board were 39 crew and only one passenger who are all good in health. According to statement from the master the vessel was not in any danger, neither was there any pollution or ingress of water. The weather in the area was reported to be good. Personnel from the Milos Port Authority proceeded immediately to the area on board passenger tourist vessel *Delfini* and collected the one passenger who was then taken to Milos. *Nona Mary* remains in the same position while a diver inspection is arranged and then following that a decision will be taken for the method of refloating. At the time vessel was performing the schedule from Lavrion for Syros-Serifos-Sifnos-Kimolos-Milos and with an identical return voyage. Milos Port Authority is investigating the incident.

London, Jun 17 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the afternoon of Jun 16, passenger ro/ro *Nona Mary* was refloated with the assistance of tug *Atlas* and anchored next to the islets Ag. Efstathios of Kimolos island. Following a survey the vessel was permitted to be towed without passengers to Perama in order to carry out repairs.

London, Jun 17 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0940, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Nona Mary* was refloated at approximately 1900, yesterday. Vessel is currently in tow of tug *Atlas* bound Perama, where ETA 1400, local time, today.

#### **NORDICA (Cyprus)**

Gibraltar, Jun 15 — General cargo *Nordica* (3731 gt, built 1980) arrived at Gibraltar at 2040, local time, Jun 13, for bunkers. Surveyors carried out a Port State Control as she was listing to port and after discovering a crack in the hull detained the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ORION 1 (Nigeria)**

Istanbul, Jun 16 — General cargo *Orion 1* (3994 gt, built 1972), Istanbul for Nigeria, while transiting Dardanelles sustained engine breakdown at 1245, local time, yesterday and anchored near Dardanelles. Vessel was subsequently towed by TDI tug and anchored off Gelibolu at 1520, local time, yesterday for inspection and repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **PASIR 1 (Singapore)**

Houston, Jun 14 — Bulk/oil *Pasir 1* sailed Galveston Jun 11. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **PEARLMAR (Cyprus)**

See "Drugs Seized on Cyprus Vessel in United States" under "Miscellaneous."

#### **PELICAN I (Malta)**

London, Jun 11 — C.c. *Pelican I*, collision with c.c. *Maersk Bahrain* in

the River Scheldt Jul 20, 2003: At the time, the voyage of *Pelican I* was broken off and the containers were unloaded and stored at the FMT Terminal in Flushing. All the cargo interested parties were invited by the owners of *Pelican I* and by the carriers and the salvors to collect the cargo. On Nov 5 an arbitrator, competent on the basis of Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract, ordered that the cargo interested parties must remove the remaining cargo immediately from the FMT Terminal. On Apr 1, 2004, the arbitrator also ordered the carriers, being Hamburg Sudamerikanische Dampfschiffahrt Gesellschaft KG (Ellerman), Israel Continent Shipping Limited (Iscont), P&O Nedlloyd Limited en Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha Limited (K Line) to remove the remaining cargo immediately. On this basis and to prevent the costs (storage costs, etc) to increase more, these carriers submitted a petition to the Court of Middelburg to obtain leave to have the cargo sold and, if allowed, to deduct from the proceeds at sale their costs (storage, freight, cost auction, etc). A possible balance will be paid or placed on a special account ("consignatiekas"). The request will be heard at public hearings at 1330, Jun 22, and at 1330, Jun 13. At each of these hearings, objection to such an application can be made by cargo interested parties.

#### **PEMATANG/PERTAMINA 1021 (Indonesia)**

See "Indonesia" under "Piracy."

#### **PING YANG NO.5 (Cambodia)**

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Ping Yang No.5* (496 gt, built 1988) and general cargo *Ru Yi Quan* (6577 gt, built 1995) collided in waters off Nakajima at around 0200 yesterday, but there were no injuries or oil spills, the Japan Coast Guard said. The starboard bow of *Ru Yi Quan* came into contact with the port bow of *Ping Yang No.5* when the two vessels ran into each other in the Sea of Aki, two kilometres from Nakajima. All crew members on both vessels were Chinese, the JCG said.

#### **PRIDE OF AMERICA (U.S.A.)**

Bremen, Jun 14 — A local press report states: Five months after being damaged, the future of the newly built passenger *Pride of America* at the Bremerhaven Lloyd-Werft (shipyard) is still uncertain. So far the damage has not been settled nor has the further construction of the vessel been clarified, said Klaus Rosche, chairman of the Lloyd-Werft works committee. During a stormy night in January *Pride of America*, at the shipyard quay, got into a slanting position and was waterlogged. As a result of the accident the Lloyd-Werft had to declare insolvency. The damage caused by the accident has been assessed at up to 180 million Euro. Settlement is taking a long time as 63 insurers are said to be involved in the matter. The owners of the new luxury liner, the American shipping line Norwegian Cruise Liners (NCL) have

also still not yet decided about the further construction of the vessel. The management of the Lloyd-Werft did not wish to comment on the present status. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ROGER (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Aarhus, Jun 16 — General cargo *Roger* (1523 gt, built 1984) grounded off Kolding at 0245, Jun 15. The vessel was refloated by tug *Wulf V* at 2225, Jun 15. A diving inspection is being performed together with GL and discharge of part cargo of phosphate is expected to be completed at approximately 1300 hrs, today. Subject to Port State Control lifting the detention and GL approval the vessel will proceed to Szczecin for the discharge of the remaining cargo. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Roger* sailed St. Malo Jun 10 and was last reported passing Brunsbittel at 0805, Jun 14, bound Kolding.)

Aarhus, Jun 16 — General cargo *Roger*: The detention has been lifted. The divers inspection revealed no damages to the vessel, which sailed from Kolding at 1530 hrs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **RU YI QUAN (China)**

See *Ping Yang No.5*.

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

Copenhagen, Jun 11 — General cargo *San Remo* sailed Bandholm Jun 10. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SEA TRUST (Lebanon)**

London, Jun 12 — A press release from Wijsmuller Salvage BV, dated today, states: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage and Scaldis Salvage & Marine Contractors have yesterday completed operations to refloat vehicle *Sea Trust* from its sunken and capsized position in the port of Antwerp, six days after the start of the operations. The operations, involving the stability-assisted-refloating method, were started last Saturday with the salvage teams making the necessary inspection dives after two trucks of SvitzerWijsmuller equipment had arrived in the port of Antwerp the evening before. Work executed then also included the blocking off of bunker tank vent pipes (under water) to prevent oil pollution. The SvitzerWijsmuller naval architect in the meantime was engaged in measuring/sounding work and modelling the vessel into the necessary computer systems. The Scaldis sheerleg *Norma* was used as a work base initially and its crew and further Scaldis divers were merged into the combined salvage team. On Sunday slings were installed underneath the 45-50 degrees capsized vessel which were to be used for the necessary stability support to be given by *Norma*. Work then also was started to close the hull both from the outside as well as inside to ensure the availability of the necessary watertight compartments. That section of work was completed on Tuesday. On Sunday preparations were further started to install pumps at the necessary locations and guide hoses and power supply cables through the

vessels's numerous decks. Special care and attention had to be given to the potential explosive atmosphere in the vessel caused amongst others by car fuel vapours. Also an additional 100-ton crane was located ashore to assist in operations and (later) for a part cargo discharge. On Monday the work continued on positioning power supply and pump hose-strings through the vessel, while a power supply base was located ashore. On Tuesday the discharge operation of the cars started, whereby in total 84 cars were taken off from the tilted top-deck. The latest cars from the weather deck, located underwater on the starboard side, were finally removed with diver assistance on Wednesday. With all preparations having been completed the combined parbuckling and pumping operation started on Wednesday, whereafter the vessel in two hours was uprighted to a (close to) 0 deg list. The pumping operation continued according to a SvitzerWijsmuller naval architect carefully developed pumping sequence and was interrupted only as from Thursday prior to water being pumped out from the engine-room and the holds could start to contain fuel. In order to prevent pollution the discharged water from the compartments from that time on were pumped into a specially available tanker for disposal of the contaminated water/fuel mixture. On Friday the operations were completed and a notice of readiness was given to, and accepted by, the principals. A contractually agreed six-hour standby period then started whereafter the vessel was officially re-delivered to its owners. In the meantime additional work was done to assist the principals even further by removing another 34 cars from the interior of the vessel.

#### **SEACOR LAREDO (Chile)**

See *Berge Nice*.

#### **SMIT-LLOYD 32 (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Abidjan, Jun 10 — Anchor handling tug/supply *Smit-Lloyd 32* arrived Abidjan Jun 3. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SOZIDANIE (Vanuatu)**

Las Palmas, Jun 16 — Fish factory *Sozidanie* is berthed in the Reina Sofia quay, Las Palmas. At the moment no repairs are in hand as there is still some fire on board. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **STERLING CARRIER (Canada)**

London, Jun 10 — Fish carrier *Sterling Carrier* (503 gt, built 2002) reported loss of main engine and collided with a fish pen at Mid Summer Isle Fish Farm, in Spring Pass, B.C, in lat 50 39N, long 126 40W, at 1140, PDST, Jun 9.

#### **STEWART J.CORT (U.S.A.)**

Troy, Mich, Jun 14 — The finishing touches are being applied to the damaged bow of the USCG cutter *Hollyhock* at Coast Guard Station Detroit. The damage was incurred during ice breaking duties this past winter when *Hollyhock* got too close to bulk *Stewart J.Cort*. Final welding

repairs are being done, followed by grinding and filling any pockets in the welds. Sources say that as soon as the paint is dried, the vessel will return to regular duties. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

#### **SUNRISE (U.K.)**

London, Jun 15 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1746, UTC: Distress signal received from fishing *Sunrise* (225 gt, built 1984), with six persons on board, reporting the vessel is taking water in the Oisberg Oilfield, in lat 60 24.38N, long 02 39.15E. Rescue helicopter OC scrambled and is presently on scene and lowering pumps onto the vessel. Fishing *Ocean Dawn* is alongside.

London, Jun 15 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1117, UTC: Fishing *Sunrise* has now been pumped dry and is proceeding to Lerwick, closely escorted by fishing *Ocean Dawn*, ETA 0030, UTC, Jun 16.

London, Jun 15 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1505, UTC: Fishing *Sunrise* is now making for Fraserburgh accompanied by fishing *Ocean Dawn*, with 190 miles to run at 9.5 knots. It has given an ETA of 0900, UTC, Jun 16. A communication schedule is continuing at hourly intervals.

London, Jun 16 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1150, UTC: Fishing *Sunrise* arrived Fraserburgh at 1000, UTC. Search and rescue operations terminated.

#### **SVEN OLTSMANN (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Bilbao, Jun 14 — C.c. *Sven Oltsmann* arrived Bilbao Jun 11 and sailed Jun 12. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TAVASTLAND (U.K.)**

London, Jun 15 — Understand c.c. *Tavastland* (7519 gt, built 2003) grounded in Kiel Canal after machine failure Jun 13. Tug *Bulk*, from Kiel, assisted the vessel and it proceeded Jun 14. (Note — *Tavastland*, Kotka for Hamburg, passed Brunsbittel 0130, Jun 14 and arrived Hamburg 0454 same day.)

#### **THAILINE 6 (Malaysia)**

Yokohama, Jun 11 — General cargo *Thailine 6* arrived Tomakomai Jun 5 and sailed Jun 6. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **THOR HAWK (DIS)**

Kochi, Jun 14 — Understand c.c. *Thor Hawk* (1964 gt, built 1992) anchored 100 miles off Kochi port due to engine trouble Jun 11. The vessel has not yet been able to engage a tug to tow it to Kochi for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **THOR KIS (Isle of Man)**

Malta, Jun 10 — General cargo *Thor Kis* arrived and sailed Valletta Jun 10 for Venice. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **VANGUARD (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Massluis, Jun 11 — General cargo *Vanguard* experienced turbo-charger problems. Repairs took about 32 hours. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Jun 13 — General cargo *Vanguard* sailed Rotterdam 0325, Jun 11, bound Waterford.

#### **VICTORINA III (Sweden)**

Stockholm, Jun 17 — Chartered passenger *Victorina III*, with 23 passengers on board, grounded last night outside Grinda Island in the Stockholm archipelago. One passenger was slightly injured. The vessel was evacuated due to the fact that it was taking in water. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 17 — Following received from Swedish Shipping Inspectorate, timed 0747, UTC: Passenger *Victorina III* (83 gt) was refloated at 0130, Jun 17, and is now berthed at Kummelnas Shipyard, about 20 miles east of Stockholm.

#### **VIKING EUROPE (German)**

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated Jun 10, states: Passenger *Viking Europe*, (not *European Viking* as before reported) registered in Germany, struck a piling on the Reichsbruecke bridge, one of the main spans carrying traffic over the Danube in central Vienna, today, injuring 19 people, officials said. Of the 135 passengers on board, 129 were Americans, authorities said. The rest were Britons and Canadians, the vessel was manned by a crew of 39. The vessel began its journey in Amsterdam, Netherlands, and its final destination was Budapest, Hungary. Police Col. Robert Haas said the 19 victims, who included 16 Americans and two British nationals, suffered minor injuries, mainly scratches and bruises. One of the injured was a cook who suffered light burns, Haas said. The injured were taken to a hospital for treatment, rescue officials said. All but the cook were released by mid afternoon. The collision damaged the restaurant deck of the vessel. The Vienna navigation authority said the stern of the vessel rammed the bridge at about 0800 as it was beginning to turn around, smashing windows and showering passengers with flying shards of glass. The Reichsbruecke bridge, a popular landmark in Vienna was not seriously damaged, officials said. Michael Kaindl, a Vienna city engineer, told Austrian media the skipper should have waited until the vessel was downstream of the bridge to begin the turn. The vessel was just upstream when it hit the span, officials said. Investigators said the second officer, and not the vessel's master, was at the helm when the accident occurred. The officer was said to be distressed and in shock and was being treated by psychiatric experts. The German company that operated the vessel, Klaus Saar GmbH, sent a technical expert to evaluate the damage, and the company later declared the vessel fit to continue the journey to Budapest.

#### **VIKING II (New Zealand)**

Auckland, Jun 17 — Fishing *Viking II* has been sold on an "as is, where is basis" in its damaged condition. The purchaser has a view to complete repairs and return it to commercial fishing operations. The vessel still

remains on the hard at Dockland 5 in Whangarei pending moving to the owners yard. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### WILLOW (Bahamas)

London, Jun 14 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0710, UTC: General cargo *Willow* (1560 gt, built 1983), Bilbao for Antwerp with general cargo, reported main engine breakdown due to injector problem in lat 49 02N, long 04 54W, at 0110, UTC, Jun 13. The vessel is currently under tow of general cargo *Fir*, bound Plymouth. Position at 0700, UTC, Jun 14, lat 49 43N, long 04 27W.

London, Jun 14 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1530, UTC: General cargo *Willow*, under tow of general cargo *Fir*, speed seven knots, course 060, was in lat 50 11.4N, long 03 33.6W at 1451, UTC. ETA Torbay 1900, UTC.

London, Jun 14 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1724, UTC: General cargo *Willow* is now in VHF communications with Brixham pilots who are boarding this time. *Willow* will now proceed to anchor in Torbay anchorage area. General cargo *Fir* is now proceeding on passage to Seville.

London, Jun 16 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1304, UTC: At 1748, UTC, Jun 14, general cargo *Willow* was reported to be at anchor in Torbay. Brixham pilots report that vessel resumed passage at 1300 hrs, today.

#### XIANG XIU (Panama)

Yokohama, Jun 10 — C.c. *Xiang Xiu* arrived and sailed Yokohama Jun 9, arriving Tokyo same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### YU BAO NO.1 (Taiwan)

Suva, Jun 16 — The crew of Taiwan fishing *Yu Bao No.1* were stranded on a reef after it ran aground near Nukubuco passage, entrance to Suva harbour, in lat 18 11S, long 178 25E, Jun 15. Understand the vessel was returning to Suva from high seas after a fishing trip when it ran aground. Believe 12 crew members are still on board waiting for high tide in order to salvage the vessel. Vessel is insured by M/S, Shinkong Insurance Co. Ltd, Taipei, under hull policy condition which is Total Loss Only extended to cover fire and war risks. At this stage the insurers are concerned about the salvage reward. — Lloyd's Agents.

Suva, Jun 16 — Fibreglass fishing *Yu Bao No.1* YJSN5, official No 1423, length 23.8 m, 93.1 gt, completed 2002, is owned by Yuh Yow Marine Vanuatu Co Ltd, built by Shing Sheng Ha Boat Building Co Ltd, Kaohsiung. Vessel, which has two masts and two decks and is not classed, is still stranded on the reef. Attempts will be made by the salvors to refloat the vessel in due course. The owners are yet to engage a salvage company. Understand vessel was carrying 40 tons of fish out of which 20 tons has been removed. — Lloyd's Agents.

## Piracy



### INDONESIA

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The Indonesian navy said yesterday it had stormed product tanker *Pematang/Pertamina 1021* (12450 gt, built 1979), held by separatists from Aceh province for a week, and shot dead three of the hijackers. The navy stormed the vessel, belonging to the state-owned oil and gas company Pertamina, on Friday (Jun 11) after calls for the pirates to surrender were met with gunfire, Major Novi Arie said. Three pirates were shot and two managed to flee, said the navy spokesman from a base in Belawan, North Sumatra. 'The victims turned out to be armed members of the GAM (Free Aceh Movement),' Major Arie said. He could not give details of their identities but said their bodies were taken to a hospital in the North Sumatra capital Medan. One of the vessel's crew had alerted the authorities by satellite telephone soon after the pirates boarded the vessel when it was anchored in the Makassar Strait, Major Arie said. The spokesman could not say how many crew were on board. None of them or the navy troops were injured in the operation, he said. Three AK-56 automatic rifles and bullets were seized from the victims. The state Antara news agency reported that the hijackers had demanded a ransom of 500 million rupiah (S\$91,500), but Major Arie could not confirm this. The vessel had been on the way from Dumai, a port in Riau province, to Belawan for repairs.

### MALACCA STRAIT

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: Three Malaysian fishermen have been kidnapped in the Malacca Strait in pre-dawn raids by pirates believed to be from Indonesia, the official Bernama news agency reported. The pirates, on board a large trawler and armed with automatic weapons, boarded small boats used by the Malaysian prawn fishermen about three nautical miles off the west coast of Perak state, the agency said. It quoted crew members who were not seized as saying the pirates spoke an Indonesian dialect. State executive councillor Ho Cheng Wang said no belongings or cash were taken in the incidents and he believed the abductors might demand ransom. Last month, pirates believed to be Indonesians kidnapped four Thai fishermen in the strait off Malaysia's northern Penang state and demanded ransom of 40,000 ringgit (\$15,300). In April, pirates kidnapped a Thai fisherman in the strait off Kendi island. He was released after ransom was paid.

## Port State Control



### GIBRALTAR

See *Nordica* under "Marine."

### ROMANIA

Bucharest, Jun 11 — General cargo *Hope 1* sailed from Constantza on Jun 8 for Saudi Arabia under the new name *Sanhope*. — Lloyd's Agents.

## Seizures & Arrests



### BOW SATURN (NIS)

Maassluis, Jun 14 — Chem.tank *Bow Saturn* was released from detention on Jun 9 and departed from Rotterdam 2350, Jun 11, bound for Durban. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

### DUIVELAND (Netherlands)

Maassluis, Jun 14 — General cargo *Duiveland* is still under arrest in the Rotterdam area. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

### EL DJAZAIR (Libya)

Alexandria, Jun 4 — General cargo *El Djazair* arrived Alexandria Jun 3. — Lloyd's Agents.

### FESTIVAL CRUISES INC

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Alstom yesterday admitted that it was behind the Euros 131m (\$158m) purchase of former Festival Cruises passenger *Mistral*, at auction in Marseilles last week. The group, which has a 100% interest in the ship via a vendor financing package, said that Auro Shipping, the Marshall Islands-registered company which bought the vessel, was a subsidiary set up specifically for the operation. It added that the acquisition was a temporary solution aimed at enabling it to resell the ship in the best possible conditions without being constrained by deadlines fixed by the French judiciary. Norwegian broker, RS Platou, said yesterday that it had been appointed to find a charter and/or buyer for *Mistral*.

### GENI ONE (Comoros)

Bucharest, Jun 2 — General cargo *Jihan*, ex *Geni One*, arrived Constantza May 31. — Lloyd's Agents.

### JAREF (Libya)

London, Jun 11 — General cargo *Jaref* sailed Split Apr 30.

### LAEMTHONG GLORY (Thailand)

Aden, Jun 10 — General cargo *Laemthong Glory* is still at Aden under arrest. It is very difficult to get any clear cut information as to when the vessel will be released. — Lloyd's Agents.

Aden, Jun 13 — General cargo *Laemthong Glory*, under arrest at Aden: Understand local law firm currently endeavouring to secure vessel's release. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### MAERSK ABERDEEN (Singapore)

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated Jun 12, states: Kerala High Court has directed the deputy conservator of Kochi (India) Port Trust to seize and detain c.c. *Maersk Aberdeen*, anchored at Kochi Port following alleged negligence on the part of the shippers in handling some seafood sent by a company in the state. Justice K Balakrishnan Nair passed the order on a petition by Esmario Export Enterprises, Kollam, complaining negligence on the part of the shippers in handling seafood sent to Spain from Kochi on Aug 20, 2003. The court held that if a security of US dollar 78,700 was deposited by the ship's owner or their agents, the vessel could be released. According to the petitioner, due to some fault in the refrigeration facility in the ship, some 1,200 cartons of frozen cuttle fish, exported to Spain, got spoilt and was inedible, causing a loss of about Rs 35.59 lakh to the company.

Colombo, Jun 14 — C.c. *Maersk Aberdeen* arrived Colombo Jun 13. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### MISTRAL (Wallis & Futuna)

See "Festival Cruises Inc."

#### OLERAMA (Spain)

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: The Naval Service has detained Spanish trawler *Olerama* (199 gt, built 1967) for alleged breaches of fishing regulations. *Olerama* was detained off the Co Kerry coast yesterday by *Le Orla* on suspicion of breaching regulations on net size and was escorted to port in Castletownbere.

#### OSTWIND (Antigua & Barbuda)

Maassluis, Jun 14 — General cargo *Ostwind* is still under arrest at Vlaardingen. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### SANTA GIULIETTA (Liberia)

Lima, Jun 10 — C.c. *Santa Giulietta*, which remained immobilized for almost two months in the port of the Callao, has proceeded to the port of Iquique. A Peruvian customs team and five representatives from the Public Ministry concluded May 15 the revision of 418 non-declared containers of the ship. The operative was carried out during three days, which gave as a final result that there was not any type of illegal merchandise, in opposition to what Peruvian authorities supposed, finally closing the investigation. The vessel arrived at Callao on Mar 20, coming originally from Asia, before stopping at Buenaventura, Colombia. It was trying to sail Mar 22 when moments before it launched it was taken by Peru Customs, verifying that they had only declared a part of more than 750 containers that the ship had.

By virtue of the case, authorities of the neighbouring country arranged the revision of the non-declared containers, disposition that the captain of the ship, Mathias Thalhammer, refused to fulfill. The argument of the captain and its representatives was that the questioned load did not have to be declared, since its final destiny was Chile, staying under the condition of transit merchandise. After two months of disputes about the legality or illegality of the intervention of the containers, the Peruvian customs began the revision of the questioned containers on May 12. After three days of work the final result: A dispute loaded with bureaucracies and no type of contraband on board. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### SIMWER (Netherlands)

Maassluis, Jun 14 — General cargo *Simwer* is still under arrest in the Rotterdam area. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### STRILBAS (Norway)

Maassluis, Jun 14 — Standby safety vessel *Strilbas* is still under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### TURTLE (Belize)

London, Jun 11 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: The five crewmembers of Belize-flagged cargo vessel *Turtle* were arrested this morning for discharging 2540 boxes of contraband cigarettes in the Peristeria region of Salamina. The vessel's cargo had been loaded at Bourgas, with a destination of Albania. In the same region, the Coast Guard located and arrested eight individuals who were to receive and transport the cargo in trucks. The vessel, cargo and trucks have been impounded.

#### VOYAGER (Netherlands Antilles)

Maassluis, Jun 14 — General cargo *Voyager* is still under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

## Pipeline Accidents



#### BEGARI WAH AREA, SINDH PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jun 16 — Balochistan-Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) said this afternoon that its team of engineers had this morning repaired a portion of the damaged gas pipelines at Begari Wah, near the village of Gabol, in Sindh Province, Pakistan. The pipelines, which carry gas to the northern area of the country, were damaged on Monday night (Jun 14) in a huge blast near the Sui gas "field" (? field). However, no suspension in the supply of gas was reported in any part of country and the gas supply to Punjab Province was supplemented thorough extra supplies. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

## Pollution



#### KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: An oil-spill collection vessel overturned at Kaohsiung harbour, Taiwan, on Jun 15. The spilled oil polluted a large area of the sea offshore, no casualties were reported. A crane is being used to salvage the vessel.

## Weather & Navigation



#### AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A dramatic storm swept across Sydney overnight causing flash-flooding and closing major roads, with the city's south-east the worst affected. The Bureau of Meteorology said about 40 mm of rain fell at Sydney airport, near the worst hit areas of Kurnell and Botany, before the storm moved through the eastern suburbs. The thunderstorm struck about 2130, AEST, pounding mainly coastal parts of the city with heavy rain for around an hour, the bureau said. However, emergency workers said most calls for help from were false alarms, with only minor damage reported. "Because the rain came in quickly, there's been some local flooding," a State Emergency Services spokesman said. A build-up of autumn leaves had likely worsened drain blockages, which unclogged quickly once the rain stopped, he said. The Roads and Traffic Authority said the conditions forced the temporary closure of several roads in Sydney's southern and eastern suburbs, including Sans Souci, Kensington, Rushcutters Bay and Woolloomooloo. Among the major roads affected was Anzac Parade at Todman Avenue, Kensington, which was closed in both directions for 30 minutes, the RTA said. The bureau said conditions eased quickly, with the chance of only light showers today.

#### BAY OF BENGAL

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Bangladeshi rescuers, battling rough seas, are searching for around 140 fishermen missing after a storm sank 20 boats in the Bay of Bengal. Police say 10 bodies have been found. Two people have been rescued alive but in critical condition while drifting for nearly 24 hours of the storm. "The sinking of the boats was reported late on Saturday (Jun 12)," Police Superintendent Ataul Kibria said. Fifteen fishermen had been rescued on Saturday but a fishing association says 144 of their colleagues are missing.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: Three fishermen drowned and about 200 others were missing after a powerful storm sank at least 18 trawlers off Bangladesh's southern coast, officials and survivors said today. Hundreds of people thronged the beach in search of relatives after the storm lashed the Bay of Bengal off Cox's Bazar and neighbouring Tekhnaf coast yesterday. The storm packed 30-mph winds and generated waves as high as 40 feet. Villagers found three bodies washed ashore on Maheshkhali island in the Bay of Bengal late yesterday, said Ataul Kibria, a senior police official in Cox's Bazar. Nurul Amin, an owner of one of the lost trawlers, said only four of the 11 men on his vessel had made it back home by today. The strong winds and rough seas made searching for the lost fishermen too dangerous. "The sea is so choppy and rough that we can't go out there," Kibria said. A rescue official said he was hopeful that many of the missing were able to swim to small islands that dot the coast, or were rescued by other vessels.

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: Seven more bodies washed up the Bangladesh coastline, raising the death toll from a powerful weekend (Jun 12-13) storm to at least 13, police said today. About 140 fishermen were missing. The storm hit on Saturday, with waves reaching 40 feet and wind gusts up to 30 mph. At least 20 trawlers capsized carrying an estimated 200 fishermen. The police official said about 50 fishermen were picked up or managed to swim to safety. "About 140 people were still missing, but we believe that many of them could be taking shelter in nearby islands, or were rescued by villagers," the official said.

#### CHINA

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Flooding caused by continuous torrential rain has killed two girls with three others missing in south-west China's Guizhou Province since Monday (Jun 14). Three people were swept away while a three-year-old girl was killed in Shuicheng County and a 13-year-old schoolgirl found dead on the way to school in Fenggang County respectively on Monday and Tuesday, according to the provincial flood control office. A total of 90,000 people in 13 villages has been affected by the flood and 780 houses damaged, said officials. The local weather station shows the northern and middle parts of the province has received great quantity of rainfall and thundershowers. Such weather will probably continue to the weekend.

#### KENYA

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: The Kenyan government has said it is responding to food shortages in areas suffering from drought. More than one million people are threatened with hunger in Eastern and Coastal Provinces. Food supplies including cooking oil, sorghum and rice have been sent to the affected districts

to ensure reserve stock piles are sufficient. Stephen Tarus, assistant minister in charge of food security, said delays were due to "logistical reasons". Drought is not uncommon in Kenya and the government has been criticised for its slow response to the situation. Desperate residents in the coastal district of Kwale are reported to be living off wild tubers, because of acute food shortages. Responding to the criticism, Mr Tarus insisted that the Kenyan government had a sound food policy. He said Kenya was an agricultural-based economy and the government had "elaborate plans" for the provision of Kenya's food. The food shortages have been exacerbated by contaminated maize stocks in parts of the Eastern province. According to Health Minister Charity Ngilu, 80% of locally available maize stocks were affected. Over 80 people have died from eating the poisonous maize. Mr Tarus explained that the contamination occurs when the maize is stored in conditions not suitable for food, but this had now been dealt with.

#### NICARAGUA

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Storms have flooded 811 homes in Nicaragua's Caribbean city Puerto Cabezas, forcing 200 people out of their homes. A collapsed bridge cut off Puerto Cabezas, 350 kilometres north-east of Managua, from the nearest town, Lamlaya. Although rains stopped yesterday, the Nicaraguan Territorial Studies Institute said the rains were expected to resume today.

#### TYPHOON "CHANTHU"

London, Jun 11 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Chanthu" near lat 13.0N, long 115.3E, at 0600, UTC, Jun 11. Movement past six hours 290 deg at six knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots with gusts to 65 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 70 nautical miles north semicircle, 65 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 13.9N, long 113.5E. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots with gusts to 70 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 20 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 70 nautical miles north semicircle, 65 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jun 12: Position lat 14.6N, long 111.7E. Maximum sustained winds 60 knots with gusts to 75 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 25 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 75 nautical miles north semicircle, 65 nautical miles elsewhere.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: Typhoon "Chanthu" killed seven people and left seven more missing when it swept through central Vietnam over the weekend (Jun 12-13), officials said today. Five fishermen were killed when their vessel sank on Saturday off the coast of Binh Dinh province, some 650 miles south of Hanoi, said the official from the provincial floods and storms control bureau. Another man, who was washing his feet in a river, drowned

after being sucked in by the strong current. A sixth fisherman was killed when strong winds forced two fishing vessels against the dock, crushing him, the official said. The typhoon also injured five people and destroyed or damaged more than 180 houses in the province. In neighbouring Danang and Quang Ngai province, seven fishermen were reported missing, officials there said. No damage estimates were available. The National Centre for Meteorology said the typhoon, which formed in the South China Sea, hit central Vietnam on Saturday afternoon and died down that night.

#### TYPHOON "CONSON"

London, Jun 11 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Conson" near lat 32.9N, long 133.9E, at 0600, UTC, Jun 11. Movement past six hours 045 deg at 26 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by a combination of satellite and radar. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Extratropical. Forecast for 1800, UTC: position lat 36.3N, long 138.4E. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Extratropical. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jun 12: Position lat 40.0N, long 144.4E. Maximum sustained winds 30 knots with gusts to 40 knots. Extratropical.

#### TYPHOON "DIANMU"

London, Jun 14 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Dianmu" near lat 09.6N, long 136.5E, at 0600, UTC, Jun 14. Movement past six hours 025 deg at two knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots with gusts to 70 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 10 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 90 nautical miles north semicircle, 70 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 10.5N, long 136.5E. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 25 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 95 nautical miles north semicircle, 75 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jun 15: Position lat 11.7N, long 136.2E. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots with gusts to 90 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 15 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 35 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 100 nautical miles north semicircle, 80 nautical miles elsewhere.

London, Jun 16 — Following received from Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Dianmu" was located near lat 15.1N, long 136.0E, approximately 820 nautical miles south-east of Kadana and has tracked northwestward, 325 degs, at 10 knots over the past six hours. Position accurate to within 30 nautical miles and based on eye fixed by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds 155 knots, gusts 190 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 40 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Maximum significant wave

height is 40 feet. At 0600, UTC, Jun 17, the centre is predicted to be near lat 18.0N, long 133.8E, with maximum sustained winds of 150 knots and gusts to 180 knots.

London, Jun 17 — Following received from Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Dianmu" was located near lat 17.6N, long 133.8E. Movement over the past six hours: 305 degs at nine knots. Position is accurate to within 20 nautical miles and based on eye fixed by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 140 knots, gusts 170 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 40 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Jun 18, the centre is predicted to be near lat 19.8N, long 131.0E, with maximum sustained winds of 125 knots and gusts to 150 knots.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated Jun 10, states: Severe storms this week caused about \$100 million in damage in the Denver area, flooding basements, denting cars and puncturing roofs. It's been nearly a decade since Colorado has seen that kind of damage from severe weather, said Carole Walker, spokeswoman for Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association. Walker said her \$100 million estimate includes millions in water damage that is not covered by most homeowner policies. Thousands of home and car owners were learning today what is covered and what isn't. "We are anticipating 10,000 auto claims at a projected cost of \$30 million, and 7,500 homeowners claims at a projected cost of \$26.3 million," said Kelly Campbell, of State Farm Insurance.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 12, states: Tornadoes damaged farm buildings and crops as violent thunderstorms battered south-eastern Minnesota and northern Iowa. One twister destroyed David Mickelson's barn, home, garage, machine shed and silo south of Otho, Iowa. No injuries were reported in the storms that started yesterday afternoon and continued through the evening. At least six tornadoes touched down near the south-central Kansas town of Mulvane this evening, destroying one home and damaging another, overturning cars and and downing power lines. Several other tornadoes were reported elsewhere in the state, but there were no immediate reports of injuries. Seven tornadoes struck south-eastern Minnesota yesterday, smashing at least two farms and several homes near LeRoy, about 40 miles south of Rochester, which got 1.34 inches of rain. In Iowa, the weather service estimated five to 10 tornadoes touched down in Webster County, including the one near Otho. About five tornadoes touched down in rural Clay County, said sheriff Randy Drukow. One was about a half-mile wide, but most of the damage was to crops, Drukow said. Another twister destroyed a farm building near Hartley in O'Brien County. Tornadoes also were reported in Iowa's Hamilton, Palo Alto, Kossuth and Emmet counties, and hail

up to 2 inches in diameter hammered parts of Webster County, authorities said. Heavy rain hit parts of south-western West Virginia today, forcing evacuations and closing all roads into the town of Matewan. Homes also were evacuated in other parts of Mingo County and in Mercer County.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: Crews worked today to restore power to thousands of residents following thunderstorms that swept across Missouri and Kansas, spawning tornadoes and causing at least one traffic death and a drowning. At least six tornadoes touched down south of Wichita, KS, destroying three homes, damaging more than a dozen others and overturning cars and downing power lines in Sumner County. Several funnel clouds were reported in Missouri as the storm moved into the state from Nebraska. Winds were so strong on Truman Lake, about 70 miles south-east of Kansas City, that a 16-foot boat was swamped by large waves. The body of the boat's owner, Vance Wiles of Willard, MO, was found along the shore today, officials said. A four-year-old girl died in a multiple-car wreck yesterday, the Missouri State Highway Patrol said. The child was a passenger in one of three cars that stopped on the road because of poor visibility. Another car struck the vehicle, causing a chain reaction. About 110,000 customers in Kansas and Missouri lost power during the storm, and many remained without electricity today. Hail the size of tennis balls hit Bethany, MO, and there were reports that hail was so deep near Tarkio that snow ploughs were used to clear the streets, said meteorologist Lisa Schmit. There were also some reports of flash flooding. In parts of Kansas, straight-line winds of up to 80 mph felled large tree limbs and snapped some trees in half, said Matt Wolters, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Topeka. In West Virginia, emergency workers in Mingo County helped about 250 families whose homes or apartments were damaged in mudslides stemming from the fourth severe rain storm to hit the area in two weeks. About 100 of the evacuees were from a public housing complex in North Matewan, where rocks and water tumbled from the yards of hillside homes after retaining walls gave way. "We've had extensive damage. But it's not irreparable," said director Virginia Lewis. Residents were expected to be able to return tomorrow. In Michigan, severe thunderstorms spawned funnel clouds today in the state's Lower Peninsula, but no injuries were immediately reported. Much of Indiana remained drenched today following thunderstorms that filled rivers, flooded roads and temporarily isolated a subdivision in West Lafayette. Officials said the Lafayette region received more than seven inches of rain in 48 hours, leaving water four feet deep covering its streets.

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: The heavy rain that's swamped much of Wisconsin during the past month has caused \$6 million in damage to roads, dams and

other public infrastructure so far. Additionally, hundreds of homes and businesses have been flooded. The damage total is expected to climb even higher as federal officials continue assessing damage in 11 counties hit hardest by the flooding. Wisconsin Emergency Management spokeswoman Lori Getter says as many as 550 homes have been damaged by flooding. Federal assessors haven't finished their work in Fond du Lac, Green Lake and Dodge counties. FEMA officials are done in Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Grant, Ozaukee, Jefferson, Kenosha and Vernon counties.

## Earthquakes



#### BANGLADESH

Karachi, Jun 15 — An earthquake of 4.47 magnitude on the Richter scale rocked the Bangladesh southern port city of Chittagong at 1739, yesterday. The epicentre of the light earthquake that lasted for 24 seconds was 225 kms off the Chittagong Seismic Observatory, said a report of Bangladesh Meteorological Department. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### CHILE

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.1 rattled Chile off the country's southern coast, the U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Centre said. No damages or injuries had been reported 90 minutes after the temblor was detected at 0717, local time. The National Earthquake Information Centre said the temblor had its epicentre about 630 kilometres south-west of Santiago. The quake's magnitude was revised to 6.1 from 5.6 by the National Earthquake Information Centre.

#### GREECE-TURKEY BORDER

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake measuring 5.1 on the open-ended Richter scale struck under the Greek-Turkish sea border, with no injuries or damage reported, the Geodynamic Institute of the Athens Observatory said. The tremor, in the northern Aegean sea, was recorded at 1503 hrs (1203, UTC) today, 324 kilometres northeast of Athens. The quake was felt in the Greek island of Samothraki and the Turkish seaside town of Canakkale.

#### IRAN

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A mild temblor measuring 3.3 degrees on the Richter scale hit the south-eastern city of Chalous today. The seismological base of Tehran University's Geophysics Institute registered the quake at 1113, local time. There were no immediate reports of any casualties or damage to property.

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 3 degrees on the open-ended Richter scale rattled Hamil district, 80 km south-west of Eslam Abad-e Gharb, last night. The seismological base of Kermanshah recorded the tremor at 2252, local time. There were no immediate reports of any casualties or damage to property caused by the quake.

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: An earthquake measuring 3.9 degrees on the open-ended Richter scale hit the city of Takestan in Qazvin province, north of Iran, early today. According to the seismological base of Tehran University's Geophysics Institute the tremor occurred at 0354, local time. There were no immediate reports of any casualties or damage to properties.

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: An earthquake measuring 3.1 degrees on open ended Richter scale rattled the city of Torbat Heidariyeh, in the north-eastern province of Khorassan, last night. The seismological base of Tehran University's geophysics institute recorded the tremor at 2143, local time. There were no immediate reports of any casualties or damage to property caused by the quake.

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated Jun 16, states: A mild earthquake measuring 3.6 degrees on the Richter scale hit suburbs of the city of Bam in south-eastern Kerman province this morning. Kerman's seismological base affiliated to the Geophysics Institute of Tehran University recorded the temblor at 0607, local time. There were no immediate reports of any possible damage.

#### JAPAN

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An earthquake registering an estimated 5.4 on the Richter scale jolted Japan's southern Hokkaido island early today, Kyodo news reported. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage from the quake, which occurred around 0300 hrs, Kyodo reported the Japan Meteorological Agency as saying. The quake measured 3 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in Tomakomai, Urakawa and several other locations in Hokkaido, according to the agency. Its focus was about 60 kilometres underground in the southern Tokachi region in Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island, the agency said.

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake registering an estimated magnitude of 4.8 on the Richter scale rattled northeastern Japan at 0205, today, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The quake measured 4 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in the town of Hashikami in Aomori Prefecture and 3 in Nagawa and several other locations in Aomori and Iwate prefectures.

#### MEXICO

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An earthquake shook Mexico City today, swaying skyscrapers, panicking residents and temporarily knocking out power to some neighbourhoods. There have been no reports of injuries or major damage. The tremor measured 5.8 on the Richter scale and was centred off the coast of southern Oaxaca state, about 530 km south-east of Mexico City, according to the National Autonomous University of Mexico's earthquake centre. Authorities in the capital said they had received no reports of injuries or major damage, but phone services near the epicentre was knocked out, making it difficult to know immediately the extent of the damage in that area. Brian Lassige, of the US Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado, said officials there registered the quake at 5.6-magnitude. He said the temblor probably felt worse than it actually was in Mexico City. Hundreds of people in the capital spilled out of homes, stores and office buildings and congregated on streets beginning to fill up with rush hour traffic just before 1800 hrs.

#### RUSSIA

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake hit the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia's Far East, the Hong Kong Observatory said today. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties. The magnitude 6.9 quake struck at 2328, Hong Kong time, yesterday, said the observatory, which monitors seismic activity in the region. The quake's epicentre was on the peninsula, about 680km south-east of Russia's Magadan region.

#### SAUDI ARABIA

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A mild earthquake measuring 4.3 on the Richter Scale hit a desert area in northern Saudi Arabia today, causing minimal damage, reports said. Ali al-Ghamidi, an official at the geophysical centre at King Fahd's Petroleum University, said the tremor is "a normal happening in the northern region due to its proximity to the Gulf of Aqaba which stands on a fault." He said these common tremors usually cause minor damage such as cracks in old buildings and streets as well as in old oil and water pipelines.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: A 5.1-magnitude earthquake centered in Baja California shook downtown San Diego this afternoon, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injury. The temblor struck about 1528 hrs and was centered about 60 miles west of Tijuana, Mexico, said Deborah Hedges, a spokeswoman for seismologists at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: An earthquake shook south-east Missouri in the area of

the New Madrid fault early today, rattling dishes but causing no damage or injuries. The magnitude 3.7 temblor was centered some 15 miles west-north-west of New Madrid, according to the U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Centre in Golden, Colo.



#### MOUNT AWU, INDONESIA

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Vulcanologists have downgraded the alert for Indonesia's Mount Awu volcano, saying it has cooled after an eruption last week that sent rocks 3,000 metres into the air. Officials say most of the 20,000 people who fled their homes can now return. Only those living on the northern slope of the volcano are being told to stay away. Mount Awu is on Sanghihe island, in Indonesia's north. Meanwhile in East Java, vulcanologists are still monitoring Mount Bromo, which erupted last week, killing a Singaporean and an Indonesian tourist who were hit by a shower of rocks. Officials say it will be a couple of days before they can say the mountain is safe.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A major volcanic eruption from Indonesia's Mount Awu is still possible although there has been a reduction of visible activity at the crater, vulcanologists said. A series of eruptions of ash and smoke have spewed from the 6,562-foot volcano in recent days, forcing the evacuation of about 20,000 people living on its slopes, but there have been no lava flows or casualties. "This morning the activity has visually reduced drastically. It is spewing nothing but white smoke," vulcanologist Syamsu said from Sangihe island, 1,400 miles north-east of Jakarta where the volcano is located. "The smoke plume is about 70- 80 metres high," Rizal said, adding the mountain and surrounding areas were still on the highest level of alert. "Looking at the data from seismographs over the past 24 hours, it shows that the mountain is not totally idle, there is still a possibility of a major eruption," Rizal said. The Indonesian archipelago sits astride the Pacific ring of fire and has more than 100 active volcanoes. Mount Awu, one of the most active volcanoes in the sprawling archipelago, has erupted repeatedly since the 17th century. Following the first eruption last Monday (Jun 7), access to the island, where copra and fishing are the major industries, has been limited to a 10-hour ferry ride from Sulawesi island. The airport is closed because of smoke and the danger of an eruption.

## Political & Civil Unrest



### AFGHANISTAN

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 12, states: The US military says it has killed more than 80 anti-government militants in recent operations in a rebel stronghold of south-east Afghanistan. A spokesman said the casualties were inflicted during an offensive that began three weeks ago in the Daychopan area, some 300km south-west of Kabul. The dead may have been Taleban and al-Qaeda fighters, or Hezb-e Islami militiamen allied to them, he added. The number of dead has not been independently verified.

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A remote-controlled bomb detonated near a convoy of international peacekeepers in northern Afghanistan today, killing three civilian bystanders, police said. The roadside bomb exploded at about 1000 in Kunduz, 150 miles north of Kabul, said Mutaleb Beg, the police chief of Kunduz province. Another explosion today damaged the office of a British relief agency in northern Afghanistan and injured an Afghan guard, police said. That blast occurred at 0300 outside the office of the ActionAid group in Faizabad, the capital of Badakhshan province 190 miles northeast of Kabul, said Fazel Ahmad Nazeri, a senior police investigator.

### COLOMBIA

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated Jun 10, states: Colombia's government has offered to halt offensive operations against the country's second-largest rebel group, if it calls a ceasefire. The National Liberation Army (ELN) has opened channels for dialogue with the government of President Alvaro Uribe. The new aim is to separate the ELN from its more powerful cousin, the Farc. The Farc, or Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, with about 16,000 fighters, is the main threat to Colombian security. The ELN is smaller, with an estimated 3,500 fighters. The government's aim is to entice the ELN into a separate peace agreement, allowing the armed forces to concentrate on hitting the larger guerrilla force. The government proposal was made via an imprisoned guerrilla leader, Francisco Galan, who is serving a life sentence in Itaquí jail in Medellín. He has a radio in his cell with which to pass the proposal to his bosses in the mountains and jungles of Colombia.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 12, states: Colombia's largest rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc) is said to have a new leader. Senator Jaime Dussan, of the left-wing Democratic Poll, said Farc commanders contacted the party and informed them that the

new leader was Alfonso Cano. Cano's real name is Guillermo Leon Saenz and he has been the ideological head of the guerrilla army. Long-time leader Manuel Marulanda has died or is about to die of prostate cancer, say intelligence sources. Analysts believe that the announcement reveals a shift away from the military emphasis of the Farc to more political activity. Many think this could raise the chances of a political dialogue with the government. Cano is known as a committed communist and the movement's ideology is unlikely to change. What may change is that the group may move away from indiscriminate bombings and killings that have earned the Farc the label 'terrorist organisation' both in the United States and Europe.

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) shot dead 34 peasants yesterday at a ranch near La Gabarra, 500 km north-east of Bogota, Colombian authorities said. The authorities said FARC rebels broke into the ranch at dawn yesterday in the one of the country's biggest cocaine-producing regions as the workers are sleeping. Then the armed men opened fire at the workers and 34 were killed and five injured, authorities said.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Officers with Congo's security forces briefly commandeered state radio and TV early today in what government ministers called a bloodless failed coup attempt in Congo's capital. Foreign Minister Antoine Ghonda blamed an "isolated movement" within the security forces and said the postwar power-sharing government led by President Joseph Kabila remained in charge. "The situation is completely under control," Information Minister Vitale Kamerhe said shortly before daybreak. Officers behind the attempt retreated to a military base within Kinshasa without violence, officials said. "There was not a bit of gunfire," presidential spokesman Kadura Kafango said. The apparent coup attempt began when at least one officer briefly appeared on state radio and TV to declare security forces were "neutralising" Kabila's transitional government. The rebel officers cut electricity in the city. Most of Kinshasa appeared to sleep through the event, and the capital remained quiet before dawn. State television was off the air. Kamerhe indicated the leader of the attempt, Maj. Eric Lenge, remained at the military base. Kamerhe refused to give details.

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The Congolese Government says the ringleader of an attempted coup has fled the capital, Kinshasa. A spokesman for the Congolese President Joseph Kabila says Major Eric Lenge and a band of around 20 supporters are being chased south by security forces. Major Lenge was one of a group of dissident soldiers in the president's personal guard. President

Kabila has since appeared on television to reassure the country that he is still in control.

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated Jun 16, states: Around 17,000 refugees have streamed into northern Burundi from the Democratic Republic of Congo since clashes earlier this month. "More refugees are expected, given the situation is so unstable," said the UNHCR's Jennifer Pagonis. A dissident general threatened to resume attacks today and warned new government troop movements could plunge the area into fresh conflict. The fleeing civilians say they are terrified of renewed fighting. The Congolese government has accused Rwanda of massing troops on its border and dismissed General Laurent Nkunda's ultimatum, urging him to surrender instead. Rwanda rejects allegations by the DR Congo that it has deployed extra troops along the border between the two countries. DR Congo's Foreign Minister Antoine Ghonda said that troops loyal to General Nkunda had committed crimes including looting and rape and should be brought to justice. UN spokesman Sebastian Lapierre attempted to play down concerns saying there was no need to worry unless the Rwandan troops crossed the border. Weeks of insecurity between government loyalists and General Nkunda's rebels are proving the most serious threat to DR Congo's fragile peace process aimed at ending years of conflict in central Africa. On Monday (Jun 14), UN relief coordinator Jan Egeland warned that the humanitarian situation was acute in eastern DR Congo, with 3.3m people cut off from aid. The United Nations is also investigating reports of further fighting north of Uvira. Renegade soldiers expelled from Bukavu last week are believed to be involved in clashes with government militia. According to General Nkunda he went to Bukavu to protect civilians, in particular the Banyamulenge ethnic group, who he claims were being attacked.

### INDIA

Srinagar, Jun 10 — A gunbattle between soldiers and two separatist guerrillas holed up overnight in a mosque in Indian Kashmir ended today as soldiers shot dead both gunmen, a security official said. Troops yesterday laid siege to the mosque after a soldier and militant were killed in a shootout outside the building in Kulgam, south of Kashmir's summer capital, Srinagar. Two other rebels took shelter in the mosque. Witnesses said the mosque was completely damaged in the exchange of fire, but Sharma said he was waiting for details. In another incident suspected Muslim militants shot dead four members of family including two women and a six-year-old child during an attack overnight in a remote hamlet in the district of Udhampur south of Srinagar, police said. No militant group has claimed responsibility for the killing yet. — Reuters.

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A grenade attack on a crowded restaurant in Indian-

controlled Kashmir killed four people, including two tourists and a young child, and wounded 25 others. Separate attacks in the region left five more dead and wounded 20. Suspected rebels lobbed a grenade into a popular restaurant in Pahalgam, a holiday resort in India's Jammu-Kashmir state, police said. The blast triggered an explosion of a cooking gas canister in the restaurant, adding to the casualties, said a local police officer. Al-Nasireen, a little-known rebel group, claimed responsibility for the attack in a telephone call to Current News Service, a local news agency. Earlier yesterday, a hand grenade thrown by a suspected Islamic rebel at an army vehicle in a border town missed its target and wounded 22 civilians, four of them critically, police said. The blast occurred in Handwara, a town close to the Line of Control which divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan, said Altaf Khan, a local police officer. Police blamed the attack on Islamic militants fighting for Kashmir's independence from India or its merger with Pakistan. M Elsewhere in Kashmir, three suspected militants were killed in a gunbattle at Jumagund, 110 kilometres north of Srinagar, army officials said. Separatist groups have continued fighting Indian forces despite a cease-fire accord between India and Pakistan signed last November.

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Eleven people were killed in restive Indian Kashmir, police said, two days after a rebel grenade attack killed five tourists and injured 27 others. Mushtaq Ahmed, a former police counter-insurgency official and his father were shot dead inside their house by suspected militants overnight near the town of Thanamandi in southern Rajouri district, a police spokesman said. Suspected rebels hurled a grenade at the house of a retired government official in Wahipora village of northern Baramulla district, killing him and a woman guest late Sunday (Jun 13), police said. The official's son was injured in the explosion. Police said suspected militants shot dead four more Muslims, including a municipal employee and an alleged police informer, in different parts of the state overnight. One of the 23 civilians injured in a rebel grenade attack in northern Handwara town on Saturday died in hospital yesterday, police said. Indian troops yesterday shot dead two militants in separate encounters in Budgam and Kupwara districts, police said.

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated Jun 16, states: Authorities in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh today announced a three-month cease-fire in their campaign to crush communist rebels whose attacks have killed more than 6,000 people over two decades. The People's War Group has demanded a six-month truce as a primary precondition for negotiations. The organisation is one of the most powerful rebel groups in India after the Islamic militants fighting in the northern state of Jammu-kashmir. It was not clear if the rebels had accepted the ceasefire

offer. Members of the PWG, which is active in five southern and eastern states of India, often attack rich landowners, saying they exploit landless farm workers. They also target police, political leaders and administrative officials, accusing them of colluding with the landowners. The group, inspired by Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong, began fighting in 1981. The rebels said yesterday that they were ready for talks aimed at ending more than two decades of bloodshed. The group also demanded guarantees for the safe passage for its leaders attending the talks. State Home Minister K Jana Reddy said the government had already stopped operations against the rebels, and said other rebel demands, including the setting up of a committee to monitor the implementation of the ceasefire, would be accepted. Reddy said initial talks would be held with emissaries nominated by the PWG, before the beginning of final negotiations between state ministers and PWG leaders. Reddy asked the rebels to give up arms during the cease-fire. "We have reports that PWG squads are roaming in villages with arms. We are requesting them not to move around with weapons," he said, reading from a written statement in the Telugu language.

#### INDONESIA

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Two Indonesian soldiers and two suspected separatist rebels have been killed in the latest violence in Indonesia's Aceh province. The soldiers died in a gun battle with Free Aceh Movement rebels in Bireuen district. The Indonesian military says troops shot dead two rebels in separate clashes in the districts of East Aceh and Pidie and confiscated a rocket-propelled grenade and ammunition.

#### IRAQ

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A suicide car bomb killed at least seven Iraqis, including four police officers, and wounded 23 others when it exploded near a US-led coalition base in Baghdad, Iraqi hospital and US sources said. A hospital toll gave seven people killed in the blast and 23 injured, while the US military put the death count at 12 with 13 wounded. Hospitals tend to give the most accurate figures on deaths and casualties in bomb attacks in Iraq. The blast happened close to a petrol station at 0915 in Baghdad's Rustumya district, where queues of locals had been waiting to fill up their cars, leaving smoldering debris strewn across the street. "It was a suicide bomb," said Abu Omar, a policeman on the scene. "The suicide bomber stopped close to a police car and exploded himself," Omar said. "Four policemen inside the car were completely burnt and died." An official at Iraq's interior ministry said the bomb destroyed two police cars and eight civilian vehicles.

Baghdad, Jun 13 — Two foreign hostages, a Turk and an Egyptian, were freed in Iraq today, a mediator said, but

they have made no public appearance. The mediator, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters the men were released after talks with people close to their captors on Saturday. He gave no details. A Turkish embassy official in Baghdad said he could not confirm that a Turkish national had been released. The mediator said that people close to the kidnapers reiterated late today that the Egyptian and Turk had been released. A group calling itself The Jihadist Groups had released a statement on Thursday (Jun 10) warning that the two hostages would be killed on Saturday (Jun 12) because they were of no value to their governments unlike the hostages of Western countries. The Dubai-based Al Arabiya television aired footage on Wednesday (Jun 9) of an Iraqi group threatening to kill the Egyptian and Turkish hostages if their countries did not condemn the U.S.-led occupation in Iraq. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jun 14 — A suicide car bomber blew himself up on a busy Baghdad street today as a convoy of foreigners in civilian cars drove past, partly demolishing a nearby building and killing at least five people. Hospital officials said five bodies had been brought in after the blast and 30 people were wounded, six critically, while initial police reports put the toll at eight dead and 12 wounded. Policeman Hassan al-Mali said the bomber's car had been driving along the street when it exploded. Locals raced to the area and tried to pull people from the rubble of the damaged building, which had its front torn off. Dozens of people gathered around two of the vehicles damaged in the blast, hammering on them, waving debris and jumping on their roofs, chanting: "America is the enemy of God." The crowd set the vehicles ablaze, sending thick black smoke into the sky. Some witnesses said they saw foreign casualties being pulled from the vehicles after the blast. A third car had been blown off the road and was gutted. Police fired in the air to try to clear people from the area. The US military said it had no immediate information. The blast, which echoed across Baghdad and sent a cloud of brown smoke into the air, was in a busy commercial area crowded with morning rush-hour traffic. — Reuters.

Beirut, Jun 15 — Kidnappers in Iraq have taken two more Lebanese men hostage and are demanding a ransom for their release, a Foreign Office official in Beirut said today. George Frando and Jamil Deeb, working for a company called Sweidan, disappeared two days ago, said Boutros Asaker, head of political affairs at Beirut's Foreign Ministry. "They have been kidnapped by a group asking for money. We don't know who kidnapped them, but we have been informed by our charge d'affaires that they are in good condition," he said. One Lebanese man, Hussein Ali Alyan, was taken hostage in Baghdad last week and later killed and dumped by a road, along with two of his Iraqi colleagues. Another Lebanese, Habib Samour, went missing almost a month ago. Al Arabiya television station said

today that it had a statement from a group called the Islamic Anger Brigades, which accused Samour of spying for the United States. The channel showed footage of Samour appealing to Lebanon's government to help him. The statement was dated June 10. Asaker said he had no fresh information about Samour. He said Foreign Minister Jean Obeid had discussed the hostages with his Iraqi counterpart Hoshiyar Zebari at a meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Istanbul. — Reuters.

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Saboteurs blew up a portion of an oil pipeline near the southern Iraqi port city of Basra, oil minister Thamer Ghadban said. "A pipeline south of Basra was targeted by saboteurs with explosives," Ghadban said. "It was certainly sabotage." Loading stopped at Basra Oil Terminal at 1315 hrs, today as a result of the explosion, which happened at 2215 hrs, yesterday, near the village of Hamdan about 25km south of Basrah.

London, Jun 15 — Repairs to one of Iraq's main southern oil export pipelines will take seven to 10 days following sabotage attacks overnight, an Iraqi industry official said today. Separately, shipping agents said exports from Basra terminal had ground completely to a halt after having been reduced to less than 500,000 barrels per day earlier in the day. Normally the terminal handles up to 1.7 million bpd. Industry sources said a second export pipeline did not appear to be damaged, but may have been shut for security checks. — Reuters.

Kirkuk, Jun 16 — Gunmen killed a senior official in Iraq's North Oil Company today, dealing another blow to the country's oil industry. Iraqi police said gunmen opened fire at Ghazi Talabani's car with automatic rifles as he drove to work today, killing him and seriously injuring his driver. Talabani, a Kurd, served as a senior adviser to the North Oil Company, which runs Iraq's main Kirkuk oil fields. His portfolio included security for northern oil infrastructure. Al Jazeera television had earlier identified Talabani as the head of security for the Kirkuk oil fields. Saboteurs bent on disrupting Iraq's post war recovery have been blowing up oil pipelines in the region and assassinating oil and other officials since the US-led invasion last year. An explosion ripped through a crude oil pipeline linking northern Iraqi fields yesterday. Saboteurs blasted an oil pipeline feeding storage tanks at the southern city of Basra in the Gulf, cutting most exports. — Reuters.

Najaf, Jun 16 — Radical Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr today told all members of his Mehdi Army militia who are not from Najaf to leave the holy city. Sadr issued a statement calling on his militiamen to go home to "do their duty." "Each of the individuals of the Mehdi Army, the loyalists who made sacrifices...should return to their governorates to do their duty," the statement said. Shi'ite clerics helped broker the truce to end the fighting,

appalled at damage to holy shrines in the city. — Reuters.

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Saboteurs blasted a key pipeline today for the second time in as many days, halting all oil exports from Iraq, officials said. Today's attack north of the town of Faw crippled two already damaged pipelines, forcing a halt in all Iraqi oil exports southward through the Gulf, Southern Oil Company spokesman Samir Jassim said. "Due to the damage inflicted on the two pipelines, the pumping of oil to the Basra oil terminal has completely stopped," Jassim said. "Exports have come to halt." Another pipeline carrying oil to a domestic refinery was attacked yesterday night near Dibis, some 45 kilometers west of Kirkuk, according to Mustafa Awad, an official in the Northern Oil Company. That pipeline does not carry crude oil for export, however. The fire was extinguished. Insurgents are targeting the infrastructure apparently to undermine confidence in the new government, which takes power Jun 30. Meanwhile, new allegations surfaced about the professionalism of the Iraqi police, who are due to assume greater responsibility for security after the formal end of the occupation Jun 30. Yesterday, dozens of Iraqi Shiites complained that Shiite truck drivers who had sought refuge in a police station in the Sunni town of Fallujah were instead handed over to extremists, who killed them after they were unable to pay a ransom. Six bodies were found Monday (Jun 14) in a morgue in Ramadi, also a Sunni town.

Baghdad, Jun 17 — A car bomb blast has killed at least 25 people and wounded 50 outside an Iraqi paramilitary defence force base in Baghdad, an Iraqi officer at the scene said today. Colonel Sumbul Mohammed of the Iraqi Civilian Defence Corps (ICDC) said the blast had targeted an ICDC recruiting centre in the west of the capital. — Reuters.

Umm Qasr, Jun 16 — All operations at Basrah Oil Terminal have been suspended since 1150, local time, yesterday. Two pipelines supplying the terminal have been sabotaged. The first pipeline, near Al Faw, has sustained minor damages only and repair works are being carried out at the moment. However the main focus is on the second pipeline, which goes near Basrah and is still burning. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated today, states: No loading is being carried out at Iraq's Basrah and Khor Al Amaya oil terminals today, following the explosions at supply pipelines earlier this week. Work is currently underway to replace the damaged section of one of the affected pipelines (No.42). It is anticipated that the work will be completed and flow tests carried out in the next two-three days. Preparations are also being made to repair the other pipeline (No.48), but due to its remote location, it is difficult to reach to carry out the necessary work. So far, there is no information about when the repairs are likely to be completed.

## ISRAEL

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: An Israeli air strike in the West Bank late today killed two Palestinian militants, including a local leader, as Israel started building the most controversial section of its separation barrier, confiscating Palestinian land. An Israeli helicopter fired a missile at a car in the Balata refugee camp next to the city of Nablus, killing Khalil Marshoud, the local leader of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a violent offshoot of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement. The military said Marshoud was behind a number of attacks against Israelis. Another militant was killed and a third person was seriously wounded, witnesses said. Israel began building the barrier last year to keep out Palestinian militants who have killed hundreds of Israelis since the outbreak of fighting in 2000. In some areas, the trenches, walls and fences run near Israel's old frontier with the West Bank, but elsewhere dip deep into the territory claimed by the Palestinians for a future state. The latest land seizures are part of construction of a barrier segment near the Israeli settlement of Ariel, in the heart of the West Bank. Palestinians charge that the barrier project is meant to swallow up large parts of the West Bank, pointing to the Ariel sector as a prime example. If Israel builds the barrier to include Ariel on the "Israeli" side, it would mean cutting a wedge halfway through the northern part of the territory, because Ariel is in the middle. With 18,000 residents, Ariel is the second-largest West Bank settlement. Maale Adumim, east of Jerusalem, has 26,000. The United States is opposed to adding Ariel to Israel by means of the barrier, and Israel has so far avoided making a clear decision. Asaf Shariv, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's spokesman, said that for now only an east-west section of the barrier is being built, leaving the option of encircling Ariel separately — a concept the Americans apparently do not oppose. A US official said there are ongoing consultations about the Ariel issue. The Ariel barrier project is already causing hardships for Palestinians. Residents of the nearby Palestinian village of Azawiya were informed that 4,500 acres of land were being expropriated for a 2-mile stretch of barrier, said Annan Elashkar, a Palestinian liaison officer with Israel. Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said building a barrier around Ariel would "mean the destruction and devastation of the road map," an internationally backed peace plan for a Palestinian state next year, because of the confiscation of Palestinian land. For months, Palestinians and their supporters have been demonstrating at many construction sites along the length of the barrier, making similar complaints. Thousands of acres of land have been confiscated for the barrier. Despite the tension, the military began easing restrictions in the West Bank by starting to remove about 40 ramparts and gates that blocked West Bank roads, a defence official said. The

official said obstacles can be lifted in areas where the barrier has been completed. The military released a statement saying the easing was in keeping with its policy to "to make a clear distinction between the terrorists who hide among civilians and those not involved in terror." Shortly after violence erupted in September, 2000, Israeli forces erected dozens of road-blocks in the West Bank, choking travel. Israel said the restrictions were necessary to stop Palestinian attacks, but Palestinians charged they were part of a plan to ruin their economy and force them to surrender.

Jenin, West Bank, Jun 16 — Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian militant in a restaurant and arrested several other suspects in the West Bank town of Jenin today, local witnesses and military sources said. Witnesses said an Israeli undercover unit entered Jenin early in the morning, cornered a number of militants and killed 25-year-old Islamic Jihad member Majed al-Saadi. Israeli military sources said forces had been trying to arrest a wanted militant and fired when he tried to escape capture. A 55-year-old taxi driver driving past the restaurant was seriously wounded by gunfire, medics said. Military sources said troops were fired on during the raid. Elsewhere, in the West Bank city of Nablus, a church and a mosque were damaged when Israeli troops carried out controlled explosions nearby during a raid in the ancient Casbah quarter, witnesses said. Military sources said the blasts were necessary to clear away barrels that were blocking a narrow alley and which they feared might have been booby-trapped. "There was some minor damage unfortunately but the intention was not to damage the holy sites," a military source said. — Reuters.

## NEPAL

Kathmandu, Jun 14 — At least 21 Nepali policemen have been killed and 12 wounded as Maoist rebels ambushed two police trucks in the west of the country, a police spokesman said today. The rebels planted a landmine which exploded as the trucks passed, and then opened fire on the convoy, the spokesman said. The attack, the biggest since Sher Bahadur Deuba was re-appointed prime minister on Jun 2, took place at Khairikhola, 450 km west of Kathmandu, said spokesman Ajay Chatkuli. "There was a big explosion. Two trucks used by the police were completely damaged," Chatkuli said. He said the two trucks were carrying 37 policemen on their way to clear a road-block put up by the Maoists in the area. "The blast was followed by a brief gunbattle between the police party and the rebels," Chatkuli said. "The rebels subsequently fled into the forests." He said the wounded policemen were being flown to hospitals in Kathmandu. Reinforcements had been sent to the area to hunt the rebels, he added. The Maoists have been fighting since 1996 to overthrow Nepal's constitutional monarchy and set up a communist republic in the world's only Hindu kingdom. More than 10,000 people have

been killed in the insurgency that has wrecked the economy of the poor Himalayan country. — Reuters.

## NIGERIA

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 12, states: The central Nigerian state of Adamawa has declared a curfew in the capital Yola, following clashes between Muslims and Christians in a nearby town. A state spokesman said the move was designed to prevent more violence. The attack sparked revenge riots in the northern town of Kano, which left at least 37 Christians dead. Adamawa state government spokesman Willie Zalawie said the dusk-to-dawn curfew had been extended to Yola, to ensure that the presence of displaced people fleeing violence in the town of Numan did not incite further rioting. He said the crisis was related to religion, and sentiments could be easily whipped up. The latest fighting began when the local chief, a Christian, complained that the minaret overlooked his palace compound. The Red Cross says that in two days of fighting, 41 people were killed and 145 injured. At least 2,000 people were displaced when their homes were burned to the ground. Police have now reinforced the area, which is reportedly calm. The state government has also ordered that the chief stand down, and directed that the mosque be rebuilt in a less controversial location.

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Some 60 bandits ambushed a team of riot policemen on a highway in the northern Nigerian state of Yobe and killed four of them, the News Agency of Nigeria reported yesterday. Before ambushing the policemen on Monday (Jun 14), the bandits opened fire at four commercial vehicles on the Potiskum-Fika road, leaving one passenger dead, state police spokesman Ali Alkali said yesterday. Alkali said the passengers who escaped the ambush alerted the riot policemen, but four of them were shot dead by the bandits.

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated Jun 16, states: At least eight people were killed and thousands displaced in south-eastern Nigeria when armed youths attacked a village, torching homes and destroying crops in a dispute about land, residents said today. The attacks, against the village of Ikot Eyo Ndem in Cross River state, were sparked by disagreements between villagers in nearby Efut Iwang over land rich in palm oil, residents and police officials said. "The clash was very serious... They destroyed houses and a lot of property," said Cross River police spokesman Joseph Eze. Survivors in Ikot said armed youths brandishing cutlasses and locally made shotguns attacked their remote village at night, forcing most of the roughly 30,000 residents to flee. They said they had counted eight bodies but suspected many more could have been hunted down and killed outside Ikot. A Reuters witness saw at least 40 homes burned to the ground. Eze said no deaths had been reported to the police, although the deputy speaker of Cross River state

assembly, Dominic Aqua Edem, told Reuters two people had been killed, including Ikot's village chief.

## PAKISTAN

Wana, Pakistan, Jun 12 — Pakistani warplanes, backed by helicopter gunships, bombed hideouts of al Qaeda-linked militants today in a fourth day of fighting in the mountainous tribal region bordering Afghanistan. Pashtun tribesmen also heard artillery fire as the Pakistani forces intensified an assault in the Shakai area of South Waziristan, 250 miles south-west of Islamabad. Casualty updates were scanty today but officials have counted at least 54 people killed in the fighting since the offensive began. Residents saw air strikes on the slopes of the nearby Tangari hills, where brush and boulders provide fine cover for guerrillas. Afghan refugees in South Waziristan were given 72 hours to leave by authorities. Locals saw many Aghans quitting the Karikot refugee camp a few miles south of Wana and said they were headed back to Afghanistan. Elsewhere, militants exploded a bomb in Dera Ismail Khan town, 80 miles east of Wana, killing one man and wounding four at the house of a senior official in Pakistan's paramilitary border force. The army launched the latest offensive after attempts to negotiate an amnesty with tribesmen protecting the foreign militants failed. "The fighting is going on," military spokesman Major-General Shaukat Sultan told state-run Pakistan Television, adding the operation would continue to its "logical end." Sultan said yesterday 35 militants and 15 soldiers had been killed the previous two days, and a local government officer today reported another soldier killed. — Reuters.

## PHILIPPINES

Manila, Jun 11 — Security forces at a Manila port seized 10 crates of bomb-making material bound for the southern Philippine today and said militants linked to the al Qaeda network were likely behind the shipment. One dock worker who was caught trying to bring the shipment onto a passenger ferry had been arrested, but denied knowing what was in the boxes, said Lieutenant-General Alberto Braganza, Manila's military commander. The crates contained plastic explosives, blasting caps, rolls of detonating cords and time fuses, officials said. The man was trying to load them onto a ferry leaving tomorrow for Zamboanga. The arrested man said a Muslim trader had asked him to ship the boxes declared as general merchandise valued at 20,000 pesos (\$358), Braganza said. — Reuters.

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Three communist guerrillas and a policeman have been killed in clashes in the Philippines. A military spokesman says three members of the New People's Army were slain in a firefight with an air force combat patrol near the town of Maragondon, about 50 kilometres south-west of the capital, Manila. Authorities believe the same NPA unit was behind a raid on a state-run power

plant in January that left three soldiers and four guerrillas dead. Meanwhile, the NPA raided a police post in a remote town north of Manila, as the Philippines marked the anniversary of independence from US colonial rule. A military spokesman says the rebels killed a policeman, wounded a second officer and seized four guns from the police armoury.

**SAUDI ARABIA**

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The Al-Qaeda terror network kidnapped a US aeronautics engineer and killed another US national in Saudi Arabia, according to a statement attributed to the group and posted on an Islamist website. “Our fighters of the Fallujah Brigade in the Arabian peninsula have kidnapped an American, Paul M. Johnson Jr, born in 1955 and working as an aeronautics engineer,” said the statement signed “Al-Qaeda in the Arabian peninsula.” The statement was accompanied by several photographs of the American, a copy of his work permit, driving licence and health card, according to which he was working for top US defence contractor Lockheed Martin and came from the state of Maryland. The US State department in Washington confirmed a US citizen had been reported missing in Saudi Arabia by his family but declined to confirm he had been kidnapped. “We do have an American missing in Saudi Arabia,” State Department spokesman Stuart Patt said. “We heard that an Islamic website was making a claim but we have had no direct contacts with any organisations or persons claiming responsibility. “The individual has been missing since early today (Saturday). He is a private US citizen, living in Saudi Arabia. His family reported him missing.” The Islamist website statement said the kidnapped man worked with Apache helicopters. The group also claimed responsibility for the killing of “another American” in the same area of the capital Riyadh where it said the kidnapping took place. A US national was killed in a drive-by shooting in Riyadh yesterday, the latest in a string of attacks on Westerners in Saudi Arabia by suspected Islamist extremists since early May. According to local security forces he worked for an electronics firm in the oil sector. He was not named. On Tuesday (Jun 8), another American who worked for Vinnell Corp, which helps train the Saudi National Guard, was shot dead at his home in Riyadh. An Irish cameraman was shot dead and a BBC journalist critically wounded in another attack in the Saudi capital on Jun 6, just a week after a shooting and hostage-taking rampage in the eastern oil city of Al-Khobar left 22 people dead, including four Westerners. The US embassy last night called again on American residents to leave.

**THAILAND**

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Four bombs went off in Yala yesterday — two in Than To district, one in Banang Satar district and another outside the residence of the

Betong district chief — causing property damage but no injuries. A group of separatist rebels was thought to be responsible. Violence resumed on the eve of the symbolic 40th day after the Krue Se Mosque massacre in Pattani on Apr 28, in which 32 separatist militants were killed in a clash with security forces. The first two bombs in Than To district exploded 15 minutes apart. The first, planted near Ban Kok Chang checkpoint on the Yala-Betong highway, went off at 2215 hrs. It tore holes in the walls of the checkpoint booth. The second blast occurred 100 metres away, outside Rian Ekpanich grocery store. The impact shattered display cases and debris scattered on the footpath. Police said the bombs had been left in the rubbish bins near the checkpoint and the store. In Bannang Sata district, a bomb went off at the entrance to a mosque. The bomb was hidden inside a drainage pipe running parallel with the road frontage. Earlier in the day, a bomb went off outside the official residence of Betong district chief Chaiyos Thongchai, knocking down sections of the fence. The bomb was packed in a water cooler, left at the scene by two men on a motorcycle. Only gunpowder was used, suggesting the perpetrators did not intend to kill anyone. No injuries were reported. Police said they believed one group was responsible for the four explosions. An intelligence source said authorities had been on alert since Jun 7, when separatist-style attacks resumed. The culprits may have been connected to militants who staged the Apr 28 raid at Krue Se Mosque, the intelligence source said.

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities in Thailand say five police have been wounded in a bomb blast in the troubled southern province of Narathiwat. Two of those hurt are said to have suffered severe leg injuries. Officials say the bomb exploded in a park as the police were taking a break. A policeman and a school guard were shot dead earlier in the day in two separate incidents in the same province. Violence by suspected Islamic separatists in the southern provinces has left more than 200 people dead since January.



**SAUDI ARABIA**

See under “Political & Civil Unrest.”



**CANADA**

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 11, states: British Columbia

ferry passengers were today assured that a labour dispute involving vessel maintenance workers would not disrupt their travel plans. BC Ferry Services issued a statement saying it had reached a deal with the BC Ferry and Marine Workers’ Union late today, meaning the union will not picket or disrupt ferry traffic, and that all ferry workers will continue to report to work. “It will assure there is no impact on the travelling public,” said Gerald Foley, spokesman for BC Ferry Services. “The parties have worked it out and we have reached an agreement.” The agreement did allow for unionised members to distribute information leaflets at the entrance to vehicle ticket booths, said BC Ferry Services. The dispute involves 185 maintenance workers employed by Deas Pacific Marine Inc, a subsidiary of BC Ferry Services. Meanwhile, negotiations continued today between the union and Deas Pacific to determine whether there would be a lock-out. Union president Jackie Miller was reluctant to comment on the progress of talks. BC Ferry Services had gone to the Labour Relations Board earlier in the day to request a guarantee that pickets do not impact ferry service. In turn, the union asked the board to declare BC Ferry Services as an ally, clearing the way for information pickets to take place at ferry terminals. The union was in a legal strike position after the company served lock-out notice this morning. Miller had warned delays could happen if there are mechanical problems on the ferries while maintenance workers are locked out. However, she said the union did not want to shut down ferry services. The maintenance workers have been without a contract since October. They overwhelmingly rejected the company’s most recent offer earlier this week in a vote supervised by the labour board. Increased working hours, reduced wage rates and job security are the main issues in the dispute.

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: British Columbia ferry workers locked out today by their employer have asked the provincial labour relations board to let the union picket individual vessels, not ferry terminals. The union wants to be able to put a picket line in front of a vessel if it is having maintenance work done, said spokeswoman Jackie Miller of the BC Ferries and Marine Workers Union. “We are not intending to go down and shut down vessels and shut down runs or disrupt ferry service,” she said. “Certainly as vessels start to break down and aren’t able to be repaired there will be the inevitable result that there will be some service disruption, but we’re attempting to minimise that as much as possible.” The dispute involves about 200 workers at Deas Pacific Marine Inc, a subsidiary of BC Ferry Services that performs vessel maintenance work. The BC Federation of Labour issued a so-called “hot” declaration on one vessel, ro-ro *Queen of New Westminster*, today. Federation president Jim Sinclair said his group had learned the vessel needs general maintenance work and is at the

Tsawwassen terminal. The union declaration ensures no union member connected to the federation will handle any work on the vessel, he said. Miller said her union's request about picketing individual vessels would go to the labour board tomorrow. Deas Pacific has said it is losing about \$50,000 a day because a clause in the contract stipulates that if there is a possibility of a labour dispute, no work is done even though union employees are showing up for work every day. The dispute is over hours, wages and job security. Miller's union also represents staff who work on the vessels. An agreement was reached late on Friday (Jun 11) that the union would not picket or disrupt ferry traffic, and that all ferry workers would continue to report to work. The agreement did allow for unionised members to distribute information leaflets at the entrance to vehicle ticket booths.

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated Jun 16, states: Locked-out ferry maintenance workers at Deas Pacific Marine cannot set up pickets at BC Ferries' terminals the Labour Relations Board said today. The BC Ferry and Marine Workers' Union had argued that BC Ferries and Deas Pacific should be declared "allies" under the British Columbia Labour Code. The BCFMWU went to the LRB after the 185 workers were locked out on Monday (Jun 14). The union wanted permission to picket in front of vessels normally maintained by the Deas workers, but the BCFMWU said there was no plan to interfere with passengers. However, the LRB ruled the two companies are not allies, despite Deas being a wholly-owned subsidiary of BC Ferries.

#### FRANCE

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Disruptions of French rail traffic were possible from 2000, yesterday until 0600, Monday (Jun 14) because of a planned strike by train conductors, said the railroad operator, SNCF. Eurostar service between Paris and London, Thalys service between Paris and Brussels and the TGV and Corail in France may face a "few disruptions," the railroad said in a statement. The Transilien commuter service north of Paris may be "slightly disrupted" because of a parallel strike by train controllers, it said.

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Electricity workers have cut power to parts of France as they began a national strike against government plans to partially privatise state-owned utilities. About 12 percent of Electricite de France's output was cut off by wildcat strikes overnight — plunging areas of Bordeaux in the southwest and Grenoble to the west, the officials of the Communist-linked CGT labor union told Reuters. Among those targeted for power cuts were conservative deputies who back changes to EdF's legal status, which could allow the sale of up to 30 percent of the utility. The draft law will also change the status of the state gas utility Gaz de France. The head of the CGT urged Chirac to abandon the draft

law, which parliament debates later today. "A decision of this nature and importance cannot be taken when there is so much controversy, when expert advice on other ways of responding to the challenges facing EdF and GdF have not been accepted," Bernard Thibault told RTL radio. Protest marches also were planned today in Paris and other cities. The government argues that changes would enable the utilities to attract private investors to help fend off growing competition in Europe's energy market, which is going through a process of deregulation. It insists that the utilities will not be fully privatised and that the state will remain the majority shareholder. Industry Minister Patrick Devedjian, whose chateau in southwestern France also had its power cut late yesterday, said the government would not back down in the face of strikes. Job action late yesterday and today is the latest in a series of disruptions in recent weeks. Last week, workers cut power supplies to three Paris railway stations, leading to the cancellation or delay of trains ferrying half a million people to work. There also were media reports that dozens of households that had been cut off because of unpaid bills were reconnected by staff as part of protests.

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: French power workers have stepped up their protests against plans for the partial sell-off of the country's state owned electricity firm EdF. Electricity supplies to the homes of Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin and other politicians have been cut. The action follows localised power cuts, strikes, drops in power and marches by disgruntled union members. The cuts came on the day the French parliament was debating a draft law paving the way for EdF's privatisation. Earlier, parts of Bordeaux and Grenoble were plunged into darkness as unions staged a walkout ahead of a parliamentary debate on the government's plans. Strikers were reported to be targeting regions represented by deputies that back the proposed sell-off. As the action escalated the CGT said 70,000 workers took part in marches across France — claiming between 4,000 and 5,000 joined such a protest in Paris. Energy market traders said the strike pushed up prices on France's electricity market. Meanwhile, ministers and EdF have vowed to stand by the reforms despite the widespread protests.

#### INDIA

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated today, states: India's most profitable steel plant is struggling to keep its iron ore stocks above the danger mark after agitating workers stopped the movement of ore from its production unit two days ago. Nearly 1,000 ad hoc miners of the Bhilai Steel Plant, the most profitable unit of government-run Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), stopped work early Friday (Jun 11) at the plant's only production unit at Dalli Rajhara in Durg district. The workers have been lying on railway tracks to prevent

trains that carry 12-13 thousand metric tonnes of iron ore daily to the plant 100 km away, plunging the plant in its biggest ever crisis since it was commissioned 45 years ago. Their demand — SAIL recognise them as regular staff and accord them all the due benefits. A local political outfit with a strong base among the workers, the Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha, is fuelling the agitation. The crisis comes close on the heels of a severe coal shortage that forced the plant to cut short its production by 30 percent earlier this year. The plant's management has agreed to discuss strikers' demands, but not before they return to work. But the strikers have rejected the offer, saying there is no room for discussion. "The strike is nothing but a terror tactic," said Ashok Singhai, the plant's chief of communications. "They (the strikers) have totally blocked iron ore supply to the plant. "The management asked them to return to work and the managing director agreed to discuss the demands with a delegation of the striking staff on Jun 15. But they have rejected the dialogue offer outright."

#### NIGERIA

London, Jun 10 — The ports of Lagos, Port Harcourt and Warri are closed due to the national strike which started yesterday in protest at increases in fuel prices. According to local reports, the strike is being observed in some states, whilst normal or partial activities are ongoing elsewhere. In Lagos, the strike appears to be in force. All activities are paralysed with banks, schools and markets remaining closed. All domestic flights were also cancelled at the airport in Lagos. (See issue of Jun 11.)

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 11, states: Labour groups representing millions of Nigerian workers abandoned a crippling three-day general strike today. The Nigeria Labour Congress said it was suspending the strike to give the government time to "ensure compliance" with a court order to reduce gasoline and kerosene prices, as strikers had demanded. But if the prices do not come down within seven days, or the government "resorts to the tactics of manipulating supply, we reserve the right to resume the strike again," congress leader Adams Oshiomhole told reporters.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Civil servants at vehicle testing centres in Northern Ireland are to consider the future of their strike action. Members of the civil service union Nipsa began strike action last month at nine centres across the province. It is part of a wider dispute over pay, which has been ongoing since last December. Thousands of MoT tests and practical driving examinations have been affected by the industrial action. Up to now, civil servants at the Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency have voted to continue their action, but there is growing concern about the effect on customers. It is also creating a backlog for MoT and driving tests, which will

have an impact on centres for several months. Nipsa representative Sam Johnston said the meeting would give DVTA staff a chance to give their views on the strike. Yesterday, public services were further disrupted after Rate Collection Agency staff staged an unofficial walkout. The strike action, by up to 60 members of Nipsa, seriously affected the Agency's Belfast and Craigavon offices. Union officials say it was a show of support for four members of staff who were suspended without pay.

## Awards & Settlements



### BREACH OF CONTRACT, UNITED STATES

San Francisco, Jun 16 — A California jury awarded \$28 million in damages to ZF Micro Solutions in its case against National Semiconductor Corp, a maker of chips used to control power consumption in electronics, according to a regulatory filing released today. National Semiconductor, in a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, said it intended to appeal any judgment entered against it on the matter. National Semiconductor agreed in 1999 to design and manufacture a chip for ZF Micro Devices Inc, the predecessor to ZF Micro Solutions. National Semiconductor said it was then sued by ZF in April, 2002, on "various contract and tort claims." A California Superior Court jury in Santa Clara on Monday (Jun 14) awarded \$28 million to ZF Micro on its claims of intentional misrepresentation, and additional damages of \$1.95 million, National Semiconductor said. Addressing a counter-claim, the jury also awarded National Semiconductor \$1.1 million for a breach-of-contract claim. — Reuters.

### EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated Jun 16, states: A federal judge today finalised a \$1.2 million settlement for 91 people wounded when police fired rubber bullets and beanbags to disperse crowds at the 2000 Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles. US District Court Judge Florence-Marie Cooper approved the settlement after no one appeared in court to object to the deal. She had given her preliminary approval last month. The confrontation occurred on Aug 14, 2000, as police broke up a crowd assembled to hear rock group Rage Against the Machine perform outside Staples Centre, where the convention was held. "We're pleased that the settlement's been finalised, and we hope that the LAPD and other police departments will take this case as a lesson that they cannot intimidate and injure people who are exercising their First Amendment rights," said lead attorney James Muller. A city attorney's

spokesman had previously said the settlement would "justly compensate" innocent participants who were injured outside the convention. The city previously settled other lawsuits stemming from the disturbance, including \$60,000 to seven injured journalists and \$1.2 million to a woman who lost her eye during the scuffle.

### FRAUD, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: An Austin, Texas, jury yesterday ordered two former officers of a Dallas foundation to pay \$14 million in punitive damages for defrauding the charity, in one of the largest awards ever against foundation officials. John Vinson, the assistant attorney general who tried the case, called the fraud by two former officers of the Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation "one of the worst, most egregious cases of misappropriation of charitable assets in the country." He said the judgment sounded a warning for other foundations: The abuses at the King Foundation were detailed in a Globe Spotlight series last year, which also revealed that Paul C. Cabot Jr, of Needham, had been taking more than \$1 million in annual pay from his family foundation, whose assets had dwindled to less than \$5 million by last year. Massachusetts Attorney General Thomas F. Reilly is investigating the Cabot trust. In the Texas case, the jury ruled on Friday (Jun 11) that Carl L. Yeckel, the King Foundation's ex-chief executive, and Thomas W. Vett, its former secretary, should repay \$7.5 million they took from the \$32 million charitable fund to pay themselves lavish salaries and to finance European vacations, private club dinners, and other personal expenses. The total damages of \$21.5 million are supposed to be paid to the foundation, but Vinson said it was unlikely Yeckel and Vett have the money. The state may forego its \$250,000 in attorneys' costs, Vinson said, so that any recovered funds go back to the foundation. Yeckel's sister, Dorothy Yeckel, became suspicious of her brother's extravagant lifestyle, including his \$1 million paycheck, in 2002 and brought the matter to the attention of the state. According to depositions and evidence presented at the trial, held in Travis County Probate Court, Yeckel and Vett took their wives on trips to Europe, Australia, and Russia, charging about \$200,000 in travel expenses to the foundation. The executives routinely used the foundation credit card to pay thousands of dollars in restaurant bills, purchases at retail stores, and \$6,531 for health club memberships, according to court records. Vinson said Vett engaged in "double dipping," by paying a doctor's bill with the foundation's credit card, and then submitting the bill a second time for reimbursement to himself.

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A federal jury yesterday returned a \$77 million verdict against Elie Samaha's Franchise Pictures, finding that it defrauded Intertainment Licensing by inflating budgets on a slate of feature

films including "Get Carter," "The Whole Nine Yards" and "3000 Miles to Graceland." The nine-person jury sitting in Santa Ana, California, found the fraud by "clear and convincing evidence," a relatively high threshold of evidence that allows Intertainment to return to court today to ask for further punitive damages. After about 12 hours of deliberation, the jury also found breach of contract but no violation of racketeering statutes. The latter meant Intertainment does not get the \$115 million it had asked for — or an opportunity to ask US District Judge Alicemarie Stotler to treble the damages under terms of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organisations (RICO) Act. Samaha was not personally held liable for any wrongdoing. "We're thrilled by the results — this was make-or-break litigation for Intertainment," Intertainment attorney Scott Edelman said. "It has been a long and painful process for Intertainment to achieve justice, and this is just the first step." Intertainment, a German production-licensing outfit, hopes to recover further damages during arbitration in the autumn against other companies allegedly involved in the fraud, including Comerica Bank and the completion companies Worldwide FilmCompletion and Film Finances. Attorney Bill Price said Franchise would probably appeal the verdict. "Since we were prevented from putting on the core of our case, we think we got a pretty good result in that context," Price said. "We think the jury would have come to a different conclusion if they had heard the other evidence." The defence centered on a claim that Intertainment CEO Barry Baeres secretly agreed to go along with the budget-padding scheme. They further claimed that the lawsuit was a ploy by Intertainment to get out of a multipicture agreement it could no longer afford after the collapse of the Neuer Markt exchange. Price said pretrial rulings by the judge prevented the jury from hearing evidence that Intertainment allegedly requested inflated budgets from other producers and inflated budgets on pictures before it struck a five-year, 55-picture distribution deal with Franchise in May, 1999. The pact unraveled two years later when Intertainment claimed it had been paying 70% to sometimes more than 100% of the feature budgets, not the 47% it had agreed to with Franchise. Franchise freely acknowledged that the budgets were inflated but claimed it was only with Baeres' blessing. Baeres denied any such agreement during the trial.

### LEGAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated Jun 16, states: A jury has awarded a manufacturer of toy helicopters \$3.6 million in its lawsuit against a Lafayette, Indiana, law firm that represented the company in the late 1990s. Lite Machines Corp sued the law firm of Bennett Boehning & Clary, claiming it had committed malpractice and cost the company more than \$8

million in damages, mostly in lost profits. A Boone County jury heard seven days of testimony before reaching a verdict last Thursday (Jun 10) in favour of Lite Machines and awarding the damages. The company, which manufactures and markets expensive remote-controlled model helicopters, claimed the law firm mishandled its lawsuit against a New York business that sold it a defective \$12,000 machine in the early 1990s. That lawsuit was filed in 1993 but not resolved until September, 2000, when a judge found that Lite Machines had suffered \$2.6 million in damages, but that the company had failed to limit its losses by not giving up on the machine sooner. The judge reduced that award to \$260,000, plus interest. Lite Machines President Paul Arlton said the company's lawyers failed to present evidence of repeated assurances from the machine's maker that it would make repairs. "The judge did not hear a very significant portion of our case, and effectively we lost by default," Arlton said. Roger W. Bennett, a partner in the law firm, said the original case was a very technical dispute.

#### **LIBEL, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated Jun 10, states: A man who challenged the reference to God in the US Pledge of Allegiance in court won a \$1 million judgment today against a minister who allegedly libelled him in an article on the Internet. Michael Newdow said he did not expect to receive any money from the Rev. Austin Miles. In 2002, Newdow won a court decision on behalf of his daughter that it is unconstitutional to force public school students to recite the pledge because of the reference to "under God." In an Internet posting shortly after the federal appeals court ruling, Miles accused Newdow of perjury, saying he lied about his daughter suffering "emotional damage" and "a sense of being left out" for not reciting the pledge at school. Miles sought unsuccessfully to have Newdow, an attorney, removed from the California State Bar. Newdow denied ever making the comments. "I never said that," he said. "I only said she had a right to go to school and not be indoctrinated in religion." The appeals court decision on the pledge has been appealed to the Supreme Court by the government and the Elk Grove Unified School District. The high court has not yet ruled.

#### **MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A cardiologist who was ordered to pay \$1.6 million in a medical malpractice lawsuit will appeal the York County Superior Court judgment, the doctor's lawyer said. Chris Nyhan, who defended Dr. Alan Hymanson, said he would appeal last week's jury verdict to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. The jury found that Hymanson was negligent when he administered the clot-busting drug Retavase to Joan Healy of Wells when she was brought to York Hospital in

March 1999. The jury said York Hospital was not negligent. Healy was brought to the hospital after complaining of chest pains. After being given the drug, she suffered a brain haemorrhage that left her unable to walk or speak. She died two days later in York Hospital's Intensive Care Unit. Nyhan said Hymanson followed proper medical procedure, and that the state's medical malpractice review panel had earlier determined that he was not negligent. "The jury verdict bears very little relation to the medicine involved in the case," he said. "This case presents a very serious issue of whether or not physicians should be punished for complying with all appropriate medical standards in an emergency situation where someone is literally in an immediate prospect of death without a medication that the patient needs." Mark Randall, a Portland attorney who represented the Healy family, said Hymanson incorrectly interpreted the guidelines for administering Retavase and that there was no conclusive medical evidence that it was even needed. Randall said the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association published explicit instructions in 1996 regarding Retavase and drugs like it because they carry a risk of bleeding in the brain. Retavase is designed to break up blood clots in heart arteries when a person is having a heart attack. "It turns out the jury doubted the fact that (Healy) was having a heart attack that would have made her a candidate for this drug," Randall said.

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 12, states: A South Carolina couple whose baby suffered brain damage as a result of a cardiac arrest has settled a medical malpractice lawsuit for \$4.6 million. Matt and Linda Parkins sued Pediatric Associates P.A. of Spartanburg, Dr. William W. Burns of Spartanburg and Greenville Hospital System. The lawsuit alleged that their 20-month-old son, who suffered from a substantial adrenal insufficiency, was stricken because the defendants decided to wean him off the synthetic cortisone Cortef. The boy suffered "past and future irreparable brain damage" after his breathing and heart function ceased, according to the lawsuit. The boy, who was born in March 1997, suffered cardiac arrest in November 1998. Spartanburg attorney William U. "Billy" Gunn, who represented Burns and Pediatric Associates, said the settlement agreement should not be interpreted as an admission of mistakes by his clients. Gunn said the boy's form of adrenal insufficiency was "extremely complicated and extremely rare." Gunn said his clients decided to wean the child off the drug in July 1997 to observe his progress. He said the decision was "appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances." The Parkinses' lawsuit says their son did not thrive while off Cortef, instead becoming "increasingly ill in a more frequent fashion." It says the defendants failed to respond by resuming Cortef treatment.

#### **NON-DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: Today marks end of the PayPal federal class action lawsuit, a lawsuit which sees the eBay-owned firm having to pay \$9.25 million dollars in settlement. The case was brought in 2002 when some customers of PayPal complained that the firm did not disclose certain information about transactions and did not properly process transaction limits the users placed on their accounts. Attorneys for the plaintiffs had asked for \$3.3 million dollars in damages which would come out of the total settlement made.

#### **PATENT INFRINGEMENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated Jun 16, states: Shell Oil Co, a unit of Royal Dutch/Shell Group, Europe's second-largest oil company, must pay Dow Chemical Co's Union Carbide Corp. \$153.6 million in damages for infringing a patent for catalysts, a federal judge ruled. Chief US District Judge Sue L. Robinson in Wilmington, Delaware, added more than \$40 million in interest to an original judgment of about \$112 million that was imposed during a 2003 jury trial, according to court papers. "Shell has failed to prove by clear and convincing evidence" that it shouldn't be held liable in the case, Robinson said in entering the new judgment Jun 9 following post-trial motions. Union Carbide sued Shell in 1999, saying it copied catalytic processes to make ethylene oxide, which is used in shampoo, toothpaste, polyester fibers and antifreeze. A jury in 2001 decided Shell did not infringe. In 2002 the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit reversed the verdict and ordered a retrial. Shell spokesman Johan Zaayman in Houston said the company was "deeply disappointed with the decision" and planned to appeal.

#### **WRONGFUL TERMINATION OF DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated Jun 10, states: An international arbitration board has ordered Rock of Ages Corp. to pay almost \$6.5 million to one of its former distributors. Kurt Swenson, chairman and chief executive officer of Rock of Ages, announced today that a three-member tribunal of the International Chamber of Commerce has awarded Granite Stone Business International — a company that formerly did business as Eurimex — \$5.4 million in damages and about \$1.1 million in interest. Swenson said the award was based on the claim that Rock of Ages wrongfully terminated a distribution agreement with Eurimex in late 2000 for distribution of granite outside the United States. Although Rock of Ages prevailed on each of the four other claims brought by Eurimex in the arbitration, Swenson described the adverse ruling as an unforeseen setback. "We are disappointed by this decision," Swenson said in a prepared statement from Rock of Ages

headquarters in Concord, N.H. Rock of Ages spokesman Doug Goldsmith in Barre said the company has two choices. "We either decide to pay it or we decide to appeal it," he said. Eurimex had sought damages of \$25.3 million, plus interest, moral damages, attorney's fees and costs, in connection with the termination of the two distribution contracts. The arbitration hearing was held in Luxembourg a little more than a year ago. Swenson said Rock of Ages "... has sufficient resources to pay this award."

## Railway Accidents



### ALABAMA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Two area train derailments, 22 miles apart and in the space of three hours, do not appear to be related, according to a CSX spokesman. Neither derailment resulted in injuries. The Limestone County derailment took place at 1430, yesterday. The southbound train carried grain. It started in Princeton, Ind., and was bound for Oglethorpe, Ga. It consisted of two locomotives and 65 loaded cars. Ten cars derailed. "We expect to get the tracks open this afternoon," said CSX spokesman Gary Sease. Sease said the company does not know what caused the derailments. The Decatur incident happened at 1710. The northbound train carried mixed cargo. The train had six locomotives and 102 cars, two of which carried hazardous materials. A portion of the train was on the Tennessee River bridge when it derailed. Twenty-three of the Decatur cars derailed. Two contained hazardous materials. One contained anhydrous ammonia and the other contained residue of molten sulfur. None of the hazardous materials leaked, according to Sease. CSX contractors used a crane to re-rail the 23 derailed cars shortly after midnight. Sease said possible causes of derailments include the mechanical condition of the locomotive and rail cars, the condition of the track and the operating practices the crew was using. CSX must report both incidents to the Federal Railroad Administration. Sease said CSX should be able to clear the tracks for train traffic late today. Until the track is cleared, CSX will route trains through Chattanooga and Atlanta.

### PLYMOUTH, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated Jun 16, states: An investigation is under way after a train carrying radioactive waste was derailed in Devon on Monday (Jun 14). The incident occurred at Devonport Dockyard in Plymouth. A spokesman for DML, which runs the yard, said the locomotive was partially derailed, although the trailer carrying the waste module was not. It said there was no safety risk and the Health and Safety

Executive's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate had been informed. At the time the train was probably travelling at only 2mph, the company added. In a statement, DML said: "At no time was there any radiological or conventional safety hazard to anyone on our site or members of the public outside of the site. The incident will be the subject of a full independent regulatory investigation in addition to our own formal investigation." The dockyard, which is located approximately two miles from Plymouth city centre, has two diesel locomotives for moving new and used submarine fuel.

### RAIGAD DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA STATE, INDIA

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 18 people died when a train derailed during heavy monsoon rains in western India, officials say. The passenger train came off the tracks as it crossed a river near the Konkan coast in western Maharashtra state at around 0610, local time, today. Many people are feared trapped in carriages hanging from the bridge in Raigad district, while the engine fell into the river, correspondents say. The train is said to have been travelling from Mangalore to Bombay. Reports said the derailment, between Veer and Karanjadi, 200 km to the south of Bombay, was caused by boulders which had fallen onto the tracks in the rains. The first 11 coaches, including the engine, had gone off the rails, a statement on the Konkan Railway website said. At least 40 passengers were injured in the accident involving the Matsyagandha Express train. They have been taken to a hospital in Mahad, 12 miles from the accident site. Rescue and medical teams were on the scene trying to help trapped passengers. "Many people are feared trapped inside the two coaches hanging from the bridge," a senior railway official said. But the rains and the hilly terrain were hindering rescue operations. "It is very difficult to approach the accident site. The only approach is through a winding road over the hills," a doctor at the hospital said. India's Railway Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav said the route on which the accident happened was prone to landslides.

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated Jun 16, states: At least 20 people have been killed and over 100 injured after a train bound for Mumbai derailed while crossing a bridge. Ten coaches and the engine of the Matsyagandha Express jumped the rails on the western Konkan coast today after the engine crashed into large boulders that had rolled down from the mountainside due to heavy monsoon rains lashing the area. Officials said rescue workers struggled to remove bodies from three coaches that hung from the bridge after the accident that happened in pouring rain about 160 km south of Mumbai. Railway engineers tried to remove the damaged coaches from the tracks to make way for other trains, which were either diverted or cancelled. Officials said the train was headed for Mumbai from the southern coastal city of Mangalore.

### SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated Jun 16, states: Five train cars came off the track while pulling into a rail yard in Salt Lake City today. A little after 1000 hrs five Union Pacific train cars derailed at the Roper Yard area. No one was injured in the accident and Union Pacific says it won't impact their main rail operations. Investigators are trying to determine what forced the cars off the track.

### SHAANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: A freight train derailed near a railway station west of Xi'an, capital city of Shaanxi Province today, but no casualties were immediately reported, the local government said. The accident occurred at around 1125 hrs when freight train No. 19095 derailed near Yangling Railway Station, cutting the railway line connecting Lanzhou, in Gansu Province, and Lianyungang, in east Jiangsu Province. The local railway bureau organised relief efforts, and the cause of the derailment was being investigated.

### SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated Jun 10, states: Seven cars of a freight train carrying hazardous materials derailed today on the north side of South bend, Indiana. None of the hazardous materials spilled and there were no evacuations after the 0300 hrs derailment, authorities said. No injuries were reported. Several tanker cars ended up on their sides, and the derailment blocked some streets in the area. Authorities said the tracks were heavily damaged.

### TARNAGULLA AREA, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated Jun 10, states: A freight train derailed in central Victoria tonight. A police spokeswoman said about 15 carriages of the train, which was carrying wheat, came off the tracks after 2200 hrs, near Tarnagulla, west of Bendigo. No one was injured and it was not yet known what caused the derailment, the police spokeswoman said. Police from Inglewood and Bendigo were travelling the scene and the train line was expected to be closed for several hours, she said.

## Miscellaneous



### COLLAPSE OF BUILDING, MEDAN, INDONESIA

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A new section of Hotel Sahiba in Medan, which was being constructed, suddenly collapsed yesterday, leaving six construction workers injured. The new section was a

three-storey building, an extension of the old hotel building. The old hotel building itself was unaffected by the incident. Several witnesses said that the building suddenly collapsed when eight construction workers were working inside the building. The building collapsed at 1000 hrs, when eight workers were working on the ground floor. A preliminary investigation found that the incident stemmed from poor construction on the second floor of the building, which caused the building to collapse, according to the Medan Teladan Police subprecinct chief Adj. Comr. Irwan Anwar.

#### **COLLAPSE OF COAL MINE, FANGSHAN DISTRICT, CHINA**

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescue workers have found that all 10 people trapped since Sunday (Jun 6) in a collapsed suburban Beijing mine have died, local media reported today. The workers in the Beijing Coal Corp Daan Shan Mine turned up dead yesterday night after some 100 hours of rescue work, according to the Beijing Times.

#### **DRUGS SEIZED ON CYPRUS VESSEL IN UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 10 — Following press release received from MTI Networks, USA, timed 1811 today: Crude oil tanker *Pearlmar* (38900 gt, built 2002) was inspected by US customs authorities on Jun 9 after arriving from Esmeraldas, Ecuador. Between 70 and 100 pounds of cocaine were found in the transom space above the rudder, which is located below the waterline outside the hull of the ship. Following the inspection, the vessel was not detained and no arrests were made. *Pearlmar* is discharging its cargo as planned and authorities have not advised us for any delays. *Stelmar* is a signatory to the voluntary US Customs Sea Carrier Initiative Agreement and are co-operating fully in the ongoing investigation. (Note — *Pearlmar* arrived Martinez Jun 9 from Esmeraldas.)

#### **GAS WELL BLOWOUT, PERTH BASIN, WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

London, Jun 11 — Following received from ARC Energy, dated Jun 10: ARC Energy Ltd advises that an incident has occurred at the drilling location of the exploration well Tarantula 1. At approximately 0800, WST, while performing a routine wireline survey, gas flowed up the drill pipe. Blow out preventers were closed around the drill pipe, but gas continues to flow up the drill pipe to surface. The rig (*Century 24*) has been shut down and all crew have been evacuated without injury. Resources have been mobilised to ensure control is restored and impacts minimised. Participants in L11 and Tarantula 1 are: Origin Energy Developments Pty Limited (Operator) 67.00% ARC Energy Limited 33.00%. (Note — Drilling of the gas exploration well Tarantula 1 commenced 1300, May 24 using drilling rig *Century 24* in lat 29 25 20.52S, long 115 08 18.51E.)

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Origin Energy has provided an update to earlier reports regarding the incident that occurred at the drilling location of the exploration well Tarantula 1 yesterday morning. At no stage since the incident occurred has there been a fire or explosion at the site. The site remains stable with gas and water continuing to flow to atmosphere through the drill pipe. A water deluge system has been set up at the drill site as a precaution to minimise the risk of ignition. An expert team is now being flown in to assist in the control procedures and is expected to be on site tomorrow afternoon. Following the shut down of the rig yesterday, Origin is advised that four employees of the drilling contractor received first aid treatment for scalding injuries to their arms.

#### **INDONESIAN FISHING VESSELS DETAINED BY AUSTRALIA**

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Almost all Indonesian fishing boats caught illegally in Australian waters will be destroyed under a new policy outlined by Federal Fisheries Minister Ian Macdonald. Under the changes, illegal fishermen will no longer be able to wait for trial aboard their boats in Darwin harbour, giving time for their financiers to send the \$5000 bond needed for Australian authorities to release the vessel. Boat captains and crew who have been caught once will be remanded in Darwin's Berrimah jail, while first-time offenders will be sent straight home. With no crew to claim the boat, it will be torched. The move comes after a Darwin coroner this year recommended fishermen be repatriated immediately after a fisherman died, apparently from an epileptic seizure, in cramped conditions aboard a boat while awaiting trial.



#### **CHEMICAL PLANT, ELMIRA, ONTARIO, CANADA**

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters needed three hours to control a fire at a chemical plant near Waterloo, Ont. The blaze broke out at Crompton Chemical, formerly Uniroyal, in Elmira this morning. Witnesses said they heard several loud explosions. No one was hurt in the fire, but residents faced some anxious moments as a tower of black smoke filled the sky over the town. Residents were instructed to stay indoors, close their windows, and turn their air conditioners off. A layer of solvent in a wastewater storage treatment tank is believed to have caught fire, officials told The Canadian Press. The fire released carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide, but residents have been assured that no

dangerous chemicals were released. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment is investigating the incident. Crompton makes chemicals such as petroleum additives, rubber chemicals, and synthetic lubricants. The company has faced criticism in the past for its environmental record.

#### **CHURCH, BROWNFIELD, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: A fire that began in the afternoon and smoldered into the night destroyed the Brownfield Church of Christ yesterday despite firefighters' efforts. The Brownfield Fire Department was called at about 1520 hrs, said Fire Chief Marvin Dawson, and the building continued to smolder until at least 2015 hrs. Last night that the fire was about 90% out, but the hot spots will smolder for days. Firefighters from surrounding communities lent a hand. Meadow, Tahoka, Morton, Levelland and Wellman firefighters helped battle the blaze. Dawson, the fire chief, said this was by far the worst fire he had ever seen in Brownfield. Dawson said he doesn't believe the building can be built back. He said he hopes it stands long enough for an investigation into how the fire started. The church lost its auditorium and the centre of the building. The church offices were the only thing left untouched by the blaze.

#### **COAL MINE, GUIZHOU PROVINCE, CHINA**

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: At least nine miners were killed in a coal mine gas explosion in southwestern Guizhou Province yesterday morning, according to local government sources. The blast occurred at 1010 hrs at the Yongliu Colliery in Luobie Township of Liupanshui City, said an official with the provincial coal mine administration. An investigation into the cause of the explosion and rescue work were under way, said the official.

#### **COAL MINE, RIO TURBIO AREA, ARGENTINA**

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Two miners died in a coal mine fire that continued raging today, and authorities said there was little chance of rescuing another 11 miners still trapped below. "It is not very likely" that the other men were alive, one rescue worker said after his team members finally accessed the damaged tunnel through an alternative route, more than 20 hours after the fire broke out late on Monday (Jun 14). Galleries collapsed some seven kilometres underground. About 100 miners escaped. Some were treated for smoke inhalation. Community official Paulino Rodriguez said two unidentified bodies have been recovered and taken to be autopsied at a hospital in Rio Turbio, in southern Patagonia region. Rescuers tried to reach the 13 workers who were trapped after a conveyor belt broke down and caught fire, mining authorities said. Today, rescuers were still trying to extinguish the fire a

union official said. Rio Turbio Mayor, Matias Mazu, told reporters that rescuers were sealing off some tunnels in order to draw the smoke out and choke the fire.

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Argentinian President Nestor Kirchner has rushed to his home province after a coal mine cave-in in southern Argentina killed six miners and trapped eight others. Authorities said the chances of the trapped people being rescued were fading. Rescuers pulled the bodies of six miners from the Rio Turbio coal mine in Santa Cruz province, some 2,800 km south-west of the capital, and were trying to reach those still trapped yesterday. Mr Kirchner set out from the capital at midday to follow rescuers' progress on the ground. But Rio Turbio Mayor Matias Mazu told reporters chances of their getting out alive are "almost nil" due to the amount of carbon monoxide emitted by the fire on Monday that sparked the collapse.

#### **COAL MINE, SHAANXI PROVINCE, CHINA**

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Fifteen people were confirmed killed and seven others were still missing as of 0600, today, in a coal mine blast that occurred yesterday afternoon in north-west China's Shaanxi Province, local officials said. The blast took place at 1650 yesterday in the No 1 coal mine of the Huangling Mining Co, Ltd when 85 miners were working underground. Of them, 65 miners were rescued, including five injured miners who were rushed to hospital. The 15 killed people included two rescuers, according to the provincial bureau for supervising safety in coal production. A task force has been set up to search for the missing miners and to deal with the aftermath of the accident.

#### **FORESTS, RUSSIA**

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Twenty five forest fire outbreaks over almost 1,100 hectares are reported in the Far East Russia. Eight new outbreaks were reported over the past 24 hours. The blaze destroyed 499 hectares of forests, the regional environmental protection department told Itar-Tass today. There are large conflagrations in the Khabarovsk territory, Kamchatka and Sakhalin. Two hundred and forty-five people are working in the fire zones in the Khabarovsk territory, and the total number is more than 420 in the whole Far East region. Thirty aircraft and helicopters carry out patrol flights and convey firefighters to the zones.

#### **GRAIN ELEVATOR, CASHION, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: It took nearly 19 hours for firefighters in Cashion to extinguish a grain elevator fire. The fire in the upper portion of the Shawnee Mills grain elevator started yesterday night. Firefighters said small openings and a maze of grain chutes made it difficult to fight the blaze. According to

the Oklahoma State Fire Marshal's Office, one firefighter was slightly injured. Edmond, Kingfisher, El Reno and Deer Creek fire crews helped the Cashion Volunteer Fire Department fight the blaze, which started inside the Shawnee Mills grain elevator. Fire crews from surrounding cities were still on the scene late today to fight the blaze, which was still smoldering. Officials said the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

#### **LUMBER YARD, WEST JORDAN, UTAH, UNITED STATES**

Salt Lake City, Jun 16 — An extremist environmental group has claimed responsibility for a \$1.5 million lumber yard fire in Utah, officials said today. The FBI has determined the Stock Building Supply fire in West Jordan was arson and said the letters "ELF" were spray painted on property at the site of the blaze. The ELF letters are those of the Earth Liberation Front, an extremist environmental group responsible for millions of dollars in damage. The FBI is also investigating a one-page fax sent to Salt Lake City radio station KSL with an ELF heading and claiming responsibility for the fire. The fax said the Stock Building Supply lumber yard was targeted because it ignored warnings to repair its polluting forklifts. — Reuters.

#### **OIL REFINERY, HAIFA, ISRAEL**

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A small-scale explosion occurred this morning at the oil refinery compound of Haifa's industrial zone. Eleven people were lightly-to moderately injured in the incident, and seven of them were taken to hospital. Twenty-three ambulances arrived at the scene. The explosion was apparently caused by a mechanical malfunction in one of the refinery's ovens. Police said that no dangerous chemicals were released in the explosion, and promised to further investigate the incident.

#### **PREMISES, JASPER, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 15 — A press report, from Jasper, Georgia, dated Jun 14, states: Fire investigators were searching for the cause today of an overnight blaze that virtually destroyed a popular Pickens County sporting goods store, authorities said. More than 50 firefighters from three counties battled the blaze, which was reported around 0145 hrs. The blaze destroyed the building as well as the store's \$6 million inventory, owner Jerry Stover said. It was not immediately clear what sparked the fire. No injuries were reported.

#### **PREMISES, LAWRENCE, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: Fire engulfed the Herald Community Newspapers building in Lawrence this afternoon, fire officials said, but no serious injuries were reported. Nassau County Firecom Supervisor Charles Parker said the occupants of the building, at 379

Central Ave. were evacuated after the fire began about 1515 hrs. It was contained by about 1730 hrs, Parker said. The Lawrence-Cedarhurst Fire Department battled the blaze, with help from firefighters from Inwood, Woodmere, Hewlett, Valley Stream, Meadowmere Park and Long Beach. The fire marshal was investigating the cause of the fire, Parker said.

#### **PREMISES, WORMELOW, HEREFORDSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated today, states: An old ballroom in Herefordshire has been gutted by fire. More than 60 firefighters spent the night tackling the blaze at Park Hall at Wormelow. Crews from as far afield as Evesham and Droitwich Spa in Worcestershire were called out at about 0100, BST, today. Sub officer Ron Morris, who was one of the first firefighters on the scene, said it proved to be a very difficult blaze to contain. He said: "We had difficulty getting the water supply there. We had to run out a hose from about half a mile away to the nearest hydrant and the water supply was very poor. It wasn't until Welsh Water boosted the pressure that we got a decent supply." Crews were still there at this lunchtime.

#### **PUBLIC HOUSE, BRETFTON, WORCESTERSHIRE, KINGDOM**

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Plans to restore an historic Worcestershire pub which was badly destroyed by fire are to be unveiled. The National Trust, which owns the 14th century Fleece Inn at Bretforton near Evesham, will hold an open meeting to show villagers the plans.

#### **SCRAP YARD MORECAMBE, LANCASHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Sixty-five firefighters are trying to stop a major blaze at a scrap metal yard from spreading to nearby houses. Fire breaks have been created after the blaze broke out at 0320, BST, today at Morecambe Metals on the White Lund estate, Morecambe, Lancashire. Residents have been warned to stay indoors and keep windows closed. Eight crews are at the scene as more than 2,000 tonnes of material is said to be on fire. Retained crews from Bolton-le-Sands, Carnforth, Silverdale and Hornby are also helping fight the fire. The thick smoke from the fire can be seen several miles away and some nearby roads have been closed.

#### **TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, MUSSELBURGH, EAST LOTHIAN, SCOTLAND**

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 15,000 households in Musselburgh have been left without telephone lines after an overnight fire in a nearby British Telecom exchange. Musselburgh, Gullane and Longniddry are among the areas affected by the phone blackout, which has also caused problems for

mobile users. Portable pay phones have been brought in, in case people need to make calls to the emergency services. BT said it could be days before services are back to normal. Lothian and Borders Police said it was treating the fire as suspicious. The fire affected both floors of the two-storey building in Mansfield Road, which is near the centre of the town. According to British Telecom, more than 17,000 customers were initially affected but services to some outlying areas have been restored. The company said its engineers would assess the extent of damage to equipment as soon as it was deemed safe for them to go into the premises. Extra police officers have been introduced in an attempt to ensure that emergency response times are not adversely affected. A police spokesman said: "Due to last night's fire at the BT exchange, there has been a partial loss to the 999 and normal telephone service in parts of the East Lothian area."

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A 13-year-old boy has been charged in connection with a fire at a telephone exchange which cut off services to thousands of homes in East Lothian. Tuesday's (Jun 15) blaze caused extensive damage to the BT exchange in Musselburgh and affected about 25,000 customers in the town and surrounding area. Lothian and Borders Police said the boy had been arrested and charged with wilful fireraising. A report will be submitted to the Reporter to the Children's Panel. BT said about 300 customers were still without services, but was hopeful that everyone would be reconnected by the end of today.

#### WILDFIRES, IRAN

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Fars province Environment Protection Office reported today fire in the past two days has burned 100 acres of pastures in the Bemoy National Park located 10 km north of Shiraz city. The fire broke out accidentally by a few teenagers' negligence who had camped out there. According to another report by the same office, fire also burned 50 acres of the protected area of Kohe Siah (Black Mountain) near Arsanjan city.

#### WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated Jun 10, states: Firefighters battled a wildfire today that destroyed two houses before flames jumped across the Rio Grande and forced evacuations in surrounding neighbourhoods. Fire crews initially responded to a house fire but wind gusts up to 35 mph carried the blaze to a second home nearby and then to trees across the river, said Fire Chief Bett Clark. Sixteen homes were evacuated. A huge plume of smoke rose into the sky as fire engines were positioned to help protect homes, and a helicopter dropped water on the flames from overhead. Clark said high winds and dry terrain made conditions ripe for a fire. Gov. Bill Richardson activated the state's emergency operations center. "The good news is the fire is low but it's windy - that's not good," he said.

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire officials were optimistic that a 7,300-acre fire in eastern Arizona will bypass a tiny mountain community of vacation homes and wooden cottages. Residents packed up their belongings and 25 fire engines stood guard around the edges of Nutrioso, but the wildfire, burning to the south-west, appeared to be headed away from the community. The fire was 30% contained last night and remained a little more than a mile from the area designated as the trigger point for evacuations, authorities said. Bob Dyson, a spokesman for the crew fighting the blaze, said the fire was cooling down and had not moved any closer to Nutrioso since Thursday.

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated today, states: In New Mexico firefighters were bolstering lines around a blaze that has burned 57,500 acres in Lincoln National Forest, in the Capitan Mountains. The fire was 80% contained. To the north-west, officials in Albuquerque said a fire that destroyed two buildings and led to the evacuation of more than 100 homes was sparked by metal work, and three men were arrested on charges of negligence, officials said. The fire had burned an estimated 80 acres and continued smoldering yesterday, but officials said the flames were staying on the ground.

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: Firefighters were gaining on a 7,897-acre wildfire burning in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, making officials optimistic that the blaze could be fully contained this week. The Three Forks Fire was 75% contained by last night. The blaze didn't grow yesterday and burned mostly in its interior, said Dorman McGann, a spokesman for the crew fighting the fire. If the fire continues to lay down and weather conditions co-operate, the blaze could be fully contained by Thursday, McGann said. Officials closed a 107 square mile area next to the blaze because of fire danger. The fire, which was burning meadows, pine, spruce and fir trees, remained a little more than a mile from the area designated as the trigger point for evacuations. But the fire has not moved any closer to Nutrioso since Thursday.

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: Firefighters were using bulldozers and hand tools yesterday to clear a line around a human-caused blaze that has burned about 2,500 acres in the Zuni Mountains in western New Mexico. The Sedgwick Fire, which flared from a campfire, was burning pinon, juniper, ponderosa pine and mixed conifer trees in rugged terrain in the Cibola National Forest, 14 miles west of Grants. No structures are threatened by the fire, which was five per cent contained and was sending smoke into Grants. There were about 300 people assigned to the blaze, along with six helicopters and two bulldozers. Two C-130 military aircraft also were standing by to drop fire retardant if needed. The fire nearly doubled in size Sunday, but much of that was due to burnout operations by firefighters.

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: Firefighters continued battling the 60,400-acre Peppin Fire in the Capitan Mountains in the Lincoln National Forest. "We are conducting some additional burnout on the south-east flank today (Monday)," said Margo Whitt, fire information officer. The fire was burning interior islands of vegetation as temperatures rise and humidity falls. The month-old fire, which was 85% contained, was sparked by lightning six miles north-east of Capitan in south-central New Mexico. The blaze has burned 12 cabins and mixed conifer, ponderosa pine, pinon and juniper trees in rugged terrain. There were 200 people assigned to the fire, along with two helicopters, five engines, one bulldozer and two water tenders. The Peppin Fire has cost almost \$6.4 million, officials said.



#### C-FSQJ

London, Jun 16 — On Jun 12, Stinson 108-2, C-FSQJ, departed South River/Sundridge airport, Ontario and was landing on Runway 30 at Orillia airport. During the landing roll, directional control of the aircraft was lost and the aircraft groundlooped coming to rest on its back on the runway. The aircraft was substantially damaged; the pilot was not injured. The wind was reported to be a 90 degree light crosswind.

#### C-GBIL

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: The information collected so far in the crash of a Cessna 182P (Skylane) (C-GBIL) near Prince George Airport on Monday (Jun 7) suggests no failure of the engine or controls, a Transportation Safety Board spokesman said on Friday as investigators recovered the body of the pilot and effectively stopped the recovery of aircraft wreckage. Bill Yearwood said eyewitness accounts of the aircraft's movements before the crash and the lack of a mayday call meant it was not likely mechanics were the cause of the crash. "So we're down to trying to determine whether the pilot lost control because of the weather or lost control due to physiological incapacitation," he said. Pilot Ben Guiliamse, 71, was killed when the aircraft crashed near Highway 16 north of the airport just after take-off at 0700 on Monday. He was given a special clearance to fly because the weather did not allow for a regular clearance. His remains were recovered Thursday morning more than 20 feet underground, Prince George RCMP said. Airport general manager Stieg Hoeg said investigators were not able to recover much of the engine. The recovery operation last week was hampered by water and mud in the marshy area where the aircraft went

down, he said. Yearwood said an autopsy report would help determine whether Guiliamse was killed in the crash, or lost consciousness or died while flying. The TSB is assisting the coroner's investigation by collecting and examining radar data, eyewitness accounts, and evidence from the crash site such as the angle the aircraft hit the ground. A board letter outlining its findings should be forwarded to the coroner's office in the next two months, he said.

#### **C-GJST**

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A 42-year-old Masson man is missing and presumed dead after an aircraft crashed into the Ottawa River between Cumberland and Masson. As of last night, police said Alain Bourbonnais and his float plane were missing. Meanwhile, a ferry belonging to a company owned by Mr. Bourbonnais' father continued to patrol the waters around the crash scene into the night. Alain, who worked for the company, used the aircraft, believed to be a de Havilland Beaver, to fly to a fishing camp, friends said yesterday. Residents on both sides of the river, in addition to motorists on Highway 174, first reported to police a small aircraft, with red and white markings, in distress just before 1400, yesterday. The Ottawa Fire Department's search and rescue unit soon discovered an oil slick on the water. Firefighters would later find pontoons and other debris from the downed aircraft, all about one-and-a-half kilometres east of the Cumberland-Masson ferry. Some eyewitnesses reported seeing some black smoke from the aircraft before it went down, while others saw the aircraft in the air and thought everything seemed normal. The pilot may have been attempting to land when gusting winds caught the wings and catapulted the aircraft into a nose dive and into the chilly waters, witnesses said. At least one witness reported that the aircraft flipped twice before landing in the water. Police said there was no distress signal from the aircraft, though Ottawa police reported at least two separate witnesses called to report an aircraft in trouble. Divers said the fuselage of the aircraft likely settled in 10 to 12 metres of water and paramedics on the scene said time worked against a successful rescue, turning it from a rescue mission to one of recovery by late afternoon. Investigators speculate that strong springtime currents also may have moved the debris down river. OPP divers worked until about 2015. The recovery effort is to resume this morning. Gatineau police took over the investigation last night along with investigators from the Transportation Safety Board.

London, Jun 16 — On Jun 14, De Havilland DHC-2 (Beaver) C-GJST crashed in the Ottawa River in the vicinity of Masson, QC while the pilot was performing touch-and-go landings. The pilot was fatally injured and the aircraft was destroyed.

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated Jun 16, states: Investigators hope the wreckage of a float aircraft which

went down in the Ottawa River on Monday (Jun 14) will reveal what caused the fatal crash. Divers pulled the body of the pilot from the wreckage of the submerged aircraft late Monday night. Salvage crews, assisted by investigators from the Transportation Safety Board, yesterday brought the remains of the De Havilland DHC-2 (Beaver) (C-GJST) back to shore from the crash site. Once out of the water, the aircraft was expected to be taken to the TSB's lab at the Ottawa airport for detailed examination. TSB senior investigator Charles Laurence said technicians will be examining the aircraft for any mechanical problems with the flight controls, engine or gauges, as well as examining safety equipment such as the seat belts to ensure it was working properly. Laurence said the TSB would also check the aircraft's service records and the qualifications of mechanics who worked on it. "We have not seen anything that we could make a judgment on right now," he said, adding it could be some time before the cause of the crash is known.

#### **C-GVYE**

London, Jun 11 — Cessna A185F floatplane, C-GVYE, operated by Big River Air Ltd, crashed while landing on the Taltson River, NWT and came to rest inverted in 10 feet of water at 1700, Jun 7. The pilot and front seat passenger were able to egress the aircraft. The two rear seat passengers sustained fatal injuries. The TSB is dispatching two investigators to the accident site.

#### **CRASH INTO SEA OFF GABON**

Libreville, Jun 16 — The families of people killed in a plane crash off Gabon last week fear a protracted and possibly fruitless fight for compensation after it emerged the aircraft was not insured, family members said today. "We have little faith in a quick reaction with any financial support for the families...and even less that Gabon Express will compensate families," said Ndong Germaine, 28, a student who lost an uncle in the crash. The government said late yesterday it would take legal action against the company and had banned it from operating because it had failed to insure its aircraft. "Gabon Express and its directors will be taken to court for lying and concealing information which, had it been known, would have prevented them from obtaining an operating licence," Transport Minister Paulette Missambo told state television. Investigators have recovered two black box flight recorders from the twin-engine plane, which will be sent to London for examination, Missambo said. — Reuters.

#### **CRASH INTO TALSTON RIVER, NORTH WEST TERRITORIES, CANADA**

See C-GVYE.

#### **CRASH, CARSON CITY AREA, NEVADA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated Jun 16, states: One man died

today when a Cessna 337 (Skymaster) crashed near Carson City, Nevada, and authorities said they were trying to determine whether anyone else was on board the aircraft. "We don't know if more than one person was on board. The burn site was pretty severe," Sheriff Ken Furlong said. "There could be more. We're trying to find out from the family who should have been on the plane." The crash started a fire that burned about an acre of land. The victim was trapped in the wreckage of the aircraft, described by Furlong as "total destruction." Authorities said the aircraft had made one landing approach but then circled around the airport, flying low, and crashed just east of the airport as it made a second approach.

#### **CRASH, PEORIA, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A 24-year-old pilot was killed yesterday after his plane crashed. The accident occurred shortly after the plane disconnected from a glider that it assisted in getting airborne. Miller Wilder was pronounced dead at the runway near Turf Soaring School, 8700 W. Carefree Highway at Pleasant Valley Airport, Peoria.

#### **CRASH, RIGA AREA, LATVIA**

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: A small private aircraft crashed in the Andrejsala area of Riga last night, killing two people. One of the two people killed was reported to be "Latvijas Aeroklubs" board member Janis Vitins, who was piloting the Belorussian-made Airoprakt A 22. The cause of the crash was unclear but poor weather conditions were being mentioned as a factor. The aircraft crashed and burst into flames at around 1900 hrs. Civil Aviation Administration Director General Maris Gorodcovs said that the aircraft was not yet certified in Latvia, and since it was still in an experimental stage, it was bound by various restrictions, including flying over populated areas. He added that Vitins' aircraft only had authorisation to fly over the Spilve Airport zone.

#### **CRASH, TAMARACEITE, CANARY ISLANDS**

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: Two men were killed in Gran Canaria when the aerobatics aircraft they were flying crashed, it was reported today. The two victims, a Spaniard and a German, were participating in a model airplane enthusiasts' convention, organiser Jaime Roura told EFE. The accident occurred around 1330 hrs during an air show in Tamaraceite, a few miles from the island's capital of Las Palmas. The Soviet-made aerobatics aircraft, which was reportedly in good condition, brushed the ground as it was performing a somersault, lost control and crashed, Roura said. The engine and a wing broke off on impact, landing several yards from the aircraft.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, BRADLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CONNECTICUT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: A Continental Airlines jet that declared an in-flight emergency landed safely at Bradley International Airport at 1530, today. Continental Airlines flight 1526 from Houston experienced a leak in a hydraulic system, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The Boeing 737 sat on the runway at the airport north of Hartford shortly after landing and emergency vehicles were swarming around it. Passengers were checked and Department of Transportation spokesman John Wallace said there were no reports of injuries. Officials said there were 70 people on board the aircraft. Rescue workers helped them off the aircraft as it sat on the runway, Wallace said. The FAA said the aircraft would remain on the runway for some time and might disrupt other traffic at the airport. The airline said the jet would be towed to a gate. Dave Messing, a spokesman for Continental, said the hydraulic problems only affected the ability to steer the aircraft's nose wheel. That impaired the aircraft's ability to steer once on the runway but did not affect its ability to land. The pilot declared the emergency as a matter of protocol, Messing said.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A flight from Bradley International Airport to Washington's Reagan National Airport was diverted today after a flight attendant discovered a suspicious package in a bathroom, a spokesman with the Transportation Security Administration said. The aircraft, U.S. Airways flight 1403, landed without incident at Dulles International Airport outside Washington. About 80 passengers were on the flight. The FBI has the package and was questioning some passengers today, said Ann Davis, a spokeswoman for TSA. Nothing was found in a search of the plane, Davis said.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, NETAJI SUBHASH BOSE AIRPORT, KOLKATA, INDIA**

Karachi, Jun 17 — Bangladesh state owned flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines said that one of its aircraft had to make an emergency landing at Netaji Subhash Bose Airport in Kolkata, India, yesterday morning, due to mechanical trouble immediately after take-off for Dhaka. The aircraft (ADZ) left Zia International Airport at 1020, local time, and reached Kolkata at 1050. The aircraft took off on its return flight BG-091 to Dhaka at 1130. But the aircraft, carrying about 80 passengers, had to make an emergency landing at Kolkata airport after take-off due to a leaking valve. Therefore, passengers were evacuated through the emergency exit and taken to a Kolkata hotel. Two engineers of Biman were flown to Kolkata to effect repair work. After

necessary repairs the aircraft was flown back to Dhaka and it reached Zlia at 1230, yesterday. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Spirit Airlines jet heading from Fort Lauderdale to New York made an emergency landing at Palm Beach International Airport when a detector malfunctioned and indicated smoke or flames were in the cargo area, fire-rescue officials said. People on board the aircraft also reported a smell that one crew member likened to cigarette smoke, said Mike Arena, Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue battalion chief. Firefighters found no problems on the aircraft, which made the emergency landing at about 1430, yesterday, less than an hour after taking off. Spirit Airlines spokeswoman Laura Richeson said she was not aware of a faulty indicator. The smell prompted the pilot to make the "precautionary landing," she said. Spirit reported another aircraft took the 137 passengers on board to New York's LaGuardia Airport.

**G-BUAN**

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated Jun 10, states: A report into a plane crash off the Isles of Scilly last year has revealed the aircraft may have run out of fuel. The Cessna aircraft was carrying veteran air crew, who were all members of the Fleet Air Arm Squadron, when the accident happened on Oct 4, 2003. The plane had to ditch in the sea and the men were rescued by a fishing boat. The Air Accident Investigation Branch has updated its report after it discovered the plane probably had less than two gallons of fuel on board. The AAIB's original report had blamed the crash, six miles south of the Isles of Scilly, on a double magneto failure which affected the engine. But investigators say they have since found no evidence that the aircraft had been refuelled since Aug 20, 2003. The report says, even on the most conservative of estimates, that would have left little fuel in the plane's tanks.

**INCIDENT AT CHITRAL AIRPORT, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Jun 17 — Pakistan state-owned airline Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) said today that one of its Fokker aircraft carrying 36 passengers and four crew while coming from Peshawar skidded off the runway after landing at the Chitral airport in northern area of Pakistan at 0840 yesterday. As a result, the aircraft's tyres burst and the fuel tank leaked. The aircraft was damaged in the incident. Its engine, rotating fan and wheel were destroyed. A special relief aircraft was later sent by the PIA from Peshawar to fly out passengers waiting at Chitral airport. Meanwhile, according to the press release issued by PIA, a Chitral bound flight PK 660 departed from Peshawar yesterday. It said: "The aircraft was fully serviceable

at the time of departure and the weather given was good. It landed in Chitral normally but after landing encountered some technical fault due to which it could not stop on the runway and skidded off of the runway. All the passengers and the crew were safe and disembarked normally. The aircraft was slightly damaged. The authorities concerned are investigating the incident." — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**INCIDENT AT DALLAS-FORT WORTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A Delta commuter aircraft with 40 people aboard veered off a runway after landing at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport today. No one was injured. Officials say the aircraft, operated by Chautauqua Airlines, arrived from Oklahoma City and stopped about 60 feet on the side of the runway. DFW airport authorities said there were 37 passengers and three crew members on Flight 6490. The runway was shut down, but DFW officials said there were no significant delays. The incident is under investigation.

**INCIDENT AT PENN YAN AIRPORT, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 17 — Authorities say two teenagers escaped serious injuries but caused one million dollars worth of damage to an aircraft. The accident occurred after Anoinette Bailey, of Suffolk County, went to the Penn Yan Airport 45 miles southeast of Rochester to inspect an aircraft for her employer on Tuesday (Jun 15). Investigators said that Bailey left her 13-year-old niece and a friend in a car while she went into an office. Bailey saw the friend driving the car and tried to jump in but was unable to stop it from crashing through a hangar door and into a Constellation Brands wine company jet. Investigators said the children were treated at area hospitals and released.

**INCIDENT AT PITTSBURGH AIRPORT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: Authorities in Pittsburgh say a U-S Airways jet veered off a runway early today after it hit a bird. They say the incident, which came after the aircraft touched down, disabled a steering mechanism. The aircraft ended up mired in the mud. The passengers had to be taken by bus to the terminal, where they waited several more hours for their luggage. The flight had already been delayed in North Carolina because of storms. An airline spokeswoman said the bird was a turkey — but an airport official says crews found a dead owl.

**N200BE**

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Two men were killed yesterday after their Beechcraft King Air 200 crashed on a mountain in Greenbrier County. The aircraft went down in a wooded area on Big Mountain, about half a mile outside the

Rupert town limits. The plane took off from Summersville at about 0815 hrs and was headed for Greenbrier Valley Airport in Lewisburg, according to State Police 1st Sgt J.L. Cahill, who was heading the investigation yesterday. He said the two pilots were on their way to pick up passengers in Lewisburg to fly them to Charlotte, North Carolina. He said the men were killed on impact. The flight from Summersville to Lewisburg takes about 15 minutes. Cahill said employees from Rader Aviation Co, which owns Summersville Airport, contacted State Police at 1050 hrs after their aircraft did not land on time. Two aircraft from Rader Aviation and a State Police helicopter assisted in the search. The crash site was found on the mountain shortly afterward.

London, Jun 15 — Beechcraft King Air 200, N200BE, crashed near Lewisburg, West Virginia, 1803, Jun 13, while on a flight from Summersville, WV, to Lewisburg. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

#### **N2065T**

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated Jun 16, states: A student pilot crashed a helicopter during a landing Tuesday night (Jun 15) at Hampton Roads Executive Airport on Va. 58. No one was hurt. Elliot R. McNeese, 25, of Virginia Beach, was practicing landings at the airport at 1820 when the crash occurred, said Sgt. D.S. Carr, state police spokesman. McNeese was alone in the helicopter, owned by Chesapeake Bay Helicopter, Carr said. No cost estimate was available for the damage to the helicopter.

London, Jun 17 — Schweizer 269C-1, N2065T, made a hard landing on the runway at Hampton Roads Executive Airport, Virginia, at 2249, Jun 15. The one person on board was not injured.

#### **N401CK**

London, Jun 15 — Following press release from Coast Guard Juneau, dated Jun 14, states: Three Coast Guard rescue helicopters and their crews responded to an aircraft that crashed on Long Island near Kodiak this afternoon. The Coast Guard received notification of a possible missing aircraft about noon today from Federal Aviation Administration officials in Kodiak. A Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak helicopter crew flying in the area detected an aircraft's emergency locating transmitter and honed in on its signal. The crew located aircraft wreckage. Two additional Coast Guard helicopter crews transported a Kodiak fire department rescue team and an Alaska State Trooper to the scene. The emergency services team will use extraction equipment to remove the aircraft's sole, deceased occupant. One of the Coast Guard helicopter crews transported the unidentified man's body to Kodiak.

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: Alaska State Troopers say an Anchorage man died in an aircraft crash on Long Island, near Kodiak, yesterday. Mark D. Mueller was the only person on board the

aircraft. Mueller was piloting a Beachcraft aircraft on his final approach to Kodiak yesterday at noon, when the signal tower in Kodiak lost contact with the aircraft. Four minutes later, the FAA received an Emergency Location Transmitter tone. A Coast Guard helicopter located the aircraft on Long Island, about five miles east of Kodiak. Positive identification of Mueller was made today. NTSB and FAA authorities have responded to the scene to investigate the cause of the crash.

London, Jun 16 — Beechcraft 18, N401CK, crashed into the water near Kodiak, Alaska, at 1933, Jun 14. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A plane that crashed on Long Island was headed away from the Kodiak airport as it came down, a National Transportation Safety Board official said. Air safety investigator Clint Johnson said that's perplexing because the plane was on its final approach to the airport when air traffic controllers lost contact. The accident Monday (Jun 14) took the life of pilot Mark D. Mueller of Anchorage. Johnson of the NTSB's Anchorage office visited the crash site Tuesday with an investigator from the Federal Aviation Administration. The plane crashed on the south end of Long Island, about eight miles east of Kodiak State Airport. Based on the approximately 800-foot-long path of wreckage and damaged trees, Johnson believes the aircraft was travelling east at relatively high speed. Experts will consider several types of evidence to determine the cause of the accident, including debris, air traffic control tapes, radar records and weather data.

#### **N4602Y**

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: A single-engine aircraft crashed at a suburban Phoenix flight school this afternoon, killing the pilot. The aircraft had been towing a glider as part of a ride offered at the Turf Soaring School when it went straight up in the air, then fell nose first and crashed at the end of the school's runway, Peoria police Lt Scott Lekan said. The glider detached from the aircraft before the crash and landed safely. Authorities did not immediately release the victim's name but said he worked at the school. Investigators with the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board were expected to look into the crash, Lekan said.

London, Jun 15 — Piper PA-25-235 (Pawnee), N4602Y, crashed near Peoria, Arizona, at 2304, Jun 13, while on a local flight from Peoria. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

#### **N611HA**

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: Federal Aviation Administration investigators are looking into an aircraft crash that killed one man yesterday morning. The accident happened around 0725 hrs at

the Pueblo Memorial Airport. Officials say the pilot was performing "touch and go" manoeuvres. He had left the runway and was gaining altitude when the aircraft suddenly slammed into the ground.

London, Jun 15 — Hispano HA-200 SAETA, N611HA, crashed near Pueblo, Colorado, at 1317, Jun 12, while on a local flight from Pueblo. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

#### **N641AE**

London, Jun 15 — EMBRAER ERJ-145, N641AE, operated by American Eagle Airlines Inc, struck a barricade at Chicago O'Hare International Airport, Illinois, at 2350, Jun 11. The aircraft sustained a hole in its fuselage.

#### **N8577D**

London, Jun 16 — On Jun 10, Northwest Airlinck Canadair Regional Jet flight No.FLG5802, departed Ottawa/MCIA, Ontario and was destined to Detroit, Michigan (KDTW). The aircraft flight crew observed a low oil pressure reading on No.2 engine and shut it down. The aircraft diverted to Toronto/LBPIA and landed without further incident with AFF on standby. Maintenance replaced the carbon seal cover O-ring and the aircraft was returned to service.



#### **BATTERY CHARGERS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Jun 15 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 4,900 Reedy Quasar Pro Battery Chargers (charges batteries used to power remote control race cars) in co-operation with Associated Electrics Inc., of Costa Mesa, Calif. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. A defective fuse and program error in the charger can cause the battery packs being charged to overheat and explode, posing a risk of serious injury to consumers. Associated Electrics has received three reports of incidents involving exploding battery cells. One consumer sustained a bruised hand, while another received an eye injury from flying debris. The recalled 611 Quasar Pro Chargers were manufactured from February 2002 through February 2004. The grey charger box has words "Quasar Pro" printed in yellow on the front and shows a display of "QUASAR PRO VERSION 1.0" when first turned on. The recalled chargers either have no barcode label on the underside or a barcode label with the numbers "611" or "611A." Sold at hobby dealers nationwide from February 2002 through February 2004 for about \$200. Manufactured in China. Consumers

should stop using the charger immediately and contact Associated Electricians to receive a free repair. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

#### **CRANBROOK BICYCLES, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Jun 16 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 12,000 Huffy “Cranbrook” Bicycles in voluntary co-operation with Huffy Bicycle Company, of Springboro, Ohio. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The handlebar could unexpectedly loosen causing the rider to lose control of bicycle. The recall involves single-speed “Cranbrook” bicycles with 26-inch wheels. The bicycles were sold in both men’s (model 56462) and ladies’ (model 56472) style frames. The name “Cranbrook” is printed on the frame of the bicycle. Serial numbers included in the recall range from SNHHE04C52556 to SNHHE04C64557. Serial numbers and model numbers are located on the bottom bracket of the frame, where the crank is attached to the bicycle. Sold at Wal-Mart stores nation-wide from April 2004 through May 2004 for about \$80. Manufactured in China. Consumers should stop using the bicycles and contact Huffy Bicycle to determine if the product is a part of the recall. Consumers will receive a free replacement handlebar and stem. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

#### **MAZDA MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN**

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Mazda Motor Corp said yesterday it will recall 19,492 MPV minivans for free repair of defective steering wheels and another 3,625 MPV minivans of an older model for free repair of defective automatic cruise control devices. Subject to the recall for defective steering wheels are MPVs produced between March and November 2003, while the recall for the cruise control problem concerns units produced between May 1999 and March 2002, Mazda said in a report filed with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

#### **MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE**

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Mitsubishi Trucks in Japan is recalling around 450,000 vehicles, on top of 180,000 recalled last month. An internal inquiry is said to have found dozens of additional defects, including some which have caused injuries or fires. In previous announcements, the company acknowledged model-wide defects which had been covered up and had led to the deaths of two people. Last week, Japanese police arrested a former president of the truck division’s parent company, Mitsubishi Motors, and five other executives for defect concealments.

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Mitsubishi bowed to consumer and political

pressure late yesterday by agreeing to foot the full bill for a rash of safety recalls affecting cars, buses and trucks. Mitsubishi Motors New Zealand had earlier persuaded its Japanese parent to pay for parts for three sets of recalls, affecting about 1200 vehicles on New Zealand roads, but not labour costs for those bought outside its dealer network. That provoked an outcry from consumer groups, importers and Associate Transport Minister Harry Duynhoven, who said Mitsubishi had a moral obligation even if it was not legally bound to fix used imports. On Friday an Auckland motorist was unable to stop at an intersection, prompting Mitsubishi to accelerate recall plans and ask the Land Transport Safety Authority to ground the 1996 and 1997 VR4 automatic transmission models immediately. Mitsubishi Motors NZ managing director John Leighton said his company had decided to foot the full bill for all recalls, including those of 843 used-import Mitsubishi Fuso trucks and buses with a design fault in their front-wheel hubs. Owners have until Jul 2 to get these inspected. However 29 trucks and one bus have already been ordered off the road as being outside acceptable wear limits since the LTSA issued a recall notice on Friday.

#### **POWER AMPLIFIERS FOR SOUND SYSTEMS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Jun 16 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 2,157 Linn Power Amplifiers and Linn Melodik Bass Extension Loudspeaker Systems in voluntary co-operation with Linn Inc., of Jacksonville, Fla. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The amplifier’s capacitors can overheat, blow a fuse, and damage the products to which they are connected, presenting a fire hazard. Among the 70 reported incidents, there were two reports of heat damage to the cover of the connected speakers. No injuries reported. The Linn AV5150 2-Channel Power Amplifier comes in black or silver and is 3 inches by 15 inches by 14 inches; all serial numbers of this model are recalled. The Linn LK240 Single-Channel Power Amplifier comes in black or silver and is 3 inches by 12 inches by 12 inches; all serial numbers of this model are recalled. The Linn AV5150 Melodik Bass Extension Loudspeaker System comes in black ash, American cherry, or maple and is 19 inches by 25 inches by 19 inches; only serial numbers 1001 to 714451 are recalled. The model numbers and serial numbers are on the front panel, printed on the bottom of the product, or on the control panel near the main power supply. Sold at specialty retail stores throughout the U.S. and Canada from May 1996 through December 2003 for about \$1895 (AV5150); \$1300 (LK240); and \$4265-\$4950 (AV5150 Melodik). Manufactured in Scotland. Consumers should stop using the amplifiers immediately and contact Linn for information on how to obtain free repair of the recalled product. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

#### **SLOW COOKERS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Jun 15 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 146,000 General Electric Cool Touch Slow Cookers in voluntary co-operation with Select Brands Inc., of Lenexa, Kan. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Distributor Wal-Mart Stores Inc., of Bentonville, Ark. The heating element can drop to the bottom of the slow cooker and melt through the plastic outer shell, posing a burn hazard to users. Wal-Mart has received 27 reports of scorched or damaged countertops, though no injuries have been reported. The recalled General Electric (GE) Cool Touch 6 Quart Slow Cooker has a removable blue ceramic bowl with a glass lid. The enclosure that surrounds the ceramic bowl is made of plastic. The GE logo is located on the front of the unit underneath the temperature control knob. The model number 168945 is located on a silver label on the bottom of the base. Sold exclusively at Wal-Mart stores nationwide from June 2003 through May 2004 for about \$28. Manufactured in China. Consumers should immediately stop using product and return the slow cooker to Wal-Mart for a full refund. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

#### **WALL OVENS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Jun 8 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 1,400 DCS wall ovens in voluntary co-operation with Dynamic Cooking Systems Inc. of Huntington Beach, Calif. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. When the oven is in the self-cleaning mode, the oven’s exterior door temperature exceeds the allowable surface temperature limits under the industry voluntary standard for household electric ranges. Sustained contact with the door during self-cleaning mode could cause burns. These wall ovens come in single or double oven models in three colour options: Stainless steel, black, or white. The Wall Oven/Single models have these serial numbers indicating the date of manufacture in 2003 and 2004 (the blank can be any of the letters A through L): 03\_00001A to 03\_00155A and 04\_00001A to 04\_01093A. The Wall Oven/Double models have these serial numbers (the blank can be any of the letters A through L): 04\_00001A to 04\_00210A. The serial numbers are located on the oven frame’s left trim post, approximately 12 in from the bottom. Open the oven door to read the serial number. Appliance sold at dealers nationwide from January 2003 through May 2004 for between \$2,179 and \$3,920. Manufactured in USA. Consumers should not use the oven in self-cleaning mode until free replacement doors have been installed. Call the company to make arrangements for free replacement oven doors. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.



**NIGERIA**

See under "Labour Disputes."

**PANAMA CANAL**

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated Jun 10, states: The Panama

Canal restored full capacity yesterday morning, 42 hours ahead of schedule. Additional resources are being assigned to reduce the extraordinary backlog that has accumulated over the last eight-nine days. It is hoped that delays will be brought back to normal levels by the end of next week.

London, Jun 15 — Although lock works were completed on Jun 9, there is still a severe backlog of vessels waiting to transit the Panama Canal. Current delays are approximately as follows: Panamax vessels: three-four days and regular vessels under 91 feet: two-three

days At 0001, Jun 14, 94 vessels were awaiting Canal transit. It is anticipated that it will take approximately one week to clear the present backlog. The next lock overhaul will take place from Jul 5 until Jul 15. Pre-booking is strongly recommended.

**SYRIA**

Lattakia, Jun 5 — Waiting time is presently one day at Lattakia and four days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Agents.

**Port Delays**

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbot Point	15-Jun-2004	Coal: 8 vessels due by 3/6; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion.
Dalrymple Bay	15-Jun-2004	Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 8 anchored; 54 vessels due by 3/8; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability; depending on type of cargo required, delays of up to 14 days can be expected.
Hay Point	15-Jun-2004	Coal: 2 vessels loading; 9 vessels due by 27/6; up to 2 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion.
Gladstone	15-Jun-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed, 4 anchored; 33 vessels due by 17/7; 1-8 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Barney Point: 5 vessels due by 20/7; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Newcastle	15-Jun-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels loading, 4 waiting; 23 vessels due by 29/6; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel loading, 2 waiting; 14 vessels due by 29/6; 1-5 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal and heavy shipping schedule. Grain: 3 vessels due by 23/6, all to load wheat; up to 12 days delay at present due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Kembla	15-Jun-2004	Coal: 8 vessels due by 10/7; CB1: 4 vessels due by 25/7; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain: 4 vessels due by 28/6, 3 to load wheat, 1 canola; up to 3 days delay at present due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Hedland	15-Jun-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 8 vessels due by 28/6; 1-7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 6 vessels anchored; 5 vessels due by 24/6; 1-7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shiploader is undergoing maintenance until 07.00 hrs. 16/6; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island): 1 vessel berthed, 2 anchored; 3-11 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 3 vessels due by 24/6; 1-3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Due to heavy demand for product, acute cargo shortages are being experienced at wharf stockpiles. Vessels will continue to berth as product becomes available.
Dampier	15-Jun-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 13 vessels due by 29/6; 1-4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; cargo shortages are evident, long delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 12 vessels due by 28/6; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; cargo shortages are evident, delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn.
Port Walcott	15-Jun-2004	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 17 vessels due by 10/7; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Mackay	15-Jun-2004	Grain: 1 vessel due 17/6 to load sorghum; 3 days delay expected due to cargo availability.
Melbourne	15-Jun-2004	4 vessels waiting to load, of which 2 wheat, 1 wheat/barley, 1 barley; 3 vessels due by 1/7, 2 to load wheat, 1 barley; up to 5 days delay at present due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Geelong	15-Jun-2004	Grain: 6 vessels due by 27/6, 3 to load barley, 2 barley, 1 canola; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Portland	15-Jun-2004	Grain: 5 vessels due by 9/7, 3 to load barley, 2 wood-chips; up to 19 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Adelaide	15-Jun-2004	Grain: No. 27 berth: 7 vessels due by 27/6, 5 to load wheat, 1 canola, 1 barley; 2-9 days delay expected due to berth congestion.
Port Giles	15-Jun-2004	Grain: 2 vessels due by 4/7, both to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Wallaroo	15-Jun-2004	Grain: 1 vessel due 16/6 to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Pirie	15-Jun-2004	Grain: No. 2 berth: no vessels scheduled. Berth will be closed to shipping from 1/7 to 9/8 for electrical upgrade in silo control room.
Port Lincoln	15-Jun-2004	Grain: 5 vessels due by 10/7, 1 to load barley, 4 wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.

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**Port Conditions**

Geraldton	15-Jun-2004	Grain: 5 vessels due by 21/6, 1 to load feed, 3 wheat, 1 barley; 2-10 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Kwinana	15-Jun-2004	Grain: 10 vessels due by 28/6, 8 to load wheat, 2 barley; 1-9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Albany	15-Jun-2004	Grain: 5 vessels due by 5/7, all to load wheat; 1-7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Esperance	15-Jun-2004	Iron ore: 4 vessels due by 21/6; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain: 7 vessels due by 23/6, 2 to load barley, 2 wheat, 2 feed, 1 unknown cargo; up to 4 days delay expected due to cargo availability and berth congestion.
<b>Bulgaria</b>		
Bourgas	14-Jun-2004	Three vessels in port operating, of which 2 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 metals), 1 discharging iron ore; 6 vessels waiting in roads, of which 5 to load (1 chemicals, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 bulk ammonium sulphate, 2 empty), 1 other vessel; 7 vessels due of which 3 to load (1 scrap, 1 containers, 1 sulphur), 3 to discharge (1 containers, 1 billets, 1 zinc concentrate), 1 passenger vessel.
<b>Colombia</b>		
Buenaventura	16-Jun-2004	Shore crane operational. Ten vessels berthed (3 containers, 4 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 4 general cargo vessels anchored; 22 vessels due (14 containers, 3 general cargo, 3 bulkers, 1 tanker, 1 PCC), with 3 days delay expected for general cargo, 1 day for bulkers.
<b>Egypt</b>		
Alexandria	14-Jun-2004	Thirty-one vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 24 general cargo, 4 bulkers, 1 Ro/Ro, 2 tankers; 8 vessels at inner anchorage, 9 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	14-Jun-2004	Eighteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 12 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 3 containers; 5 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Suez Canal	14-Jun-2004	Twenty-three vessels transiting Northbound, 30 Southbound.
<b>Georgia</b>		
Supsa	11-Jun-2004	Oil products: 2 vessels due by 24/6, both to load crude oil. Terminal due to be shut down for maintenance of off-shore cargo lines for ca. 3 weeks in July. Dates will be confirmed nearer the time.
<b>India</b>		
Mumbai	15-Jun-2004	No labour problems. Four vessels loading at berth, 5 discharging at berth; expected delays: container vessels: 12 hours; bulkers: 1-2 days on completion of 50% of cargo documents; general cargo vessels: berthing within 24 hours of arrival.
Calcutta	15-Jun-2004	Two vessels loading at berth, 6 discharging at berth; 1 vessel bunkering; 20 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Cochin	15-Jun-2004	Two vessels loading at berth, 4 discharging at berth, 1 other vessel in port; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 1 waiting at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel under repairs, 2 dry-docked; 17 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Chennai	15-Jun-2004	Four vessels loading at berth, 5 discharging at berth, no other vessels at berth; 2 vessels at outer anchorage in not ready status; 29 vessels due, with the following delays expected: TNEB coal, steaming coal, fertiliser, others: up to 1 day; scrap, iron ore, containers: up to 2 days.
Mormugao	15-Jun-2004	No labour problems. One vessel loading at berth, 2 discharging at berth; no vessels loading at anchorage; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 5 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 15 vessels due (7 iron ore lumps /fines, 1 RP coke, 1 HSD, 1 phosphoric acid, 3 coking coal, 1 met coke, 1 MOP), with the following delays expected: RP coke, met coke: 4-5 days; coking coal: 2-3 days; HSD, phosphoric acid, MOP: no delays expected.
Kandla	15-Jun-2004	Six vessels loading at berth, 2 discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting to load; 2 tankers discharging at berth; 21 vessels due, with no delays expected; 8 tankers due, with up to 1 day's delay for edible oil/chemicals expected.
Mangalore	15-Jun-2004	No labour problems. Two vessels loading at berth, 6 discharging at berth; 1 vessel waiting for berth to load; 10 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Jawaharlal Nehru	15-Jun-2004	One vessel discharging at liquid berth; 1 fertiliser/raw materials/cement vessel due; 7 tankers due; no delays expected for berthing at LB-01/LB-02.
Paradip	15-Jun-2004	Three vessels loading at berth, 3 discharging at berth; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 17 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Tuticorin	15-Jun-2004	Three vessels loading at berth, 6 discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting to load at anchorage, 1 waiting to discharge at anchorage; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 9 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Visakhapatnam	15-Jun-2004	Six vessels loading at berth, 5 discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting to load at anchorage; 21 vessels due, with 1-2 days delay expected.
<b>Iran</b>		
Neka	11-Jun-2004	Oil products: 1 vessels berthed, discharging crude oil; 3 vessels to berth 11/6, all to discharge crude oil; 11 crude oil vessels waiting.

**Port Conditions**

**Israel**

Haifa	15-Jun-2004	No labour problems. Eight vessels discharging at berth (3 general cargo, 5 bulkers), 7 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 1 car carrier, 2 tankers); 1 bulker waiting at anchor to discharge, 5 vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge (2 containers, 3 tankers); 4 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 22 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Ashdod	15-Jun-2004	No labour problems. Twelve general cargo vessels loading at berth, 5 vessels discharging at berth (3 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 5 vessels loading/discharging at berth (3 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker); 3 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (2 general cargo, 1 bulker), 4 container vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge; 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 2 awaiting orders; 7 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.

**Kazakhstan**

Aktau	11-Jun-2004	Oil products: 2 crude oil vessels berthed; 2 vessels in roads; 3 vessels due by 16/6.
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**Russia**

Novorossiysk	14-Jun-2004	Seven vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (1 scrap, 1 bulk cement, 1 DRI, 1 pig-iron, 1 steel billets, 1 diesel oil), 1 discharging/loading containers; 3 vessels waiting in roads, all to discharge bulk sugar; 57 vessels due of which 56 to load (1 DRI, 7 aluminium, 3 slabs, 5 pig-iron, 5 copper, 11 bulk NPK, 2 bulk cement, 1 HBI, 10 coils, 1 bulk urea, 1 UAN solution, 1 steel billets/coils, 2 steel billets, 1 wheat, 1 steel sheet, 1 paper, 1 diesel oil, 2 vehicles), 1 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: 1 tanker berthed loading crude oil; no tankers in roads; 16 tankers due, all to load, of which 14 crude oil, 2 fuel oil.
Tuapse	14-Jun-2004	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, of which 1 loading crude oil, 1 fuel oil, 1 gasoil; 2 vessels in roads, 1 to load naphtha, 1 gasoil; 5 vessels due by 21/6, of which 3 to load gasoil, 2 crude oil.

**Sri Lanka**

Colombo	14-Jun-2004	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion, and vessels loading at Northern and Eastern ports of Sri Lanka are granted priority berthing. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Occasional rains being experienced. Six container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 23 vessels discharging at berth (1 containers/feeders, 3 bagged sugar, 1 bulk gypsum, 1 bagged fertiliser, 1 steel cargo, 2 Ro/Ros, 1 bagged maize, 2 bulk cement); 1 container/feeder vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 3 vessels dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders from principals, 1 at new tanker berth; 7 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.
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**Turkmenistan**

Okarem	11-Jun-2004	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed loading crude oil; 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil.
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**Ukraine**

Odessa	14-Jun-2004	Sixteen vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (5 metal, 1 wood, 1 scrap, 1 barley), 6 discharging (1 sugar, 3 metal, 1 rice, 1 bananas), 2 discharging/loading containers; 4 vessels in roads, of which 1 to load sunflower oil, 1 to discharge sugar, 2 to discharge/load containers; 46 vessels due, of which 23 to load (22 metal, 1 ferro alloy), 1 to discharge citrus, 22 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	14-Jun-2004	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (4 steel, 1 coal, 3 fire-clay), 1 discharging chrome ore; 3 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 2 steel, 1 sulphur; 40 vessels due, of which 37 to load (16 steel, 13 coal, 3 fire-clay, 2 ferrous metals, 1 sulphur, 1 sunflower beans, 1 fertiliser), 3 to discharge equipment.
Ilichevsk	14-Jun-2004	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (1 barley, 1 oil, 1 sulphur, 6 steel products), 1 discharging steel products, 1 loading/discharging containers; 4 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 pipes, 1 ferro nickel, 2 steel products; 9 vessels due, of which 6 to load (1 wood-pulp, 5 steel products), 1 to discharge ore, 2 to load/discharge containers.

**United States**

New Orleans	15-Jun-2004	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: no delays; Cargill-Westwego: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 2-3 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 1 day's delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 2-3 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 2-3 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: no delays; Peavey/Paulina: 1 day's delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 1 day's delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: no delays; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 1 day's delay expected.
Seattle	15-Jun-2004	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 1 day's delay expected.
Corpus Christi	15-Jun-2004	Interstate grain terminal: 1-2 days delay expected
Tacoma	15-Jun-2004	Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected.

## Port Conditions

Kalama	15-Jun-2004	Kalama export terminal: 2 days delay expected; United Harvest terminal: no delays.
Vancouver, WA	15-Jun-2004	United Harvest terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Portland, OR	15-Jun-2004	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay expected.
<b>Yemen</b>		
Hodeidah	13-Jun-2004	All berths are vacant; 2 vessels berthed, none anchored; expected waiting times: general cargo/bagged cargoes/containers: no delays; bulk cargoes: up to 2 days.

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