

How troubles on ill-fated Norway

By Rajesh Joshi in New York — Friday May 06 2005

BOILER troubles on the Norway were a long-standing and well documented problem before the fatal quayside explosion in Miami two years ago, a US federal docket has suggested.

The US National Transportation Safety Board has issued a CD containing scores of transcripts from crew interviews and photocopies of archived documents, including shipyard specifications. It does not include analysis and does not have a management summary.

Conclusions

The board has emphasised that the evidence does not represent its conclusions about the explosion and none are to be drawn from it.

The agency has made itself unavailable for interviews.

Keith Holloway, board spokesman, did not have an estimate on when the agency might issue its official report on the incident on May 25, 2003, in which eight crew died and 17 were injured.

Documents include an inter-office memorandum at Norwegian Cruise Line, dated March 16, 1998, in which Per O Sopp from ship operations stresses the need for retubing of the boilers.

Mr Sopp noted: "Since the Norway started the itinerary... it has been sailing on 2-3 boilers.

" This is causing a lot of stress to the boilers because we are forced to shut them down frequently.

"After a few years of operating in this condition and being the boilers shut down (sic) more than 100 times... we are seeing that the steel is getting brittle and the recurrence of tube failures.

"If we want to continue safe operation... the retubing of all four boilers should be done soonest. "During the last few years we experienced numerous boiler tube failures which caused boiler shutdowns. We must realise that we have reached a point where the operation of the vessel is not safe... Also we should take into consideration that the interior of the boilers are worn out due to sulphur dioxide corrosion."

Address problems

Closer to the accident, an NCL relief report dated August 4, 2002, from chief engineer Steinar Sjøhaug to chief engineer Bjarne Kleven lists repairs carried out to address problems identified and documented earlier.

Under the "boiler" heading, it shows that "retubing of the secondary superheater was carried out by Chiba Marine Yokohama". Some tubing and insulation were replaced on two main boilers and other reports carried out.

A report dated December 2, 2003, by National Transportation Safety Board fire and explosion specialist Nancy B McAtee says one of the four boilers was "offline for maintenance" at the time of the explosion.

Earlier NCL documents from 2002 also show only three boilers were in operation.

Alarms

The alarm system had set off 10 fire alarms in the 18 hours prior to the explosion before the 11th alarm about the fatal fire, Ms McAtee's report states. One boiler exploded and the superheated steam blew out doors and damaged areas on two decks.

The CD also contains historical traces of boiler troubles dating from the years when the 1961-built, 76,049 gt ship provided transatlantic liner service as the France.

A 1985 report from Deutsche Babcock details blisters and pitting in the area of weld seams on key parts of the boilers. Cracks in the lower drum of one boiler were discovered in 1973 and more corrosion blisters in 1974.

Although the cracks were ground out, this caused "marked weld thickness reductions," the report says.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>CEC ASIA</i>	general	BHS	GL	4,150	5,196	1997	Arrived Port Canaveral with crankshaft damage Apr 18. Due to be towed by tug <i>Elsbeth III</i> to Freeport(BHS) Apr 27.
<i>CHINOOK</i>	product tanker	CYM	RM	24,252	38,695	2000	Grounded near Kilitbahir following steering problems while transitting Dardanelles Apr 21. Divers inspecting damage. Canakkale Strait closed. Refloated Apr 24 and proceeding to anchorage. Traffic resumed.
<i>GRANDE NAPOLI</i>	ro-ro	ITA	RI	44,408	14,565	2003	Being towed to Dubai following engine damage in lat 10 17N, long 65 10E, Apr 21.
<i>MSC KATIE</i>	container	PAN	AB ABS	35,599	38,908	1977	In collision with c.c. <i>Nordsun</i> while leaving Port Louis, Mauritius, Apr 21. 10 m by 2 m rupture in bow, flooding in engine-room and No 7 hold. Grounded on a reef to prevent sinking. Still aground Apr 27.
<i>NORDSUN</i>	container	CYP	GL	11,998	14,140	1991	In collision with c.c. <i>MSC Katie</i> while entering Port Louis, Mauritius, Apr 21. Some crushing damage to forecandle. Arrived safely at container terminal. Containers discharged and awaiting results of investigation.
<i>NOVITAS-H</i>	container	ATG	GL	2,899	3,974	1995	Anchored with engine trouble between Steenbank pilot station and Flushing Roads Apr 22. Taken in tow by tug <i>Multratug 10</i> to Flushing Roads. Taken over by tugs <i>Multratug 5</i> and <i>Gent</i> to Antwerp same day. ETC for repairs Apr 29.
<i>POD SANT YANN</i>	fishing	IRL	—	—	—	—	Had serious fire south-west of Kinsale Apr 26. Crew abandoned safely. Coastguard standing by. Completely gutted by fire and subsequently sank in lat 51 11.4N, long 08 40.4W, same day.
<i>SAETTA</i>	crude oil tanker	MLT	BV	37,949	61,685	1984	Struck coral reef after leaving Cartagena(COL) Apr 19. Oil from No.1 centre cargo tank leaked into No.1 port ballast tank, which fractured, slick 11 km long by 180 metres wide. Still anchored 1 mile from Cartagena Bay Apr 26.
<i>SERESA</i>	general	BOL	—	1,127	818	1969	Had cargo shift and capsized and sank in lat 16 58.3S, long 11 18E, Apr 23. All crew rescued by vessel <i>Ranger</i> .
<i>SHARK</i>	general	LBN	—	2,709	4,300	1976	Had water ingress while carrying out repairs to port side ballast tanks when alongside at Beirut, where arrived Mar 26, and capsized and sank Apr 25. Ten crew rescued.
<i>TOKO MARU</i>	general	JPN	—	199	450	1996	Grounded Apr 26. Refloated same day and anchored in lat 34 9.7N, long 132 43.6E. Some bottom damage, but no flooding.
<i>UGUR DADAYLI</i>	general	TUR	AB ABS	1,923	3,054	1983	Taken in tow by tug <i>Mario B.</i> due to experiencing main engine trouble near Monopoli Apr 19. Arrived Barletta same day, discharged and sailed, still in tow, 23 Apr, for Istanbul.

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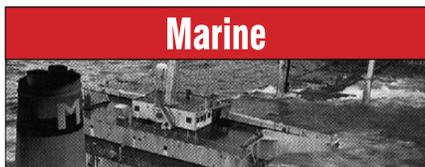
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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AGNES (Estonia)

London, Apr 25 -- General cargo Agnes was reported passing through the Kiel Canal on Apr 23, destination Santander.

AL TAYYBA (United Arab Emirates)

Salalah, Apr 26 -- At about 1430, local time, today a fire was noticed on UAE dhow Al Tayyba, 369.964 tonnes, length approximately 30 metres, registration No.4470, which was alongside at Berth No.25, Salalah port. The dhow is reportedly discharging a cargo of flour and sugar for discharge at Salalah. It also had on board diesel oil in drums as fuel. A port tug and the fire service have been fighting the fire mainly with water jets for the last four hours. The fire is still raging mainly on account of the oil. The vessel is suspected to be touching the bottom partially, however, there are chances of collapse/sinking. No injury to personnel is reported. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Salalah, Apr 27 -- The fire on dhow Al Tayyba was extinguished by 2100, local time, yesterday. The vessel is now sitting upright at the bottom with about a third above water. One crew had suffered minor burn injuries. The vessel was found to contain more than 200 oil drums besides the cargo of sugar and flour in bags. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ALIDA GORTHON (Sweden)

London, Apr 27 -- General cargo Alida Gorthon arrived Newport News 0640, Apr 26.

ALKISTIS (Greece)

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

ANDREW J. BARBERI (U.S.A.)

New York, Apr 22 -- The former director of the Staten Island ferry pleaded guilty today to seamen's manslaughter and lying to federal investigators in the October 2003 ferry Andrew J.Barberi crash that killed 11 passengers. Patrick Ryan, who expressed remorse at federal court in Brooklyn for neglecting to implement safety rules requiring two pilots in the wheelhouse during operation of the ferry, faces between six months and a year in prison. The ferry crashed after pilot Richard Smith blacked out and there was no back-up to take over the steering. Port captain John Mauldin also pleaded guilty today to lying to investigators. He faces up to six months in jail. Smith has pleaded guilty to 11 counts of negligent manslaughter and could face sentencing as soon as next week. -- Reuters.

ANIARA (Singapore)

London, Apr 23 -- Lloyd's Casualty Representatives in Piraeus report: Vehicle Aniara remains at Ikonion Terminal, Piraeus discharging cargo.

ARAHURA (New Zealand)

London, Apr 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro Arahura (13621 gt, built 1983) made a slow and steady trip to Picton this afternoon after losing power in the Cook Strait. The vessel had lost power about 1.4 nautical miles from the Tory Channel and came to a stop at the entrance to Queen Charlotte Sound. The ferry was understood to have had a problem with its propulsion system and engineers were checking it over. Police said authorities were alerted to a mechanical failure at about 1200 hrs. "Emergency services responded and a short time later the vessel regained full power and continued its journey to Picton." Police said no one was in danger. After Arahura regained power it slowly made its way to Picton and arrived at about 1540 hrs, about two and a half hours late. There were 670 people on board the vessel. Maritime Safety Authority Director, Russell Kilvington said the weather is rough so a tug was due to meet the vessel.

London, Apr 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro Arahura is back in business today. The Interisland ferry with 670 people on board, lost all propulsion near the entrance to Tory Channel yesterday morning. Emergency services were activated, but engineers were able to restore power. During the crossing, passengers endured six metre swells and winds reaching 100 kilometres an hour before it limped into Picton, almost three hours late. The vessel underwent a full inspection and spokeswoman for the Interisland Line Jess Bachelor says the company is satisfied the vessel is safe to sail. She says the problem has been reported to the Maritime Safety Authority, which will decide if any further action will be taken.

Wellington, Apr 25 -- Passenger ro/ro Arahura was back in normal service today after engine trouble caused the Interislander ferry to break down in mountainous seas in Cook Strait yesterday. The vessel, with 676 people on board, lost power near the rocky and narrow Tory Channel about midday yesterday. It limped into Picton under tug escort more than three hours late just before 1600 hrs, having been diverted through the northern entrance to Queen Charlotte Sound. Emergency services - including the Rescue Co-ordination Centre and the Westpac rescue helicopter - were put on standby after its captain issued a "Pan", a call indicating a potentially serious situation, as it headed into the channel. Maritime Safety Authority spokesman Lindsay Sturt said today Toll and MSA personnel boarded the ferry as soon as it docked in Picton, to investigate the source of the power failure. The engine was repaired, and

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

MSA personnel remained on board the ferry for its return trip to Wellington last night in stormy weather conditions.

Interislander spokeswoman Sue Foley said Arahura arrived in Wellington without incident yesterday at 2130 hrs. "The propulsion system problem, caused by one engine, was sorted out quickly." The MSA is launching an investigation into yesterday's emergency. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ARAS-I (Georgia)

London, Apr 25 -- General cargo Aras-I was reported passing Istanbul on Apr 21, in a westerly direction, on passage Batumi for Ambarli.

AURORA (U.K.)

London, Apr 23 -- A press report, dated Apr 22, states: Passenger Aurora will resume passenger sailings later today after undergoing repairs in Germany. With a full complement of 1,870 passengers on board, the vessel was sailing from Southampton on a two-day trip to Belgium. After 10 weeks of work in Bremerhaven by German company Lloydwerft, the £200 million vessel has had its two main propulsion motors replaced and fully tested. Aurora has also had a refit of public areas, with the work costing £27 million in total.

B. NO.120 (U.S.A.)

See "Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts, United States" under "Pollution."

BBC ONTARIO (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Apr 27 -- General cargo BBC Ontario arrived Duluth Apr 15, to load wheat. Vessel initially waited at anchor, berthing at CHS 1, Apr 17. On Apr 18, it was reported that the vessel was effecting repairs to hatch cover and would not depart until around Apr 25. On Apr 26, the vessel was still reported at Duluth, repairing.

BRENTLAND (Norway)

Bergen, Apr 26 -- General cargo Brentland completed repairs last Friday, Apr 22, and left the yard. The vessel is back in normal coastal trading.

CEC ASIA (Bahamas)

London, Apr 27 -- Following received from Marine Safety Office Miami and Port Canaveral Port Authority, dated today: General cargo CEC Asia (4150 gt, built 1997), which arrived Port Canaveral 0418, Apr 18, is due to leave, for Freeport, Bahamas, pm today as a dead ship towed by tug Elsbeth III, due crankshaft damage.

CHINOOK (Cayman Islands)

Istanbul, Apr 22 -- Product tanker Chinook (24252 gt, built 2000), Constantza for Genoa, while transitting Dardanelles grounded near Kilitbahir at 0100, local time, today. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Chinook arrived Novorossiysk Apr 17 from Thessaloniki.)

London, Apr 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Product tanker

Chinook, from Novorossiysk, cargo gasoline, grounded near Canakkale today after steering problems. The Canakkale Strait was closed for a while but was partly reopened this afternoon, with full reopening set for tonight. Divers are inspecting the damage to the vessel.

London, Apr 23 -- Following received from Ankara MSRCC, timed 1812, UTC: Product tanker Chinook has grounded at the Kilitbahir (Dardanelles), in lat 40 08.94N, long 26 22.90E, at 2208 UTC, Apr 21. The vessel is still aground and a survey is still continuing. According to survey results, floating of vessel is planned tomorrow morning at 0400 UTC.

London, Apr 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: Product tanker Chinook refloated at 0930, Apr 24, and proceeding to anchorage at 1000 hrs. Southbound traffic resumed at 1315 hrs. Northbound traffic will resume.

CSAV RIO MAIPO (Liberia)

London, Apr 25 -- C.c. CSAV Rio Maipo sailed Cape Town Apr 24, bound for Durban.

EL SAFA (Panama)

Hodeidah, Apr 21 -- Passenger ro/ro El Safa remains at anchorage as owners have not remitted the required funds so as to undertake the necessary repairs. Owners have gone quiet these last few days, however the Egyptian Embassy in Sana'a are fully aware of this situation, but unfortunately they are not making much headway in resolving this matter. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ELBE DOUBLE (DIS)

Bremen, Apr 26 -- At 0720 hrs, today, on entering the Nordschleuse at Bremerhaven, north gates, chem.tank Elbe Double (1782 gt, built 1976) had a slight contact with the quay. Apparently the vessel has only minor damages to the bulbous bow. One fender of the quay was also damaged. -- Lloyd's Agents.

EMC 423 (U.S.A.)

Chicago, Apr 22 -- A third of the cargo from tank barge EMC 423 has been discharged. Efforts are currently in progress to raise the barge with the remaining material in it. -- Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Apr 20.)

Chicago, Apr 25 -- Tank barge EMC 423 has been raised and is afloat. No 1 and 2 holds have been pumped. No 3 and 4 holds will be pumped this week. EMC 423 is being considered as "deemed constructive total loss."

FIRE ON NAVAL VESSEL UNDER CONSTRUCTION, ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

St. Petersburg, Apr 27 -- A fire started 0933, local time, this morning on board one of the vessels in the Severnaya Verf shipbuilding yard, St.Petersburg. Approximately 15 fire trucks are taking part in extinguishing the fire. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: One firefighter

has been killed in a blaze that struck a missile destroyer under construction at a shipyard in St. Petersburg. Another fireman has been injured, the Interfax news agency reported citing St. Petersburg emergency officials. Preliminary reports said the blaze had triggered an explosion on board killing one person. Another fireman was hospitalised with injuries, the regional directorate for the Emergencies Ministry told Interfax. The fire broke out around 0900 today. By 1200 hrs it had been contained, a spokesperson for the ministry told Interfax. Four people were rescued from the burning vessel. According to unofficial reports, the fire broke out on board a missile destroyer under construction at the Severnaya Verf shipyard ordered by the Chinese navy, a source in defence industry told Interfax in Moscow. "The fire at the shipyard took place on board one of the two destroyers under construction for China," the agency's source said. The ministry spokesman told Interfax that the ship affected has a displacement of 8,000 tons. The Emergencies Ministry said the ship had been nearing completion. Russia's arms trading concern Rosoboronexport signed a \$1.4 billion deal to deliver new-generation 956EM missile destroyers to China in 2005-2006. The destroyer is 150 metres long, and is capable of travelling at a speed of 34 knots.

FLEET TRADER I (Hong Kong)

London, Apr 25 -- Understood bulk Fleet Trader I, in tow of tug Dominant, berthed at Lagos Apr 21. (See issue of Apr 15.)

FORELLE (Germany)

See Leona.

FRIENDSHIP IV (U.S.A.)

Miami, Apr 22 -- Passenger Friendship IV completed repairs to the aluminium starboard forepart and amidship areas and was placed back in service on Apr 15. The bridge is under repair this week. Apparently there were various damages to the fenders of this bridge and repairs were due anyway. -- Lloyd's Agents.

GOOD LUCKY (Cambodia)

London, Apr 25 -- General cargo Good Lucky arrived at Kisarazu Apr 22. Vessel departed Apr 23, bound for Kawasaki, where it arrived later that day.

GRANDE NAPOLI (Italy)

London, Apr 26 -- Understood ro/ro Grande Napoli (44408 gt, built 2003), Far East for Europe and United States, is being towed to Dubai following engine damage in lat 10 17N, long 65 10E, on Apr 21. (Note -- Grande Napoli sailed Singapore Apr 11.)

GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS (Bahamas)

London, Apr 22 -- A press report, dated Apr 21, states: Passenger Grandeur of the Seas (73817 gt, built 1996) hit a pier at a Mexican port,

putting a 13-m gash in its hull, but not injuring any passengers or crew members, the owners said yesterday. The accident happened as it was docking in Costa Maya, Yucatan Peninsula. Winds of 17 mph and a stiff current contributed to the incident, the company said. Royal Caribbean said it expects to complete a full evaluation of the repairs the ship needs and the time it will take to complete them. "The ship has a football-shaped puncture in the bow on its starboard side that is approximately 42 ft long and 5 ft wide at its widest point," the company said in a written statement. "The puncture is in the first deck approximately 5 ft above the waterline." It left New Orleans on Saturday (Apr 16) carrying 2,030 passengers and 740 crew members. The Miami-based company said it was making plans to return passengers to New Orleans if the ship was unable to return to the city this weekend. (Note -- Grandeur of the Seas arrived Cozumel Apr 18 and sailed same day for New Orleans.)

London, Apr 25 -- A press report, dated Apr 23, states: Based on an evaluation of the damage to passenger Grandeur of the Seas by a team of technical experts and regulatory authorities, Royal Caribbean International currently expects the vessel to be repaired and able to depart Costa Maya, Mexico, this evening, Apr 23. The vessel is currently expected to arrive in New Orleans at midday Apr 25. Repair work is already 25% completed and the vessel will undergo a full safety inspection and approval prior to departing Costa Maya. Guests on board the vessel who need to return to New Orleans before Apr 25 will be flown back on charter flights. Guests who have more vacation time are welcome to remain on board and return to New Orleans with the vessel. Current guests also will receive a \$250 per-stateroom on board credit. The vessel's seven-night sailing, which was scheduled to depart New Orleans Apr 23, will be delayed until 1800, Apr 25. Guests should arrive for boarding after 1500 that day. Guests booked on this sailing will be contacted regarding the change to their revised five-night itinerary, which will include port calls in Key West, Florida, and Cozumel, Mexico. Guests who sail on this cruise will receive a \$300 per-stateroom on board credit. Guests who choose to cancel their cruise will receive a full refund.

London, Apr 25 -- Passenger Grandeur of the Seas arrived New Orleans 0135 today.

HUA FU 101 (Panama)

London, Apr 22 -- Ref Hua Fu 101 is presently under tow to a shipyard at Liu Heng Island in the Zhou Shan Archipelago.

IBIS ARROW (Bahamas)

See "Vessels from China Quarantined at Canadian Ports" under "Miscellaneous."

IVYAN (Turkey)

London, Apr 23 -- Chemical/oil carrier Ivyan arrived Tekirdag Apr 14 and sailed Apr 15. Vessel subsequently arrived Bandirma Apr 16 and sailed same day for Tuzla.

KAREN DANIELSEN (Bahamas)

London, Apr 23 -- General cargo Karen Danielsen, in tow of tug Gauwdief, sailed Nyborg Apr 11 for Naples.

LAIETA (Panama)

Barcelona, Apr 25 -- Local Agents of Lng Laieta have confirmed that the vessel is still anchored outside our port. Repairs have now been concluded, but the vessel is due to enter our port this week and proceed to a shipyard in order to have its annual checking and repairs carried out. -- Lloyd's Agents.

LEONA (Germany)

London, Apr 25 -- Understood general cargo Leona (1593 gt, built 1987), bound Poland, and Heikendorfer-registered fishing Forelle (91 gt, built 1943), outbound with anglers on board, were in collision near Kiel at 0750, Apr 23. After a short investigation Leona could continue on voyage. Forelle, however, had to return to its homeport. Today it was being repaired at Rathje-Werft, Kiel. There were no injuries. (Note -- Leona sailed Antwerp 1202, Apr 21 for Gdynia, and passed Brunsbuttel 2155, Apr 23.)

London, Apr 26 -- General cargo Leona arrived Gdynia 1650, Apr 24.

LIBERTY GLORY (U.S.A.)

London, Apr 22 -- Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 2010, UTC: At 0548, UTC, today, bulk Liberty Glory (28836 gt, built 2001) grounded in the Columbia River. Vessel refloated approximately four hours later, under its own power and is currently tied up alongside a pier in Portland, Ore. It is understood that the vessel was not damaged in the incident, but will have to undergo a diver survey, before allowed to proceed. (Note -- Liberty Glory had arrived at Portland, Ore, on Apr 17.)

London, Apr 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: A grain ship on a relief mission to Africa ran aground in the Columbia River and blocked part of the shipping channel before being pulled free without injury or pollution early today, the Coast Guard said. No one was injured, no fuel or other toxic substances were released and the bulk Liberty Glory headed back upriver to Vancouver, Wash., across the river from Portland, for a Coast Guard inspection, Petty Officer Bridget Miller said. Authorities were relieved after delicate maneuvers in which three tugboats from Shaver Transportation Co. of Portland managed to get the ship, laden with 45,000 tons of wheat, off a sand bar with the incoming tide about 0315 hrs, Miller said. The four-year-old ship was heading downriver from Portland when it ran aground shortly after 2200 hrs, yesterday, on the Oregon side of

the river near the town of St. Helens, about 12 miles from the city 88 miles from the mouth of the river at Astoria. Ship Capt. David Price told Coast Guard officials he was making a slight turn in the channel when the engine shut itself down without warning, Miller said. About 100 feet of the ship protruded into the 1,200-foot navigational channel until it was pulled free. Two Coast Guard personnel were placed aboard and other vessels were told to keep an eye out for the grounded grain ship as ship traffic continued normally, Miller said.

London, Apr 25 -- Bulk Liberty Glory arrived Vancouver, Wash, at 0602, Apr 22, from Portland, Ore, and sailed 1120, Apr 23, for Port Sudan.

Portland, Ore, Apr 26 -- Bulk Liberty Glory inspected and no damage was found, sailed 1120, Apr 23, for Port Sudan. -- Lloyd's Agents.

LYKES VOYAGER (United Kingdom)

London, Apr 25 -- C.c. Lykes Voyager is still at Hud Taikoo Dock, Hong Kong.

London, Apr 25 -- A Cesam report, timed 0922, Apr 22, states: C.c. Washington Senator was reportedly in collision with c.c. Lykes Voyager on Apr 8. Apart from hull damage, several containers were lost overboard. The vessel is proceeding to Singapore for repairs. (Note -- Washington Senator arrived Hong Kong 0205, Apr 9, sailed 0816, Apr 15, arrived Singapore 1155, Apr 18 and sailed 1340, Apr 19 towards Suez.)

London, Apr 25 -- Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0845, UTC, today: C.c. Lykes Voyager reported losing containers in lat 23 36N, long 117 58E, on Apr 8.)

MARTINA M (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Tunis, Apr 22 -- General cargo Martina M is still in CMR shipyard of Menzel Bourghuiba, with repairs are under way. Will investigate and revert when repairs are likely to be completed. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Tunis, Apr 26 -- Repairs to general cargo Martina M are underway in the shipyard of Menzel Bourguiba and are expected to complete in about 45 days. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MEMA (North Korea)

Limassol, Apr 21 -- General cargo Mema, Egypt for Syria, cargo cement in bulk, capsized about 60 miles off Larnaca in good weather conditions. Rescue operations were carried out by Cyprus authorities and also by French Navy vessel Andora, which picked up three of the seven crew. Four crew members are still missing.

Ashdod, Apr 21 -- Understand from Haifa Radio that general cargo Mema capsized Apr 20 in lat 32 59.6N, long 34 11.8E. Three of the seven crew were rescued by vessel Andora and taken to Mersin. A search is under way for the remaining four crew members. No salvage attempt has yet been made. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Apr 22 -- Following received from Larnaca RCC, timed 1000, UTC: The four missing crewmen from general cargo Mema have still not been sighted.

London, Apr 23 -- Following received from Larnaca RCC, timed 0825, UTC: General cargo Mema: No news on the missing crewmen.

MIRABELLA V (Isle of Man)

London, Apr 26, -- A press report, dated Apr 25, states: Ron Holland, designer of yacht *Mirabella V* that ran aground last September, has responded to criticisms involving the vessel's anchor. The Isle of Man Marine Administration (IMMA) report said that the anchor design failed to take into account the windage of the yacht's huge rig. Holland, however, says that Lloyd's rules had been used for the boat's anchors. "The bottom line is that if *Mirabella V* had been anchored with greater anchor chain length (or deployed both anchors with 5:1 scope), it is very unlikely it would have dragged its anchor," he said.

MOBY RIDER (Italy)

London, Apr 21 -- Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1430, UTC: Ro/ro Moby Rider remains aground. Five tugs are on scene carrying out refloating operations. All 21 passengers have been taken off.

Leghorn, Apr 22 -- In spite of various attempts made to refloat ro/ro Moby Rider with the assistance of five motor tugs at high tide, the vessel is still aground in way of the South Entrance of the Leghorn Port. All passengers have been disembarked and taken safely ashore. Understand further attempts will be made today to refloat the vessel. Weather conditions are good. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Apr 22 -- Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 0955, UTC: Ro/ro Moby Rider remains aground. Refloating attempt this morning, utilising five tugs, was unsuccessful. Salvors are moving the cargo around to improve the prospects of the vessel refloating and it is hoped there may be an opportunity to get it off the ground at high tide tonight.

London, Apr 23 -- Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 0815, UTC: Ro/ro Moby Rider was refloated with the aid of five tugs about 2050 yesterday and safely towed into Leghorn at 2240 same day. It has berthed at Dock 59 in the port.

Leghorn, Apr 23 -- Ro/ro Moby Rider was refloated at 2040 yesterday with the assistance of five motor tugs and after having shifted some of the vehicles on board. The vessel has been put back into Leghorn port for hull inspection, etc. It is reported that the cargo did not sustain any damage. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MSC KATIE (Panama)

London, Apr 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: C.c. MSC Katie (35599 gt, built 1977) was deliberately grounded on a reef off Mauritius early this morning following a collision with c.c. Nordsun (11998 gt, built 1991).

The collision occurred at 2320, local time, (Apr 21) as c.c. Nordsun was entering Port Louis, Mauritius. MSC Katie, was exiting the harbour when the ships collided, leaving MSC Katie with two large cracks, one of which was beneath the waterline which flooded the engine-room and No.7 hold. Pilots from the Mauritius port authority said they had to run MSC Katie aground onto a reef to prevent a possible sinking. Damage to Nordsun is confined to the bow section above the water level, where about 3 m of fore-castle area is crushed. Reported that Nordsun was entering the port without a pilot. (Note -- MSC Katie arrived Mauritius Apr 20. Nordsun sailed Salalah Apr 12 for Reunion.)

London, Apr 22 -- Reported that Coast Guard and fire services are on board c.c. MSC Katie. C.c. Nordsun now alongside container terminal.

Port Louis, Apr 22 -- C.c. MSC Katie had to be run aground onto a reef off Mauritius early this morning following a collision with the Maersk-Sealand/Safmarine charter c.c. Nordsun at 2320 hrs, last night (Thursday, Apr 21). From reports Nordsun collided head on with MSC Katie, causing a 10m by two metre rupture in the bulbous bow area of MSC Katie. Water rushing in soon flooded the engine-room, stopping all power and leaving pilots from the Mauritius Port authority no choice but to run it aground onto a reef preventing further ingress of water or a possible sinking. A senior pilot with the Mauritius Port Authority told Ports & Ships this morning that MSC Katie was not in any immediate danger and divers had gone to the vessel to assess the damage and a possible refloating. Damage to Nordsun is confined to its bow section where about three metres of the fore-castle area is badly crushed. There have been no injuries reported. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Apr 23 -- C.c. MSC Katie, collision with c.c. Nordsun: Information received indicates that Nordsun will be able to depart under its own power after it finishes discharge, bound for a shipyard to effect repairs.

London, Apr 24 -- C.c. MSC Katie is still aground on the reef. Owners have appointed a local diving contractor to assess damage.

Port Louis, Apr 27 -- The situation is more serious in respect of c.c. MSC Katie after the preliminary report issued by the local expert from Messrs Taylor Smith. A group of MSC technicians from South Africa are in Mauritius for a new evaluation of the situation and to take decisions in respect of the containers which are still on board the vessel and are currently immobilised. Photographs taken by the divers from Messrs Taylor Smith indicate that the damage in the bulbous bow area of the vessel is about 10 (metres) long and four metres high from the No.7 hold and the machine room. MSC Katie has also sustained serious damages to the starboard side with the rails

deracinated for a length of about 50m and the doors conducting to the cabin dislocated. According to MSC Katie's local agents, the cost of the damages will run into millions of Mauritian rupees (one million Mauritian rupees equates to £18,200) and it will be reasonable to wait until next week, after an indepth investigation. The Maersk Sealand/Safmarine c.c. Nordsun has already disembarked its containers and after completion, has been anchored at the outer harbour until the completion of inquiries by the Director of Shipping with the vessel's Captain. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MSC MALIN (Panama)

Maassluis, Apr 23 -- C.c. MSC Malin (21586 gt, built 1982), which was grounded at buoy 83, was refloated at 0215 hrs by three tugs. Vessel returned to Antwerp and docked via Zandvlietsluis at berth 371/373. Authorities there they will check if it is seaworthy. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Apr 24 -- C.c. MSC Malin sailed Antwerp 2035, Apr 23.

MSC ROBERTA (Panama)

London, Apr 26 -- C.c. MSC Roberta arrived Piraeus Apr 16.

NCC MEKKA (NIS)

London, Apr 25 -- The owners of chemical/oil carrier NCC Mekka report, Apr 22: Odfjell ASA has accepted a US\$400,000 fine issued by Hordaland Police District in connection with the accident on NCC Mekka on Jun 4, 2004. The accident occurred in international waters outside the coast of Brazil with the tragic loss of two crewmembers. The basis for the fine is that Hordaland Police District is of the opinion that Odfjell's procedures did not give sufficient guidance to their ships on how the rules and regulations related to use of inert gas systems should be correctly applied onboard. Odfjell acknowledges that the directives in place at the time of the accident could have been more explicit. However, it is our opinion that this does not justify such penalty. The size of the fine is a reflection of the size of the company and by accepting the fine a trial is avoided. With high focus on safety and quality of our operations we have strict instructions on compliance with applicable rules and regulations. Our procedures have been developed over decades, in close cooperation with crew, authorities and the chemical tanker industry.

NORDSUN (Cyprus)

See MSC Katie.

NORSEMAN (Malta)

Tunis, Apr 27 -- Tug Norseman caught fire in its engine-room near Kerkennah coast Apr 22. The crew members, two Tunisians and one British engineer, were drowned following instruction from the vessel's master to escape fire and jump into the sea. Six other crew members were rescued. The vessel was carrying out some duties for a petroleum offshore drilling research. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Tunis, Apr 28 -- Tug Norseman is 11.3 metres length overall, built in Holland in 1970, flag Malta, owner Temmaz Trading and Transport, Malta. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NORWAY (Bahamas)

London, Apr 26 -- As of Apr 22, passenger Norway was still in port at Bremerhaven.

NOVA SCOTIA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Apr 25 -- A press report, dated Apr 22, states: Ref Nova Scotia grounded near Cochon Island on Tuesday evening (Apr 19) as it attempted to enter Berkeley Sound. The vessel managed to free itself and anchored in the Sound. Around lunch time on Wednesday a report was received that the vessel was leaking oil. The Chief Executive, Mr Chris Simpkins, said, "The leak involves heavy fuel oil from a tank said to contain around 130 tonnes of oil. The FIG Marine Officer has visited the vessel and describes the leak as a 'small weep'." Mr Simpkins said the oil is dispersing quickly and is drifting out to sea. "The situation and weather conditions are being carefully monitored and, at present, there is no risk to wildlife sites."

NOVITAS-H (Antigua & Barbuda)

Zeebrugge, Apr 22 -- C.c. Novitas-H (2899 gt, built 1995), bound Antwerp, anchored between Steenbank pilot station and Flushing roads at 0414, Apr 22, due to engine trouble. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note -- Novitas-H sailed Grangemouth 2023, Apr 20 for Antwerp.)

Zeebrugge, Apr 22 -- C.c. Novitas-H heaved up anchor between Steenbank and Flushing roads at 0826, and passed Flushing roads at 0903, bound for Antwerp. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Apr 23 -- C.c. Novitas-H, bound Antwerp, cargo containers, had engine blackout near Steenbank pilot station yesterday. Vessel was taken in tow by tug Multratug 10 and taken to Flushing Roads. From there it was taken over by tugs Multratug 5 and Gent and towed to Antwerp, arriving 1527 same day. (See issue of Apr 25.)

Zeebrugge, Apr 26 -- C.c. Novitas-H arrived at berth 1229 (in Antwerp) on Friday Apr 22. The vessel is currently undergoing maintenance and repairs. Repairs are expected to be completed before Friday Apr 29. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

OCEAN JEWEL OF ST. PETERSBURG (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Coast Guard once again suspended operations of passenger Ocean Jewel of St. Petersburg (12602 gt, built 1983) after one of its shuttle vessels smashed into the bridge at John's Pass for the second time in two weeks. An Ocean Jewel spokeswoman said that seven to 10-foot swells slammed the outbound shuttle into the bridge at John's Pass, then prevented a later

shuttle from returning to the vessel to bring passengers home. The interruption in ferry service meant that over 500 people were forced to spend the night on the vessel. After suspending its operations over the weekend, the Coast Guard said this morning that the vessel would be free to return to service once some repairs were complete. A spokeswoman said this afternoon that everything was once again running.

ONEIDA (Malta)

Buenos Aires, Apr 26 -- Bulk Oneida remains anchored in Rosario Roads. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Buenos Aires, Apr 27 -- Bulk Oneida was released by both Criminal and Commercial Courts from the city of Rosario on Apr 22. The Coast Guard has accepted that all repairs have been carried out and the vessel is now ready to be sold, chartered, etc. -- Lloyd's Agents.

OSIRIS (Netherlands)

Maassluis, Apr 26 -- General cargo Osiris is still under arrest at Rotterdam. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

P&O NEDLLOYD CAGLIARI (Isle of Man)

Istanbul, Apr 22 -- C.c. P&O Nedlloyd Cagliari (9151 gt, built 1992), Thessaloniki for Haydarpaşa, sustained engine breakdown while transiting Dardanelles at 1700, local time, Apr 21, and anchored off near Gelibolu. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Istanbul, Apr 26 -- Understand c.c. P&O Nedlloyd Cagliari is still lying "as is" and there is no progress. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Istanbul, Apr 28 -- C.c. P&O Nedlloyd Cagliari completed necessary repairs by own means and upon inspection/formalities it sailed from Canakkale 0100, local time, today. -- Lloyd's Agents.

POD SANT YANN (Republic of Ireland)

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Four crewmen who were forced to abandon their fishing Pod Sant Yann after it caught fire off the Cork coast have now arrived safely back at Union Hall. Pod Sant Yann, is based at Union Hall in west Cork. The men took to a liferaft as the fire swept through the vessel off the coast, southwest of Kinsale. The men were picked up by fishing Horizon. Pod Sant Yann is burning and is likely to sink later today. The coast guard vessel LE Ciara is also at the scene to monitor the incident and to establish if the sinking boat presents any environmental hazard. The alarm was raised shortly after 0830 hrs and the craft was 48km off the Seven Heads headland when the fire broke out.

London, Apr 26 -- Following received from Dublin MRCC, timed 1435, UTC: Fishing Pod Sant Yann, EI6007, length 17 metres, is still on fire, and anchored by its nets, in lat 51 11.4N, long 08 40.5W. Coast guard vessel LE Ciara is on scene spraying water on the burning vessel.

London, Apr 27 -- Following received from Dublin MRCC, timed 0540, UTC: Fishing Pod Sant Yann was completely gutted by fire and subsequently sank in about lat 51 11N, long 08 40.5W at about 1730, yesterday.

PORT MECHINS (Canada)

London, Apr 22 -- Suction hopper dredger Port Mechins (1180 gt, built 1949) sustained damage while alongside the dock, (Section 102, port of Quebec) at 2015, Apr 19. The vessel's bulwarks were caught in the wharf's structure during the fall of the tide.

PULLEN (U.S.A.)

London, Apr 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Sea and airborne Coast Guardsmen helped keep dredger Pullen (491 gt, built 1964), owned by the Norfolk Dredging Company, afloat today just south of Norfolk Naval Station. The 150-foot dredging barge, operating with a crew of 20, sustained a dredging gear malfunction this morning while operating on the Elizabeth River. As a result, it began taking on water in its forward hold at the rate of 400 gallons a minute, the Coast Guard said. The crew called the Coast Guard cutter Block Island, sailing nearby, at 1030 hrs. Block Island ferried over a repair party and several dewatering pumps, and a Coast Guard helicopter lowered an additional pump to the barge as the water level in the hold reached eight feet, according to the Coast Guard. Three small vessels from Coast Guard Station Portsmouth also were dispatched to assist. Six Coast Guardsmen from various units ultimately boarded the barge to assist with pumping water out of the barge, drawing the water level in the forward hold down to two feet. At one point, Coast Guard crews were running 10 pumps to control the flooding. By late afternoon, the flooding was controlled and the barge was moored at nearby Craney Island, said Public Affairs Specialist 2nd Class Donnie Brzuska. A maritime environmental response team found no pollution resulting from the flooding, he said.

RATNA SHALINI (India)

London, Apr 28 -- A press report, dated Apr 26, states: Kenya is yet to lodge a claim for damages following the recent oil spill at the Mombasa port. The Sh76 million claim the Government lodged with the owners of crude oil tanker Ratna Shalini was not the final settlement, a parliamentary watchdog clarified yesterday. The chairman of the Committee on Energy, Communications and Public Works, Mr Maoka Maore, said the first claim was a security bond and not the damages. "The final compensation will be established after Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) and National Environment Management Authority (Nema) assess the damages," Mr Maore said. He was speaking at the port when he and other committee members went to establish the extent

of the oil spill. "The final compensation will only be determined after costs in terms of equipment, workforce and damage to the environment have been quantified," he said. Noting Kenya was guaranteed compensation under the polluter pays agreement, Mr Maore said his team had established that only 200 tonnes of oil spilled into the sea and damage to the environment was minimal. "Contrary to reports we have been reading in a section of the Press, we have established that there was no massive oil spill or damage to the environment," he said. The acting director of shipping, Mr Peter Thuo, said the Government had alerted its international partners about the oil spill for the sake of compensation. He said Kenya would seek compensation from the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund. The chairman of the Kenya Maritime Authority, Colonel Joseph Nguru asked the Government to speed up the enactment of the Maritime Bill and the Kenya Shipping Merchant Act. He said the two laws would help the country to domesticate international maritime conventions that Kenya is signatory to. Recently, the director-general of Nema, Prof Ratemo Michieka, announced that the Government had launched a Sh76 million compensation claim with owners of the ship that spilled the oil. The KPA harbour master and chief operations manager Captain Twalib Khamis, said investigations had been launched to establish the cause of the accident. (Note -- Ratna Shalini arrived Fujairah anchorage Apr 21 from Mombasa.)

RICKMERS GENOA (Marshall Islands)

London, Apr 22 -- Following received from the managers of general cargo Rickmers Genoa, dated today: Rickmers Genoa is due to berth tomorrow at Shanghai in order to have its undamaged cargo discharged prior to hauling to a shipyard for repairs.

SAETTA (Malta)

London, Apr 25 -- Crude oil tanker Saetta (37949 gt, built 1984), Cartagena for St Eustasias, laden with approximately 37,000 tonnes of fuel oil, is reported to have touched bottom two miles off Bocachica, at 0730, Apr 20, shortly after departing Cartagena. As a result of damage to the hull an unknown quantity of oily water leaked from the vessel. Unofficial reports suggest that it is not the vessel's cargo which has leaked out, but bilge water. A slick of oil about 11km long by 180m wide is drifting southwards, but this is being gradually recovered by a fleet of tugs and other vessels, co-ordinated by state oil company Ecopetrol, the shippers of the cargo. An official notice issued by the Local Committee of Attention and Prevention of Disasters of the National Navy, reported that the spillage was being investigated. The harbour-master in Cartagena, Nelson Fernandez, has stated the

incident did not cause problems to vessels arriving at or departing from Cartagena. Saetta has remained at anchor, approximately one mile from the entrance to Cartagena Bay.

London, Apr 25 -- A report from Athens, dated today, states: Cardiff Marine, managers of crude oil tanker Saetta, report that at approximately 0730, local time, Apr 19, the vessel struck an underwater object having departed the Manomal loading berth in the port of Cartagena, Colombia, at 0600 hrs. At the time of the incident, the tanker was being escorted through the charted ocean transit channel by three tugs and had two pilots on board. Following an initial assessment of the damage, the master immediately ordered the internal transfer of cargo, which stopped any further leakage. Underwater examination subsequently established that No.1 port ballast tank had sustained a fracture and that some oil had entered that tank from the adjacent No.1 centre cargo tank, again thought to be as a result of the incident. Cargo surveyors inspections and those of the port authority have now verified the extent of the loss of oil and oily water as being no more than 176 barrels. The managers have arranged for divers to make further inspection of the damage in order that suitable temporary repairs can be made locally to enable the vessel to proceed safely to its discharge port. Following cargo discharge, Saetta will move to an appropriate shipyard for permanent repair. Cardiff Marine is currently identifying a suitable regional company to carry out such repairs. Two company representatives are attending the vessel and have been on board since the day of incident. Saetta remains anchored at Cartagena outer anchorage, suitably boomed as a prudent measure to ensure no further egress of pollutant into the sea. Cardiff Marine wishes to thank all the local authorities and companies for their support and assistance with this incident and remains committed to co-operating fully with the local authorities on both pollution containment and the investigation into obstructions in the shipping channel.

Bogota, Apr 26 -- As crude oil tanker Saetta was crossing Bocachica to leave the bay on Apr 20, it came too close to shore and one of its fuel tanks was cut open by the coral reef. They did not immediately notice the problem and kept going, but shortly after, they saw that there was a fuel leak and decided to continue out of the bay to prevent more contamination. The vessel subsequently anchored outside the bay. The alarm had been given to the port and immediate emergency procedures were put in place; the vessel was surrounded by containment gear and in practice most of the fuel oil was picked up. However, some apparently reached the beach at Islas del Rosario. The leak was also stopped and the tanker is still at Cartagena, awaiting the conclusion of the Port investigation, before being allowed to

sail, subject also to a guarantee placed by the vessel's P&I. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SAGA MORUS (Hong Kong)

See "Vessels from China Quarantined at Canadian Ports" under "Miscellaneous."

SCHIEBORG (Netherlands)

Bremen, Apr 25 -- Ro/ro Schieborg is expected to leave the Bremerhavener Dock Betriebe on Wednesday (Apr 27). -- Lloyd's Agents.

SEDOV (Russia)

London, Apr 26 -- On Apr 22 Wijsmuller Salvage BV refloated grounded sail training Sedov (3432 gt, built 1921), the biggest still operational sailing vessel, after it ran aground off the Wijsmuller head office in Ymuiden. The vessel was departing the port with a major group of invitees on board as a start of the "Sail Amsterdam" promotion when it ran onto a shallow at low water, ending up stuck with a list to starboard and a trim astern. Wijsmuller Harbour Towage tugs Svitzer Marken and Titan came to the rescue quickly and were soon able to refloat the grounded vessel. The vessel thereupon continued its trip to sea under tug escort and was berthed again late in the afternoon with tug assistance.

SELENDANG AYU (Malaysia)

London, Apr 26 -- An Unified Command press release, dated Dutch Harbour Apr 23, states: The Unified Command in charge of the bulk Selendang Ayu response will begin the Spring and Summer shoreline cleanup today on Unalaska Island. Approximately 200 people and 22 vessels are scheduled to begin cleaning and restoring priority pollution sites in Skan and Makushin bay this week, based on recommendations by Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Teams (SCAT). As the initial SCAT process continues, approximately 188 sites have been surveyed, marked and prioritised for cleanup. Of the planned 470 miles of coastline to be surveyed, SCAT have completed 81 miles of survey since Spring operations commenced Apr 2. SCAT involves teams of trained observers surveying the affected coastal area to provide an accurate assessment of shoreline oiling conditions on each beach. Teams represent the interests of federal and state agencies, the responsible party and representatives of owners of oiled property.

SERESA (Bolivia)

London, Apr 23 -- Following received from Walvis Bay Radio, timed 0830, UTC: General cargo Seresa (1127 gt, built 1969) had cargo shift and subsequently capsized and sank in lat 16 58.3S, long 11 18E, at 0602, UTC, today. All crew rescued by vessel Ranger and in good health.

SHARK (Lebanon)

Beirut, Apr 26 -- While general cargo Shark (2709 gt, built 1976) was at

berth alongside Beirut port breakwater carrying out repairs to port side ballast tanks, water infiltrated which caused the vessel to capsize and sink between 1800 and 2000, local time, Apr 25. Ten crew members were rescued by the Beirut pilot. So far no arrangements have been made to refloat the vessel. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Shark was last reported arriving Beirut Mar 26.)

SOLWAY HARVESTER (United Kingdom)

London, Apr 23 -- The former first mate on fishing Solway Harvester yesterday told a court how the scallop dredger had been inundated by floodwater on the penultimate trip before it sank with the loss of all seven crew. Charles Boyce, who missed the final voyage of the trawler because he had just returned from holiday, told the manslaughter trial of the vessel's owner that the flooding on board Solway Harvester was the worst he had ever seen. He claimed: "The water was washing right up the walls -- right up to the roof." Mr Boyce was giving evidence at the High Court on the Isle of Man on the ninth day of the trial of Richard Gidney, the sole director of Jack Robinson Trawlers, which owned the vessel. Mr Boyce described how he had found the dredger's fish hold full of water on the vessel's penultimate voyage, shortly before Christmas, 1999. He said he had been manning the wheelhouse while the rest of the crew slept. The boat was being battered by rough seas and Mr Boyce had gone below to check the hold where the scallops were stored when he discovered the flood. He had been unaware until then of the potential danger to the vessel because the bilge alarm was broken. He said: "It was the worst flooding I have ever seen." Mr Boyce explained that a number of bags of scallops had burst open and the woodwork on the starboard side of the vessel had also been smashed. "The boat had been pitching and the bags had rolled over," he continued. "They had gone into the bilge well. Quite a few bags had burst. The boat wasn't pumping because the bilge well was blocked so I got the crew up. We couldn't get into the bilge well at all because of the water so we had to get the buckets out and clear the water." The crew, he added, had to battle for several hours to clear the floodwater. The trial continues.

SPIRIT OF ONTARIO I (U.S.A.)

London, Apr 25 -- Engine repairs are underway on passenger ro/ro Spirit of Ontario I. Head gaskets and turbochargers on all four of the vessel's engines are being repaired by MTU, the German company. The repairs will cost the city about \$1.3 million. Members of the Rochester Ferry Board said they plan to announce this week when the ferry service to Toronto is scheduled to start up again.

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: The start-up date for passenger ro/ro Spirit of Ontario I is scheduled to be announced later today. The date is expected to be in June.

London, Apr 28 -- A press report, dated Apr 27, states: Passenger ro/ro Spirit of Ontario I is scheduled to resume service on Jun 17 and its new Canadian operator, Bay Ferries Ltd., expects to offer daily round-trip crossings to Toronto (from Rochester) for at least 10 months each year, with a possible winter break in January and February. A \$2.8-million US engine overhaul scrubbed the ship's scheduled relaunch on May 30. The city of Rochester bought the ferry for \$32 million at an auction in February.

STAR DRIVANGER (Singapore)

London, Apr 26 -- General cargo Star Drivanger arrived Houston 1025, Apr 24 and departed 1630, Apr 25.

STEVNS OCEAN (DIS)

London, Apr 25 -- Tug Stevns Ocean arrived Esbjerg Apr 22.

STOROE (Cyprus)

London, Apr 25 -- Salvage services were rendered to general cargo Storoe by salvors Alfons Hakan under Lloyd's Open Form, dated Apr 19.

SUDE 1 (Turkey)

London, Apr 25 -- General cargo Sude 1 sailed Tuapse Apr 24, bound for Istanbul.

SUNRISE JEWEL (Liberia)

See "Dubai, United Arab Emirates" under "Pollution."

TAKASAGO 2 (Japan)

Yokohama, Apr 22 -- Lpg Takasago 2 has been refloated and entered into Shin Kurushima Dockyard Co, Ltd, in Ehime prefecture on Apr 15, for repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TOKO MARU NO.10 (Japan)

London, Apr 26 -- Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 1545, UTC: General cargo Toko Maru No.10 (199 gt, built 1996), Iwakuni for Nagoya, cargo 400 tons of "sodium ligninesulfonate," grounded at 0435, UTC, Apr 26. Vessel was refloated at 1047, UTC, same day and is anchored in lat 34 09.7N, long 132 43.6E. Some bottom damage but no flooding due to vessel's double bottom.

TRANSBODE 6 (Poland)

London, Apr 25 -- Salvage services were rendered to general cargo Transbode 6 under Lloyd's Open Form by Multtraship/URS, Apr 20.

TROPIC BRILLIANCE (Liberia)

London, Apr 24 -- Crude oil tanker Tropic Brilliance arrived at Ruwais on Apr 20 and departed on Apr 21, bound for the United States.

UGUR DADAYLI (Turkey)

Bari, Apr 26 -- Reported that general cargo Ugur Dadayli (1923 gt, built 1983) was taken in tow by tug Mario

B. due to main engine troubles near Monopoli at 0245, Apr 19. Vessel reached Barletta 1530 same day, discharged its cargo of DAP and sailed 2200, Apr 23, for Istanbul in tow of Mario B. -- Lloyd's Agents.

VILLA (Turkey)

London, Apr 24 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A gas explosion aboard a Turkish cargo vessel (bulk Villa 10513 gt, built 1978) at a shipyard in southern China killed one sailor and injured three others, the government said today. The explosion occurred yesterday at the Boluomiao shipyard in the city of Guangzhou, where it had anchored for repairs. The cause of the explosion was under investigation.

London, Apr 24 -- Following received from Beijing MRCC, timed 0015, UTC: Bulk Villa had an explosion on board while at Guangzhou. One person was killed and one was injured.

VOLCAN DE TACANDE (Canary Islands)

Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Apr 28 -- Ro/ro Volcan de Tacande remains in the same position. The vessel has been declared a total constructive loss and it is now being decided whether to break it up locally or if it will be sold as scrap and taken somewhere else. -- Lloyd's Agents.

WASHINGTON SENATOR (Germany)

See Lykes Voyager.

WEEKS 538 (U.S.A.)

Honolulu, Apr 21 -- Crane barge Weeks 538 reportedly sustained only minor damage, mainly related to water. Since the barge is in drydock at Pacific Shipyards, it is assumed clean up and minor repairs will be in conjunction with their scheduled drydock. -- Lloyd's Agents.



IRAQ

London, Apr 27 -- The port authorities at Umm Qasr have confirmed that security has been tightened up after a vessel was looted while at the pilot station, about five hours sailing time from Umm Qasr, on Sunday (Apr 24).

MALAYSIA

London, Apr 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Marine police believe they have crippled a group responsible for several robberies on merchant vessels and local fishing vessels in Johor waters, Malaysia, with the arrest of seven men in Kota Tinggi. Marine police said the men, believed to be Indonesians, were arrested following a high-speed chase at Tanjung Setapa in Pengerang

around 1930, Apr 21. Initial investigation indicates that they may have robbed a merchant vessel berthed in Johor waters the same day. The men, aged between 37 and 50, were arrested by 14 marine police personnel in two vessels patrolling the area following a tip-off. They were seen behaving suspiciously, about two nautical miles from the scene, which prompted the marine police to give chase. The suspected pirates tried to escape upon seeing the team approaching, but the patrol vessels caught up with them and forced them to stop. The police said they seized a 200 horsepower fibre glass boat, seven masks, six parangs, a satellite phone, a pair of binoculars, raffia twine and various currencies, 681,000 rupiah, 100 rupees, 10 yuan and RM2. The suspects came from one of the islands in Riau. Their strategic location enabled them to immediately escape in their high speed boat to one of the islands after robbing their victims to avoid arrest by the authorities. Police believe the same group may have been involved in several similar cases since last year.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Pirates hijacked a tin-laden Indonesian ship travelling to Singapore and held the crew captive for two days while unloading the cargo in a Malaysian port, a maritime watchdog said today. The pirates, believed to be Indonesians, fired gunshots at the ship and boarded it Friday (Apr 22) shortly after it had left Muntok port on the southern tip of Sumatra island, said Noel Choong, head of the International Maritime Bureau's piracy reporting center in Kuala Lumpur. They ordered the crew to sail to Pasir Gudang port in Malaysia's southern Johor state, where the vessel docked for two days while the crew loaded the cargo into a warehouse, Choong said. "The crew members were warned they would be killed if they didn't co-operate," Choong said. The pirates eventually took the ship back into Indonesian waters and escaped in a speedboat, leaving the crew uninjured, Choong said. After the incident was reported, officials checked the warehouse and found the cargo intact. "We are baffled over what happened," Choong said. "They went through all that trouble to steal the cargo, but it was still there in Pasir Gudang." However, the incident raised concerns about port security in Pasir Gudang because the pirates had somehow obtained documents that allowed them to book a berth where the vessel could dock and discharge the metal shipment, Choong said. Malaysian authorities have begun preliminary investigations, Choong said. Details of the ship's name and its number of crew members were not immediately available.



ANNOULA (Liberia)

Maassluis, Apr 26 -- Chemical/oil carrier Annoula (22585 gt, built 1982) which arrived at Rotterdam on Apr 3, is currently detained in the port. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

AQUATIC PIONEER (Namibia)

Cape Town, Apr 28 -- Fishing Aquatic Pioneer is still at Cape Town. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ARCTIC FOX (South Africa)

Cape Town, Apr 19 -- As at Apr 15, fishing Arctic Fox (1568 gt, built 1972), which arrived Cape Town Feb 27, 2003, was reported at Berth NQ, Cape Town, under arrest. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BOREAS (Cyprus)

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

BRUNO SALAMON (Panama)

Odessa, Apr 26 -- Bulk Bruno Salamon (38431 gt, built 1998), is currently under arrest in Nikolayev. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CAPE ENDURANCE (Panama)

Cape Town, Apr 19 -- As at Apr 15, standby safety vessel Cape Endurance was still under arrest at Cape Town. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ELLA L. (Panama)

Algeciras, Apr 26 -- Chemical/oil carrier Ella L. remains laid-up at CRINAVIS Shipyard. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ELQUI (Guinea not Uruguay as before reported)

London, Apr 25 -- A press report, dated Apr 22, states: The owners and master of longline fishing Elqui have been fined for illegally fishing for Patagonian toothfish in South Georgia waters. At the end of a one-day trial held on Monday (Apr 18), the Senior Magistrate, Mrs. Clare Faulds, declared Elqui's owners, Geneagles Corporation, and ITS master, Christian Henriquez Vargas, guilty of permitting the boat to be used for fishing without a licence. Both parties had earlier pleaded guilty to charges of failing to notify the South Georgia Marine Officer when Guinea-flagged Elqui entered the zone, and of permitting the vessel to carry an unstowed fishing line and gear without a licence. Mrs. Faulds fined Geneagles a total of £250,000 for the three offences and ordered the company to pay approximately £59,000 in prosecution costs. Mr. Vargas was fined a total of £2,000 and will pay £500 prosecution costs. At the start of Monday's trial, lawyer Richard Marlor, who had previously

been instructed to act on behalf of Geneagles, withdrew from the case as he had received no further instructions from the company. He said he felt, "unable to act any further." The trial proceeded without representation.

EMIR (Turkey)

Taranto, Apr 28 -- General cargo Emir is still in the same position, under judicial seizure. It is believed that the vessel will be scrapped here once the judicial case is over. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ENI (Albania)

Durres, Apr 23 -- General cargo Eni remains in the same situation, sequestered/seized. -- Lloyd's Agents.

HERKULES II (Poland)

Maassluis, Apr 26 -- Tug Herkules II is still under arrest in the Rotterdam area. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

INDIAN FISHING VESSELS ARRESTED BY PAKISTAN

London, Apr 21 -- A press report, dated Apr 19, states: The Pakistani coast guard arrested 36 Indian fishermen and seized their eight boats yesterday for illegally entering Pakistan's waters in the Arabian Sea and fishing, an official said. The fishermen were arrested about 170 km south-east of Karachi, said Lt Cmdr Khawar Hassan Khan, a spokesman for the Maritime Security Agency, which made the arrests. Khan said a ship of the agency that was on a routine patrol in the sea spotted the Indian fishermen about 34 km inside Pakistani waters. "Despite repeated warning the Indian boats illegally enter our waters to catch costly fish," Khan said adding that Indians have been handed over to the police.

Karachi, Apr 23 -- Pakistan's Maritime Security Agency (MSA) said today that its vessel Rafaqat had apprehended four Indian fishing vessels with 23 crew members on board Apr 22 for fishing illegally in Pakistani waters. According to a MSA press release, the Rafaqat was on routine patrol in the Eastern Maritime Region when it found the boats illegally fishing about 40 kilometres inside Pakistan's Economic Zone (EEZ). Later the apprehended fishermen were handed over to the Docks Police for further legal action. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

JACKIE MOON (Antigua & Barbuda)

Maassluis, Apr 26 -- General cargo Jackie Moon (1616 gt, built 1986) which arrived at Rotterdam on Mar 19, is currently under arrest in the port. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MASAI (Togo)

Vigo, Apr 27 -- According to the latest Port Authority list, dated Apr 26, fishing Masai is still listed as being under repair in Marin. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NAVIGATOR

Cape Town, Apr 19 -- As at Apr 15, tug/supply Navigator was still lying at Berth No.6, in Cape Town, under arrest. -- Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN BOOMER (Panama)

Gibraltar, Apr 26 -- Oceanographic research Ocean Boomer was auctioned under closed bids on Apr 19. However the name of the purchaser is still unknown as the Admiralty Marshall is still awaiting payment. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ONEIDA (Malta)

See under "Marine."

ORESTES (Panama)

Bari, Apr 26 -- Passenger ro/ro Orestes is still under arrest at Bari. -- Lloyd's Agents.

OSIRIS (Netherlands)

See under "Marine."

OSTWIND (Antigua & Barbuda)

Maassluis, Apr 26 -- General cargo Ostwind is still under arrest at Vlaardingen. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

QUEEN CONSTANTINA (Cyprus)

Limassol, Apr 25 -- Passenger Queen Constantina is still laid up at Limassol breakwater. -- Lloyd's Agents.

RIGEL 4 (South Africa)

London, Apr 19 -- As at Apr 15, fishing Rigel 4, which arrived Cape Town May 19, 2004, was reported under arrest. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SADALSUUD (Panama)

Piraeus, Apr 22 -- Product tanker Sadalsuud remains under arrest at Eleusis port. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SAGA WIND (Hong Kong)

Maassluis, Apr 26 -- Bulk Saga Wind (29381 gt, built 1994) which arrived Rotterdam Apr 23, is currently detained in the port. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

SEACHEM ENA (Honduras)

Bari, Apr 28 -- Chem.tank Seachem Ena is still laid up at Monopoli. -- Lloyd's Agents.

VIKING BORDEAUX (Panama)

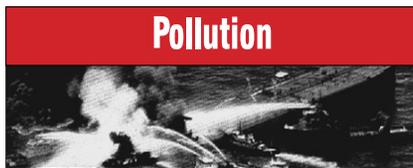
London, Apr 26 -- Passenger Viking Bordeaux, now under the name Bordeaux and under Ukraine flag, was reported passing Dover, in a westerly direction, on Apr 25.

VOYAGER (Netherlands Antilles)

Maassluis, Apr 26 -- General cargo Voyager is still under arrest at Rotterdam. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Pipeline Accidents**BAIJI, IRAQ**

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

Pollution**BUZZARDS BAY, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES**

London, Apr 27 - A press report, dated yesterday, states: A tug pilot was charged today with allowing barge B. No.120 to drift off course and spill 98,000 gallons of fuel oil into a bay off the Massachusetts coast two years ago. Franklin Robert Hill faces up to 18 months in prison if convicted of violating the Clean Water Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, a spokeswoman for U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan said. On Apr 27, 2003, Hill was the mate on a tug that was pulling B. No.120 into the Cape Cod Canal when it went off course onto rocky shoals. The tugboat and barge hit a rock outcropping, ripping a 12-foot hole in the bottom of the barge and rupturing one of its 10 oil tanks. The spill in Buzzards Bay killed hundreds of birds and shut down shellfish beds, affecting nearly 90 miles of coastline in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Prosecutors said Hill was responsible for navigating and piloting the boat at the time of the spill. Hill allegedly left the helm unattended to work at the stern of the vessel. He also failed to monitor the radio and missed a warning issued by another vessel that his vessel was entering a shallow part of the bay, prosecutors said. Hill and the tugboat's captain, Milan LeDuc, were fired by the owner, Bouchard Transportation Co. LeDuc was off duty at the time of the spill and has not been charged. In November, Bouchard Transportation pleaded guilty to violating the Clean Water Act and agreed to pay a record \$10 million fine. The cleanup effort will end up costing tens of millions of dollars, prosecutors said.

CACERIBU RIVER, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

See "Caceribu River Area, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil" under "Railway Accidents."

CHEMICAL LEAK, CAUCASUS REGION, RUSSIA

London, Apr 23 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: More than 100 people in the Caucasus region of southern Russia were affected by breathing problems over a six day period earlier this month after what appears to have been a major chemical leak, the Russian emergencies ministry said today. "Between Apr 15 and 21, in Kabardino-Balkaria (Russian Caucasus) in the district of Terek 118 people went to hospital and at least 27 were admitted as a result of a general worsening of their state of health," a statement said. All the victims came from three villages in the

same area. The ministry said the problems might have arisen from a leak of hydrogen sulphide from a nearby oil well but "tests carried out have shown nothing abnormal." An enquiry into the causes of the widespread respiratory difficulties is under way, focussing on the possibility that health standards had not been respected or work at the well not been carried out correctly. Today local people left their houses to demand explanations from the authorities and call for the enquiry to be speeded up, according to pictures broadcast by the NTV television station, which also showed a woman taken to hospital in a state of asphyxiation. Local officials said there had been no loss of life, but were contradicted by local people who said one woman had died.

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

London, Apr 26 -- Crude oil tanker Sunrise Jewel arrived Vadinar Terminal, India on/about Apr 18.

GRAND ISLE AREA, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 24 -- A press report, dated Apr 21, states: Workers today continued to clean up a sheen of crude oil in a bay just north of this sea resort town after a pipeline broke. An ExxonMobil pipeline that brings sweet crude oil from offshore to inland refineries burst at about 1430, Tuesday (Apr 19) in the Barataria Bay area, about six miles north of Grand Isle. The area is made up of marshland and oyster grounds. The U.S. Coast Guard estimated that between 550 and 600 barrels of oil got into the bay. Brian Dunphy, a spokesman for ExxonMobil, said a final assessment of how much oil leaked out was still under review. The clean-up operation included 10 oil skimmers, more than 20 support vessels, about 125 workers and about 16,000 feet of containment boom. The line was shut down and divers put a clamp on it to stop any more oil from leaking out, he said.

MACKAY HARBOUR, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Shell says it is confident a large diesel spill at its Mackay harbour storage site in north Queensland has not caused any long-term environmental damage. The oil company is trying to recover almost 178,000 litres of diesel. Shell spokesperson Helen Morgner says the diesel has leaked into the soil and ground water but independent consultants say nothing has seeped past the terminal's boundary. A small leak at the bottom of a storage tank is believed to be responsible for the spill. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is monitoring the recovery work, asking for a full environmental site assessment to ensure there is no long-term damage to the ground water system. Ms Morgner says so far about 45,000 litres of diesel have been recovered, with pumping likely to continue for some time.

MANDAN AREA, NORTH DAKOTA, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated Apr 26, states: BNSF Railway is paying a final settlement of about \$4 million in a civil case filed by property owners in the Mandan area in North Dakota over a diesel fuel spill, an attorney says. Jurors last fall awarded about \$2 million to the property owners. "The additional money will be for legal expenses such as bringing in expert witnesses and interest on the money spent by the plaintiffs," attorney Bill Delmore said. More than 50 claims were made for property damage stemming from the spill. The settlement ends a case that began in 1998, alleging underground diesel fuel contamination over decades. State officials said the spill was discovered in 1984, and estimates have ranged as high as four million gallons. BNSF settled with the state and the city of Mandan in July for more than \$30 million in cash and real estate, in what officials said was the largest environmental settlement in state history. The railroad did not admit liability.

MOMBASA, KENYA

See Ratna Shalini under "Marine."

UNALASKA ISLAND, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

See Selendang Ayu under "Marine."

**CHINA**

London, Apr 23 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A strong tornado as well as hail struck parts of Mingguang City, east China's Anhui province Wednesday afternoon (Apr 20), damaging a large group of houses, trees and crops, with direct economic losses forecast at 25 million yuan (about 3 million US dollars), according to a local source. The tornado and hailstorm occurred at around 1600, Apr 20, hitting eight rural towns in the city including Liuxiang, Bogang, Gupei, Ziyang, Sixiang. About 230 houses, 2,640 trees and 2,630 ha of cropland were damaged. About 16,000 rural residents have been affected by the disasters, the source said.

DJIBOUTI

Nairobi, Apr 22 -- An estimated 28,650 people in Djibouti are experiencing severe food and water shortages, due to a drought that has depleted pastures and led to widespread livestock deaths, the UN's humanitarian agency said today. "The income of households [in Djibouti] is dependent almost entirely on the health and productivity of their livestock," the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a report. "Since livestock productivity has been

undermined by the consecutive deteriorating seasons, household income and food access has been severely constrained," it added. According to the report, Djibouti's coastal pastures and water sources have also been overburdened by herders from the neighbouring, drought-affected countries of Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea. It said a therapeutic-feeding programme was urgently needed, to feed 5,730 malnourished children under the age of five for the next six months. Clean water also had to be supplied to 18,000 drought-affected people for the same period. OCHA's report also called for medical assistance for 5,000 pastoralists who were now susceptible to diseases. It also said that veterinary support and concentrated animal feed for 50,000 livestock were needed. Djibouti's government, which asked for international help on Apr 9, has already begun an emergency programme of water provision to people in a southeastern area known as the Roadside Pastoral Sub-Zone, according to the OCHA report. The UN country team in Djibouti was preparing an inter-agency flash appeal to respond to the immediate and medium-term needs of the drought-affected population, the agency added. Meanwhile, OCHA said that both the government and the UN World Food Programme were distributing 421 mt of food aid, equivalent to one month's full rations, which would extend the previous food distribution by one month until the end of May. -- Reuters.

ETHIOPIA

Addis Ababa, Apr 25 -- Floods killed at least 84 people after a river burst its banks in eastern Ethiopia because of heavy rains, officials said today. The flooding struck nearly 40 villages along the banks of the Wabe Shebelle river in Ethiopia's Ogaden region, destroying many homes, an emergency official said. "Following an investigation of more areas affected by the flood, it is now confirmed that the death toll from Wabe Shebelle river flooding has risen to 68 and could be rising," relief coordinator Muktar Mohammed Seyyid told Reuters. Aid group Save the Children UK said another 16 bodies were discovered downstream in the Kebre-Beya area. The river burst its banks on Saturday night (Apr 23) after 48 hours of heavy rain. -- Reuters.

Addis Ababa, Apr 27 -- Relief aid has begun to reach survivors of devastating floods that hit eastern Ethiopia, but the death toll could rise further without more help, officials said today. Some plastic sheeting and high-energy biscuits had arrived in the region but rescuers had been unable to get to all the survivors, Ahmed Abdi, from the UN's World Food Programme, said from Gode, one of the worst-affected areas. Many parts of the region still remained cut off, he said. Thousands were left homeless after flood waters crashed into 40 villages in Somali region at the weekend (Apr 23-24), sweeping

families away, officials added. "This is a catastrophe," Muktar Mohammed Seyyid, government relief co-ordinator, said. "If we don't take action I am afraid the death toll will increase." The toll had risen to 82 dead with 30 people still missing, although Muktar said those figures could change. The floods, he added, had affected about 30,000 people, and at least 5,000 families had been left homeless. "We need boats, we need helicopters and we need food and plastic sheeting," Muktar added. "Floods have not only led to deaths and displacement but also to extensive damage to property and farmland," the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs said in a statement released yesterday. "The current needs include food, shelter, blankets and utensils and medical care due to the potential increase of cases of malaria and waterborne diseases," it added. The Wabe Shebelle stretches for over 1,340 km and is Ethiopia's largest river, with a water catchment area of 200,000 km. It burst its banks on Saturday after two days of heavy rains. Flood waters swept over 10 km, forcing survivors to flee their homes to the safety of higher ground. Heavy rains and floods also hit Hargeysa, the capital of the self-declared Republic of Somaliland, washing away one of the two bridges in the south-western part of the city. More than 500 families were displaced, Abdillahi Irro, mayor of Hargeysa said yesterday. Some 270 families were relocated to a camp belonging to the Somaliland police force. Muktar said if the current heavy rains continued in Ethiopia -- and forecasters expected thunderstorms would continue into the weekend -- further deaths could result from flooding. -- Reuters.

GEORGIA

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A number of districts in western Georgia have experienced some of the worst flooding in recent years due to heavy rains today. No casualties were reported, but the flood damaged houses, roads and bridges in Racha-Lechkhumi, Kvemo Svaneti regions, as well as in Tskaltubo, Khoni, Tsageri, Lentekhi, Oni and several districts of Kutaisi. Thirty families were evacuated from Ambrolauri district. Landslides are also reported in several districts.

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Heavy floods in Georgia, believed worst over the past 20 years, have destroyed around 30 bridges, flooded miles of motorways and hundreds of hectares of agricultural areas. There were no casualties yet. The floods have spread to the Tskhaltubi, Samtredi and other regions. Local rivers went out to flood territories as incessant rains continue for five days. Around 70 settlements have been cut off from the mainland, Itar-Tass reported from the area of the natural calamity. More than 800 people have been evacuated from the flooded territories, servicemen-in-

reserve who live in the neighborhood are helping the population to go through hardships. Hundreds of cattle have perished, and more than 30 houses collapsed in settlements of the Tsageri region. The floods have affected a few territories in Kutaisi - the second biggest city in Georgia where ground floors of around twenty buildings along the Rioni riverbank are submerged in water. Headquarters for the elimination of after-effects of the floods have been created in many areas of Georgia.

INDONESIA

London, Apr 28 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Flash floods swept through three villages in the Indonesian province of Aceh, leaving 15 people dead and five missing, residents and officials said. The floods, which destroyed about 490 homes in the village of Lawe Mengkudu in southeastern Aceh, were caused when a river burst its banks after a day of heavy rain. Rescue workers had recovered 15 bodies, Southeast Aceh district chief Armen Desky said. "The flood actually hit three villages in the area but all of the victims came only from two of them," he added. A local policeman said earlier that about 18 people were injured.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Apr 22 -- Torrential rains battered western Romania, flooding thousands of homes and disrupting rail and road traffic in what local officials said were the worst floods in 50 years. The Environment Ministry said worst hit was Timis county, on the border with Serbia and Montenegro, where 2,500 houses and 30,000 hectares of crops were destroyed by floodwaters. The local government put the army on flood alert as many villages came under nearly two metres of water. The government had yet to assess the damage, but there were no reports of any human casualties. "The situation is much worse than the authorities had been aware of," deputy Environment Minister Lucia Varga said after she was flown in a helicopter over the affected regions. Forecasters said bad weather was likely to continue at the weekend and that people should be on the lookout for possible landslides. -- Reuters.

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Flash floods in western Romania have damaged thousands of homes and swamped vast stretches of farmland, leading Bucharest to declare a regional state of emergency today. More than 140 towns in the north and west of the country have been hit by several days of flooding, with swollen rivers destroying several bridges. President Traian Basescu travelled to the worst-hit Timis region, where the rains have wrecked more than 1,300 homes and 30,000 hectares of farmland, pledging 60 million euros of aid to the region. Heavy rains were expected to continue throughout the week.

YEMEN

Sanaa, Apr 27 -- Flash floods have killed at least 10 people in Yemen and destroyed acres of agricultural land in the Arab state, officials said today. They said tens of houses were also destroyed by rushing water in the past two days after heavy rains lashed several parts of the country. "There has been a lot of damage to property due to heavy rain in the last week," one official said, adding that it was too early to provide accurate estimates of material damage. -- Reuters.

Earthquakes



GUAM

London, Apr 22 -- A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 2131, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located in the Guam region in lat 13 26N, long 145.05E, depth 20 km.

INDONESIA

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two earthquakes rocked islands on opposite ends of the Indonesian archipelago today, but there were no reports of damage or casualties. A 5.4-magnitude quake shook parts of Sulawesi Island in eastern Indonesia at 0100, Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics agency said. The temblor was centred under the Maluku Sea 95 miles east of the city of Manado. Some four-and-a-half hours later, a 5.5 quake struck off Sumatra Island, about 230 miles north-west of the city of Padang, Hong Kong seismologists said.

Volcanic Activity



MOUNT KARTHALA, COMOROS ISLANDS

London, Apr 24 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The week-long eruption of Mount Karthala on the main island in the Indian Ocean Comoros archipelago, is over, experts said today. Hamidou Nassor, a volcanologist from the French Indian Ocean island of Reunion, told a press conference in Moroni he recommended maintaining for several more days the alert warning currently in place on the island of Grand Comore. Following the eruption which started last weekend, hundreds of villagers at the foot of the 2,361-metre volcano fled their homes for fear of molten lava -- although none actually flowed outside the crater.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

Kandahar, Apr 25 -- Two Afghan policemen and four Taliban guerrillas were killed in a rebel attack on a district headquarters in the southern province of Kandahar, police said today. Taliban fighters attacked the headquarters of Registan district late yesterday, killing two policemen guarding the compound, said Kandahar police official General Salim Khan. "In our counter-attack, four Taliban fighters were killed and two wounded," Khan said. A Taliban spokesman denied that any Taliban fighters had died in the clash and said four policemen had been killed. Taliban attacks have picked up in recent weeks, especially in the south and east of the country, after a winter lull. The attack came hours after an explosion hit a convoy carrying Romanian soldiers in another part of Kandahar. The Romanian defence ministry said one Romanian soldier was killed and two were wounded in the blast, which an Afghan official said was triggered by Taliban fighters. Romanian troops are part of an 18,300 US-led force hunting anti-government militants in Afghanistan. -- Reuters.

Kandahar, Apr 27 -- Taliban fighters ambushed a police chief's convoy in southern Afghanistan, killing four policemen, in the latest incident in a wave of rebel violence, police said today. The police chief of Deshu district in Helmand province, Shadi Khan, survived yesterday's attack near the Pakistan border but four of his men were killed. Two Taliban fighters were also killed in the clash, the police chief said. "I lost four of my bodyguards and two others went missing. We killed two Taliban," Khan said. A Taliban spokesman, Abdul Latif Hakimi, confirmed the ambush but said no Taliban were killed. The two policemen captured in the fighting were executed, he said. -- Reuters.

ALGERIA

Algiers, Apr 24 -- Two Algerian civilians died when a home-made bomb planted by Islamic militants exploded in a mountainous area in eastern Algeria, newspaper "Liberte," citing sources, reported today. The explosion, which occurred Friday (Apr 22) near Bir El Ater in the Tebessa province, some 630 km east of the capital Algiers, is the latest violence to hamper efforts to end a conflict which has cost up to 200,000 lives and \$30 billion in damages since 1992. More than 50 people, half of them soldiers, have been killed near Algiers in recent weeks -- most blamed on Algeria's main rebel organisation the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC). No group had claimed responsibility for Friday's attack and

authorities were not immediately available for comment. Government troops have launched a big offensive on Islamic rebel strongholds in the run up to a referendum. President Abdelaziz Bouteflika plans to hold this year to seek popular backing for an amnesty for both rebels and security forces. -- Reuters.

BELIZE

Belize City, Apr 21 -- There exists an unstable situation in Belize; there has been a walkout by unions and a call for civil disobedience declared by the opposition in Belize due alleged corruption in Government and increased taxes. We have been out of communication with the outside world since Apr 15 but some service was restored yesterday. Yesterday there were demonstrations in the streets of Belize City and there were mobs in the streets at night time, with large establishments being vandalised/looted. Underwriters can expect to receive substantial claims for losses. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Apr 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: Students apparently fed up by disruption of Internet and phone service staged a demonstration that turned violent this week in Belize. Police on Wednesday (Apr 20) arrested more than 100 young people, mostly college and high school students, who were protesting a telecommunications strike that shut down telephone, fax and Internet services throughout Belize. The five-day strike began on Apr 15. Most of the 500 employees of Belize Telecommunications Limited, or BTL, have returned to work, but technicians have yet to restore all of the nation's fixed, cell and Internet services and police are still deployed there. The protest began as a peaceful sit-in by students on a bridge in the capital, Belize City; they defied police who tried to disperse the crowds. Additional protesters, most of them unemployed, inner-city youths, joined the demonstration and began lighting fires on the bridge. An angry mob headed to the downtown area and looted music shops and cellular phone stores. The rioting lasted more than two hours until a riot squad restored order. Police commissioner Gerald Westby said his forces initially exercised restraint because the protesters were mostly students, but his department will put down any acts of vandalism and deal with perpetrators.

Belize City, Apr 26 -- Striking teachers shut Belize's schools today and stores closed in fear of looting as the government came under pressure to step down in a nation better known for scuba diving than political unrest. Teachers in the tiny Central American nation walked off the job in support of telephone workers in a dispute with the government. Union leaders warned of wider action soon. "This should be the beginning of a general strike," said George Frazer, who heads the National Trade Union Congress of Belize. The army has been deployed to

keep order in a week of anti-government protests, the worst crisis since independence from Britain in 1981. Frazer said between 50 to 80 percent of teachers joined the strike in Belize City, the country's biggest town. Telephone workers started their strike action last week to push demands that the government hand over to employees a sizable stake in the country's main telephone company BTL. Since then, protesters have sabotaged telephone lines and chopped down electricity poles, cutting services to large areas of the country. One man was killed during rioting and looting. Banks and stores were closed in Belize City's central shopping district today amid fears of a new round of looting. Opposition leaders have called on Prime Minister Said Musa to resign, and striking workers echoed the demands today. -- Reuters.

BURUNDI

Bujumbura, Apr 23 -- Burundi's army shot dead three Hutu rebels near Bujumbura after the insurgents killed one person by firing mortar bombs at a suburb south of the capital, the military said today. Yesterday's fighting, the second such clash this week between the army and the rebel Hutu Forces for National Liberation (FNL), occurred 10 days after the FNL renewed a call for peace talks and declared a unilateral ceasefire. "FNL rebels attacked Musaga suburb yesterday evening by launching mortars from the hills surrounding Bujumbura, which killed one civilian and wounded four others," army spokesman Adolphe Manirakiza said. "The army chased after them and killed three of them," he said, adding that one fighter was also captured. The FNL is the only group that has not joined efforts gradually edging Burundi closer to peace. The FNL honoured an agreement not to disrupt the February polls but has since been blamed for small attacks and government forces hunt the rebels in their strongholds in the hills that overlook the capital. -- Reuters.

Bujumbura, Apr 24 -- Hutu rebels killed six people in their third attack near Burundi's capital Bujumbura in less than a week, officials said today. Louis Niyonzima, administrator of Gatumba district, said rebels of the Forces for National Liberation (FNL) killed two soldiers, two civilians and two policemen when they raided the area 13 km north-west of Bujumbura yesterday evening. Five people, including three soldiers, were seriously wounded in the attacks on a military camp, a nightclub and other buildings, he said. -- Reuters.

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Hutu former rebel group has withdrawn from Burundi's power-sharing government accusing the main Tutsi-led party of not implementing a 2003 peace deal. The FDD are supposed to select the interior minister but their choice was rejected by the president last week. A presidential spokesman says that the FDD now have until next week to

submit three new names, for President Domitien Ndayizeye to choose from. Mr Ndayizeye's mandate was last week extended by regional leaders. He will stay in office until Aug 26, with elections to be held by Aug 19. The polls were supposed to take place in April, to end some 12 years of ethnic conflict. The FDD also accuse local officials of obstructing an election campaign rally their leader Pierre Nkurunziza was to hold earlier this week. The stadium where he was supposed to talk was locked - the local governor said he had not been informed about the rally. A spokesman for the FDD said the boycott was indefinite. "We have suspended all relations with the president and also the party's participation in any government meeting until the president agrees to fully respect and implement the peace agreement," Karenga Ramazani told AP news agency. The FDD's relations with Mr Ndayizeye worsened last week when he refused to appoint the group's candidate, who is a Tutsi, as interior minister. The president said the post was reserved for a Hutu under the peace deal in which 60% of cabinet positions are reserved for Hutus, and 40% for Tutsis.

COLOMBIA

London, Apr 23 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Rebels bombarded another Indian village today, expanding an offensive that already has government troops stretched thin in the rugged Andean region of south-west Colombia. With the latest attack, the clashes have spread across a 14-mile-long strip along the western face of the Central Cordillera of the Andes, some 250 miles southwest of Bogota. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, hit the village of Jambalo with mortars and gunfire in combat that began overnight and ended at dawn, said Gersain Cueta, who works in the tribal government offices there. Cueta said in a telephone interview that two houses were destroyed in the attack but that no casualties were reported. Police, army troops and an AC-47 gunship airplane repelled the attack, said Maj. Victoria Alba Rodriguez of the army's Third Brigade. In the village of Tacueyo, 15 miles to the south, heavily armed rebels casually waited to confront an armoured military column that had stopped in its tracks, many of its tires flattened by rebel gunfire, just 10 minutes away.

Bogota, Apr 25 -- Army troops retook a southern Colombian town which had been surrounded by Marxist rebels for nine days in one of the strongest challenges yet to the government's security policy. Soldiers in light tanks drove out of green surrounding mountains into Toribio in Cauca province to end a battle which began when rebels bombarded the town with home-made mortar shells on Apr 14, killing three police officers and a boy. Three soldiers were killed pushing back the rebels from around Toribio.

But it was more the time the army needed than the casualty list which raised questions about the success of President Alvaro Uribe's military strategy to end a four-decade-old war. The army said it killed about 16 members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. But the sight of FARC rebels talking to journalists near Toribio on national television for several days running was a blow to government claims it has the rebels on the run. -- Reuters.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Kigali, Apr 22 -- At least 3,300 Congolese from North Kivu Province, eastern DRC, have fled into Rwanda since the beginning of April to escape insecurity caused by militiamen, a UN official said today. "As of this morning, we have received 700," Volker Schimmel, the spokesman for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said in the Rwandan capital, Kigali. Most of the arrivals were from Rutshuru and Masisi areas, to the north of Goma, the North Kivu provincial capital. Schimmel said UNHCR had not yet confirmed the reasons why the refugees had fled. However, he added, they had spoken of atrocities committed by Rwandan Hutu rebel groups and members of the Congolese army. The refugee agency is catering for the Congolese at transit centres in Rwanda's north-western province of Gisenyi. -- Reuters.

ECUADOR

London, Apr 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ecuador's ousted President Lucio Gutierrez has been granted political asylum by Brazil, a day after he was removed from office by Congress. Mr Gutierrez has taken refuge in the Brazilian embassy in the capital, Quito, and is expected to be allowed to fly to Brazil later. Vice-President Alfredo Palacio, sworn in today as the new president, has ordered Mr Gutierrez's arrest. Mr Gutierrez was ousted following a week of escalating protests. Protesters were angered by his attempts to overhaul the Supreme Court and apparently pack it with supporters. The court had always been dominated by Mr Gutierrez's critics. The former president was removed by a unanimous vote in Congress over the violent crackdown on the demonstrations, in which at least one person was killed. Mr Palacio says he wants to reform the political system and has suggested convening an assembly to write a new constitution. Earlier, the army closed the airport, while President Palacio ordered Ecuador's borders to be sealed.

INDIA

London, Apr 23 -- A press report, dated Apr 22, states: The Indian army says troops have killed 11 suspected separatist militants in Indian-administered Kashmir. Six were shot dead after allegedly crossing the Line of Control that divides Kashmir

between Indian- and Pakistan-controlled territory. The killings come a day after the second successful run of a landmark bus service linking divided Kashmir. An Indian defence spokesman said the soldiers intercepted the infiltrators on the Indian side of the LOC very close to where the cross-Kashmir bus service drives past. Militants who oppose the service have warned passengers against using the service. The spokesman, Colonel Batra, also said that five other militants were killed after a clash with troops in the northern town of Handwara, also close to the LoC. The fighting was said to have broken out after the soldiers raided a suspected militant hideout late yesterday evening. In another incident, two militants were killed in a gunbattle with Indian soldiers in Poonch district, Indian authorities said. The militants were spotted trying to cross the LoC in the Sabra Gali area, an army spokesman said.

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated Apr 26, states: Police in Indian-administered Kashmir say six suspected militants have been killed in clashes with Indian troops in the border district of Kupwara. They said fighting started after soldiers surrounded the suspected militants in a forest. It is not known if the Indian troops suffered any casualties. Jammu and Kashmir security forces have stepped up their campaign against militants. Over 20 suspected militants have died in the past five days.

INDONESIA

London, Apr 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Troops in Indonesia's Aceh region have shot dead five suspected separatist rebels in a clash there, the military said today. The five victims, suspected members of the separatist Free Aceh Movement were killed in the western province's Bireuen district yesterday, Aceh military spokesman Ari Mulya Hasyimi said. Soldiers also captured one suspected rebel and confiscated weapons from the dead victims. Hasyimi said the troops had raided a village in the area where informants reported that a group of some 25 rebels were hiding out.

IRAQ

Baghdad, Apr 21 -- Guerrillas shot down a Bulgarian commercial helicopter in Iraq today, killing all 11 on board including six Americans, as hopes of forming a new government were dashed by last-minute disagreements. The Russian-built Mi-8 helicopter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade as it flew over a deserted area north of Baghdad, Bulgarian officials and the U.S. military said. It was believed to be the first downing of a civilian aircraft in Iraq. A militant group said it had shot down the helicopter. "The Islamic Army in Iraq claims responsibility for bringing down a ... cargo aircraft and killing all those on board," said a short posting on a Web site often used by Iraqi rebels, adding a full statement

and video would follow. Bulgarian company Heli Air told Reuters that three Bulgarian crew were killed when the helicopter was shot down, as well as six U.S. passengers and two guards from an unspecified country. All on board were civilians, U.S. military officials said. The Americans worked for Blackwater security consultants. Television footage showed a mangled and still-burning wreckage from the attack on the helicopter. Its bulk was destroyed, but rotor blades and what appeared to be two engines were visible. Two charred bodies could be seen near the site. Today's attack came amid a rebound in guerrilla activity in the past two weeks, with more than 20 car bombings in Baghdad and an increase in ambushes, shootings and assassinations. The violence threatens to overshadow attempts by Iraq's new leaders to form a government nearly three months after elections, amid growing tensions between Iraq's majority Shi'ite and once-dominant Sunni Muslim communities. There had been hopes a new government would be announced today but disagreements surfaced again late yesterday between Shi'ites, who won the Jan 30 election, and other factions, including interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's. The constant delays in a forming a government have heightened sectarian tensions, and also seem to have added fuel to the insurgency, which appeared to taper after the elections. Iraqi President Jalal Talabani and Hussain al-Shahristani, a senior member of the main Shi'ite alliance, said they did not think a deal would be sealed today, as previously hoped. Allawi rejected in talks yesterday an offer to join the cabinet, sources involved in the negotiations said. "The talks were going well, but the Shi'ites offered Allawi just two ministries, not the four that he wants, and he rejected the offer," one source said. "There was also continued disagreement over what ministries the Sunnis should get. The question really is whether the Shi'ites want to create a government of national unity, or just a Shi'ite-Kurd government," he said. Also, today, a roadside bomb hit a convoy carrying foreign security contractors on the road to Baghdad's airport, killing two people. Three foreign contractors -- an American, an Australian and a Canadian -- were killed on the same stretch of road yesterday, their employer confirmed today. And two U.S. soldiers were killed in the same vicinity on Tuesday (Apr 19). -- Reuters.

Baghdad, Apr 22 -- A car bomb blast ripped through a Shi'ite mosque in eastern Baghdad today, killing 11 people in the latest attack amid tensions between Iraq's Sunnis and majority Shi'ites. The blast, which occurred as prayers were ending at al-Subeih mosque, destroyed part of the building and burst a water tank. A bus parked nearby was destroyed, although no one was in it when the bomb exploded. A hospital official put the death toll at 11 and said 17 other

people were wounded. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. In the latest guerrilla attack on Iraqi security forces, five National Guardsmen were found killed execution-style near Baiji, a town about 180 km north of Baghdad, police said. Two U.S. Marines were killed by a roadside bomb near Ramadi, about 100 km west of Baghdad, the U.S. military said, bringing to 1,184 the number of American personnel killed in action since the U.S.-led March 2003 invasion of Iraq. Two civilians were killed by roadside bombs in Baquba, about 45 km north of the capital, police said. A bomb in the southern city of Basra wounded seven police officers, police said. Guerrillas have threatened to kill three Romanian journalists kidnapped in Iraq unless Romania withdrew its troops within four days, Al Jazeera television reported, airing a video tape of the hostages. The grainy black-and-white video broadcast by the Arabic-language satellite channel showed the three journalists, two men and a woman, sitting on the ground, guarded by masked men with guns. The hostages appeared to be handcuffed. The video also showed two men pointing guns at the head of a fourth hostage, Mohamad Munaf, the journalists' translator. -- Reuters.

Baiji, Apr 22 -- Insurgents have attacked an oil pipeline that feeds a power station in the northern Iraqi town of Baiji, a police official said today. The pipeline, which runs from the oil centre of Kirkuk to Baiji, home to Iraq's biggest oil refinery, does not pump oil for exports but it is a key domestic line. -- Reuters.

London, Apr 24 -- A press report, dated Apr 23, states: Iraqi insurgents struck across the country with bomb attacks today, killing at least 16 people, including an American soldier. US forces captured six men suspected in the downing of a civilian helicopter and the shooting to death of the lone survivor. The suspects in the helicopter downing were caught after US soldiers from Task Force Baghdad were tipped off by an Iraqi civilian who told the Americans that he knew where insurgents had stashed a blue KIA pickup truck that was used in the attack, the military said. Soldiers searched two nearby houses shortly after midnight today, arresting three men and seizing bomb-making material in the first home and seizing three suspects in the second. The Russian-made Mi-8 helicopter, flying from Baghdad to Tikrit, was shot down about 12 miles north of the capital on Thursday (Apr 21). The dead included six American bodyguards. In other violence, a news cameraman was shot and killed when gunfire broke out after an explosion in Mosul, while a photographer suffered shrapnel wounds in the same incident. A roadside bomb exploded near an Iraqi army convoy on the outskirts of Baghdad, killing nine soldiers and wounding 20, police said. In al-Haswah, west of Baghdad, a US soldier was killed when a roadside

bomb exploded today near a convoy, the US military said.

Tikrit, Iraq, Apr 24 -- Two suicide car bombs exploded inside a police academy compound in the town of Tikrit today, killing at least seven people and wounding dozens, Iraqi police and doctors said. A suicide bomber drove into the compound and blew up his vehicle among a crowd of policemen, killing several, according to witnesses. As police and passersby rushed to help those hit in the blast, a second car bomber entered the compound and detonated his vehicle, the witnesses said. A doctor at Tikrit's hospital, Mohammed Ayash, said seven bodies had been brought in and as many as 26 people were wounded. All those killed were police, while both civilians and police were among the wounded. The bombings come amid a new wave of violence in Iraq, with a marked increase in bombings, suicide attacks, ambushes and assassinations this month. Many of the attacks have targeted Iraqi police and soldiers, who are in the front line of the fight against the two-year-old insurgency. More than 400 Iraqi police and soldiers have been killed over the past six weeks, according to figures from icasualties.org, a website that tracks deaths in Iraq. -- Reuters.

London, Apr 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 16 people have been killed in twin bombings in a market near a mosque in a Shia area of Baghdad, police say. Some 50 more were wounded in the explosions near the Ahl al-Beit mosque in Shula, in the north of the Iraqi capital at about 2040 hrs, yesterday, (1640, UTC). The blasts came hours after a similar double bombing on a police academy in Tikrit in northern Iraq, which killed at least six people and wounded 33. "A bomb exploded and, when people ran out near the Hussayniah al-Beit mosque, a car driven by a suicide bomber ploughed into them," an interior ministry official told AFP news agency. Local hospitals are inundated with casualties, some of whom said they had been by an ice-cream shop when the first bomb went off. In other developments, US President George W Bush reported that more than 150,000 Iraqi security forces have been trained and equipped, and for the first time, the Iraqi army, police, and security forces outnumber US forces in Iraq.

London, Apr 26 -- Oil exports to Turkey's Mediterranean port of Ceyhan officially resumed yesterday after repeated sabotage of pipelines. Iraq has officially resumed crude oil exports to Turkey's Mediterranean port of Ceyhan, a State Oil Marketing Organisation official said. Oil exports through Turkey, previously averaging 350,000 barrels per day from Kirkuk oil fields some 250 kilometres north of Baghdad, have repeatedly been stopped by insurgency sabotage. In December, the tap was again shut off following an attack on a pipeline near Fathah, oil ministry spokesman has said.

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: The US chief weapons inspector, Charles Duelfer, has said inquiries into weapons of mass destruction in Iraq have "gone as far as feasible". Mr Duelfer also said an official transfer of WMDs to Syria ahead of the Iraq war was not likely. The CIA adviser reported last year that neither expected stockpiles of chemical or biological weapons, nor evidence of recent production had been found. However, he did say Saddam Hussein had wanted to restart WMD programmes. "After more than 18 months, the WMD investigation and debriefing of the WMD-related detainees has been exhausted," Mr Duelfer, head of the Iraq Survey Group (ISG), wrote in a 92-page addendum to the report issued in October. However, Mr Duelfer warned that Iraq's original weapons programme had created a pool of experts whose skills could be sought by other countries or terrorist groups, and that while this risk was presently very small, it should not be ignored. Mr Duelfer said that while the ISG believed that it was unlikely that WMD material had been officially moved to Syria in the run up to the war, it was "unable to rule out unofficial movement of limited WMD-related materials".

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Insurgents fired mortars at a U.S. military base in northern Iraq today, wounding an Iraqi civilian, officials said. In Baghdad, politicians met behind closed doors and reported some progress in ending an impasse delaying the country's new transitional government. Yesterday, Sunni Muslim politicians dropped their demand to include former members of Saddam Hussein's party in Iraq's new Cabinet in a bid to get more ministries. The Sunni minority is believed to be the backbone of the insurgency, and many blame the impasse in forming a new government for a resurgence in violence. The development came as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said she and other top officials are trying to persuade politicians from the Shiite majority and their Kurdish allies to wrap up negotiations to form a new government. As leaders of Iraq's main Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish factions continued their backroom wheeling and dealing Tuesday, Prime Minister-designate Ibrahim al-Jaafari again put off his long-promised Cabinet announcement. Meanwhile, attacks by Iraq's Sunni-led insurgents continued. In Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, insurgents fired five mortars at a U.S. base, with one landing outside it, said U.S. Maj. Richard Goldenberg. The Americans, who did not return fire, suffered no casualties, he said. However, the errant round wounded an Iraqi civilian, said police Lt. Qasim Muhammed. Today, as the National Assembly met to discuss its own regulations, behind-the-scene talks by top officials about the Cabinet resumed. However, no final decision

about the ministers was expected today, Saad Jouawd Qandil, a member of al-Jaafari's Shiite-dominated United Iraqi Alliance, said in an interview with The Associated Press. The National Dialogue Council, a coalition of 10 Sunni factions, initially had requested 16 Cabinet seats. It submitted a list of candidates Sunday (Apr 24) that included former members of Saddam's Baath party, said Jawad al-Maliki, a senior member of al-Jaafari's United Iraqi Alliance. But when that was rejected, they dropped the demand, he told reporters yesterday. Alliance members, who control 148 seats in the 275-member National Assembly, refuse to give any top posts to members of the party that carried out Saddam's brutal suppression of the Shiites and Kurds.

London, Apr 27 -- Workers rushed to put out the pipeline fire near Fatha, 250 kilometres north of Baghdad after an attack at around 0430, GMT, Monday (Apr 25) said Mohammad Ali, assistant manager of a new oil infrastructure fire-fighting force. "Our team, with the help of the Iraqi army and the oil infrastructure force, rushed to put the fire out", Ali told reporters. "It was apparently caused by sabotage". Oil technicians at North Oil Company turned off the oil flow while firemen worked, said Colonel Jawad Hassan, spokesman for the force created to counter insurgent attacks on oil facilities.

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: The kidnappers in Iraq holding three Romanian hostages have extended an ultimatum until today for the Romanian government to meet their demands. The abductors demand Bucharest to withdraw its some 800 troops from Iraq or they will kill the three journalists held hostage for nearly four weeks. he Qatar based al-Jazeera TV channel reports the militants said they will start killing the hostages as of 1800 hrs, today. Meanwhile, a video tape aired by the pan-Arab satellite channel showed the three hostages, one woman and two men, being handcuffed and sitting on the ground with their captors standing beside pointing pistols at their heads.

IVORY COAST

Bouake, Apr 21 -- Ivory Coast's rebels towed canvas-covered rusty mortars away from a front line position today, the first concrete step towards disarming civil war foes in the Ivory Coast. The weapons withdrawal grew out of a peace deal signed by the West African nation's warring parties in Pretoria this month. Two 120 mm mortars were taken from Djebonoua, south of the rebel-held city of Bouake and on the edge of a U.N.-policed buffer zone between the rebel north and government-run south. Rebel commander Dramane Soro, known as Sergeant Doctor, said the two mortars were the only heavy weapons at Djebonoua. The rebel New Forces and Ivorian army agreed on Tuesday (Apr 19) to withdraw all guns with a calibre of 20 mm or higher and canons and mortars with a calibre of 60 mm or

above. Anti-tank rocket propelled grenade launchers were not included. The process is being supervised by the 4,000 French and 6,240 U.N. peacekeepers stationed in Ivory Coast and the weapons will be grouped for inspection in eight sites in the rebel-held north and seven sites in the south. The withdrawal is due to end on Apr 24 and the weapons will be inspected by all sides from Apr 25 to Apr 28. A meeting will be held in Bouake on Apr 30 to study the results. -- Reuters.

Abidjan, Apr 26 -- Ivory Coast's president said today he would use his constitutional powers to let a main opposition rival stand in October elections, a key demand of rebels holding the north of the country. President Laurent Gbagbo's decision marks a major step forward for a chequered peace process. Opposition leader Alassane Ouattara's exclusion from a 2000 poll was seen by many as one of the root causes of the war. "I have decided to use Article 48 of our constitution. From now I will take exceptional measures demanded by the situation," Gbagbo said on state television in the West African nation. "As a consequence, Mr Alassane Dramane Ouattara can, if he wants, present his candidature in the presidential elections of October 2005," he said. Hopes for an end to the crisis in Ivory Coast, split in two since rebels seized the north in September 2002 after a failed attempt to oust Gbagbo, have been growing since a peace deal was signed by the warring sides in South Africa this month. As part of that deal, rebels and government forces have started pulling heavy weapons back from front lines across the country. They have also pledged to study proposals for starting full disarmament in May. The October elections are meant to help end a three-year state of neither war nor peace in what was once an economic powerhouse in a volatile region. However, organising polls could prove difficult if the country is still divided. Gbagbo's statement was a response to South African President Thabo Mbeki's request that all candidates who wanted to should be allowed to contest the October poll. Mbeki was appointed mediator by the African Union and helped broker the peace deal. Ouattara's eligibility has long been one of the most divisive political issues in Ivory Coast. The former prime minister from the mainly Muslim north was barred in 2000 under Article 35 of the constitution, which says both parents of a candidate must be of Ivorian origin. One of Ouattara's parents is considered to come from Burkina Faso. Many of Gbagbo's most radical young supporters blame Ouattara for the war and accuse him of supporting the rebels. But some agreed to accept Gbagbo's ruling. "No Patriot agrees with this but all of the Patriots will accept it," said Eujene Djue, leader of the Union of Patriots for the Total Liberation of Ivory Coast, a pro-Gbagbo militia. There was no

immediate reaction from the rebel New Forces. In the past, they have refused to lay down their weapons until Gbagbo implemented political reforms clearing Ouattara to run. -- Reuters.

LEBANON

Riyyak, Apr 26 -- Syria completes the withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon today in line with a U.N. resolution, ending 29 years of direct involvement in the country. The last Syrian soldier will pull out from Lebanon after a military ceremony in the Riyyak airbase in the eastern Bekaa Valley, a day after Syrian intelligence quit its headquarters in the town of Anjar, security sources said. Security sources said only about 200 Syrian soldiers remained in Lebanon, but they would withdraw after taking part in the ceremony, hours before the United Nations issues a report on whether Syria is complying with the Security Council demand. Lebanon's election due in May would test whether Syria still intervened in the affairs of its smaller neighbour, said one U.S. official, who asked not to be identified. Lebanon's new government, led by Prime Minister Najib Mikati, has pledged to hold free and fair elections on time in May. Parliament starts a two-day meeting today to discuss the new government's policy statement and vote it into office. -- Reuters.

NEPAL

Kathmandu, Apr 24 -- Five children were killed and three others wounded in western Nepal when a crude bomb left by suspected Maoist rebels exploded, an army officer said today. The incident came as King Gyanendra was on a nine-day Asian trip, his first foreign tour since his Feb 1 power grab. Gyanendra, vowing to end a nine-year Maoist revolt, fired the government, imposed a state of emergency and detained political leaders. The 57-year-old king said his actions were necessary to protect democracy from the risk posed by the Maoist insurgency against the monarchy. The Maoists want to abolish Nepal's constitutional monarchy and establish a communist republic in its place. -- Reuters.

PAKISTAN

Hyderabad, Apr 25 -- Attackers blew up a Pakistani railway track minutes before a passenger train was to pass, police said today. A one-and-a-half foot section of track was destroyed in two blasts in Sindh province in the south of the country late yesterday. A woman living near the line was slightly wounded, said senior police official Khalid Tangwani. The train was alerted and managed to stop before reaching the site of the attack, near Kandh Kot village, 450 km north of the city of Karachi. No group has claimed responsibility, but police suspect "shadowy nationalists", involved in similar attacks in the past, were behind the bombing. Railway officials said the track had been repaired. -- Reuters.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, Apr 25 -- Suspected Muslim rebels ambushed a Philippine army convoy today, killing two soldiers and wounding four others, a military spokesman said. The convoy hit a landmine and was fired on while on a supply mission near Maimbung town on the southern island of Jolo, Lieutenant-Colonel Buenaventura Pascual said. "Our troops are now pursuing the rebels," said Pascual. "This will not go unpunished. Reinforcements were sent to hunt down the group responsible for the attack." Nearly 5,000 soldiers have been deployed on Jolo, a stronghold of Muslim rebels fighting for an independent Islamic state in the mainly Roman Catholic Philippines, since the army launched an offensive two months ago. By the army's count, nearly 40 soldiers and up to 100 rebels had been killed in the fighting. The military declared victory a month ago after capturing a rebel jungle base, hoisting the Philippine flag to dramatise the retaking of the territory. -- Reuters.

SAUDI ARABIA

Mecca, Apr 21 -- Two suspected militants and two Saudi security personnel were killed in a gunfight today near the city of Mecca, a security source said. Another six security force members were wounded in the clash which took place after a car carrying a number of suspects, some disguised as women, failed to stop at a checkpoint on the road from Mecca to Medina, the source said. Officials could not immediately confirm the casualties but Interior Ministry security spokesman Brigadier-General Mansour Turki said the suspects, who were surrounded in mountains outside Mecca, had a machine gun and some injuries were likely. "They were followed by police after they passed through a checkpoint," Turki said. "They were followed and exchanged fire. They had a machine gun and they ended up in the mountains. The operation is over but I cannot confirm any casualties." Residents in the area of Umm al-Joud, just outside the Muslim holy city of Mecca, had reported hearing heavy gunfire and saw a helicopter flying overhead and Red Crescent vehicles rushing to the area. Security sources said two other militants in the car that failed to stop at the checkpoint were captured, one before the shootout and the other later on. -- Reuters.

SUDAN

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated Apr 26, states: The United Nations refugee agency has expressed alarm at the apparent renewal of a "scorched earth" policy in Darfur. "The burning of villages seems to have resumed," Jennifer Pagonis, spokeswoman for the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said. "This gratuitous act is clearly a message to the former residents not to return home." The UN

says the conflict has already claimed 180,000 lives and driven about two million people from their homes. UN staff visiting a village in western Darfur heard that 200 families had been forced to flee by the government-backed Janjaweed militia a year ago. Last week, local people said, the militia returned and set fire to the village. It had been reduced to ashes, the UN staff said. The refugee agency says that in October and November of last year about 55 abandoned villages near the town of Masteri were burned to the ground. If the practice has resumed and continues, aid workers fear, Darfur's social and demographic structure will be changed for ever.

THAILAND

Bangkok, Apr 24 -- A bomb exploded in Thailand's mainly Muslim south today, killing two policemen and wounding three others a day after Thailand's queen condemned those behind a 15-month wave of violence. The blast occurred near a border checkpoint in the district of Sungai Kolok in Narathiwat province, one of three mainly Muslim provinces bordering Malaysia, police said. Two policeman and one villager were wounded and rushed to hospital. -- Reuters.

TOGO

London, Apr 23 -- A press report, dated Apr 22, states: Togo's Interior Minister Francois Boko has been sacked, after calling for the postponement of presidential elections set for Sunday (Apr 24), warning of civil war. At a news conference in the middle of the night, Mr Boko said it would be "suicidal" to hold the poll as planned. Interim President Abass Bonfoh then confirmed the polls would be held on Sunday and sacked Mr Boko. The opposition also wants a postponement. There have been violent clashes between rival supporters in recent weeks.

London, Apr 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least three people were killed and 13 others were injured as voting in presidential elections ended in the Togolese capital Lome, diplomats and hospital officials said today. A Western diplomat said he "saw three bodies in the district between John Paul II boulevard and the airport near the Hedzranawoe primary school". "They were the bodies of young men," he said. Witnesses at the site said the youths fought off attempts by unidentified men to take away the ballot boxes from the school, he added.

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Faure Gnassingbe, candidate of Togo's ruling RPT party and son of the former leader, has provisionally won Sunday's (May 1) presidential election, officials say. Opposition supporters immediately poured onto the streets of the capital, Lome, erecting burning barricades. They say the poll was rigged. Many residents stayed indoors as thick black smoke wafted across the city. The

army tried to install Mr Faure after his father died but pressure led him to step down and call an election. Security forces used tear gas to disperse the opposition protesters in central Lome but shops were reportedly looted in other areas. Some Lebanese families have fled their homes near the border with Ghana, saying they have been attacked and robbed. Last week, the interior minister called for the polls to be postponed for fear that civil war might break out. He was sacked and sought sanctuary in the German embassy. Seven people were reportedly killed in pre-election violence.

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Security forces fired tear gas at opposition supporters erecting blazing barricades in Togo's capital today, the second day of street battles over the election of the son of the late ruler as president. In Lome's opposition stronghold of Be, soldiers patrolled on foot, firing tear gas canisters at shouting youths who had built barricades of bricks and blazing tyres. At least one building was on fire and black smoke billowed over the area.

TURKEY

Diyarbakir, Apr 27 -- A village guard was killed and two other people wounded today when Turkish security forces clashed with Kurdish separatists in eastern Turkey, military sources said. The clash came during a three-day army operation backed by helicopters in mountainous territory north of the city of Diyarbakir in mainly Kurdish south-eastern Turkey. The injured were ferried to hospital by helicopter, the sources said. Military operation were continuing. Guerrillas from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) have increased attacks on security forces since June 2004 when they called off a unilateral ceasefire. -- Reuters.

ZANZIBAR

Dar es Salaam, Apr 25 -- Zanzibar police arrested four people today after a bomb exploded at an office of Tanzania's ruling CCM party on the semi-autonomous island late yesterday, causing no casualties, a senior officer said. "It (the blast) is something that happened yesterday night at 8.15 p.m. There are no casualties, we have so far arrested four people. According to information collected, they are the main suspects," Ramadhani Kinyogo, deputy director of criminal investigations on Zanzibar, told Reuters. The blast marked the latest increase in political tensions on the island off the Tanzanian mainland, where the main opposition Civic United Front (CUF) party has accused the government of harassment in the run up to Oct 30 elections. In 2000, about 100 people were killed in clashes on Zanzibar between supporters of CUF and CCM after CCM won elections that the opposition said were fraudulent. -- Reuters.

Labour Disputes

**BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Apr 22 -- The clearing and forwarding agent of Bangla Hili India went on indefinite strike from Wednesday (Apr 20) which is suspending import and export operation at Hili land port of north-west Bangladesh. They went on strike in protest to increase the additional service charge of the port benefits and excessive value added tax. The port officials and local witnesses told local media that the sudden strike came after an earlier decision to increase the warehouse and equipment fare became effective from Wednesday troubling the traders who have been paying the same rate for the port services for the last two decades. Loaded trucks, many of them carrying perishable commodities waited for hours in queues on both sides of the border area of India and Bangladesh as the port activities remain suspended for the second consecutive day till yesterday. According to the Bangladesh clearing and forwarding agent association, the reason for the indefinite strike was informed by the general secretary of India-Bangla Hili customs C & F Association Sree Ashok Mondol in a written message to the president of Hili C & F agent of Bangladesh. This strike is causing revenue income to the Bangladesh government worth TK. 20 million loss each day. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

BELIZE

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

CHILE

London, Apr 28 -- A press report, dated Apr 26, states: On Friday, Apr 22, 1,300 employees of Chile's Customs went on strike. At issue was the government's refusal to address workers' promotion demands. Union leader Lautaro Aguila said that customs workers were demanding that inside candidates be given preferences in job assignments. Aguila said that Friday's job action had been 75 percent successful.

FINLAND

London, Apr 28 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Almost all of Finland's paper industry workers, some 26,000 employees, stopped work today in a solidarity strike after employers at a plant in southeastern Finland launched a lock-out, union officials said. Work is due to resume at 0600, Friday (Apr 29). Finland is home to several of the world's leading papermakers, including Stora Enso, UPM-Kymmene and M-Real, all of which are affected by the move. "We have 28,000 members, 26,000 of whom stopped work today," a spokesman for

the Finnish union of paper industry workers, Paeivi Turtiainen, said. "This is not a union strike. It was started this morning from mill to mill, without order from us, by workers supporting other workers at a Stora Enso unit in Anjalankoski where a lock-out has been decided," Turtiainen said. Employers and unions in Finland's paper sector have for four months been trying to hammer out a new collective agreement on workers' conditions. Despite 36 meetings between the two sides since December, they have yet to reach a deal. Talks have faltered over the growing use of part-time staff and working hours.

London, Apr 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: A nationwide port strike that would have crippled Finland's export trade was averted today, after unions and management accepted a mediation proposal in labor talks. After weeks of selective wildcat strikes and a ban on overtime aimed at speeding the negotiations, about 3,000 transport workers had threatened to stop handling all goods in ports tomorrow if no agreement was reached. The strike, planned for an indefinite period, would have shut down most Finnish ports, which handle about 80 percent of all foreign trade. Industrial leaders warned of severe consequences for the country's economy, which has already lost hundreds of millions of euros (dollars) from workers' previous protest actions. Leading forest companies, including UPM-Kymmene and Stora Enso, were forced to shut down mills and halt production temporarily because they were unable to transport products. Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen declared the actions illegal and urged the parties to find a solution in the talks that have continued since November. The nationwide strike was originally planned for Apr 15, but the government ordered a two-week postponement to allow the parties to meet again under the mediation of National Conciliator Juhani Salenius. Salenius presented a proposal last week that was tentatively accepted by the negotiating parties, thus making a strike unlikely. No details of the three-year agreement were given, but central issues included the use of temporary employees and pay outside normal working hours.

FRANCE

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: The CGT union has rejected an attempt by the French Government to solve the dispute with state-controlled ferry operator SNCM, as the Government proposals do not guarantee the future of the company. Amongst the proposals put forward by the Government is an offer to suspend 210 redundancies specified in the restructuring plan and the opportunity to opt out of the new low-cost French international register; however, the package has not satisfied the union.

GREECE

London, Apr 23 -- A press report dated yesterday, states: About 100 domestic flights were cancelled in Greece yesterday, after a one-day strike by civil aviation employees forced most regional airports to close. International flights were not affected by the strike, but several charter flights were cancelled.

INDIA

London, Apr 24 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Violence, arson and police firing marred the fourth day of the anti-Value Added Tax (VAT) strike in West Bengal today. State Finance Minister Asim Dasgupta iterated that his government would not tolerate any kind of violence and directed the police to take stern action against trouble mongers, while a spokesman of the Federation of Trade Organisation (FTO), the sponsor of the strike, claimed that some pro-VAT supporters provoked the violence by throwing stones at a protest meeting. Police fired two rounds in the air and used batons to disperse a mob, which ransacked shops and set three two-wheelers on fire at Jabbarhat near Metaiburuz in South 24 Parganas district. Police said the trouble started when some people pelted stones during a meeting to protest against the introduction of VAT. Soon after the incident supporters of anti-VAT strike went on a rampage and set three two-wheelers on fire. They also ransacked a few shops, in an adjacent market. Senior police officials rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

London, Apr 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 144-hour truckers' strike sponsored by Darjeeling Truck Drivers' Association (DTDA) began at 0600 hrs, today in the Darjeeling hills of West Bengal. DTDA secretary Amar Thapa said the strike has been called to press for the association's long standing demand of a terminal for hill truckers. Trucks and tankers carrying petrol and petroleum products have been brought under the purview of the strike, he said. The association had called a three day strike in March which was reduced to one day following an assurance by the administration to meet the demand. However, with no tangible result in sight, the DTDA again observed a two day strike on Apr 7 and 8, but failure to achieve any progress towards fulfillment of the demand ultimately forced the DTDA to go on with a 144-hr strike call from today, Thapa said.

London, Apr 28 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Several Air-India flights were delayed today with thousands of engineers of the airline going on a flash strike to protest deferment of union elections. An Air-India spokesperson said that flights originating from Mumbai for the US and other countries like Singapore had been delayed at least by three hours due to the strike by nearly 7,000 service engineers. The airline is

making alternative arrangements to restore normalcy, said the spokesperson, adding that Air-India flights are operating on schedule in other parts of the country. The Air-India service engineers went on strike early today protesting against the deferment of union elections. The striking workers allege they were not allowed to participate in the voting process scheduled today.

NIGERIA

London, Apr 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: As tanker drivers in Lagos State began an indefinite strike beginning from today, the state government has said it would not succumb to blackmail from any quarters. The State Commissioner of Transportation, Mr Muiz Banire, in a press statement yesterday said the cause of the threat by the drivers is the decision of the Lagos State Government to remove tankers parked on the highways and bridges, after various warnings by government that the tankers should no longer be parked on highways and genuine efforts to facilitate their relocation to an unobstructive place. The continued usage of highways for parking has led to innumerable accidents on these roads.

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Traffic in parts of central Lagos, Nigeria, ground to halt today after tanker drivers launched an indefinite strike to protest the seizure of dozens of their trucks. As fuel deliveries dried up, panic buying began among motorists and queues at petrol stations snarled traffic throughout the busy city centre. "The tanker drivers are on strike in protest over the seizure of about 40 trucks the Lagos State government took for alleged illegal parking," said Elijah Okougbo, secretary general of the oil union Nupeng. "Officials who seized the trucks are demanding a fine of 50 000 naira (\$375) to secure the release of each of the impounded trucks. We have not got such money." A spokesman for Lagos State said that the tankers were seized after several warnings to their drivers not to park on highways and bridges in Lagos. (See issue of Apr 26.)

Lagos, Apr 28 -- Lagos suffered an acute petrol shortage today as a strike by tanker drivers protesting against the seizure of their trucks dragged into a third day. Most service stations in the city of 13 million people had no gasoline, while long queues snaked out of the few that still had supplies and black market fuel prices doubled. State authorities impounded 40 tanker trucks earlier this month for illegal parking on a busy highway and imposed a 50,000 naira fine per truck, which the unions refuse to pay. "Unless the impounded trucks are released unconditionally, the strike will continue," said Tokunbo Korodo, Lagos chairman of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers. "We are under pressure from the national secretariat to allow other states to join the action in solidarity

and may give our consent if the issue is not resolved before weekend." Talks broke down on Tuesday (Apr 26) when the government insisted the truckers pay the fines. Thousands of commuters were stranded at major bus stations across the city and its notorious traffic jams abated. Some commuters walked long distances to work; others stayed at home. Bus fares rose by up to 100 percent on some routes, and petrol prices on the black market doubled to about 100 naira (75 cents) per litre. Nigeria, the world's eighth largest oil exporter, depends on imported fuel because its four refineries operate far below capacity due to inefficiency and sabotage. -- Reuters.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, Apr 26 -- Customs operations at the Port of Manila and the Manila International Container Terminal were brought to a near standstill yesterday due to a strike by customs brokers. The brokers belonging to the 300-member Chamber of Customs Brokers, Inc. refused to transact business to protest the imposition of what they perceived as excessive taxes on container shipments. The Philippine Bureau of Customs recently issued a regulation imposing a minimum tax of Pesos100,000 (US\$1,840 dollars) for 20-footer boxes and Pesos200,000 for 40-foot containers, regardless of content. The Port of Manila which normally receives more than 300 customs entries daily only received 17 entries while the Manila International Container Terminal only recorded 147 entries compared to its daily average of 400 customs entries. Normal customs operations were resumed yesterday afternoon following negotiations between the Philippine customs commissioner and representatives of the striking customs brokers. -- Lloyd's List Representatives.

Awards & Settlements



DIESEL SPILL, MANDAN AREA, NORTH DAKOTA, UNITED STATES

See "Mandan Area, North Dakota, United States" under "Pollution."

ROAD ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 25 -- A press report, dated Apr 22, states: A 12-member civil court jury awarded more than \$21 million yesterday evening to a young man who is a quadriplegic as the result of an automobile accident on the La. 1 bridge at Morganza eight years ago, and to his parents. Jurors deliberated for just over two hours before returning a verdict in favour of the plaintiffs shortly after 1800 hrs. The case resulted from an accident that took place on Jan 31, 1997.

Deependra Charan, a 22-year-old chemical engineer who had recently graduated with honours from LSU, was driving to work at a plastics plant on a foggy morning when he drove onto the bridge. Witnesses testified that James L. Bowman, who lives near the bridge, had passed some cars before reaching the bridge, and then tried to pass a large truck on the bridge. His car collided with the one driven by Charan. Injuries left Charan paralyzed, and he now resides in a care centre in Michigan. Bowman was named a defendant in the lawsuit, along with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. On its jury verdict form, jurors answered yes to the question of whether the bridge had a defect that created "an unreasonable risk of harm," and also answered yes when asked if the defect helped to cause the accident. Attorneys Danny Vidrine and Todd Comeaux argued that the narrow bridge had no escape area for a driver threatened with a collision. They said the bridge should have been designed with a barrier between cars going in opposite directions, like the Morganza Bridge over U.S. 190, or else built as two separate bridges. Jurors also ruled that DOTD had "actual or constructive knowledge" of the bridge defect, and "had a reasonable time to correct the defect but failed to do so." They also found that Bowman "was negligent in his operation of the vehicle" on the bridge. The jury ruled that Bowman had 70 percent liability and DOTD had 30 percent. Jurors awarded the victim \$5 million for past medical expenses and \$8 million for future medical expenses. They awarded the victim \$350,000 for past lost wages and \$4 million for future lost wages and earning capacity. Witnesses testified that Charan was a good student who hoped to study to become a doctor or dentist. He was also awarded \$4 million for pain, suffering and anguish, and each of his parents was awarded \$1 million for personal loss. Jurors were told that the victim's mother, Bindu Charan, attends to her son at the Michigan facility 16 hours a day while his father works in Canada.

Railway Accidents



AMAGASAKI, JAPAN

London, Apr 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 50 people were killed and about 300 others injured today in western Japan when a morning commuter train derailed, sending one carriage hurtling into an apartment block in the nation's deadliest rail accident in 14 years. The crash was initially attributed to the train hitting a car but authorities later backtracked and said the train's 23-year-old driver may have been speeding or failed to negotiate a

corner. The train was carrying some 580 passengers during the morning rush hour when three of its seven carriages were thrown from the tracks in Amagasaki, a city near Osaka some 300 kilometres west of Tokyo. One smashed into the side of an apartment building and another carriage lay tilted beside it. Emergency crews rushed to the scene to try to cut apart the wreckage to free trapped survivors. West Japan Railway Co. initially said the train crashed when it hit a car but after an initial investigation, it found that the derailment happened about 100 metres before a crossing where a collision could have occurred. "We do not know yet what caused the accident," JR West's President Takeshi Kakiuchi told a news conference. The 23-year-old driver of the train, Ryujiro Takami, had 11 months experience at the job, another senior railway company official said, adding that it was unclear if he had been obeying the area speed limit of 70 kilometres an hour. The driver was seriously hurt but the conductor was cooperating with police trying to piece together the cause of the disaster. Survivors said the train was running late and seemed to be faster than usual.

Amagasaki, Apr 26 -- Japanese police looking for clues to the cause of the country's worst rail crash in more than 40 years raided the offices of the train's operator today as weeping relatives claimed the remains of many of the 73 confirmed dead from a makeshift morgue. Investigations were focusing on the speed at which the crowded train was travelling when it jumped the tracks on the outskirts of the western city of Osaka and smashed into an apartment building just after rush hour yesterday morning. Police investigating for possible professional negligence took away boxes of documents from the offices of West Japan Railway Co. JR West President Takeshi Kakiuchi will resign to take responsibility for the disaster, in which another 440 people were injured, Kyodo news agency quoted a company official as saying. At the accident scene workers were using heavy machinery to take apart and remove one of the cars, while safety investigators inspected and photographed the site. Two women and a man were pulled alive from the wreckage earlier today but even 30 hours after the crash police could not say for sure that all of the dead and injured had been extracted from the mass of crumpled and twisted metal. Investigators said the cause of the crash was still unclear, but survivors among the some 580 passengers, as well as the train's conductor, said they believed the train was going faster than normal after falling behind schedule. The train had overshot the previous station by about 40 metres and had to reverse back to the platform. The driver, a 23-year-old man with 11 months' experience, was retrieved from the wreckage this morning, but a police spokesman could not confirm whether he was alive or

dead. The automatic train stop system in the area was of the oldest type and had no ability to apply automatic brakes if a passing train was going too fast, the Transport Ministry said. JR West said investigators found marks on the tracks of the type left when a train runs over an object such as a stone, but it said it was not clear if this was related to the accident.

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers have pulled three survivors and more bodies from the wreckage of a Japanese train as the death toll rose to 76. Cranes removed train debris wrapped around an apartment building. Three people were confirmed dead late today, some 36 hours after the speeding commuter train jumped the tracks and smashed into an apartment building during the morning rush hour in Amagasaki near Osaka. The search was continuing for a second night so long as hope remained for survivors amid reports that 10 to 20 people could still be trapped under the debris, a fire department spokesman said.

HATORI, IBARAKI PREFECTURE, JAPAN

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: The first car of an 11-car express train derailed today after hitting a trailer unit at a crossing near Hatori Station on the Joban Line in Ibaraki Prefecture, East Japan Railway Co said. No passengers were injured in the 1250 hrs, accident, JR East said. The truck driver sustained minor injuries, according to the police. The Super Hitachi No. 23 express train bound for Iwaki Station in Fukushima Prefecture from Tokyo's Ueno Station braked but ran into the trailer unit which had become stuck on the crossing, according to the police.

KEMPTEN AREA, GERMANY

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A German regional train derailed after colliding with a road-surfacing machine in southern Germany yesterday, killing one person on board, police said. The locomotive's engineer died on site after the collision. The driver of the tar-laying machine was trying to cross the tracks when he saw the train coming but was unable to move the vehicle in time. He jumped from the cab to save his own life. A number of the 53 passengers on board, including several school children, suffered minor scrapes and bruises and were being treated for shock. The train was travelling from Ulm to Lindau on Lake Constance when it hit the tarring machine just north of Kempten at about 1100 hrs. The line was blocked for the rest of the day.

LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg, Apr 25 -- Nine people were killed and 59 hurt when a train hit a bus crossing a railway line in South Africa's northern province of Limpopo, police said today. Superintendent Ailwei Mushavhanamadi, based in the

northern Limpopo town of Thohoyandou, said some of the seriously injured were airlifted by helicopter to five different hospitals. Others were taken by ambulance. "The bus was upside down on the tracks. I have never seen an accident like this before," he said. The driver of the bus, who survived the accident, appeared to have ignored a stop sign and driven across the railway tracks as the freight train approached, he said. No one on the train was injured. -- Reuters.

POLGAHAWELA, SRI LANKA

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 50 people have been killed and at least 40 others injured after a train slammed into a bus on a level crossing in Sri Lanka. The bus was packed with commuters when it was hit by the express train. The accident occurred near the town Polgahawela, 80km north-east of the capital, Colombo. The bus, which was crossing the tracks at a level crossing, caught fire upon impact. The crash happened at 0230, GMT, police officials reported. "They are still bringing in the injured. There are more than 40 injured in the hospital so far," Nalika Bandara, a healthcare officer at Kurunegala government hospital near the crash site told Reuters news agency. Rescue workers are still trying to reach the burned remains of passengers. There were no immediate reports of casualties among the passengers on the train, which was travelling from Colombo to the central hill city of Kandy.

SAMLAYA STATION, GUJARAT STATE, INDIA

London, Apr 22 -- A press report, dated Apr 22, states: Twenty-four people were killed and another 80 seriously injured when a packed Ahmedabad-bound train crashed into a stationary goods train near Vadodara yesterday. At least 432 passengers were travelling in the seven derailed, mangled coaches, one air-conditioned bogey, five second-class sleeper coaches and one general car, when the Sabarmati Express from Varanasi collided with the cargo train at 0300 hrs. Chief minister Narendra Modi and federal Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav as well as his deputy minister from Gujarat, Naran Rathwa, who visited the spot, were told by railway officials that the signalman and his assistant responsible for the mishap were missing.

London, Apr 24 -- A press report, dated Apr 23, states: Six railway officials have been suspended for alleged negligence that led to the fatal train collision in the western Indian state of Gujarat Thursday (Apr 21). The collision between a passenger train and a stationary goods train near the city of Baroda killed 17 people and injured 78, 34 of them seriously. Two of the suspended workers were a signalman at the station and his assistant, a railway official said. India has one of the world's largest rail

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networks but a poor safety record. The chief public relations officer of Western railways, Shailendra Kumar, said the inquiry into the accident started on today at the site at Samlaya station, 30 km from Baroda. The inquiry is by the commissioner of railways safety, who comes under the authority of the ministry of civil aviation. A second railways spokesman, Kamal Kishore Dubey, said that some of the suspended workers could be charged with negligent homicide, a crime that carries a jail term of up to six years. "A faulty point lever setting sent the passenger train to the same track where the freight train was waiting for a signal to leave," said Mr Dubey. The passenger train was en route from the northern holy city of Varanasi to Ahmedabad, Gujarat's main city, when it hit the freight train. Four coaches of the passenger train and the engine of the freight train were derailed.

SPENCER, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Passenger train services in North Carolina is suspended today after a Norfolk Southern freight train derailment near Spencer. The Raleigh-to-Charlotte Piedmont had been cancelled. No alternate transportation will be provided. Passengers travelling on the northbound Carolinian will be bused to Richmond, Virginia, where they will resume regular train service. Travellers using the southbound Carolinian will be bused from Richmond to their ticketed destination in Virginia or North Carolina. The New York to New Orleans Crescent is operating on about a seven-hour delay.

Robberies & Thefts



MICROCHIPS, MALAYSIA

London, Apr 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Chip maker Maxim Integrated Products Inc. late yesterday said that some \$2.2 million worth of untested chips were stolen in Malaysia. Maxim (Sunnyvale, Calif.) said that a truck that was forwarding the company's devices was hijacked in Malaysia on Apr 16. The truck belonged to the NNR line, according to the company. In a statement, the company said it is in the process of notifying the customers for whom these parts were intended. It is offering a reward of \$50,000 for evidence that leads to the arrest and conviction of the responsible parties, including the recovery of the parts. The stolen devices, according to the company, have not gone through Maxim's entire manufacturing process, including final test. "It is therefore possible that using these untested devices in systems could cause the systems to fail," according to

Maxim. "The failure rate could be as high as 30 percent." Maxim said it cannot be responsible for damages caused by the use of any of the stolen units. The part numbers and date codes of the stolen units can be accessed via the Internet. The company also advises against the purchase of the listed devices from any seller other than those approved by the company.

Miscellaneous



AUSTRALIAN WHEAT SHIPMENTS UNDER INVESTIGATION BY IRAQ

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Five shipments of Australian wheat have been prevented from unloading in Iraq, amid claims the United States is pressuring Iraq to stop buying Australian wheat in favour of American grain. The shipments are on hold while officials further investigate claims the wheat is contaminated with iron filings. The Federal Opposition says three ships are sitting off the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr while another two ships have been unloaded in Kuwait. Labour's agriculture spokesman, Gavan O'Connor, has backed claims by former wheat board boss Trevor Flugge that the US is pressuring Iraq to stop buying Australian wheat. "It is my understanding that Mr Flugge's comments are on the mark," Mr O'Connor said. "The Australian market in Iraq is under considerable political pressure. "We don't mind battling it out in this market on the basis of the quality of the product, the price and the supportive arrangements that we provide to the client as an industry. What we won't tolerate is political interference in this very important market to Australian wheat growers." Mr O'Connor is calling for Agriculture Minister Warren Truss, who is in the Middle East, to sort out the stand-off. A spokesman for wheat exporter AWB Limited has confirmed the shipments have been prevented from unloading in Iraq and says talks are continuing between AWB and Iraqi officials. He denies any contamination of the wheat.

Sydney, Apr 28 -- Two partially-discharged grainships caught in a contamination dispute between Iraq and the Australian Wheat Board have diverted to Kuwait to finish unloading, while three more laden vessels are still waiting off the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr. The dispute over contamination by iron filings erupted earlier this month, but the AWB now needs the vessels for other shipments and has completed discharge in Kuwait where 8,000 tonnes of wheat will be put into storage. The Federal Government says it is concerned that the dispute is still unresolved despite assurances on the quality of the grain. -- Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

BLOCKADE OF PORTS BY CANADIAN FISHERMEN

London, Apr 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Angry crab fishermen have blocked oil tanker traffic in Newfoundland's Placentia Bay for the second time in two weeks, after talks with the province failed to resolve a dispute over plant quotas. About 60 boats created a flotilla this morning that blocked shipping lanes in the busy bay, home to North Atlantic's Come-By-Chance oil refinery and the Whiffen Head trans-shipment facility, used for the Hibernia offshore oil project. Bill Broderick, a crab fisherman from St. Brendan's, Nfld., said fishermen are frustrated that the government plans to go ahead with the controversial pilot project over the objections of fishermen. The first protest ended a week ago but subsequent talks with provincial Fisheries Minister Trevor Taylor have gone nowhere, he said. Fishermen did not plan to block other marine traffic but tankers quickly came to a standstill. "There is no tanker traffic in and out of the refinery," said Gloria Slade, spokeswoman for North Atlantic.

London, Apr 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Federal authorities must take action to end a blockade by Newfoundland crab fishermen that is disrupting oil tanker traffic in Placentia Bay, according to the St. John's Board of Trade. Several dozen fishing vessels have taken turns tying up marine traffic in the bay since yesterday morning, blocking tankers from reaching or leaving North Atlantic's Come By Chance oil refinery and the nearby Whiffen Head trans-shipment terminal. Fishermen say they are trying to put pressure on the provincial government to call off a controversial plan to change the regulations for the crab processing industry. The business group, however, says the blockade is a costly disruption to the offshore energy industry. "Delaying vessel traffic, even for just a few hours, has very significant economic impacts on those involved in oil development and shipment," board president Marilyn Thompson said. "Every time that there's a tanker kept in, it's costing about \$80,000 a day, depending on the size of the vessel." Ms. Thompson said the board understands what the fishermen are trying to do, but feels that the blockade is unfair because it is penalizing an industry that has nothing to do with the dispute. Transport Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard and RCMP are monitoring the situation. Transport Canada has broadcast warnings to fishermen that impeding marine traffic - even outside shipping lanes - could net them a fine up to \$100,000. "We are telling them that any vessel to impede navigation or otherwise contribute to an unsafe situation could constitute an offence," Tracey Hennessey, spokeswoman for the department, said today.

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Angry crab fishermen took their fight with the

provincial government to Newfoundland's busiest port today, blocking the entrance to St. John's harbour. However, the protest turned out to be more peaceful than the fishermen had hoped as there were no large vessels scheduled to enter or leave the port today. "We don't have anything scheduled," said Richard McKenzie of the Marine Traffic Centre. Several dozen vessels blocked the narrow approaches to the harbour, while others circled the shipping lanes within. Still others were tied up along the wharfs. The fishermen are trying to pressure the government to abandon a plan for production quotas in their industry. Ralph Critch, a fisherman from St. Mary's, Nfld., said the protest will continue. "We'll have all of Newfoundland closed down within four, five days," Critch said from dock. "Tomorrow there'll be others: Conception Bay and Southern Shore, wherever there's a supply boat or whatever's involved." St. John's is a regular port of call for international fishing, shipping and military vessels. The harbour is home to several cargo terminals, ship maintenance facilities and supply services for the offshore oil industry. It is also home to a Canadian Coast Guard base that has several search and rescue vessels. "We have assurances from the protesters that there will be no interference or blockade of a vessel required to respond to a search and rescue," said Bob Fagan, spokesman for the federal Fisheries Department, which controls the coast guard. Transport Canada, RCMP and the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary were also keeping a close watch on the protest today. The fishermen have likened their blockades to rotating strikes, and have twice blocked oil tanker traffic in eastern Newfoundland's Placentia Bay. The most recent blockade, which blocked marine traffic to the Come By Chance oil refinery and nearby Whiffen Head trans-shipment facility, ended over the weekend.

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The St. John's Port Authority in Newfoundland plans to ask for a court injunction tomorrow to halt a blockade of St. John's Harbour by crab fishermen. Sean Hanrahan, the authority's chief executive officer, said today that the protest cannot be tolerated. Earlier today, at least two vessels broke through a blockade made up of more than 30 crab vessels, escaping a flotilla that has disrupted traffic in the harbour since yesterday morning. A third vessel, tug/supply Maersk Placentia, also tried but failed to get past the crab boats. It got through the Narrows - the famously thin entrance to St. John's Harbour - but then took a sharp turn. Fishing vessels chased it and appeared to prevent it from leaving the area. Meanwhile, demonstrators again managed today to disrupt proceedings at the House of Assembly, a near-daily occurrence since the Easter break. The fishermen are attempting to persuade the provincial government to drop a plan

to assign quotas in the lucrative crab industry directly to plant owners.

London, Apr 28 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Newfoundland crab fishermen interrupted the third day of their protest in St. John's harbour today to surround a Portuguese vessel in what one fisherman described as a "citizen's arrest." Trawler Aveirens, which has been cited for fishing violations just outside Canada's 200-mile jurisdiction in the North Atlantic, arrived in the port city today. For several hours, it was hemmed in by a half dozen fishing vessels after it docked to refuel. After four hours, the crab vessels left Aveirens to resume their blockade at the harbour's narrow entrance. About 50 vessels have been in port since Monday (Apr 25), when they began disrupting marine traffic to protest a provincial government plan to reorganize the crab industry. Earlier, fishermen blocked an offshore supply vessel outside the harbour for several hours. The vessel eventually entered the harbour. Several vessels have cancelled stops in St. John's to avoid similar blockages.

CARGO DISPUTE, BUNBURY, AUSTRALIA

London, Apr 28 -- A press report from LaSalle, dated Apr 26, states: Overcrowding issues at the port of Bunbury in south-west Western Australia have delayed a trial shipment of Collie coal bound for lucrative Asian markets by privately-owned miner Griffin Coal. The 65,000-tonne shipment, which was supposed to leave two weeks ago, has become embroiled in controversy. Woodchip exporter Hansol PI claims the Bunbury Port Authority would breach a state agreement if it loaded the coal using the facilities it leased. Hansol PI, which is 50 per cent owned by Korean giant Hansol, claimed dust left on conveyor belts from loading the coal would contaminate its woodchips, putting at risk a multi-million-dollar contract with Japanese pulping giant Mitsubishi Paper Mills. It announced on Friday (Apr 22) it would appeal a Supreme Court decision two weeks ago not to grant an injunction on the shipment. If unsuccessful, Hansol PI will be in the bizarre position of having to rely on the goodwill of its competitor, Japanese-owned WA Plantation Resources, to load its next shipment of woodchips in 10 weeks. Bunbury Port Authority chairman Jim Brosnan has maintained that using WA Plantation Resources facilities across the harbour would be the best short-term solution for Hansol PI, until a \$100 million coal berth is built. The BPA would fund "all reasonable costs" associated with trucking the chips across the harbour, including funding a \$600,000 hopper at its woodchip mill. "We have been given undertakings from Premier Geoff Gallop that any move will be cost-neutral to our company," Hansol managing director Gary Inions said. Sources said the coal shipment could be loaded to leave Bunbury next week.

COLLAPSE OF CONSTRUCTION CRANE, SANIBEL CAUSEWAY, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A construction worker died and another was injured Monday (Apr 25) when a large crane setting up a 165-foot concrete piling came crashing down near the Sanibel Causeway. Officials identified the man who died as Kent A. Crappell, 54, of Morgan City, La., and the injured man as John T. Collins, 57, of Carabelle. The pair worked for Boh Bros. Construction Co. based in New Orleans. The accident happened shortly before 1330 hrs as the crane operator on a barge attempted to set up a concrete piling to be hammered into the ground next to the causeway. Another crane was already pounding a piling nearby. John Izzie, 67, a captain with Sea Tow who watched the accident from the boat launch at Punta Rassa, said the crane operator appeared to have trouble lining up the piling, which is used to support the bridge. "When it started to lean, he was racing the engine on the crane, but he was losing the battle," Izzie said. "All of a sudden, it started to go over." The crane and leads followed, crashing across three barges holding two other cranes. A piece of the boom smashed across a tug docked at one of the barges. Another section of the crane fell partly in the water. The crane fell near the first span of the bridge about 500 feet west of the toll booth on the mainland. Work has been halted on the \$122 million project to replace the causeway. It is not clear when construction will begin again, although crews may start working on other sections on the causeway before resuming at the accident scene, said Paul Wingard, deputy director of the Lee County Department of Transportation. Boh Bros. is the primary subcontractor for Jacobs Construction Services Inc. Inspectors for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration will arrive today. Investigators with the Lee County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Coast Guard are working together to figure out what caused the accident. Detectives spent hours Monday interviewing some of the 50 people who work on the construction project. The Coast Guard also has imposed a no-wake zone in the area for the next two days.

London, Apr 27 -- A Lee County Department of Transportation, press release, dated Fort Myers, Apr 26, states: The Sanibel Causeway crane accident occurred at approximately 1330 Monday south of the drawbridge in the vicinity of the toll plaza. The crane, a Manitowoc 4100, was engaged in securing a concrete piling and was readying the piling to continue the pile driving operation. Two cranes were operating in the vicinity of drawbridge, lifting and driving piles on land. One crane was stationed on land and the crane involved with the accident was stationed on a barge next to the recently constructed steel sheet pile serving as a temporary sea wall.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Coast Guard are conducting a joint investigation of the accident, as is Boh Brothers to do everything possible to incident that this incident will not occur again. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) began their investigation today. They have a multi-step investigative process that includes the data collection phase, field investigations and report preparation. The investigation may take up to six months to complete. The accident may delay this phase of the project for approximately one month. Boh Brothers will begin dismantling the crane upon completion of field investigations which could occur in the next week. Additional cranes are on site that will allow project work to continue in the near future.

FLOODED COAL MINE, JIAOHE, CHINA

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ten rescue workers searching for 30 miners trapped in a flooded coal pit in north-eastern China have been taken to hospital with carbon monoxide poisoning, state media reported. The rescuers were in stable condition after breathing the fumes at the Tengda mine in Jilin province's Jiaohe city, Xinhua news agency said. Thirty-nine miners were rescued yesterday after water gushed in from a neighbouring shaft. Thirty others are still missing, Xinhua said.

FLOODING OF COAL MINE, JIAOHE, JILIN PROVINCE, CHINA

Beijing, Apr 24 -- Flooding has trapped 69 miners underground in China's north-eastern Jilin Province, the official Xinhua news agency reported today, in the latest accident to hit the world's deadliest mining industry. The miners have been out of contact since the flood in the Tengda mine in Jiaohe city in the early morning Chinese time, the agency quoted local sources saying. Urgent rescue operations were under way and the cause of the accident is being investigated. -- Reuters.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Apr 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 20-year-old Cambodian woman who was rushed to a Vietnamese hospital with suspected bird flu, died on Wednesday (Apr 20), the World Health Organisation (WHO) said. The woman from Kampot province had been taken across the nearby Vietnamese border suffering a high fever and respiratory problems, symptoms of the H5N1 virus that has killed 51 people in Asia, Vietnam's "Tuoi Tre" newspaper said.

OUTBREAK OF MARBURG VIRUS, ANGOLA

Luanda, Apr 23 -- Angola is at a critical stage in its fight against an outbreak of the deadly Marburg virus and must step up its drive to bring the disease under control, the UN World

Health Organisation (WHO) said today. "The chain of transmission is being broken as we speak but this is the most critical time in terms of response. We need to be even more intense over the coming days," Mike Ryan, the head of WHO's alert and response operations, told a teleconference. Angolan officials said they were flying in more local medical staff to work with international teams battling the Ebola-like virus in hopes of regaining the trust of a scared and suspicious population. Some residents of Uige province -- the centre of the Marburg outbreak that has killed 244 people -- have stoned WHO vehicles and spread rumours that foreigners brought the virus into the area. "It was crucial for us to increase the number of Angolans in the team," deputy Health Minister Jose Van Dunem said in the capital Luanda. "We need to improve people's confidence and trust in the health community." He said Marburg was under control and restricted to the one province, although there were a handful of cases elsewhere among travellers who had returned from the region. Laboratory tests had shown some cases previously thought to be Marburg were not, bringing the total number of known cases down to 264 from 266 on Thursday (Apr 21), he said. In Uige, the WHO was not willing to describe the outbreak as contained but said both attacks on its workers and the number of new cases were dropping. "We're moving back into areas we'd pulled out of because of tension," said WHO spokesman Dave Daigle by telephone. "People are still dying but the numbers are falling off." Pierre Formenty, the WHO's top expert on hemorrhagic fevers like Ebola and Marburg, said doctors were tracking about 300 people believed to have had contact with Marburg victims but that on the whole the picture was improving. However, he said officials remained concerned about undetected pockets of the virus and about the possibility that it could spread as traditional healers offer injections -- sometimes with unhygienic needles -- that local people believe may protect them from infection. Around Uige, teams continue to go out to local communities to persuade families not to care for the sick at home. Many victims contracted the disease through treating sick relatives or preparing their bodies for burial. Angolan health workers who speak Portuguese or local languages will help in this process, Van Dunem said, and the WHO said it would welcome their arrival. "We need all the help we can get," said Daigle. "Some of them are already helping out with infection control and with the surveillance teams. And they will learn new skills that they can use next time." -- Reuters.

VESSELS FROM CHINA QUARANTINED AT CANADIAN PORTS

London, Apr 23 -- General cargo Ibis Arrow arrived Puerto Quetzal Apr 20.

London, Apr 26 -- General cargo Saga Morus departed Fraser River 0350, Apr 24, for Vancouver, where it arrived 0710, Apr 24.

Fires & Explosions



ARMOURY, LAGOS, NIGERIA

London, Apr 27 -- A report from LaSalle, PQ, states: A press report, dated Apr 23, states: Security at the port of Apapa-Lagos may have been jeopardised following the fire incident which gutted the armoury of the Police Command within the Port Complex. The fire incident, which started about 0715 hrs, according to an eyewitness account, was caused by an overheating in the armoury. It was gathered that the fire incident started from where the Command keeps tear-gas. The incident was first noticed by the officer in charge of the armoury, who quickly alerted other officers and fire fighters. A source said that the fire incident was put out 45 minutes later by the fire fighting service of the Nigerian Ports Authority. The extent of damage to the armoury and value of the arms and ammunition could not be immediately ascertained but it was confirmed that no life was lost in the incident. A source close to the Police Command disclosed that efforts were on yesterday afternoon to reach Apapa Police Station for assistance in terms of providing arms and ammunition for the security of the ports.

BUSHFIRES, JAMAICA

London, Apr 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: The cost of the damage done to Jamaica's agriculture sector from the recent drought and bush fires has been estimated at more than Jam\$270 million (£2.3 million), a report by the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) said. Albert Shand, executive director of RADA, told "Farmers Weekly" that the report, which has just been completed, indicated that more than 14,000 farmers and more than 2,000 hectares of farm land were affected. He said the report was still being reviewed. The parishes worst affected were St. Elizabeth, St. Thomas, Clarendon, Trelawny and Portland. Cabinet earlier this month had approved Jam\$40 million to assist farmers affected by the drought and bush fires. This is in addition to the Jam\$12 million that was allocated the month before to assist with the distribution of water in the affected areas. Information Minister, Senator Burchell Whiteman, said that a portion of the money would be given to the rapid response unit and the remainder to RADA to assist farmers. He said the allocation was made based on "increased reports of a water shortage and bush fires, as well as queries to the Ministry of Land and

Environment regarding the ongoing drought, (which) indicate that these matters continue to be of grave concern to the entire nation." However, Mr Shand said on Thursday (Apr 21): "We haven't got anything like that so far, all we have got is \$3 million, which we have already given out." He said he had not been formally informed of the amount to be given to RADA for distribution to affected farmers.

CHEMICAL PLANT, CHONGQING, CHINA

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Twelve people are confirmed dead after a blast at a chemical plant in south-west China, while seven more are still unaccounted for. The blast destroyed a three-storey building in the outskirts of the industrial city of Chongqing. China's official Xinhua news agency said debris had been found 80 m from the scene. It is not known what caused the blast, which occurred on Thursday (Apr 21), and an investigation is under way.

COAL MINE, GEDIZ AREA, TURKEY

London, Apr 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: A gas explosion has brought down a mining shaft in western Turkey, trapping about 20 miners, reports say. Two workers were rescued, according to the Anatolia news agency, but fires prevented rescuers reaching the others. The mine where the accident happened is about 30km from Gediz in the western province of Kutahya.

London, Apr 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Officials in Turkey say all 17 workers trapped after a gas explosion in a coal mine in the country's west have died. The 16 miners and an engineer were trapped in a gallery about 300 metres underground, after the explosion caused a cave-in and sparked a fire. Two slightly injured workers were rescued from the state-run mine after the explosion. "The bodies are badly charred," said an official in Gediz, where the explosion happened. He said that authorities were trying to lead the grieving families of the victims away before removing the bodies from the mine. A specialised search-and-rescue team, flown to the site on a helicopter, managed to enter the gallery only after the fire was extinguished.

COAL MINE, HENAN PROVINCE, CHINA

Beijing, Apr 24 -- Eight miners were killed and four were missing after a machine caught fire in a coal mine shaft in China's Henan province, the official Xinhua news agency reported today. The colliery was supposed to be undergoing maintenance when the fire broke out early yesterday evening and no one should have been working underground, Xinhua quoted local police saying. When the blaze began 79 miners were underground and 67 escaped. -- Reuters.

COALMINE, LAC THUY, HOA BINH PROVINCE, VIETNAM

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Six people have been killed in an explosion at a private coalmine in northern Vietnam, local police said today. The blast occurred yesterday at a mine in Lac Thuy district in Hoa Binh Province, about 90 kilometres south-east of Hanoi, the police said. When the explosion occurred, six miners were working 28 metres underground and they were all killed, a district policeman said. Initial investigations showed that the explosion was caused by methane gas, the policeman said. It took local authorities five hours to find and remove the bodies from the tunnel, according to the police.

FACTORY, ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Apr 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 60 firefighters battled a river of "liquid fire" as a blaze gutted storage facilities at Exacto Plastic's Beverley site yesterday, causing up to \$6 million damage. The South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service called a third alarm as crews faced exploding LPG and diesel cylinders after the fire began about 0230 hrs. The toxic blaze took 50 firefighters almost three hours to contain. Exacto Plastic's general operations manager Graham Eagles said employees had formed a crisis committee by 0330 hrs and production had continued yesterday as usual. The company supplies parts to Holden and Mitsubishi.

FACTORY, CHAMBISHI, ZAMBIA

Chambishi, Apr 21 -- Officials looking for the cause of a blast at a Zambian mine that killed 51 people said today their probe was made more difficult because everyone inside the explosives factory where it occurred died. Mangled pieces of metal littered the factory, as Chambishi came to grips with one of Zambia's worst-ever industrial accidents. Rescue workers carefully moved blocks, soot and glass to see whether they could recover any more bodies or body parts -- crucial in the deeply traditional southern African country where all parts of a corpse must be buried together. "The death count has climbed to 51. We do not believe that anyone inside the blast area survived," said Wang Aide, managing director of the Chinese-owned Bgrimm Explosives Plant, on the premises of Chambishi copper mine, 250 miles north of Lusaka. Bgrimm is a major supplier of explosives for Chambishi, owned by China's NFC Mining Africa Plc, and other copper mines in Zambia. Zambian officials said they had ordered the confiscation of the passports of Wang and other senior Chinese managers at Bgrimm pending an investigation to determine the blast's cause. An eyewitness said yesterday that four of those who died were standing more than 100 metres away from the plant when the blast occurred. Chambishi mine officials

said mining operations were not affected by the accident but the disaster was a major blow to Bgrimm's workforce, which comprises 60 permanent staff and as many as 100 contract workers. -- Reuters.

FACTORY, COBOURG, ONTARIO, CANADA

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire erupted at a plastics factory this afternoon in Cobourg, Ont. At least four nearby fire departments joined to assist Cobourg firefighters at the massive blaze, about 100 kilometres east of Toronto. The mayor of Cobourg declared a state of emergency, and an evacuation order forced local businesses to empty for the afternoon. The fire was fanned by winds of 70 km an hour and burned out of control for several hours. The fire erupted at Horizon Plastics. Lee Wigmore, an insurance appraiser, was a witness to the start of the fire. He heard reports that the incident started with a car fire, then to a nearby truck, and then to the plastics factory. Wigmore said about 200 people work at the plant and the fire would probably result in some job losses.

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ontario government scientists were testing the quality of Cobourg's air and water today after a massive seven-hour blaze at a plastics plant that blanketed the town in thick, black smoke. Residents have nothing to fear from the quality of the air they're breathing, Environment Minister Leona Dombrowsky said before the Liberal government's weekly cabinet meeting. Scientists were conducting biological testing and taking ground samples to determine the environmental impact of the fire and the noxious smoke it generated. Officials in Cobourg lifted an evacuation order after firefighters contained the blaze, but the community was to remain under a state of emergency until some time this afternoon. Businesses in the industrial park where Horizon Plastics is located, as well as two nearby schools, were evacuated as at least four fire departments, including Cobourg's, battled the blaze into the early evening. There were no reports of injuries. The cause of the fire was not immediately known.

FACTORY, GLASGOW, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Apr 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: An exclusion zone has been set up around a plastics factory where an explosion killed one man and injured five others. The blast happened last Friday (Apr 15) at James G Carrick & Co plastics and metal plant in Glasgow's Springburn area. A 60-metre perimeter fence has been erected while the building is checked and machines similar to the one that exploded are being examined. A police spokeswoman said the machines could still pose a safety risk. She said: "The initial investigation of the site revealed that a machine within the factory had given rise to

the explosion. Similar machines need to be examined and while remote, there is a possibility that other plant and machinery in the factory may give rise to a risk. A precautionary exclusion zone will be set up around the factory, including an adjacent business and playing fields, to secure the site and keep the public away." Experts from the Royal Logistics Corp EOD Bomb Disposal Unit will examine and make safe the plant and machinery by remote means. The spokeswoman said there was no danger to the public and said the measures were being taken to ensure the safety of inquiry personnel during the onsite investigation process.

FACTORY, GWALIOR, MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated Apr 25, states: At least three people were killed in an explosion, which ripped through a fireworks factory in Gwalior today. The factory owner Nandkishore with his family was busy preparing orders for a marriage ceremony, when the sudden explosion killed him on the spot and later his two daughters, who suffered 99 percent burns. "He was completing orders for a marriage party and suddenly the firecrackers caught fire and he was killed," said an eyewitness.

FOREST, VIETNAM

London, Apr 24 -- Over 100 hectares of natural forests at the Cat Tien National Park in Tan Phu district, southern Dong Nai province, were destroyed by a forest fire which lasted from Apr 18-20. Soon after the fire began, the local firefighting forces and people in the surrounding communes of Nam Cat Tien and Dac Lua were mobilised to put out the fire and prevent it from spreading. Although the fire was finally conquered, there is a danger of another fire breaking out due to the smouldering of rotten wood on the ground. The firefighting forces are trying their best to completely stamp out the smouldering.

GODOWN, RAHIMYAR KHAN, SINDH PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Apr 24 -- A huge fire broke out in the godown of Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) at Rahimyar Khan in Sindh Province, Pakistan, last night. A spokesman for the state-owned corporation told local media this afternoon that, as a result, over a thousand bales of cotton worth million of rupees were burnt to ashes. The fire was controlled by a large number of firefighting units called from Rahimyar Khan, Sadiqabad and Khanpur airport after hectic efforts lasting fifteen hours. A committee has been formed to ascertain the loss and cause of fire. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

MARINA AND BOATS, POLK COUNTY, TENNESSEE, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated Apr 25, states: Over a dozen

boats are destroyed after fire ripped through a marina this afternoon in Polk County, Tennessee. Tennessee Bomb and Arson are investigating what caused the fire at Lake Ocoee Inn Marina located off Highway 64. According to fire officials, the fire began with an explosion and ended hours later in ashes and ruin. The fire began in the middle of a marina, feeding on the fuel of the boats that once docked there, but fire did not completely destroy the entire marina. A US forestry service helicopter made several trips to the fire, dousing the flames with buckets of water. Fire fighters battled the blaze with hoses on land and on boat. They were able to contain the fire to one section of the marina. Only 80 yards of the dock was damaged. The explosion sent one person to the hospital with minor injuries. Hamilton County's Haz Mat team along with the EPA are cleaning up the contaminants in the water.

NATURE RESERVE, NORTHLAND, NEW ZEALAND

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire that swept through about 100ha of a Northland reserve has been brought under control, the Department of Conservation said today. The fire broke out yesterday morning at Puwheke Recreational Reserve, on Karikari peninsula, north of Kaitaia. It was brought under control last night and DOC fire crews from Kaitaia, the Bay of Islands and Whangarei were back in the area this morning dampening down hot spots, spokeswoman Carolyn Smith said. Ms Smith said the fire's impact on the environment was still to be assessed. The vegetation was mainly manuka shrubland, gorse and grass, with a scattering of pohutukawa. Puwheke was also home to a variety of native birds including New Zealand dotterels, fernbirds, caspian terns, marsh crakes and shags, and to the native freshwater black mudfish.

PREMISES, HEFEI, ANHUI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters raced to extinguish an alcohol plant fire in Hefei, Anhui Province, Apr 25. The fire started at about 1900 yesterday and several explosions occurred during the fire. At least seven people were rushed to local hospitals for injury treatment. Several thousands residents nearby were evacuated for safety consideration. The fire was put out about three hours later and the cause is under investigation.

PREMISES, TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Apr 25 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Several shop units on a complex have been destroyed in a fire in Telford which is being treated as suspicious, police have said. Officers were called to the parade of shops and businesses in Gatcombe Way in Priorslee early this morning. The Londis store, the

Priorslee Fish bar and a vacant unit were destroyed and the adjoining Priorslee Medical Practice was damaged by smoke. The scene is being investigated by the fire service and police. A police spokesperson said: "This is a serious fire which we are treating as suspicious."

REFINERY, NIKISKI, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 23 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire at Tesoro Alaska's Nikiski oil refinery left one production unit that produces jet fuel shut down. The unit will be down for an unknown period of time, said Steve Hansen, vice president of refining for Tesoro. The fire was small and happened in an isolated area, Hansen said, adding there were no injuries and that it was not necessary to evacuate employees. There was no significant damage to the plant, he said. Hansen said the cause of the fire is unknown. The refinery has about 178 employees. The fire occurred just after 1100 hrs. Tesoro's fire brigade and the Nikiski Fire Department responded to the fire. The fire department responded with five units and 17 firefighters. No flames were showing when the fire department arrived, said Warren Isham, assistant fire chief for the department. Tesoro's Nikiski refinery is capable of producing up to 70,000 barrels per day of crude oil. Jet fuel, diesel and gasoline are produced at the refinery. Hansen said about 65,000 barrels per day of crude oil were produced yesterday.

WAREHOUSE, LEBANON, MISSOURI, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Using water ferried from the city limits in tanker trucks, firefighters spent seven hours early yesterday battling a warehouse fire fuelled by a stock of home furnishings and electronics. By noon, however, the building in Lebanon was little more than a blackened husk. "It's 22,000 square feet, and it's gone," said Kathy Windsor, co-owner of National TV Sales & Rental. The Lebanon warehouse served as the company's main receiving and storage site, she said, as well as containing the central offices. "We were getting ready for a new promotion, so we had a lot of (stock) getting ready to go out," Windsor said. Lebanon Fire Chief Sam Schneider said firefighters from more than 20 area fire districts responded to the blaze, which began shortly after midnight. The fire had already spread through much of the warehouse when they arrived, focusing their efforts on the building's exterior. "The nearest hydrant was a couple miles away at the city limit of Lebanon," Schneider said, but a steady flow of tanker trucks to and from the burning building kept the effort running smoothly. Schneider could not comment on the cause of the fire, and the fire marshal investigating the case was not available. Windsor said the amount of damage caused by the fire

had yet to be determined. She hoped fire insurance would cover most of the loss.

WAREHOUSE, LIVERPOOL, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters spent more than seven hours battling a fire at a warehouse in Liverpool, New York, yesterday. The fire broke out yesterday afternoon at the waste management and recycle centre on Steelway Boulevard North, off Morgan Road. No one was inside the building and there were no injuries. Thick black smoke poured out of the building for several hours. Fire crews say the building was full of recyclables like bottles, cans and paper, which is why there was so much smoke. A helicopter was called in to help fight the fire. The extensive smoke forced firefighters outside. The flames were still going well after dark and crews say they expect to be at the scene through the night. The smoke was not toxic but fire officials did ask those living in the area to keep their windows closed as a precaution. There is no indication yet of the cause of the fire.

WILDFIRES, MEXICO

Mexico City, Apr 26 -- Wildfires have consumed over 10,000 hectares of forest and are still burning out of control near the city of Guadalajara. Schools in Guadalajara were closed today and will remain so tomorrow as smoke from the fires blew over the city. -- Reuters.

WORKSHOP, QIJIANG COUNTY, CHONGQING, CHINA

London, Apr 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Nineteen workers were missing and feared dead after an explosion at a chemical workshop in south-west China destroyed the three-storey building, state media reported today. The blast occurred at the Dongxi Chemical Plant in Qijiang county, Chongqing municipality. Ten workers were injured, the Xinhua news agency said. The building was razed with debris found up to 80 metres away. An investigation into the cause of the explosion was under way, Xinhua said.



ACCIDENT, KABUL AIRPORT, AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Apr 25 -- A cargo aircraft swerved off the runway at Kabul airport and caught fire today, slightly injuring five crew members, an Afghan aviation official said. The Russian-made Antonov An-12 skidded just after landing in the Afghan capital, said airport director, Mohammad Qasim Jarar. Heavy rain was falling at the time. "Five of its six crew have been slightly hurt. The tyres of the

plane were burnt too but fire-fighters have managed to extinguish the fire," he said. The aircraft was arriving from Dubai with cargo for an aid agency, he said. The cause of the accident and the extent of damage to the aircraft were not clear, he said. -- Reuters.

C-CYVV

London, Apr 21 -- At 1030, Apr 20, Regina Flying Club Cessna 172, C-CYVV, was being used to inspect power lines for the Sask Power Corporation, when the aircraft struck a feeder line that joined the main transmission lines, two nautical miles north of Congress, Saskatchewan. The aircraft struck the ground and was substantially damaged. The three occupants sustained minor injuries.

C-FWJE

London, Apr 27 -- Privately registered Piper PA-24-250, C-FWJE, was taxiing from the ramp at Thunder Bay to a maintenance facility after landing with the landing gear manually extended at 1639, EDT, Apr 22, when the landing gear retracted with the aircraft in motion and the aircraft was substantially damaged. There were no injuries. Reportedly the landing gear cable had seized.

C-GOMG

London, Apr 21 -- At 0900, Apr 20, Piper PA-34-200, C-GOMG, operated by Pacific Flying Club, landed at Boundary Bay, BC with the gear in the retracted position. The student and instructor were practicing a one-engine-out landing and did not extend the landing gear. There were no injuries but the aircraft was substantially damaged.

CRASH, ARDECHE REGION, FRANCE

London, Apr 25 -- A press report, dated Apr 23, states: The pilot and a passenger died in the crash of their small aircraft on a flight between Germany and southern France today, police said. The single-engine aircraft which was headed to Aubenas in the Ardeche region went down between the towns of Rochecolombe and Saint Germain. It disappeared from radar screens early in the afternoon. The wreckage was spotted around 1445, GMT.

CRASH, COMOX, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

London, Apr 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: A small cargo plane crashed today at CFB Comox on Vancouver Island, killing the two pilots aboard. The pilots' names have not been released. Authorities say the twin-engine Piper Navaho came down just shy of the runway around 0730 hrs. The plane was attempting to make an emergency landing. Transportation Safety Board spokesperson Bill Yearwood says it appears an engine fire aboard the plane may have caused the fatal accident. Investigators from the

Transportation Safety Board have been called in to examine the charred wreckage. The Transportation Safety Board, the RCMP, and Canadian Forces are all conducting investigations into the crash.

CRASH, FESTUS MEMORIAL AIRPORT, JEFFERSON COUNTY, UNITED STATES

See N45522.

CRASH, MELBOURNE AREA, AUSTRALIA

London, Apr 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: A man died when the light aircraft he was flying crashed in a paddock east of Melbourne today. The Cessna 150 Aerobat was badly damaged when it went down in a paddock near the Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road, at Badger Creek. People at a nearby property heard the aircraft going down and called for help about 1020, AEST. A spokeswoman for the Metropolitan Ambulance Service said when paramedics arrived they found that the aircraft had been wrecked in the crash. A spokesman for the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) said Cessna 150 Aerobats were usually used for training and aerobatics and could carry two people. But today the pilot of the crashed aircraft was alone when it went down. Police and firefighters are at the scene while ATSB officers are on their way and will carry out an investigation into the cause of the crash.

CRASH, NORTH HAMPTON AREA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, UNITED STATES

See N8251F.

CRASH, PIARCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

London, Apr 24 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Beleaguered airbridge operator Tobago Express resumed flights yesterday. Civil Aviation Authority officials cleared one of the airline's five Dash-8 300 aircraft for resumption of commercial operations between Trinidad and Tobago yesterday. It followed the grounding of all Tobago Express aircraft on Monday (Apr 18) after one Dash-8 was forced into an emergency landing at Piarco when its nose landing-gear failed to engage.

CRASH, SOUTHURRY, CONNECTICUT, UNITED STATES

See N3810X.

CRASH, TENDE AREA, FRANCE

London, Apr 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: A helicopter carrying several people crashed today near Tende, south-eastern France, France's news channel TF1 reported. Firefighters were immediately sent to the scene, near the town of Tende, in the Alps near the border with Italy. According to the rescuers, the exact number of passengers aboard the helicopter is still unknown.

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

**CRASH, TOYOOKA,
HYOGO PREFECTURE, JAPAN**

London, Apr 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: A light plane crashed in a field near Tajima airport in Toyooka, Hyogo Prefecture, this morning, killing its pilot, police said. Takahiro Iwasaki was believed to have been conducting aerobatic flight training and the police are investigating, they said.

**EMERGENCY LANDING AT SEA
OFF MONTSERRAT**

London, Apr 28 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Montserrat police rescued a Canadian pilot who said he was forced to make an emergency landing at sea after his small aircraft developed engine trouble. He sustained minor injuries. James Satterwaite of Toronto was flying from Barbados to the island of Nevis for a refuelling stop Tuesday when his Cessna 185 Amphibian aircraft malfunctioned, forcing him to make an emergency landing about eight kilometres north-west of Montserrat, a British territory in the eastern Caribbean. A helicopter radioed air traffic controllers in Montserrat that an aircraft was in the water, and authorities dispatched the island's marine police. Satterwaite said he managed to escape through the aircraft's luggage compartment door after the main door jammed. The pilot was treated for bruises. The aircraft is believed to have sunk.

**EMERGENCY LANDING,
DENVER INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT, COLORADO,
UNITED STATES**

London, Apr 28 -- A press report, dated Apr 27, states: A Frontier Airlines aircraft had to make an emergency landing after mechanics working on the jet forgot to replace a critical part. The Federal Aviation Administration confirms that on Friday (Apr 22), aircraft number 313 took off from Denver headed for Oakland. There were no passengers on board. Just a few minutes into the flight, warning lights came on telling the pilots they were losing oil pressure. They turned the aircraft around and returned to DIA. It turns out the aircraft had just undergone a "bore inspection" at the airport and the crew forgot the oil-plug. Investigators said that without oil the aircraft's engines would have only been able to operate for about 60 minutes. The flight from Colorado to California is roughly two hours. The aircraft was empty because it was a lease-return being flown back to its owner in the Bay area. Frontier said that it is taking the incident very seriously and an active investigation is underway. The airline has a spotless safety record since it began flying in 1994.

**EMERGENCY LANDING,
DURBAN INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Apr 23 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: KwaZulu-Natal finance MEC Zweli Mkhize escaped unhurt when the aircraft in which he

was travelling made an emergency landing at Durban International Airport last night. Mkhize was travelling with his wife and bodyguard when the incident happened, premier S'bu Ndebele said today. Mkhize, who was on a trip to northern KwaZulu-Natal, left Durban International Airport at 2030 hrs and was scheduled to land at his destination at 2110 hrs. The pilot could not land as the aircraft's wheels would not descend, an African National Congress senior official said. The aircraft returned to Durban International Airport where it finally made an emergency landing a few hours later, he said.

**EMERGENCY LANDING,
HONDARRIBIA AIRPORT, SPAIN**

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Fifty-nine passengers and four crew members in an Iberia aircraft were evacuated due to a fire at a Basque airport. The passengers, who escaped unscathed, have been taken to the airport of Bilbao by road to catch different flights. The 59 passengers were evacuated in the evening from an Iberia aircraft that linked the coastal city of Hondarribia, 10 kilometres away from San Sebastian, and Madrid. A fire broke out when the aircraft had just taken off due to the presence of some birds in the engine. At 1710 hrs, when the craft was already flying, the captain informed passengers about a fire emergency. The aircraft went back to the airport, which activated the alert and the passengers and crew members left the aircraft. Firemen extinguished the fire using foam and Iberia has taken the passengers to Bilbao by road, where they will catch other flights. The incident has also affected another flight of the company Air Nostrum coming from Madrid that was to land when the incident took place.

**EMERGENCY LANDING,
ST JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND,
CANADA**

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: An aircraft developed a crack in a windshield while it was halfway across the Atlantic, forcing it to make an emergency landing in St. John's. About 360 passengers were stranded in the city after the Air Transat Airbus landed today. The flight was on its way to Paris from Montreal when a windshield developed a small crack. The damaged aircraft underwent temporary repairs in Newfoundland and flew out later in the afternoon without any passengers. The passengers were to fly out in the evening on two jets sent from Montreal.

EP-SHE

London, Apr 25 -- Boeing 707, EP-SHE, operator Saha Air, with 12 crew and 157 passengers on board, after touchdown on runway 29L, Tehran-Mehrabad Airport it had problems with the undercarriage, failure of a landing gear or tyre burst, which caused the aircraft to slide off the runway into the

Kan River at 2205, Apr 20. Three passengers were killed after they fell in the river during the evacuation. The aircraft is a "write-off."

HC-CDA

London, Apr 25 -- Fokker F-28 Fellowship 4000, HC-CDA, operator ICARO, touched down six metres short of runway 15/33, Coca Airport, Ecuador, and struck the raised lip of the runway threshold at approximately 0955, Apr 7. The port main gear collapsed, causing the plane to skid for 450 metres before coming to rest. It veered to port and hit the wall of a company building. There were five crew and 60 passengers on board. There were no fatalities. The aircraft sustained substantial damage.

**INCIDENT AT DON MUANG
AIRPORT, THAILAND**

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thailand and Singapore have agreed to suspend the pilots of the two airliners involved in a ground accident at Don Muang international airport Apr 19 after an initial investigation found them guilty of recklessness. Deputy Transport Minister Phumtham Vej Jayachai said the probe found that the Boeing 777 of Singapore Airlines (SIA) was parked 194.4 metres beyond the holding line at its parking bay while waiting for the Hong Kong-bound Airbus 330 of Thai Airways International (THAI) to taxi prior to takeoff. But the Thai pilot also miscalculated the distance between the two aircraft, causing his aircraft to scratch the Boeing, he said. The Thai aircraft lost its right wingtip while the SIA aircraft sustained a damaged aileron. Mr Phumtham said the accident was considered serious since such recklessness could result in great damage and loss if no measures were enforced to prevent a recurrence. Both Thailand and Singapore agreed with the initial finding. A joint committee of their aviation authorities would be set up to come up with a final and formal conclusion soon, he said. "At this stage, the pilots on both sides (whose names are being withheld) have been suspended. They will undergo flight aptitude tests and also additional aviation training," Mr Phumtham said. Chaisak Angsuwan, director-general of Thailand's Aviation Department, said no legal action has been taken against the two pilots so far.

**INCIDENT AT NARITA AIRPORT,
JAPAN**

London, Apr 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: A China Eastern Airlines aircraft was stranded on a runway at Narita airport today after the tyres on all four wheels on the main wings apparently blew out during landing, the transport ministry's Narita airport office said. No one was injured in the 1915 hrs accident involving Flight 271 from Beijing with 73 crew members and passengers aboard, the office of the Land, Infrastructure and Transport Ministry said. The aircraft was an Airbus A320.

INCIDENT AT TEHRAN, IRAN

See EP-SHE.

N215LF

London, Apr 28 -- Aircraft MFG & Development CH 2000, N215LF, owned by Coyote Aviation Inc, made a hard landing at Panhandle, Texas, at 1830, Apr 25. Vessel sustained substantial damage. No injuries.

N2AK

London, Apr 22 -- Cessna T210N (Centurion II), N2AK, crashed on landing at Glacier Park International Airport, Kalispell, Montana, at 2117, Apr 20, following a flight from Spokane, Washington. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were seriously injured.

N3810X

London, Apr 22 -- Beechcraft Bonanza A36TC, N3810X, crashed near Southbury, Connecticut, at 2003, Apr 20, while on a flight from Cuyahoga, Ohio, to Providence, Rhode Island. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was not injured.

N45522

London, Apr 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Bad weather may have been a factor in a fatal plane crash in Festus, Missouri yesterday afternoon. Police say Rodney Forbes of Mexico, Missouri, took off from the Festus airport about 1700 hrs, in a single engine Cessna. A short time later, Forbes turned the plane around. When he tried to land the plane it flipped, then crashed next to the runway. Forbes was pronounced dead at the scene. A passenger Dan Varnell from Texas was in serious, but stable condition at St. John's Mercy Medical Centre yesterday night. The Festus airport director says winds were gusting yesterday afternoon up to 60 miles per hour. The Federal Aviation Administration will be in Festus this morning to begin their investigation.

London, Apr 22 -- Cessna 150M, N45522, crashed near Festus, Missouri, at 2217, Apr 20. One of the two persons on board was killed and the other was injured.

N50KV

London, Apr 27 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A small aircraft crash landed and burst into flames this evening at Gwinnett County's Brisco Field Airport, but authorities said there were no injuries. "We have been able to determine that the two people on board the aircraft are safe, and they were able to crawl out of the the plane prior to it catching fire," Gwinnett County Fire Department spokesman Thomas Rutledge said. Rutledge said he did not know the type of the aircraft, which landed shortly before 1830 hrs either on a runway or a grassy area next to the runway. Firefighters had brought the fire under control within a half-hour, but the airport remained closed while they

extinguished hot spots in the wreckage. Television news video showed that the front section of the aircraft was destroyed.

London, Apr 28 -- Swearingen SA-26AT, N50KV, owned by Southland Leasing, two persons on board, crashed on the runway and burned at Gwinnett County Airport, Lawrenceville, at 2220, Apr 26. Aircraft sustained substantial damage, no injuries.

N61AF

London, Apr 24 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Two people were killed today when a small aircraft crashed in a wooded area near Westchester County Airport, authorities said. The Cessna 172 was about a quarter of a mile from a runway at the airport when radar and radio communications were lost, said Holly Baker, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration. Local fire officials found the wreckage off of Route 120 in the town of North Castle just after 1600 hrs, according to Anthony Sutton, commissioner of Westchester County's Department of Emergency Services.

London, Apr 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: A flight instructor, with American Flyers, an aviation school at Westchester County Airport, and a student died Saturday (Apr 23) when their Cessna 172 (N61AF) crashed minutes from landing at Westchester County Airport. Federal investigators sifted through the wreckage yesterday for clues that could explain how the aircraft crashed in woods off Route 120 in North Castle, less than a mile from the runway. A senior air-safety investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board, said the cause remained unknown. Air-traffic controllers lost contact with the aircraft at 1519 hrs, and emergency crews found the smoldering aircraft just after 1600 near Rye Lake reservoir. The pilot at the time of the crash also is not clear. The aircraft had dual controls, allowing either man to operate the aircraft. The airport was shut down immediately after the crash and re-opened for departures at 1651 Saturday. Following a check of the airport's instrument-landing systems, officials started permitting arrivals at 2007 hrs, said Michael Hanson, the operations supervisor. Police officers yesterday were at the crash scene, where the charred fuselage remained, only a few hundred yards from the edge of the reservoir. Both wings were ripped from the aircraft's body; one lay a few feet from the blackened cockpit, while the other had come to rest on the other side of an old stone wall. The aircraft was at an altitude of 800 ft and a quarter-mile from the airport when radar contact was lost, officials said Saturday. (See "Crash, North Castle, Westchester County, New York, United States" in issue of Apr 26.)

London, Apr 26 -- Cessna 172R, N61AF, owned by Aviation Training Enterprises of Illinois, two persons on

board, crashed on approach to airport at White Plains, New York, 1917, Apr 23. Aircraft was destroyed, both occupants were killed.

N8251F

London, Apr 22 -- Piper PA-28-151 (Cherokee Warrior), N8251F, crashed near North Hampton, New Hampshire, at 1655, Apr 20, while on a flight from Hampton, NH, to Pawtucket, Rhode Island. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were seriously injured.

N8406J

London, Apr 25 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A helicopter crashed yesterday evening in waters off Kona. It happened just before 1700 hrs in Honokohau Harbour on the Big Island. A pilot and his passenger were flying a Robinson 22-R chopper. The pilot said he started to experience mechanical problems with the aircraft. He was able to make a soft landing about 30 yards offshore from Honokohau National Park's beach. The helicopter is owned by Mauna Loa Helicopter Co. and was being used for training purposes. Both the pilot and the man flying with him were not injured. They were able to safely swim to shore. Another helicopter company will return to the scene today to try and pull the crashed chopper from the water.

London, Apr 26 -- Robinson R22, N8406J, owned by Hawaii Pacific Aviation Inc, two persons on board, while on a training flight, experienced an engine failure, auto-rotated and landed in the water, three miles south of Kailua Kona, Hawaii, Apr 24. Aircraft was destroyed, occupants rescued.

N926AU

London, Apr 22 -- Lockheed P-3B (Orion), N926AU, crashed near Chico, California, at 0200, Apr 20, while on a local flight from Chico. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were killed.

London, Apr 22 -- A press report, dated Apr 21, states: An air tanker typically used to drop retardant during wildfires crashed during a training flight in a remote forest, killing all three on board, federal officials said. The cause of the crash was under investigation, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Donn Walker. The aircraft, a Lockheed P-3B (Orion) tanker (N926AU), went down yesterday evening in a rugged area of the Lassen National Forest, about 30 miles north-east of Chico in north-central California. The steep terrain prevented a rescue helicopter from landing at the crash site, forcing search-and-rescue teams to cut their own path through the woods for at least two miles, forest spokeswoman Leona Rodreick said. The crash caused a fire that burned over two acres by today, and a helicopter and 20 firefighters worked to contain the blaze, officials said. Rodreick confirmed the deaths but declined to release the victims' names, pending

notification of relatives. Aero Union, the Chico-based company that owns the aircraft, also declined to release the names. The FAA and National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the cause of the crash, which followed a fire retardant training drop, the safety board said. The aircraft had taken seven flights yesterday as pilots who planned to work during the upcoming fire season underwent qualification checks, the safety board said. There were no distress calls from the experienced crew, said Terry Unsworth, Aero Union's chief executive. "We have no idea what happened," Unsworth said. The aircraft was not under contract with any government agency at the time of the crash, Rodreick said. Unsworth said it was to be under federal contract this summer.

Product Recalls



GENERAL MOTORS SAAB MOTOR VEHICLES, SOUTH KOREA

London, Apr 24 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: GM Korea is recalling 93 Saab 9-3 convertibles produced between Jan. 31, 2000 and July 5, 2002 due to a fuel leakage that can cause a fire.

GENERAL MOTORS VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Apr 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: General Motors

said overnight it has recalled more than two million vehicles, including some of its most popular cars and trucks, for safety fixes ranging from seat belts to parking brakes. Of the overall total, about 1.5 million full-size four-wheel drives and pickup trucks, mostly sold in the US, are being called back to the shop to fix the seat belt positioning in the rear seat. In the truck sector, the recall covers Chevy Silverado, Suburban, Tahoe and Avalanche as well as the Cadillac Escalade, GMC Yukon and Hummer H2 all from model years 2003-2005. Advertisement: An additional 332,202 Suburban and Yukon models from 2000 to 2001 are being recalled for possible overheating of the fuel pump, which could result in engine stalling and fuel leaks. Also, 142,585 Silverado and GMC Sierra trucks from 1999-2002 and 2500 and 3500 Series pickups from 2001-2004 have been tagged for recall as have more than 100,000 Buick models from 2004 and 2005 for potential brake and ignition problems. Among passenger cars, 22,115 Saturn L Series Wagons from the 2002-2004 model years are being recalled to comply with safety standards. The company said it is aware of no injuries resulting from the six issues covered in the recalls and owners will be notified on May 4.

SHARP TELEVISIONS, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 22 -- A press report, dated Apr 21, states: Sharp Electronics Corp is recalling about 373,000 televisions after receiving reports that they pose a fire hazard. The Mahwah, NJ, company was not

aware of any injuries resulting from 23 reported television fires, but it has received reports of property damage, including one case that caused more than \$20,000 in damage, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said today. The power buttons on the televisions can be pried off and the sets can ignite if something such as a crayon, straw or metal object is put in the hole. The recall affects the following Sharp 27-inch conventional tube television models: 27RS50, 27RS100 and CSR5027. The televisions were made in Mexico. Electronics retailers, department stores and mass merchandisers sold the televisions nationwide from March, 2001, through February, 2005, for about \$250.

VOLKSWAGEN MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London Apr 23 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Volkswagen is voluntarily recalling 35,000 Golf's model year 1999 - 2000 because of a problem with the fuel supply line. On certain passenger vehicles with gasoline engines and double-layer fuel tanks, tension may exist on the fuel supply line. This may cause the fuel pump supply nipple to develop a crack. If a crack develops, it could result in a leak and leaking fuel in the presence of an ignition source, may cause a fire. Dealers will inspect the fuel supply line for tension, and inspect the fuel pump supply nipple for cracking. If necessary, the fuel line and the fuel pump will be replaced. The recall is expected to begin on July 15, 2005.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbott Point	27-April-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed; 12 vessels due by 15/5; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability
Brisbane	27-April-2005	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 4 vessels due by 20/5; no delays expected. Grain: 2 vessels due by 5/5, 1 to load sorghum, 1 wheat; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Dalrymple Bay	27-April-2005	Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 33 anchored; 38 vessels due by 25/6. 20-30 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; waiting times vary greatly due to different stem supply issues.
Dampier	27-April-2005	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 11 vessels due by 6/5; 1-9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 12 vessels due by 30/5; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels is always a possibility.
Gladstone	27-April-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 1 vessel berthed, 3 anchored; 33 vessels due by 23/5; up to 7 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; a 3 day maintenance shutdown is scheduled for shiploader No. 1 commencing 9/5; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed; 7 vessels due by 20/6; no delays expected; shiploading activities will cease from 06.00 hrs. 16/5 until 06.00 hrs. 26/5 to enable repairs to be carried out to wharf deck. .
Hay Point	27-April-2005	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 11 anchored; 3 vessels due by 1/5; up to 7 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability.
Newcastle	27-April-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels berthed, 9 anchored; 25 vessels due by 14/4; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel berthed, 3 anchored; 13 vessels due by 12/5; 2 unallocated vessels due by 14/5; 3-12 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal, coal product problems with some shippers and cargo receipt. Grain: Five vessels due by 12/5, all to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Hedland	27-April-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 4 vessels due by 3/5; 1-4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 6 vessels due by 3/5; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 1 vessel due 27/4; no delays expected; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 3 vessels due by 30/4; no delays expected.
Port Kembla	27-April-2005	Coal: 3 vessels anchored; 10 vessels due by 11/5; CB-1: 1 vessel due 20/4; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain: vessel due 8/5 to load wheat; no delays expected.
Port Walcott	27-April-2005	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 19 vessels due by 10/5; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Shippers are expected to shut down production at West Angelas mine in May for an indeterminate period. Line-up expected to change at short notice. Cargo grade shortages and stockpile problems may result in vessels berthing out of turn.
Portland	27-April-2005	Three vessels due by 8/5, 1 to load canola, 1 wheat, 1 wood-chips; no delays expected.
Brazil		
Paranagua	26-April-2005	Eight vessels berthed of which 2 fertiliser dischargers, 1 pellets loader, 1 soya loader, 2 sugar loaders, 1 reefer loader, 1 other loader; 11 vessels waiting in roads, of which 10 to load (1 sugar, 3 reefers, 6 other vessels), 1 fertiliser vessel to discharge; 38 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	26-April-2005	Three vessels berthed of which 1 soya oil loader, 1 ammonium sulphate discharger, 1 fertiliser discharger; 5 vessels waiting in roads; 13 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	26-April-2005	Thirteen vessels berthed of which 1 bulk juice loader, 2 sugar loaders, 2 bulk salt dischargers, 2 wheat dischargers, 1 full container loader/discharger, 1 Ro/Ro loader, 1 bulk sulphur discharger, 3 other loaders/dischargers; 18 vessels waiting in roads; 21 vessels due over the next 7 days.

Port Conditions

Sao Sebastiao	26-April-2005	Eight vessels berthed, 9 waiting in roads; 5 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitoria	26-April-2005	Two vessels berthed of which 1 steel billets loader, 1 sugar loader; Terminal Vila Velha: 1 steel products loader, 1 full container loader/discharger; Tubarao: 1 soya loader, 3 iron ore loaders, 1 other loader; Praia Mole: 2 steel products loaders, 1 steel slabs loader; Portocel: 1 cellulose loader; Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 21 vessels waiting in roads; 21 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	25-April-2005	Seven vessels in port of which 5 loading (2 empty, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 coils, 1 equipment), 2 discharging (1 billets, 1 salt); 3 empty vessels in roads, all to load; 8 vessels due of which 5 to load (2 steel sheets, 2 metal, 1 equipment), 3 to discharge (1 kaolin, 1 coal, 1 metal).
Varna	25-April-2005	Varna East, Varna West, Balchik: Forty-one vessels in port operating of which 22 loading (56 sunflower seeds, 2 scrap, 7 soda, 1 silica sand, 1 equipment, 1 harboard, 1 fertiliser, 2 containers, 1 hydrochloric acid), 9 discharging (3 bulk coal, 1 cement, 1 copper concentrate, 1 petroleum coke, 2 phosphate, 1 iron bags), 10 discharging/loading containers.
Chile		
Antofagasta	25-April-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 12 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Valparaiso	25-April-2005	Three vessels berthed, 5 berths vacant; 2 vessels anchored; 13 vessels due this week.
Egypt		
Alexandria	26-April-2005	Thirty-seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 31 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 containers, 1 passenger vessel; 13 vessels dry-docked; 17 vessels at inner anchorage, 7 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	26-April-2005	Sixteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 9 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 3 containers; 5 vessels at outer anchorage.
Suez Canal	26-April-2005	Twenty-seven vessels transiting Northbound, 29 Southbound.
Israel		
Ashdod	26-April-2005	No labour problems. Three general cargo vessels loading at berth, 14 vessels discharging at berth (11 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 6 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker); 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 4 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 11 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	26-April-2005	No labour problems. Five vessels discharging at berth (3 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 8 vessels loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 2 car carriers, 1 tanker); 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge, 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (4 containers, 2 tankers); 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Pakistan		
Karachi	26-April-2005	Three vessels loading at berth (1 rice, 2 cement), 4 discharging at berth (1 MAP, 1 jute, 2 general cargo), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 3 general cargo); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 6 vessels due (3 containers, 1 tallow, 2 chemicals), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	26-April-2005	Three vessels discharging at berth (1 palm oil, 1 phosphoric acid, 1 HSD), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 iron ore, 1 palm oil).
Poland		
Gdansk	25-April-2005	Nine vessels in port operating of which 6 loading at berth (1 coal, 2 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 3 bulkers discharging at berth; 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 18 vessels due.

Port Conditions

Gdynia	25-April-2005	Eight vessels in port operating of which 2 loading general cargo at berth, 6 discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 1 coal, 3 bulkers); 1 general cargo vessel awaiting orders; 21 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 55 vessels due.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	25-April-2005	Sixteen vessels in port operating of which 12 loading (1 DRI, 1 urea, 1 scrap, 1 pig iron, 1 copper, 1 slabs, 1 steel billets, 1 bulk urea/bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 wheat, 1 oil, 1 D/O), 3 discharging (2 bulk sugar, 1 citrus), 1 discharging/loading containers; 5 vessels in roads of which 4 to load (1 copper, 1 wheat, 1 cellulose, 1 steel billets), 1 to discharge bulk sugar; 76 vessels due of which 72 to load, 4 to discharge (1 bulk NPK, 1 non-ferrous metal, 1 construction materials, 1 ore); Oil terminal: 1 tanker loading crude oil at berth; 5 tankers in roads of which 4 to load crude oil, 1 DO; 7 tankers due, all to load crude oil.
Spain		
Cadiz	25-April-2005	Sixteen vessels in port of which 8 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 1 vegetable oil, 1 vehicles, 2 containers, 1 wine), 8 vessels under repair; no delays.
Sagunto	25-April-2005	Twenty-three vessels in port operating of which 16 discharging (14 steel products, 1 anhydrous ammonia, 1 vehicles), 7 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	25-April-2005	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Fourteen container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 16 vessels discharging at berth (12 containers/feeders, 1 bagged sugar, 1 general cargo, 1 bagged soya beans/wire coils, 1 bulk cement); 1 vessels waiting at anchorage to load MDF board on pallets, 5 waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 bulk cement, 1 bulk LPG, 3 containers); 6 vessels dry-docked; 7 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.
Ukraine		
Illichevsk	25-April-2005	Four vessels in port operating of which 1 loading steel products, 3 discharging/loading containers; 1 vessels in roads to load steel products; 17 vessels due of which 15 to load (13 steel products, 1 ore, 1 oil), 2 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	25-April-2005	Thirteen vessels in port operating, all loading (6 steel, 1 steel/containers, 3 coal, 2 fire-clay, 1 sulphur); SRY: 2 steel vessels; 4 vessels in roads, all to load (2 steel, 1 carbamide, 1 equipment); 44 vessels due of which 38 to load (19 steel, 1 coke, 8 coal, 4 fire-clay, 2 wheat, 1 equipment, 1 pitch, 1 sulphur, 1 carbamide), 3 to discharge (1 fluorspar, 1 launches, 1 equipment, 3 to discharge/load containers.
Odessa	25-April-2005	Seventeen vessels in port operating of which 10 loading metal, 4 discharging (1 passenger vessel, 1 baggage, 1 bananas, 1 wheat), 3 discharging/loading (2 containers, 1 ore/metal); 10 vessels in roads of which 7 to load (4 metal, 1 ore, 2 pig iron), 3 to load/discharge containers; 52 vessels due of which 28 to load (16 metal, 1 pig iron, 4 ore, 2 sunflower seeds, 1 corn, 2 wood, 2 general cargo), 7 to discharge (1 ore, 2 citrus, 1 oil, 2 baggage, 1 equipment), 17 to load/discharge (16 containers, 1 ore).
United States		
Houston	26-April-2005	Pilots report normal 40 ft. 0 ins. max. draft in Houston ship channel; Cargill terminal: 1-2 days delay; LDC Dreyfus terminal: 2 days delay.
Kalama	26-April-2005	Kalama export terminal: 3 days delay; United Harvest terminal: 1 day's delay.
New Orleans	26-April-2005	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 4-5 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 3-5 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 3-5 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 3-5 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 1 day's delay expected; Peavey/Paulina: closed; 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

Port Conditions

(K2) - Convent: 4 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 7 days delay expected. Nine-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to decrease to 7.4 ft. by 5/5. Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to New Orleans (Mile 090.0) - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 090) to Baton Rouge (Mile 233.5) - 45 ft. for all vessels; vessels with drafts up to 47 ft. have been handled up to Mile 180 in the past, but are approved by pilots on a case by case basis, based on current river conditions; Motiva Convent dock No. 1 is restricted to a max. draft of 38 ft. until dredging can be completed; dock No. 2 is restricted to 30 ft.; it is anticipated that dredging will take place some time during the first half of 2005; Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 34 ft. from Buoy 1 - Mile 28.3 and 36 ft. from Mile 28.3 - Mile 66.9.

Portland	26-April-2005	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay; CLD Irving terminal: no delays; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays.
Tacoma	26-April-2005	Temco terminal: 2 days delay.

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