

Lloyd's

Lloyd's Casualty Week contains information from worldwide sources of Marine, Non-Marine and Aviation casualties together with other reports relevant to the shipping, transport and insurance communities

CasualtyWeek

June 10 2005

Lloyd's risk low in WTC insurance wrangle

by James Brewer — Monday June 06 2005

A LEGAL battle over an alleged \$2.1bn shortfall in insurance claims paid to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is expected to have a relatively light impact on Lloyd's and London insurers, even in a worst case scenario.

The port authority says it is owed two-thirds of the \$3bn it has claimed from insurers to help rebuild the World Trade Center.

Some of the insurers have responded by filing a complaint saying the claim is without merit. The port authority declined to comment and said it had yet to be served with a suit.

Total London and Lloyd's exposure is said to amount to around \$527m. Other insurers, reported to include Swiss Re, Scor, Allianz (US), Chubb and other US providers, are said to be involved but have not filed suit at this stage.

Insurers have already dispensed \$950m to the port authority, and an attorney representing a large group of them, Kenneth Erickson of Ropes & Gray, said that much of the office complex was effectively sold in July, 2001, to a group of investors led by Larry Silverstein.

Such property was not covered under the port authority's insurance.

Mr Erickson said: "The port authority is not entitled to recover for the same property under both the Silverstein and the port authority insurance, or to obtain

double its own insurance to make up for a 'shortfall' in its litigation against the Silverstein insurers.

"Our clients collectively underwrote the largest portion of the port authority insurance and, when presented with the new position, they told the port authority it was wrong."

The port authority has one of the biggest insurance programmes in the entire market, led by London underwriters.

Despite this, analysts in London pointed out that the claims sums mentioned were gross figures and much would be covered by reinsurance.

With many parties contributing potentially to cover, any additional payments would be spread widely.

In the Ropes & Gray client group are Hiscox syndicate 33, Cox 2027, Wellington 2020, ACE 2488, three XL Brockbank syndicates, 1009 Markel, 435 Faraday, 861, 506, Euclidian 1243 and Aegis 1225.

From the company market, the group is Axa Global Risks, Copenhagen Re, Great Lakes Reinsurance (UK), Houston Casualty, QBE International, Sirius International, Württembergische and Zurich Specialties London.

Mr Silverstein signed a 99-year lease on property just months before the attacks that destroyed the landmark. He is to receive up to \$4.6bn after a jury ruled in

December that the assault on the Twin Towers constituted two events.

The port authority joined the Silverstein interests in the three-year court saga, citing its rights to coverage. It says the \$3bn is needed to rebuild 10m sq ft of commercial space. The insurers insist the insurance limit is \$1.5bn.

In their court filing the insurers said that the port authority insurance did not cover property that a third party either promised to rebuild or had insured, and that insurance brokers had told insurers that the Silverstein insurance would replace the port authority insurance.

Would you like casualty information as it happens ?

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>CHINESE EAGLE</i>	bulker	HKG	NK	25,907	43,596	1994	Had fire in engine-room in lat 29 30S, long 54 43E, May 27. Fire extinguished same day but vessel adrift, waiting for engine-room to cool down. Tug on scene as of May 30.
<i>DOOYANG VICTOR</i>	bulker	KOR	KR	14,877	25,388	1984	"Slightly" grounded at Gabes while alongside No.7 berth, May 29. The vessel is presently discharging its cargo and expected the vessel will be refloated again later.
<i>G.T. IRONMASTER</i>	barge	USA	—	7,437	—	1962	Capsized about 6.5 miles NE of Scituate, Mass, May 27 while being towed by tug <i>Navigator</i> . Being moved by tug outside shipping channel. Salvage plan being assessed. Salvors are continuing inspections Jun 1.
<i>MACKENZIE'S</i>	fishing	CAN	—	149	—	2002	Had fire about 200 kilometres from St. John's, NF, in lat 49 12 51N, long 50 48 33W, May 29. Engulfed by flames, crew rescued.
<i>RAMFORM CHALLENGER</i>	research	NIS	NV	9,209	3,854	1996	Reported May 27 at anchor in Vigo Bay with engine trouble. Awaiting spares.
<i>SEA FOX</i>	general	LVA	GL	2,219	2,560	1976	Towed into Invergordon, May 24, by tug <i>Stevns Ocean</i> , after experiencing serious engine trouble. Still in port May 31. Vessel expected to remain at Invergordon until at least Jun 21.
<i>SEA-LINK RIGGER</i>	barge	CAN	—	3,907	—	1963	Began listing off Davis Bay, between Gibsons and Sechelt, May 24. Beached by crew to avoid possible sinking.
<i>TUNATUKI</i>	ferry	—	—	—	—	—	Vessel broken down and drifting off Vanuabalavu about May 28. Arrived Suva May 31 in tow.
<i>ZUIFU</i>	refrig	LBR	NK	3,403	3,939	1987	Vessel in collision with Zhepuyu-72305 (subsequently sank) in the East China Sea Jun 1.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ALANDIA (Finland)

Helsinki, May 31 -- According to Ecker Line, as no damages were noted, passenger ro/ro Alandia returned to its normal route at 0830 hrs, the following morning (May 24). -- Lloyd's Agents.

ALASKAN EXPLORER (U.S.A.)

See "Cracks Found in Rudders of BP Tankers, United States" under "Miscellaneous."

ALEKSANDR NEVSKIY (Russia)

Copenhagen, May 26 -- Bulk/c.c. Aleksandr Nevskiy had indentation in port side caused by the collision. It proceeded under its own power to Kalundborg for survey and inspection by class. Damage will have to be repaired at a later stage. Vessel has now left Kalundborgfjord. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ALEX GORDON (Canada)

Montreal, May 26 -- Anchor handling tug/supply Alex Gordon had a small electrical short in the engine-room, however no damage was sustained. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 30 -- Following received from St. Johns NF, dated today: Anchor handling tug/supply Alex Gordon experienced a fire on board while the vessel was alongside at Pier 11, St. John's. There was a small electrical short in the engine room, but no damage was sustained. The vessel is now waiting its next charter.

ALEXIS (Malta)

London, Jun 1 -- Bulk Alexis sailed from Santa Marta on May 25.

ALISON NICOLE I (Canada)

See Sea-Link Rigger.

ANIARA (Singapore)

Piraeus, Jun 1 -- Vehicle Aniara left Piraeus May 31 for Skaramanga. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ARTEAGA (Madeira)

Dalian, Jun 2 -- Crude oil tanker Arteaga is now alongside at berth No. 6 of COSCO Dalian shipyard to await repairs. A floating dock will be available around Jun 7 and it is estimated the repair in the floating dock is about 15 days. Due to being detained in Dalian, the court is not going to allow the vessel's departure for the moment, but is going to allow the vessel to repair if the repairing is carried out in a Dalian Shipyard. The Dalian MSA and/or the concerned are awaiting the concerned L/G from the carrier to release the vessel. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ASL SANDERLING (Canada)

Halifax, May 31 -- Repairs to ro/ro ASL Sanderling were deferred one

more week due to the machining tools getting lost in transit. The vessel continues its trade and is on a regular trading pattern: Halifax-St John's-Corner Brook-Halifax. -- Lloyd's Agents.

AURA (Cambodia)

Istanbul, Jun 2 -- General cargo Aura has sailed from Ahirkapi. The next port is unknown. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BASAVESHWARA (India)

London, May 28 -- A press report, dated May 27, states: An engineer died on the spot and two other crewmembers were injured when product tanker Basaveshwara (17199 gt, built 1982) caught fire at New Mangalore Port Trust today, port sources said. The vessel was reported to have 37 members on board, and was proceeding to Cochin from NMPT carrying 7129.09 tonnes of petrol, the sources said. The Basaveshwara, belonging to Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) Limited, chartered by m/s BPCL for loading motor spirit (petrol) of MRPL, was berthed at New Mangalore yesterday, sources at the port said. According to the master of the vessel, the reason for the mishap was "backfire in the port auxiliary boiler furnace resulting in furnace door being blown off," the sources said, adding the three were trapped in the engine-room. The deceased has been identified as Ravikumar Datala, who died on the spot due to severe burns, the sources said. Of the two crew members, one had received twenty per cent burns and the other had no external injuries, they said. On information about the mishap from the boat pilot and Central Industrial Security Force, port fire personnel rushed to the spot, doused the fire and rescued those trapped on board, the sources added. The injured were first taken to NMPT hospital where they were given the necessary medical aid and later shifted to a private hospital.

Kochi, Jun 1 -- On May 26, the boiler of product tanker Basaveshwara exploded, while the vessel was berthed at New Mangalore, loading a consignment of 10,000 tonnes of motor spirit of Bharath Petroleum Corporation, India. The boiler was completely "damaged" and electrical wiring was also damaged. The third engineer was killed in the accident and two crew members were injured and subsequently hospitalised. Some 2,800 tonnes of cargo has still to be loaded at the time of the accident. The vessel is presently at anchorage and repair/survey is in progress. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BASTO III (Norway)

London, May 30 -- Following received from Sandnes, dated today: Passenger Basto III arrived at Horten from Gdynia, on May 29. The vessel incurred further problems today and is now dry-docked in Drammen for inspection and repairs.

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

BEAUMONT (Cyprus)

London, May 26 -- One of the cranes on board bulk Beaumont (13695 gt, built 1995) struck a shore crane at Ville de Labaie, Saguenay River, Quebec, at 1130, EDST, May 25, while the vessel was alongside. The vessel's bow subsequently struck a gantry crane at 2212, EDST, while departing from the port.

BONGGAYA 91 (Malaysia)

See "Celebes Sea" under "Piracy."

BONGGAYA 92 (Malaysia)

See "Celebes Sea" under "Piracy."

BROEDERTROUW XVI (Netherlands)

Falmouth, June 1 -- Tug Broedertrouw XVI completed repairs and left Falmouth 2020, May 31, for Rotterdam towing barge Lastdrager 26. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CANADIAN NAVIGATOR (Canada)

London, May 26 -- Bulk Canadian Navigator (18788 gt, built 1967) struck the arrester wire in the St.Lambert lock, St.Lawrence Seaway, at 0430, EDST, May 26, while manoeuvring in the lock. The Seaway authorities forecast that traffic will be interrupted for 12 hours in order to effect repairs.

CAPELLA (Cyprus)

See Langeland.

CARAVOS HORIZON (Malta)

Piraeus, May 27 -- Bulk Caravos Horizon, in tow, is due to arrive Piraeus Jun 2/3. -- Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

CARIBOU (Canada)

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated May 31, states: A series of furnace explosions aboard a Marine Atlantic ferry last year was the result of an improperly used boiler, the Transportation Safety Board has concluded. Passenger ro/ro Caribou was on passage to North Sydney on Mar 4, 2004, when the engine room was rocked by a series of small explosions. The ferry arrived safely, but an engineer and an electrical officer working near the boiler received severe burns and had to be taken to hospital. The TSB investigation found fuel oil pooled in an enclosed space in the boiler's furnace. "What we found contributed to it was that the boiler wasn't being operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions," said Don Eaves, the lead investigator. "The boiler should not have been operated in this configuration, without the two fans." Eaves also said the boiler manufacturer's instruction manuals were not readily available and the clothing supplied to crew members wasn't adequate to protect them. Since the fire, Marine Atlantic has made a number of safety improvements. "We needed to put in place some additional procedures and controls to ensure procedures are followed to the letter," said Marine

Atlantic spokesperson Tara Laing. "There are times when the procedures are not always followed, and we accept responsibility for that and what occurred." The Transportation Safety Board of Canada does not assign fault or determine liability. That responsibility falls to Transport Canada, which is not commenting on the matter.

CHINESE EAGLE (Hong Kong)

London May 28 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0735, UTC: At 1630, UTC, May 27, bulk Chinese Eagle (25907 gt, built 1994) reported a fire in the engine-room in lat 29 30S long 54 30E. The fire was extinguished same day and the vessel is now drifting, waiting for the engine-room to cool down so that a decision can be made regarding the best course of action.

London, May 30 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 2230, UTC: Bulk Chinese Eagle is still drifting. Bulk Seaguardian is on scene waiting for the weather to improve to transfer injured crew-members and take them to South Africa. Tug Salvanguard is proceeding and due on scene at approximately 2000, UTC, Jun 3. Reunion Rescue Centre coordinating.

CHRISOPIGI LADY (Liberia)

London, May 27 -- Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 2340, UTC, May 26: Product tanker Chrisopigi Lady and bulk Yue Shan are both still anchored outside Singapore port, awaiting inspection.

London, May 29 -- Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0110, UTC: Understand product tanker Chrisopigi Lady and bulk Yue Shan are anchored in Singapore waters undergoing repairs.

London, May 29 -- Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0010, UTC: Product tanker Chrisopigi Lady and bulk Yue Shan are still in Singapore waters undergoing repairs.

DOOYANG VICTOR (South Korea)

Tunis, Jun 2 -- Bulk Dooyang Victor (14877 gt, built 1984) "slightly" grounded at Gabes port on May 29, while coming alongside No.7 berth. The vessel is presently discharging its cargo and it is expected that the vessel will be refloated again later. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ELQUI (Uruguay)

Stanley, Jun 1 -- Fishing Elqui, now owned by the Government of South Georgia as the owners of the vessel did not pay the court fine, is being sold as scrap only. The vessel is still moored alongside the pier. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ENISEY (Russia)

St. Petersburg, May 27 -- At 0750, local time, May 19, general cargo Enisey (1497 gt, built 1988) ran into the pier of one of the St.Petersburg bridges on the Neva river. The vessel did not sustain any serious damage. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FRANKLIN STRAIT (Antigua & Barbuda)

Curacao, May 27 -- General cargo Franklin Strait arrived Curacao in tow May 17. The vessel is still lying alongside one of the berths at Curacao Drydock Company, awaiting repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FREY (Malta)

Brest, Jun 1 -- General cargo Frey is still at Brest waiting to be towed towards another port, not yet known, for repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

G.T.IRONMASTER (U.S.A.)

London, May 31 -- A Coast Guard Boston press release, dated May 27, states: Unmanned 360 ft deck barge G.T.Ironmaster (7437 gt, built 1962), being towed from Boston for New Haven, CT, by tug Navigator, loaded with gravel, capsized around 0830 today approximately 6.5 miles north-east of Scituate, Mass. The deck barge had no personnel or oil on board. The master of Navigator was directed by Coast Guard to move the capsized barge to a location outside of the shipping channel. Currently, the deck barge is located in lat 40 10N, long 70 30W and Coast Guard cutter Seneca has enforced a one-mile safety zone surrounding the tug and barge. Initial assessment of the deck barge indicates watertight integrity and void subdivision will provide sufficient buoyancy for an extended period of time. Salvage experts are formulating a salvage plan and will submit plan to Sector Boston for approval prior to any work being completed. The factors leading to the capsizing of the deck barge are under investigation.

London, May 31 -- Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 0750, UTC: Latest situation regarding deck barge G.T.Ironmaster not known.

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: The U.S. Coast Guard have reported that salvors are continuing to inspect and assess the barge, G.T.Ironmaster, that capsized on Friday (May 27) in Massachusetts Bay, south of Boston. The barge, loaded with gravel, was under tow of tug Navigator from Boston to New Haven, Conn., when the incident occurred at 0830 hrs. No pollution has been reported.

GENMAR STRENGTH

London, Jun 2 -- Crude oil tanker GenMar Strength arrived Corpus Christi May 27, from "Venezuela" and sailed May 28 for Venezuela.

GERRITA (NIS)

Brest, Apr 26 -- Crude oil tanker Gerrita remains in port at Brest as of Apr 1. -- Lloyd's Agents.

GIDEON (Latvia)

St. John's, NF, May 30 -- Fishing Gideon caught fire and subsequently sank in lat 47 52.7N, long 045 18.5W, at 2200, UTC, May 25, in the area known as the Flemish Cap. The vessel is in approximately 3000 metres of water. All 15 crew were safely picked up by fishing Petur Jonsson and taken

to port at St. John's by the EU fishery patrol vessel Jean Charcot, arriving May 27. They were repatriated on May 28. -- Lloyd's Agents.

HORIZON 9 (St. Kitts-Nevis)

Karachi, May 27 -- Argonaftis, the local shipping agent of general cargo Horizon 9, said this afternoon: "the vessel's electric generator has been repaired and work on the engine is still going on." A representative expressed the hope that vessel would soon be ready to leave for Iraq. He said that the cargo was "saved". Meanwhile, an owners' representative from Dubai has inspected the vessel and is "satisfied" with the ongoing work. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, May 31 -- Understand from the local shipping and port circle that a claim of US\$109,000 was demanded by Pakistani authorities from the owner of general cargo Horizon 9 as a cost incurred by the rescue operation of the vessel. On this new development, the owner of vessel has asked one of its local representatives to liaise with the local authorities and resolve the issue. Meanwhile, divers are checking the vessel's bottom to assess repair or leakage point. Work on the engine is also going on. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jun 1 -- Understand from the local shipping and port circles that the owner of general cargo Horizon 9 is being urged to make arrangements to bring vessel into Karachi Port channel in order that stern-gland and other damage/leakage in the bottom of the vessel can be properly and safely assessed. One expert has pointed out that the monsoon and/or rough weather may cause damage to the underwater repair work. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jun 2 -- Understand from the local shipping and port circles that arrangements are being made for general cargo Horizon 9 to depart by next week. The engineers are "taking final account" of ongoing repair work. A representative of the vessel's owner said that leaks appeared to have been sealed and it might not now be necessary to bring the vessel into the port channel. Meanwhile, negotiations are proceeding amicably with the Pakistani authority for the settlement of their claim of \$109,000, "to a reasonable extent". -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ISARGAS (Liberia)

Gdynia, Jun 2 -- Lpg Isargas is still in a shiprepair yard in Gdansk. Repairs are expected to be completed between Jun 20-23. -- Correspondent.

KAAWA (Uganda)

See Kabalega.

KABALEGA (Uganda)

London, May 29 -- A press report, dated May 27, states: The Minister of Transport and Communications has appointed the former Attorney General, Mr Bert Katureebe, to head the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into the sinking of ro/ro Kabalega.

Announcing the seven-man team yesterday at the weekly media briefing, Eng. John Nasasira said the commission should get to the root cause of the accident before winding up its work by Jun 30. "I have set up an inquiry team in accordance with the Commission of Inquiry Act Cap 166. It will sit at Kyambogo, will be open and will start work on Jun 1," Nasasira said. "The commission will assess the seaworthiness of Kabalega and ro/ro Kaawa in terms of technical conditions before the vessels collided, to include manning levels of the two ferries, communication facilities on board, off-shore and stability conditions," Nasasira said. He said it would also investigate and establish the possible causes of the accident. "This will include assessment of the watch keeping arrangement on board of the two vessels before the accident." The commission will conduct interviews with the ferries' crew on board. They will also assess and advise the maritime off-shore and shore facilities required for safe navigation on Uganda Railway Corporation (URC) ferries on Lake Victoria. The commission will investigate and ascertain the status of routine surveys, certification and insurance of URC ferries. Assess and advise on URC's procedures for manning vessels in accordance with internationally recognised maritime standards on manning level, qualifications and refresher training, maritime emergency plans. "It will also investigate the adequacy of existing legislation and recommendations for maritime transport safety," Nasasira said. The team is also expected to recommend short, medium and long-term measures on what should be done to enhance the safety of navigation on inland waters to avoid such accidents in future. Nasasira set up a task force under his chairmanship to plan, manage and coordinate all post accident decisions and actions. The task force will have Prof. Peter Kasenene and Mr Paul Etiang among others. "The task force shall ensure that the Kaawa accident damage is repaired, the necessary installations and repairs required to re-equip ro/ro Pamba and Kaawa are carried out and the vessels insured. They will search and assess the damage for Kabalega, determine cost recovery and decide whether it is economically viable to recover, repair, insure and re-use the vessel, Nasasira said.

KADUNA (Panama)

Maassluis, May 31 -- C.c. MSC Eleni is out of drydock and is waiting for further repairs in drydock or alongside in the harbour. It is reported that ro/ro Kaduna left Flushing on May 27. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

KARIN LEHMANN (Antigua & Barbuda)

Rostock, May 29 -- General cargo Karin Lehmann arrived at Rostock on May 27. -- Lloyd's Agents.

LANGELAND (NIS)

Malmö, May 26 -- General cargo Langeland (1881 gt, built 1971) and product tanker Capella (21145 gt, built 1995) were in collision May 24, while manoeuvring in the port of Karlshamn. Capella was being assisted to berth by a pilot and two tugs when Langeland, which was also proceeding to berth, attempted to pass between Capella and a breakwater and came into contact with the port quarter of Capella. Capella sustained damage to a 15-metre length of handrail, and Langeland sustained a three-metre scratch on the port bow. No other damage noted. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 1 -- Product tanker Capella arrived and sailed Kristiansand May 27.

LIBRA RIO GRANDE (Germany)

New Orleans, Jun 1 -- C.c. Libra Rio Grande is currently at the Paris Street Wharf, New Orleans. Repairs are being undertaken by Prime Maritime. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MACKENZIE'S DREAM (Canada)

London, May 30 -- A press report, dated May 29, states: Seven crew members from Bay de Verde, Newfoundland are back safe at home today after a fire broke out on board their fishing vessel almost 200 kilometres from St. John's. fishing MacKenzie's Dream (149 gt, built 2002), a 65-foot crab boat, was fishing for shrimp on the Funk Island banks yesterday afternoon. Fire broke out just a few minutes after the crew detected smoke from the wheelhouse. "We had very little time," captain Edwin Noonan told CTV's St. John's affiliate, NTV News. "As soon as we detected the smoke, the whole boat itself from the wheelhouse area went into flames, complete with all the electronics." With fire quickly engulfing the vessel, Noonan had just enough time to send a mayday signal before abandoning ship in favour of a lifeboat with his crew, made up of his wife, daughter, two sons, nephew and one other member. "As I monitored the mayday call to St. John's Coast Guard radio, I knew they were in trouble straight away," said Capt. John Saunders of the Canadian Coast Guard. Noonan and his crew drifted for at least two hours before the Coast Guard ship Sir Wilfred Grenfell reached them and brought them to shore this morning. The seven were treated on board the coast guard vessel for minor cuts and bruises and mild hypothermia, but are otherwise in good condition.

London, May 30 -- At 1818, UTC, May 29, fishing MacKenzie's Dream, with seven persons on board, was reported on fire, in lat 49 12.51N, long 50 48.33W, 123 nautical miles north-east of St. John's, NL. The crew abandoned into liferafts and were rescued safely about two hours later.

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated May 30, states: Seven people who abandoned ship after their longliner caught fire off the coast of

Newfoundland were safe and back on land yesterday. Their 20-metre fishing boat, MacKenzie's Dream, caught fire Saturday afternoon (May 28) about 200 kilometres from St. John's. The crew boarded two life-rafts and used an emergency beacon to get help. They were picked up by the coast guard vessel Sir Wilfred Grenfell two-and-a-half hours later and arrived in St. John's yesterday morning. Members of the crew suffered minor cuts and bruises as they scrambled off the burning vessel. The boat burned to the waterline, but the coast guard could not confirm whether it had sunk.

MATIAS F. ERASQUIN

Buenos Aires, May 30 -- Vessel Matias F. Erasquin is currently berthed afloat at the port of Campana. Cleaning operations have concluded and the possibility of permanent repairs being effected is now being assessed. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MOBRO 128 (Bahamas)

Freeport, Bahamas, May 27 -- Underwriters are seeking quotes for salvage, if feasible, and/or wreck removal and clean up of incident related debris from the grounding of barge Mobro 128. The barge's bow rake and Nos 1, 2 and 3 starboard tanks, along with No 3 centre tank, are known to be ruptured, with tanks Nos 2 and 3 starboard and No 3 centre now being common. Deck equipment includes two spud winches and three spuds in wells. The starboard aft spud is distorted. The owner's effort to refloat the barge with compressed air was partially successful but was abandoned to avoid potential liability issues. The barge is partly buoyant and moving in even a slight swell. It is lying in about 10 feet of water close to the Nassau West breakwater and is exposed to the North. Approach depths are good and reasonably clear. The barge's crane is now almost fully submerged and tidal. The barge was carrying a Viking longship, which is believed to be of composite construction with timber above the waterline and steel plates below. Most of the wood structures have broken free and drifted ashore. Construction gear and equipment which were also on board the barge are on the bottom near the wreck. A notice of abandonment has been served on the underwriters. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MSC AL AMINE (Morocco)

Tunis, Jun 2 -- General cargo MSC Al Amine is still under repairs at CMR Menzel Bourguiba. Repairs are expected to be complete Jun 15. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MSC ELENI (Panama)

See Kaduna.

NIL DERYA (Turkey)

Messina, May 31 -- General cargo Nil Derya is still under arrest at Crotone, awaiting break-up. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NORSEMAN

Tunis, Jun 2 -- Tug Norseman is still at Cercina port. Its owners have just obtained merchant marine authorisation to start repairs and these could be arranged within one week. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NOVA SCOTIA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Buenos Aires, Jun 1 -- Understood that the hull and propeller of ref Nova Scotia are being currently repaired. -- Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN ODYSSEY

See P&O Nedlloyd Taranaki.

OCEANA (United Kingdom)

See "Outbreak of Norovirus on United Kingdom-Flagged Passenger Vessel" under "Miscellaneous."

ORIANA

London, May 31 -- Understand that exhibition ship Oriana has been towed to Zhanjiagang to be broken up.

P&O NEDLLOYD TARANAKI (U.K.)

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: A sleeping skipper has been blamed for a collision between fishing Ocean Odyssey and ro/ro/c.c. P&O Nedlloyd Taranaki off Sydney last year. Exhausted from his heavy workload and lack of sleep, the skipper of Ocean Odyssey had fallen asleep in the warm wheelhouse, a report by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) has found. Ocean Odyssey ran into the container ship off Port Botany in the early hours of Jun 20, 2004, throwing two deck hands from their bunks. The container vessel, which at the time of the collision had been drifting after stalling due to engine trouble, sustained only slight scratching to its paintwork. No one was injured in the collision, but Ocean Odyssey had to undergo serious repairs to its hull and deck. The ATSB report has recommended work routines allow fishermen to be rested when they are on navigation watch following an investigation into the accident last year. "The crew on the bridge of the (container) ship had illuminated the ship and switched on the correct light signals after the breakdown," the report said. "As they watched the fishing vessel approach, they sounded the ship's whistle, but were powerless to prevent the boat from running into the ship's side. "The boat's skipper had fallen asleep on watch." The collision "was a direct result of the skipper of Ocean Odyssey falling asleep", the report said. Fisherman on navigation watch should be adequately rested for duty, the report recommended. "Given its proximity to the coast, it is likely that if it had not collided with the ship Ocean Odyssey may well have grounded in Bate Bay half an hour later with more serious consequences." The report also recommended crews of all vessels equipped with VHF radio should

maintain watch on channel 16, especially at the entrance to busy harbours.

PACIFIC SKY (U.K.)

London, June 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: P&O Cruises Australia has announced that a delay in the completion of repairs to passenger Pacific Sky has caused changes to three scheduled passenger Pacific Sun cruises in June and July 2005. The company said the delay in the repairs to Pacific Sky's starboard engine gearbox would defer the ship's departure from its present dry-dock in Brisbane by approximately five days. This delay will prevent Pacific Sky from reaching Auckland in time for the start of its scheduled two-week Lions' Rugby Tour charter in New Zealand from June 21 to July 6. As a result, Pacific Sun will now replace Pacific Sky on the charter. To accommodate the move, the following alterations have been made to the existing Pacific Sun cruise schedule: Pacific Sun's June 14, 11-night round trip ex Sydney (N518), will be reduced to seven nights and conclude in Auckland. Passengers will receive a pro-rata refund for the reduced days, an on board spending credit of \$300, as well as transfers by air from Auckland to Sydney. Pacific Sun's July 4, 10-night round trip ex Sydney (N520) will be reduced to seven nights and commence in Auckland on July 7, following Pacific Sun's charter. Passengers will be transferred by air from Sydney to Auckland to commence the cruise on July 7 and will receive a pro-rata refund for the reduced cruise length as well as an onboard spending credit of \$300. Pacific Sky will reposition to Sydney following its dry dock, to replace Pacific Sun on the scheduled June 25 departure (N519). This cruise will be shortened by one night to an eight-night voyage to enable Pacific Sky to be repositioned to Auckland from July 3 to commence its New Zealand winter deployment on July 7. Passengers will receive a pro-rata refund for the reduced cruise length as well as an on board spending credit of \$200. P&O Cruises Managing Director Gavin Smith said: "While the repairs to Pacific Sky's starboard engine gearbox are going well, some extra work has had to be carried out by the components' manufacturer. This has resulted in a further short delay in the availability of some parts, making these schedule changes necessary."

PERAST (North Korea)

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: North Korean general cargo Perast (ex God Father, 1623 gt, built 1971) sits on sand in shallow waters off Kalamia (? Kalamaki) near Corinth yesterday with a tug in attendance. The problem occurred on Wednesday (May 25) just after the ship passed through the Corinth Canal carrying some 2,700 tons of cement. None of the eight Serbian crew members was injured.

London, May 27 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1230, UTC: General cargo Perast, HMWH9, Volos for Pizan (? Piran), cargo cement, grounded in lat 37 56.7N, long 22 55.5E, at approximately 0430, May 25. The vessel is still aground with a tug, name not known, in attendance. There are eight persons on board.

London, May 31 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1007, UTC: General cargo Perast refloated earlier today. The vessel is due to sail from Corinth today for Serbia.

PRIDE OF AMERICA (U.S.A.)

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of employees of Norwegian Cruise Line flew to Germany this week to complete the crew for passenger Pride of America, which enters revenue service in Hawaiian waters this summer. Late this week Pride of America sails for New York, a shakedown cruise for the crew, which includes a combination of new personnel and many who had served previously on other NCL vessels. (Note -- Pride of America was last reported to have arrived Bremerhaven 1530, May 23.)

PRINS JOHAN WILLEM FRISO (Liberia)

London, Jun 1 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0927, UTC: Lpg Prins Johan Willem Friso (3862 gt, built 1989), Stanungsund for Sines in ballast, anchored in lat 53 34.7N, long 04 49.5E, at 0241, UTC, Jun 1, due to electrical problems. The vessel's crew are attempting to effect repairs.

London, Jun 1 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1055, UTC: Lpg Prins Johan Willem Friso has completed repairs and is now underway bound Sines.

QUINAULT (U.S.A.)

London, June 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: The ordinarily two-vessel Port Townsend-Keystone ferry service will be relying on a single vessel until midmorning today while Washington State Ferries officials get a replacement for disabled ro/ro Quinault (1490 gt, built 1927). Quinault's steering system broke early yesterday morning and may require extensive dry dock repair, ferry officials said. The Port Townsend-Keystone route will continue with ro/ro Klickitat, until ro/ro Illahee, reaches the terminal, Washington State Ferries officials said. Illahee is expected to start with the 1030 hrs sailing from Port Townsend, State Ferries said last night.

R.F. GRANT (Canada)

London, May 30 -- At 1350 hrs, May 29, tug R.F. Grant (78 gt, built 1934) reported a cable fouled in its propeller when moving astern with a barge, in Becancour, Quebec.

Montreal, Jun 1 -- Tug R.F. Grant: Understand the cable which was fouled around the propeller has been removed and the tug is back in operation. -- Lloyd's Agents.

RAMFORM CHALLENGER (NIS)

Vigo, May 27 -- Local sources inform that seismographic research Ramform Challenger (9209 gt, built 1996) is presently at anchor in Vigo Bay with engine trouble and awaiting spares to effect repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ROGER BLOUGH (U.S.A.)

Troy, Michigan, May 26 -- Bulk Roger Blough (22041 gt, built 1972) entered Fraser Shipyards in Superior yesterday to undergo repairs to a leaking stern seal. The vessel was expected to leave the shipyard today and load taconite pellets at the DMIR dock in Duluth. -- Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

London, Jun 1 -- Bulk Roger Blough arrived at Duluth on May 27 and sailed on May 28 for Conneaut.

ROMANTICA (U.S.A.)

London, June 1 -- A Coast Guard Savannah press release, dated May 25, states: Rescue crews from Air Station Savannah hoisted four people to safety from 120-foot yacht Romantica during severe weather conditions 36 miles east of Port Royal Sound about 0130 hrs. The vessel departed Fernandina Beach, Fla., around 0930 yesterday en route to New Jersey when the dinner cruise vessel Romantica took waves off the bow shattering several large glass windows and began flooding in the lower decks. Prior to the helicopter crew arriving on scene, the master reported that the flooding in the lower deck was uncontrollable and requested the four people be taken off the vessel. About 0215 hrs the four people arrived at Air Station Savannah. All four did not require any medical attention and were released. The vessel was well equipped with safety gear like a working VHF radio and an Emergency Positioning Indicator Radio Beacon (EPIRB). Because the vessel had the proper safety gear required, rescue crews had no difficulties communicating or locating the vessel in adverse weather. Weather conditions at the time were 36 knots of wind and 8-10 foot waves with 12-foot swells. The vessel is still afloat and plans have been made for commercial salvage to tow the vessel to shore.

ROSTOK (Russia)

Bucharest, Jun 1 -- General cargo Rostok: The operation for wreck removal progresses at a slow pace due to water conditions/high water and current and it is understood it may last a further 30-40 days. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SANTA EMMA (Panama)

Halifax, Jun 1 -- The operation by Canadian Coast Guard Pollution Response to remove the fuel oil from ro/ro Santa Emma was completed about May 29 and the vessel now remains in its original grounded position. Wreck removal would be a different government entity. We have, however, heard that the vessel has been sold "as is, where is" but we do not know at this time who the new

owners may be nor their intentions. The vessel was and still is holed in way of the engine-room above the waterline where it had been lying against the corner of the adjacent concrete berth. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SANTA MAFALDA (Portugal)

London, May 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Canadian Fisheries officers have seized a Portuguese trawler and arrested its captain for violating international fishing laws while plying the waters off the south coast of Newfoundland. Trawler Santa Mafalda (1944 gt, built 1968) was stopped by the Canadian Coast Guard fisheries patrol vessel Leonard J. Cowley and boarded late yesterday. The trawler was later towed to St. John's where the ship's master was expected to make a court appearance today. His ship faces two charges under the Coastal Fisheries Protection Act, including unauthorized entry and fishing inside Canada's 200-mile economic zone. The alleged violations date back two years. Canadian officials say yesterday was the first time they were in a position to seize the vessel. "It was only a few days ago that the Santa Mafalda returned to Canadian waters," the department said in a statement. In April 2000, the same ship was arrested in international waters and escorted back to her home port to face charges of violating international fishing regulations while on the Grand Banks. The Santa Mafalda was arrested outside Canada's 200-mile limit after a routine patrol by the same coast guard vessel that stopped the ship yesterday. Fisheries officers contacted the European Union and a citation was issued to the Portuguese captain for misreporting catches and exceeding the bycatch of cod. The trawler was ordered to return to port at Aveiro, Portugal, as required under the voluntary regulations of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. Canadian officials later said there was little doubt the vessel broke the rules that cover reporting of catches. The ship's holds were sealed until the vessel arrived in Portugal. While they were being emptied, enough cod was spotted to confirm the violation, the Fisheries Department said at the time.

SEA BEAUTY (Bahamas)

London, May 31 -- Bulk Sea Beauty sailed from Long Beach on May 28 bound for Inchon.

SEA FOX (Latvia)

London, May 27 -- Following received from Cromarty Firth Port Authority, dated today: General cargo Sea Fox (2219 gt, built 1976) was towed into Invergordon on Tuesday (May 24) by tug Stevens Ocean, after experiencing engine trouble. The vessel is currently still in port. (Note - Sea Fox was reported on a voyage Riga for Liverpool, at the time of incident.)

Glasgow, May 31 -- Understand general cargo Sea Fox has sustained

serious engine damage, the full extent of which is still being investigated. Subject to the scope of final repairs, it is expected that the vessel may remain at Invergordon for a further three to four weeks. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SEA-LINK RIGGER (Canada)

Vancouver, May 26 -- A press report, dated May 25, states: Barge Sea-Link Rigger (3906 gt, built 1963) was beached on the Sunshine Coast yesterday. The barge was being towed by tug Alison Nicole I (149 gt, built 1974) when it began listing off Davis Bay, between Gibsons and Sechelt, in the early hours of yesterday morning. Fearing the barge would capsize, the tug crew decided to beach the gravel-carrying barge. The barge is owned by Westminster Marine Services but has been leased to Richmond company Wayden Transportation. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SEAWAY FALCON (Isle of Man)

Gothenburg, May 30 -- It has just been reported that the master of support Seaway Falcon (10385 gt, built 1976), operated by Stolt Offshore, Norway, died during "a stress situation on board" when the vessel experienced "a blackout" and came close to running aground outside Stavanger. The master managed to "recover the vessel" but then collapsed and despite efforts could not be saved. A helicopter was sent out to bring him to hospital. He had been employed by the line for over 25 years. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

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

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro Spirit of Ontario I should return to Rochester midweek, after reprogramming of its propulsion control system. Ferry spokesman Glenn Gardner said yesterday that a control system specialist was en route to St. Catharines, Ontario, where the vessel is located. Corruption in the software was discovered Friday (May 27) during predeparture inspections. The delay was not expected to affect the ferry's Jun 17 startup date.

SPIRIT OF TASMANIA III (Australia)

Sydney, May 30 -- Passenger ro/ro Spirit of Tasmania III (23663 gt, built 1995) drydock period in Brisbane will be extended due to damage to the portside stabiliser fin, believed to have occurred on Apr 24 near Flinders Island. Chief executive Peter Simmons said specialist engineers from Blohm & Voss in Germany had inspected the stabiliser and indicated damage was most likely caused by contact with cable from abandoned fishing equipment. Mr Simmons said that to complete the required repairs, the stabiliser must be removed and sent to Germany, necessitating a four-day extension of the planned drydocking period, originally scheduled for Jul 24 to Aug 7. "Unfortunately, this has required the cancellation of sailings on Aug 7 and 13, and the vessel will now

return to service on the Sydney-Devonport sailing on Aug 14," Mr Simmons said. "Spirit of Tasmania III will then have to return to drydock in December to have the equipment refitted. This will unfortunately result in the cancellation of a further four sailings." Melindy Green, national marketing manager for Spirit of Tasmania, said the additional time in Brisbane and Sydney would enable the company to enhance promotional activities. The affected sailings are: Dec 4, Sydney-Devonport; Dec 5, Devonport-Sydney; Dec 6, Sydney-Devonport; Dec 10, Devonport-Sydney. -- Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

STARLUCK (Cyprus)

London, May 26 -- Understood salvage services are being rendered to bulk Starluck, cargo 27,500 tons wheat, by Smit Salvage BV under Lloyd's Open Form.

London, May 27 -- Following received from Larnaca RCC, timed 1035, UTC: Bulk Starluck is still aground. Salvage operation is in hand, duration of which not known.

Buenos Aires, May 27 -- Atlas Agencia Maritima S.R.L., owners of bulk Starluck, have contracted the services of Smit, salvage company, in order to refloat the vessel. According to information obtained, the vessel has no damages. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Rotterdam, May 31 -- Bulk Starluck is still aground, with preparations for lightering part cargo arranged. -- SMIT Salvage BV.

Buenos Aires, May 31 -- Bulk Starluck is still aground in Necochea, salvage operations have not yet commenced. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SUDRINGUR (Faroe Islands)

Torshavn, May 31 -- Trawler Sudringur is currently under repair at Runavik, ETC not yet known. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TASMAN SPIRIT (Malta)

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Pakistan will claim a compensation of \$2 billion from the last owners of crude oil tanker Tasman Spirit which ran aground off the coast of Karachi 22 months ago. The incident caused a spillage of about 31,000 tonnes of crude oil, devastating the marine life and ecosystem. Pakistan had never witnessed such a socio-economic disaster in its history, as revealed by speakers at a national symposium held yesterday. The forum on Natural Resource Damage Assessment Arising From Tasman Spirit Oil Spill has been organised jointly by the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency, UNDP, National Institute of Oceanography and Sindh Environmental Protection Agency. Copies of a summary report on works pertaining to the damage assessment carried out by local experts, with the resources made available under the UNDP supported national environmental action plan (NEAP), were distributed among the delegates

of the symposium. Speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session, federal minister for environment Maj (r) Tahir Iqbal categorically stated that Pakistan would try all options to get the compensation from the owners of the vessel. The vessel's owners accused Pakistani authorities of maintaining the harbour channel improperly and providing an incompetent pilot. He said that the government would submit its claims to recover the losses from the shipping company as it was solely responsible for the spill damage.

THIA CHRYSOULA (Cyprus)

Piraeus, May 27 -- Bulk Thia Chryssoula: Two lightering vessels are due on scene to assist with salvage operations. Bad weather in the area is delaying the operations. - Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

Piraeus, Jun 1 -- Bulk Thia Chryssoula: Lightering operations commenced on May 31 and a refloating attempt is expected to be made Jun 4-5. -- Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

TOKI (Bahamas)

Montevideo, May 30 -- Bulk/c.c. Pipit Arrow, ex Toki, sailed Montevideo May 20 for Santos. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TOR CIMBRIA (U.K.)

London, May 31 -- A Coastguard Humber MRSC press release timed 1815, UTC, May 30, states: At 0921 this morning vessel traffic services (VTS) at Humber reported that ro/ro Tor Cimbria (12189 gt, built 1986) had had a small generator fire in its engine-room while alongside at Immingham. The fire was successfully dealt with by the crew. (Note -- Tor Cimbria subsequently arrived Zeebrugge 0954 today.)

TRANSFER (Antigua & Barbuda)

Belize, May 26 -- Part c.c. Transfer, on reefs of Belize: Mr. Elliot Tulloc, of Waller Marine Belize Ltd, said that the company has been awarded the contract as salvors. He reported that work is expected to start Jun 25 and should be completed by Jul 3. Mr. Tulloc stated that when the vessel has been refloated, it will be towed to the high seas and scuttled. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TUNATUKI

London, June 1 -- A press report, dated May 31, states: More than 50 people have been trapped on board broken down inter-island ferry Tunatuki which has been drifting helplessly in open waters for more than two days. Tunatuki is adrift in Lau waters off Vanuabalavu waiting for another boat to come to its aid and tow it to port. Saliabasaga Shipping, owners of Tunatuki, said that because of the public holiday, they had to look for two days before they could find another boat to go to its aid. Tunatuki was due back in Suva on Saturday (May 28) but broke down before it reached its last port of call in Vanuabalavu. Engineers on board had

attempted to fix the problem but had been unable to do so and had now called for a tow. The ship had been to Nayau, Cicia and Lakeba during its week-long trip before its engine problems developed. "Since it's a public holiday we've found it hard to get a boat to go and tow Tunatuki into port," said Saliabasaga director, Vula Halofaki. The boat has about 40 drums of fuel on board and even though it was destined for Vanuabalavu, Halofaki said it could be used during the emergency. Saliabasaga said the Fiji Navy's had not been needed because the boat had not sent out a distress signal and the passengers were not in any immediate danger. "We have enough food rations on the ship to go around but water I do not know right now, and there is also enough fuel on board and the weather has been fine for the last three days," Mr Halofaki said. Saliabasaga managed to dispatch a tug yesterday to tow Tunatuki into Suva and they were expecting both vessels back tomorrow. "We're still maintaining contact with the ship and so far they say everything is okay," Mr Halofaki said.

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Passengers on board inter-island ferry Tunatuki, which drifted for two days in open sea, have been reported safe and expected to arrive in Suva harbour some time today. With 50 people on board, the vessel was adrift for two days after it developed engine problems on its way to Vanuabalavu at the weekend. The vessel was expected back on Saturday (May 28). A spokesperson for Saliabasaga Shipping, owners of the vessel, said a tug was sent to the vessel's rescue and both vessels are expected back today.

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: The inter-island ferry Tunatuki made its way safely into Suva Harbour on Tuesday night (May 31). The vessel, which had been drifting in open seas for two days, berthed at Narain Jetty at 2230 on Tuesday night. Crew members yesterday said the 50 passengers were safe and in good health. They left the vessel as soon as it berthed at the jetty. The vessel was due back in Suva on Saturday (May 28) but it developed engine problems before reaching its last port of call in Vanuabalavu. The vessel had been to Nayau, Cicia, and Lakeba during its weeklong trip last week. Saliabasaga Shipping, owners of Tunatuki, managed to dispatch a tug-boat on Monday to tow the vessel to Suva. The news effectively left relatives and friends of passengers worried as it drifted in open seas. Officials of the shipping company said they would rest the vessel and its crew in the next few days as they looked at its engine. "We'll probably start operating again next week," the official said. The vessel will unload its cargo this morning.

VERA (Luxembourg)

London, Jun 1 -- Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed

1719, UTC: Chem.tank Vera (2054 gt, built 1985), Newhaven for Antwerp, with 1,580 tonnes of fuel oil and 50 cubic metres of gasoil on board, has engine gearbox failure 15 nautical miles south of Shoreham, in lat 50 35.7N, long 00 18.5W. Vessel has eight persons on board. Tug Muria is proceeding, ETA one to two hours.

London, Jun 2 -- Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 0600, UTC: Newhaven Port Authority reported chem.tank Vera was tied up alongside at Newhaven at 2310, UTC, yesterday. Tug Muria has returned to Shoreham.

VICUNA (Chile)

Santos, May 31 -- Following received by Paranagua Sub-Agents: Cattalini terminal involved with chemical/oil carrier Vicuna explosion is back in operation. The terminal has been interrupted since Nov 15, when the vessel had an explosion alongside the outer pier. It took several months to remove the wreck off the berth and carry out the necessary repairs at Cattalini pier which end up seriously damaged. The wreck has been removed and the pier is finally ready to receive vessels again. They are just waiting the Brazilian navy official inspection to be carried out tomorrow to obtain the official permission to become operative again. -- Lloyd's Agents.

YUE SHAN (Panama)

See Chrisopigi Lady.

ZHEPUYU-72305 (China)

See Zuifu.

ZUIFU (Liberia)

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Efforts still continued to find the four Chinese sailors who went missing after their fishing Zhepuyu-72305 was hit by a foreign ship (ref Zuifu, 3403 gt, built 1987) in the East China Sea and sank yesterday, local maritime official said today. Chinese fishing boat Zhepuyu-72305, came to an anchor 113 nautical miles east of Jiushan Archipelago of Ningbo early yesterday morning. The fishing boat was hit by a Liberian cargo ship at about 0420 hrs and sank. All 13 sailors onboard the Chinese fishing boat fell into the sea, nine of them have been rescued. The Liberian cargo ship was heading from South Korea to Kaohsiung. Zhepuyu-72305 belongs to the Haiteng Aquatic Products Company based in Zhoushan. Two other fishing boats of the company operating nearby rushed to rescue ill-fated sailors immediately after the accident occurred, according to Zhoushan City Maritime and Fishery Administration. Ningbo City Maritime Salvage Centre sent three ships to join the efforts and to search for the missing Chinese sailors. Further investigation into the case is still going on.

London, Jun 2 -- Following received from Beijing MRCC, timed 0645, UTC: Fishing "72305" was in collision with ref Zuifu, ELVW3, in lat 29 27N, long

124 21E. Of the 13 crew on the fishing vessel nine have been rescued and four are still missing. The collision is under investigation.



CELEBES SEA

Manila, May 29 -- Indonesia will not pay ransom for the release of three Indonesian crewmen held by Muslim terrorists in southern Philippines. "The Indonesian government will not give in to ransom demands," a spokesperson at the Indonesian embassy in Manila said Friday (May 27). The three Indonesians, Master Ahmad Rumiyati and Yamin Labusu and Erekson Hutagul were kidnapped last Mar 30 from tug Bonggaya 91. The Bonggaya 91 was towing the barge Bonggaya 92, back to Sandakan from East Kalimantan when they were attacked by armed men aboard a speedboat off the east coast of Sabah. They are believed being held somewhere in the southern Philippine province of Tawi-Tawi by an Al Qaeda linked- group calling itself "Jamiat al-Islamiah". The terrorist organization has demanded US\$790,000 dollars for their release. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.



AGIOS ARSENIOS (Greece)

See under "Tsoukalas Naftiki Eteria".

AGIOS DIONYSSIOS (Greece)

See under "Tsoukalas Naftiki Eteria".

ALCOR (Comoros)

Limassol, Jun 2 -- General cargo Alcor is still at Limassol under arrest with prospects for its release not known yet. -- Lloyd's Agents.

AQUATIC PIONEER (Malta)

Cape Town, May 31 -- Fishing Aquatic Pioneer is no longer at Cape Town. However, the Port Authorities have no record of the vessel's date of departure. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CONDOR (Philippines)

Manila, May 31 -- Philippine-registered cargo vessel Condor remains in the custody of the Philippine Navy, Naval Forces Central Visayas Headquarters at Lapu-Lapu City in central Philippines after a Lapu-Lapu city court rejected a petition by its owners to release the vessel. The vessel is being used as evidence in a case of transporting illegally cut lumber filed by the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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

against the ship owner and crew as well as the owner of the lumber. The vessel is owned by Cebu-based Goodwill Lighterage Corp. Condor was arrested by the Philippine Navy on Jan 24 for allegedly carrying 200,000 board feet of illegally cut lumber from Davao City to Cebu. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

FILIPPOS (Paraguay)

Rio Grande, Jun 1 -- C.c. Filippus remains under arrest at Porto Alegre, with no prospect of sailing at present. -- Lloyd's Agents.

GENERAL BERNARDINO CABALLERO (Paraguay)

Rio Grande, Jun 1 -- General cargo General Bernardino Caballero remains under arrest at Porto Alegre, with no prospects of sailing at present. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MARISCAL JOSE FELIX ESTIGARRIBIA (Paraguay)

Rio Grande, Jun 1 -- General cargo Mariscal Jose Felix Estigarribia remains under arrest at Porto Alegre, with no prospects of sailing at the present time. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SANTA MAFALDA (Portugal)

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated May 31, states: The arrest of a Portuguese trawler captain accused of fishing illegally in Canadian waters will be the first test of a new, international declaration on fisheries management, says Newfoundland's fisheries minister. Trevor Taylor said he was encouraged that Canadian officials had seized trawler Santa Mafalda and arrested its master for the alleged violations two years ago. "Rule breakers who threaten the recovery of a species must be dealt with harshly," Taylor said in a statement issued today. "The seizure of the Santa Mafalda sends a message that Canada intends to live up to its commitment to enforce fisheries conservation measures. It tells the global fishing community that we will protect fish stocks." But the arrest and charges will test the strength of an international declaration of cooperation signed last month in St. John's at a high-profile conference on high seas governance. "The strength of the declaration will be measured by the solidarity between the European Union and Canada to ensure that the Santa Mafalda is punished to the full extent of the law," said the statement issued from Taylor's office. Repeated calls to the Portuguese Embassy in Ottawa seeking comment were not returned Tuesday. Meanwhile, the Santa Mafalda remained tied up at the Canadian Coast Guard dock in St. John's, Nfld., today. On Sunday evening (May 29), the fishing vessel was intercepted by two coast guard vessels and boarded off the south coast of Newfoundland. Ship captain Jose Ramalheira was arrested on two outstanding charges dating back two years. On May 14, 2003, a Canadian surveillance flight spotted a foreign vessel fishing within Canada's 200-

mile exclusive economic zone off the East Coast. The vessel left Canadian waters before it could be boarded, but charges were filed against the captain in November 2003. Since then, the Santa Mafalda has fished the waters just outside the 200-mile jurisdiction, beyond the reach of Canadian officials, where it has racked up 14 citations for fisheries violations in the past ten years. It wasn't until the vessel entered Canadian waters last week, as it headed for repairs on the French island of St-Pierre just off Newfoundland's south coast, that Canadian authorities could act on the outstanding charges. Ramalheira is charged with two violations of the Canadian Coastal Fisheries Protection Act: unauthorized entry and unauthorized fishing inside Canada's 200-mile economic zone. He was on board the vessel today along with his crew after being released on a \$10,000 bond. In the coming days, a similar hearing will be held for the vessel itself, and if a bond is agreed to by the court, the Santa Mafalda will be able to leave. "If they get the bond posted for the vessel, master and crew and vessel will all depart," said Bob Fagan, spokesman for the federal Fisheries Department. Ramalheira is slated to return to court Jun 29, but the Crown agreed to allow Ramalheira's counsel to appear on his behalf.

TSOUKALAS NAFTIKI ETERIA

London, May 31 -- A report in the May 27 edition of "Newsfront" states: During the second half of May, general cargo Agios Arsenios (2315 gt, built 1978) and general cargo Agios Dionyssios (2131 gt, built 1970), were seized by a private creditor in pursuit of a Euros 21,500 claim, against the registered owner, Tsoukalas Naftiki Eteria.

Pipeline Accidents



AYOKAN AREA, NIGERIA

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Six people have died from severe burns after a pipeline in southern Nigeria caught fire after a gang tapped into it to illegally siphon off fuel, police and hospital officials said. Fire-fighters were still working to extinguish the blaze, which erupted on Sunday (May 29) and razed a swathe of farmland around the pipeline. A witness in Ayokan village described hearing a loud explosion as the ruptured pipeline burst into flames, sending dozens fleeing from the inferno. Five of the victims died during treatment in hospital yesterday. University College Hospital spokesman Kunle Olayomi said another person died yesterday, and another 29 people were being treated for severe burns. Local police chief Moses Anegbode said a gang at

Awokan had filled petroleum tankers with fuel from the ruptured pipeline before the explosion. The fire was set off by a truck used for local transport in the area, he said. The truck broke down near the pipeline and sent out sparks when it tried to restart, igniting leaked fuel.

LAC, ALBANIA

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated May 25, states: The main oil pipeline leading to the ARMO oil depot in the town of Lac, north of Tirana, leaked today, releasing over three tons of crude oil in the environment. The Lac oil depot is the main supply point for Northern Albania, and they are situated just metres from the Lac - Mamurras Motorway. According to the latest information, the fire brigades are at the location and the situation is under control. The reasons for the oil pipe leak are still unknown. The authorities have started their investigation.

Pollution



BRITTANY, FRANCE

Brest, Jun 1 -- A guarantee of Euro 400 000 was paid by the owners of ro/ro Fast Independence and the vessel was allowed to depart from Brest by the Court. However the vessel is still at Brest completing some repairs prior to pursuing its voyage. Departure is now expected late evening today, or early tomorrow. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MSC ELENA (PANAMA)

London, May 31 -- C.c. MSC Elena arrived at Savannah on May 28.

Weather & Navigation



BULGARIA

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated Jun 1, states: Torrential rains and hailstorms overnight have left vast areas to the north and north-east of Bulgaria underwater, with many houses ruined and farmland destroyed. Villages and towns in the region of Lukovit and Russe have announced a state of emergency. Rivers there are raging and threatening to spill over dam walls, local officials said. Besides the ruined harvest, many domestic stock were killed, drowning in the barns.

CHINA

Beijing, Jun 1 -- Heavy rain had triggered floods and mudslides in southern China, leaving about 200 people dead or missing, a resident and state media said today. Torrential rain

hit a mountainous region of Hunan Province in the early hours and 17 people died in floods, the online edition of the official Xinhua news agency said. Thirty-five people were missing. However, a local resident with knowledge of the extent of the damage and casualties said about 200 people died or were missing after floods toppled more than 3,500 homes in Xinshao and Lianyuan counties in Hunan. "Villagers, cadres and rescuers were washed away by floods," the resident said. "More than 10,000 people were left homeless after their homes were either washed away, flooded or toppled," he said. Electricity was cut and houses and crops destroyed in four flooded villages in Xinshao county, Xinhua said. More than 60,000 villagers had been evacuated, it said. In south-western Guizhou Province, a thunderstorm triggered flooding and landslides killing 12 people and injuring dozens, state radio said. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: The damage from Tuesday's (May 31) hailstorms in Beijing has reached 48 million yuan, or about six million US dollars. These figures were released by the Beijing Bureau of Civil Affairs. May 31 saw heavy hailstorms, with hail as big as golf balls, hit the capital city. In only several minutes, crops and thousand of cars were destroyed. The Bureau says nearly 90,000 thousand residents were affected by the storm.

ETHIOPIA

Addis Ababa, Jun 1 -- Floods have disrupted relief efforts in Ethiopia's south-eastern Somali Region making travel impossible in some areas, a UN agency said today. Trucks laden with relief items had been stuck on impassable roads for nearly three weeks, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said. "Efforts by the government, UN and relief agencies are being hampered by poor road conditions, making travel impossible in some areas," Paul Herbert, OCHA's head in Ethiopia, told IRIN. New flooding was causing new displacements in an area stretching from Kelafo to Mustahil town, where original floodwaters had receded and people were returning to their homes. A joint government and UN assessment team arrived in the region on May 25 to assess the scale of the floods and to recommend an appropriate emergency response. The number affected remains unclear, with conflicting reports of the number of people in need; estimates range from 25,000 to more than 60,000. As many as 154 people are thought to have died in the floods. The team was expected to re-examine the damage and needs of flood-affected areas in Gode, Jijiga, Kebridehar and Degehabur zones. Flooding first hit the remote region in late April when Ethiopia's largest river, the Wabe Shebelle, burst its banks. According to OCHA, recent flooding was also reported in the Denan area of Gode zone, while heavy

rains had also hit parts of Fik zone. OCHA added that the Genale and Dawa rivers in the western parts of Somali Region had overflowed their banks, interrupting communications within large parts of Ader and Liben zones. The agency said road inaccessibility had prevented food aid from reaching many of the flood-affected areas. In addition, floods had hampered efforts by UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to deliver relief to Gode. -- Reuters.

FINLAND

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: The worst spring flooding in years has affected dozens of homes in Finnish Lapland. In Kittila, in the western part of the region, the Ounasjoki river has risen nearly five metres above its normal level. The water in Ounasjoki is expected to rise further today, because snow is still melting at high elevations. In the eastern community of Ivalo, the River Ivalojoeki also overflowed its banks. Flood barriers erected 20 years ago have kept the centre of Ivalo dry, but several roads and four residential areas have been cut off by the rising water. What is unusual about the flooding is that packed ice is not a factor this year. The situation is attributed to the large amount of snow that fell during the winter, and the late onset of the spring thaw. Residents in one part of Ivalo were urged to evacuate already on Wednesday (May 25). Yesterday about 20 of the approximately 300 residents in the area were still in their homes, which were surrounded by masses of water. In Kittila all 143 residents of local retirement homes were moved temporarily to hotels and public health care centres. The water is expected to continue to rise in Kittila. In Ivalo, the water level started to go down already yesterday evening, but further rain and snow-melt could reverse the trend. In Ivalo about 20 residents of a facility for the elderly were evacuated as a precaution. The flood barriers still held back the deluge, but at one point the water level was just 10 cm below the edge of the barrier. No casualties have been reported in the flooding in Finnish Lapland. Estimates of material damage will be made when the water recedes.

INDIA

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 14 people have been killed and a dozen more have been injured in mudslides triggered by heavy rains in India's north-east state of Nagaland. A police official says several houses were demolished when small hillocks caved in yesterday, trapping sleeping villagers in Mokochung, 120 kilometres east of Nagaland's capital, Kohima. "The casualties took place when mounds of earth buried sleeping villagers," Mokochung district magistrate T Imkong said. The dead include at least five children. Fresh landslides continued today but there

are no immediate reports of further casualties. Heavy rains in the past three days triggered mudslides in the mountainous state, blocking roads and disrupting communications in many places.

POLAND

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Three people were killed and several injured late yesterday when a violent storm struck the Wroclaw region of south-west Poland, local police said. Two men in their 20s and a 14-year-old boy were killed by falling tree branches, police spokesman Pawel Petrykowski said. Several car drivers were injured in similar accidents, the PAP news agency quoted him as saying. The high winds also struck power lines in Wroclaw, immobilising electric trams in the town and affecting traffic. Most train services in the region were halted late yesterday. A string of storms hit Poland yesterday, where record temperatures up to 35 degrees centigrade have been recorded in recent days.

RUSSIA

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated May 30, states: Eighty-five high-voltage power lines were de-energised in the Pskov region on May 29-30 because of heavy rains and storms. Northern and eastern parts of the region were hit the hardest. A hospital, a dairy factory, and an oil storage plant were left without electricity. Power supplies were cut off twice to the settlement of Ugrada. By 0700 hrs, 0300, GMT, today, 14 power lines were still deactivated. Repair work is under way.

TYPHOON "NESAT"

London, Jun 1 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Nesat" near lat 10.8N, long 141.6E, at 0600, UTC, Jun 1. Movement past six hours 280 deg at 14 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots with gusts to 70 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 25 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 70 nautical miles north semicircle, 50 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jun 2: Position lat 12.0N, long 137.1E. Maximum sustained winds 80 knots with gusts to 100 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 30 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 90 nautical miles north semicircle, 75 nautical miles elsewhere.

London, Jun 2 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Nesat" was located near lat 11.4N, long 137.4E, approximately 120 nautical miles north-north-west of Yap. "Nesat" has tracked westward, or 280 degs, at 11 knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles and is based on the eye being fixed by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum

sustained winds: 115 knots, gusts 140 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 30 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 100 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 90 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 35 feet. At 0600, UTC, Jun 3, the centre is predicted to be near lat 13.6N, long 133.4E, with maximum sustained winds of 130 knots and gusts to 160 knots.

UNITED STATES

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Storm clean-up efforts intensified along the coast and in Boston yesterday as officials raced to put things in order before the holiday weekend. The worst late-May northeaster in close to 40 years, which had battered the area with two nights of high winds and heavy rains, was expected to peter out by this afternoon. This weekend might even bring sunlight, the National Weather Service said. The cost of the state's efforts as of yesterday totaled more than \$120,000, said Joe O'Keefe, a spokesman for the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Among the hardest hit areas were coastal towns such as Plymouth, Scituate, Marshfield, Weymouth, and Quincy. A cracked sea wall on Bay Avenue in Marshfield will require an emergency state expenditure of another \$75,000, O'Keefe said. East Boston, Revere, Winthrop, and Lynn also sustained damage, he said. NStar reported about 4,000 customers still without power last night after seeing the tally as low as 1,000 by Wednesday (May 25) evening, said spokeswoman Caroline Allen. The scattered nature of the outages and the fact that 1,900 employees are on strike has slowed the company's response time, Allen said. She asked for patience from customers without power.

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Repairing stretches of the scenic Beartooth Highway, in Montana, damaged or destroyed by mudslides will cost about \$20 million, with no estimate on when the work might be completed, officials told a Red Lodge town meeting yesterday. The highway is a route to Yellowstone National Park's northeast entrance that winds over 10,940-foot Beartooth Pass, but it is more than the scenery to merchants in Red Lodge, who rely on the business of tourists travelling the highway each summer. It is closed by snow for half the year. Mudslides caused by heavy rains and snowmelt earlier this month buried portions of U.S. 212, while rushing water undercut the pavement in other areas, said Charity Watt Levis, a spokeswoman for the Montana Department of Transportation. Transportation Director Jim Lynch said about a 20-mile section of road is affected, with 13 areas impacted by slides, in some cases piled with tons of material. He said there are some areas where the road is damaged and others in which

it is destroyed. Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., estimated repairs would cost \$20 million, but he told the meeting he was confident that federal emergency highway money would be available for the project. Officials could not say when work can begin or how soon it can be completed, though Lynch stopped short of saying the highway would be closed all this year.

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: A landslide sent 17 multi-million-dollar houses crashing down a hill in Southern California. Five people suffered minor injuries. About 1 000 people in 350 other homes in the Blue Bird Canyon area were evacuated as a precaution early yesterday. In addition to the 17 houses destroyed, 11 were damaged and a street was wrecked when the earth gave way around daybreak in the Orange County community about 81km southeast of Los Angeles. Residents were alerted to the slide shortly before 0700 hrs by popping and cracking as power poles went down, homes fractured and trees disappeared. The cause of the disaster was under investigation, but Ed Harp of the United States Geological Survey said it was almost certainly related to the winter storms that drenched Southern California. A geologist contracted by the city agreed the cause was most likely rainfall, but said more tests were needed. Laguna Beach has been dry since a trace of rainfall nearly a month ago, but before that, Southern California had its second-rainiest season on record. Nearly 71cm of rain has fallen since last July, more than double the annual average. The slide occurred about a mile from the beach on steep sandstone hills covered with large homes. Multi-storey homes came to rest at odd angles, some nearly intact and others splintered and trailing debris. One house, snapped in two. At the top of the hill, the foundations of several homes were left exposed, their corners jutting out with nothing underneath to support them. One road ended abruptly, with the edge of the pavement hanging over a tangle of debris scattered downhill. Laguna Beach has some of Southern California's most desirable real estate.

VIETNAM

London, May 30 -- A press report, dated May 29, states: Torrential rains accompanied by a whirlwind on May 26 hit two communes in Vinh Thuan district in the southern province of Kien Giang, injuring three peoples and damaging 118 houses. Of the 118 houses, 41 were completely ruined. The provincial People's Committee provided each homeless households with 1.5 million VND and those who had houses unroofed with between 300,000-500,000 VND each. Heavy rain also occurred in Phu Quoc and Kien Hai island district on May 29, suspending the operations of hundreds of fishing vessels

Earthquakes



ARGENTINA

London, Jun 2 -- A report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 1055, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.1 event has been located in Salta, Argentina, in lat 24.20S, long 66.86W. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 164 km.

CHINA

London, Jun 2 -- An earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale rattled a remote part of Tibet today but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, Chinese seismological officials said. "An earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale was recorded in Medog county in Tibet at 0406, this morning," said an official at the State Seismological Bureau. The epicentre of Thursday's quake was around 370 kilometres east of Tibet's capital, Lhasa, bordering India.

FIJI

London, Jun 2 -- A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0211, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.8 event has been located south of the Fiji Islands in lat 20.22S, long 178.85E, depth 20.3 km.

INDONESIA

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 5.6-magnitude earthquake rocked Indonesia's tsunami-ravaged Aceh province today, causing frightened residents to flee homes and other buildings. There were no reports of damage or injuries. Today's quake measured 5.6 and was centred under the Indian Ocean, 150 kilometres south-west of Banda Aceh, the geophysics and meteorological agency said. The quake was not strong enough to trigger a tsunami. Reports from the provincial capital, Banda Aceh, said dozens of people fled from a five-storey hotel and other buildings during the quake, which lasted about 10 seconds.

JAPAN

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: A moderately strong earthquake shook southern Japan today, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The magnitude-5.7 temblor struck at 1104, and was centred near the coastal city of Hyuga, in Miyazaki prefecture, Japan's Meteorological Agency said. There was no danger of tsunami. A Hyuga city police spokesman said there were no reports of injuries or damage.

TAIWAN

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake

with a magnitude of at least 5.6 struck northeastern Taiwan about 0020, local time, today, the US Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Centre said on its Web site. While the Central Weather Bureau in Taipei said the quake's magnitude was 6, no casualties were immediately reported. The earthquake was centred 14 miles east-north-east of the coastal city of Suao, at a depth of 39.4 miles, according to the Geological Survey.

Volcanic Activity



ANDAMAN ISLANDS, INDIA

London, May 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Smoke and lava are spewing from India's last active volcano on an uninhabited island in the Andaman and Nicobar chain, a defense command spokesman said. "There is no danger as Barren Island is uninhabited. There is no big threat as the volcano is surrounded on all sides by the sea so the lava rolls into the sea," said Subhodh Kumar from the archipelago's joint defence command. Kumar said Indian Coastguards had reported smoke and lava pouring out of the rim of the crater on Barren Island, which is located some 135 kilometres north-east of the capital Port Blair, and last erupted in 1996. "A team of coast guards on the naval vessel "Sagar" and pilots in a Dornier aircraft reported seeing smoke and lava erupt on Saturday (May 28) on Barren Island," Kumar said. Kumar said the volcano, which runs about 150 fathoms deep under the sea, presents little real danger.

COLIMA, MEXICO

London, May 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: An explosion shook western Mexico's Volcano of Fire early today, sending a plume of ash and smoke five kilometres into the air and scattering hot rocks on the mountain's slopes. It was the largest eruption in at least 15 years at Mexico's most active volcano, said Carmen Segura Rangel, coordinator of civil defence for Mexico's Interior Department. Speaking at an event on earthquake preparedness, Segura said that officials had decided to expand an off-limits zone to 7.5 kilometres from 6.5 kilometres around the crater, though there were no evacuations at the nearest communities, just beyond the new zone. The government of nearby Jalisco state said in a news release that the blast at 0326 hrs, was slightly larger than one that shook the 3,820-metre volcano earlier this month. "It was pretty energetic," said Tonatiuh Dominguez, director of the seismology center at the University of Colima, which is in charge of monitoring the volcano. He said there was no immediate danger to

settlements closest to the mountain 690 kilometres west of Mexico City, but added that similar eruptions were likely in the future. The Jalisco government said the eruption shot glowing rock some 800 metres into the air. Dominguez said two ash plumes, one of them five kilometres high, drifted to the south-east and north-east. Jalisco officials said ash fell on several nearby towns and cities, but it did not announce any evacuations.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: A roadside bomb has exploded in Kabul, wounding four Afghans travelling in a taxi behind a vehicle carrying soldiers belonging to the NATO-led peacekeeping force. Police say the remote-controlled bomb was attached to a parked bicycle and exploded after the NATO vehicle had passed by. Another three Afghan pedestrians were wounded. No-one has claimed responsibility for the blast. The bombing has come after an explosion shook the headquarters of the NATO-led peacekeepers in the heart of the city near the American embassy. A spokesman says the blast was from a rocket, which caused some damage, but no casualties.

Kandahar, Jun 1 -- An Afghan police chief was among at least 14 people killed in a suicide bomb blast at a mosque today as mourners gathered to pay respects to an assassinated anti-Taliban cleric. Kabul police chief Akram Khakreezwal was among the mourners at the mosque in the southern city of Kandahar. The suicide bomber was in police uniform, several survivors said. Police and security officials said the blast was caused by a suicide bomber. At least 14 people were killed, including Khakreezwal, and 32 wounded. Mourners had gathered for Mawlavi Abdullah Fayaz who was killed on Sunday (May 29) by two armed men riding a motorcycle as he was leaving his office in the heart of Kandahar city. Fayaz served as the head of the Islamic scholar's council, a government appointed body, and criticised reclusive Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar at a recent gathering of clerics. -- Reuters.

BOLIVIA

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated May 30, states: Thousands of protesters have converged on the Bolivian capital La Paz for an angry demonstration over ownership of the country's gas reserves. Some threw small charges of dynamite at police and smashed shop windows with whips as they march towards congress. President Carlos Mesa accused protest leaders of organising a coup. The protests remained peaceful today but there are concerns they may

be stepped up tomorrow, when Congress meets for the first time in weeks to discuss the political agenda. The mainly indigenous protesters are demanding the nationalisation of the Bolivian energy industry, saying a law passed by congress, that increases taxes on foreign gas investors, does not exert enough control over the country's resources. They are also demanding regional autonomy and changes to the constitution. President Mesa has said the gas law is too punishing for the multinationals that have invested billions of dollars in Bolivia's gas fields. The president has vowed to remain in office for his full term, despite frequent political crises. He is backed by the armed forces, which last week sacked two officers after they claimed to represent a new nationalist movement in the military. But the protesters said they would stay in La Paz until they had achieved their aims.

BURUNDI

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated May 31, states: The Security Council adopted a resolution today extending the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Burundi for six months until Dec 1. The resolution, passed unanimously by the 15-nation council, called on all Burundi parties to exert greater efforts to ensure success of the country's transition process. The Burundi government signed a truce with the country's only Hutu rebel group, FNL, on May 15. Under a constitution adopted in a referendum in February, polls would be held by Aug 19 to create a government that guarantees Hutu majority rule and Tutsi representation. In the resolution, the council said it took note of the commitment by the Burundi government and the FNL to agree, within a month, on a permanent ceasefire and negotiate without disturbing the electoral process. While noting that factors of instability remain in Burundi, the council determined that the situation in the tiny Central African state continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region. The United Nations started in June 2004 to deploy a peacekeeping force in Burundi, which currently has nearly 6,000 troops and civilian police.

COLOMBIA

London, May 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Colombia's army has made the biggest seizure of ammunition in the country's history, a top commander has said. General Carlos Alberto Ospina said the arms were found in the southern jungle base of left-wing rebels the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Half a million rifle bullets, grenades and other explosives were stashed in an underground chamber, he said. General Ospina said the arms cache was discovered in a huge, cement-lined hole covered with thick vegetation, in the state of

Caqueta. "This is the biggest seizure of ammunition ever made in Colombia," he said.

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least seven people died after gunmen opened fire on customers in a bar near Colombia's south-western city of Tulua, the authorities said yesterday. Unidentified gunmen, who rode motorcycles to the bar in the rural area of Aguaclara, might be avenging previous killings as some of the victims themselves had been involved in homicide cases, said Tulua police commander Col. Santos Edgar Rodriguez. Police arrested three suspects after the shooting. An investigation is under way to determine whether the shooting was a revenge among criminal rings, said the officer.

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated May 31, states: Suspected leftist rebels have blown up nine energy towers in the past four days, temporarily cutting electricity to thousands of residents in Colombia's northern coastal region, a spokesman for state-controlled ISA electric company said today. The dynamite attacks began Friday (May 27) night on the 165-foot tall structures, said ISA spokesman Gabriel Gallon. He said the attacks were the most over such a short period so far this year. Gallon said it will take several days to repair the towers, but that electricity has been restored to residents in the area by diverting energy from other areas. Rebel attacks on electricity towers dropped to 121 last year, from an all-time high of 483 in 2002. Most of the recent attacks were in Antioquia state, 155 miles northwest of Bogota, whose energy towers supply electricity to the northern coast, ISA said. Colombia's two main leftist groups, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, and the National Liberation Army, or ELN, have been accused of sabotaging electricity towers in the past, but Gallon said it was not clear which group was involved in the most recent attacks.

INDIA

Bombay, May 31 -- Suspected Maoist insurgents set off a bomb under a police jeep in central India, killing seven policemen and the vehicle's civilian driver, a police officer said today. Two policemen were wounded in the blast late yesterday near Salekasa town in Maharashtra state, about 1,000 km north-east of Bombay, India's commercial capital. The policemen were part of a unit providing protection to officials supervising the construction of a nearby dam in an area with a strong Maoist presence, the police officer said. The latest attack by the rebels came as police in the eastern state of Bihar arrested a Maoist leader who was wanted for the murder of 80 policemen in the past decade. Bihar police said Maoist leader Kameshwar Baitha, who was arrested late yesterday night, was wanted in three

Indian states and had a reward of 200,000 rupees (\$4,857) on his head. -- Reuters.

INDONESIA

London, May 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two bombs exploded today at a busy market in central Indonesia, killing at least 19 people and wounding 20 in a volatile region marred for years by religious fighting, a police official said. The twin blasts occurred in the morning in the Christian-dominated town of Tentena, said Police Maj. Riky Naldo, deputy chief of police in nearby Poso, the coastal town where fighting between Muslims and Christians has claimed hundreds of lives since 2000. He said two policemen were among the wounded.

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Indonesian soldiers have shot dead three more separatist rebels in tsunami-hit Aceh province as the government and rebel leaders were set to enter the final day today of peace talks in Finland. The Free Aceh Movement guerrillas were shot dead during a raid yesterday in the northern Aceh area of Bireuen, a stronghold for rebels in their three-decade independence struggle, police officials told reporters. Senior Indonesian officials and leading separatists were due later today to enter the final day of their fourth round of peace talks in Helsinki, tackling the thorny issue of autonomy for the tsunami-stricken province.

IRAQ

London, May 27 --- A press report, dated today, states: Two US soldiers were killed in Iraq when their helicopter crashed after being shot at north of Baghdad, the US military said today. "Two Task Force Liberty soldiers were killed when their helicopter crashed near Baquba on May 26," it said. It said two helicopters came under small arms fire near Baquba north of Baghdad. One crashed while the other landed safely at a US base.

Baghdad, May 28 - Two suicide car bombs exploded outside a joint US Iraqi military base near the northern town of Sinjar on today, killing five people and wounding at least 45, a hospital official said. Witnesses told the official the bombs exploded in quick succession at the entrance to the base, which is just south of Sinjar, in the northwest of Iraq, close to the border with Syria. Most of those wounded were labourers at the camp or Iraqi troops, they said. The blasts followed a car bomb attack on an Iraqi police convoy in Tikrit late yesterday which killed two civilians and wounded 24 people, including nine police, Jalal Khoshi, a doctor at the local hospital said. He said an ambulance driver carrying the wounded to hospital had also been shot and killed, but it was not immediately clear by whom. South of Baghdad, outside the town of Hilla, unknown gunmen stopped a car carrying five Iraqi soldiers and opened

fire, killing four of them and seriously wounding one, a spokesman for the Hilla police said. There has been an upsurge in violence over the past month, with mostly Sunni Arab guerrillas stepping up their two-year-old insurgency since a new Shi'ite-led government was formed. Nearly 700 Iraqis have been killed in car bomb blasts, ambushes and shootings since the beginning of May, while more than 60 US troops have also died in the same period. As well as the sustained high number of attacks on Iraqi security forces, there has been an increase in sectarian killings, with Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims dying in tit-for-tat attacks. -- Reuters

London, May 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Iraqi security forces launched a high-profile crackdown targeting terrorists in Baghdad today, but insurgents hit back with suicide bombings and ambushes that killed at least 17 people. A British soldier was also killed in a bomb blast in southern Iraq today, while the US military announced the death of a US Marine, who was slain in a homemade bomb attack northwest of Baghdad. Operation Lightning was launched as a direct challenge to the bloody wave of militant attacks that have killed more than 700 people since the April 28 announcement of Iraq's new Shi'ite-led Government, according to an Associated Press count. But despite the heavier than normal Iraqi police and army presence throughout the capital and on its southern and northern outskirts, insurgents kept up their steady pace of violence. A suicide attacker detonated a car bomb outside the heavily fortified Iraqi Oil Ministry and killed two security guards and wounded a policeman and passer-by, said ministry spokesman Assem Jihad. The blast happened at about 1550 BST when the militant tried to ram a late model Volkswagen sedan packed with explosives through the gate of the ministry building, located in eastern Baghdad, Jihad said. Guards fired on the vehicle which exploded about 20 meters from the gate, killing at least two guards, Jihad said. Before dawn, insurgents attacked an Iraqi army checkpoint in Youssifiyah, 20 km. south of Baghdad, killing nine soldiers and injuring one, said Dr Dawood Al Taaei of nearby Mahmoudiya Hospital. Gunmen killed two Iraqi police sergeants employed by the Iraqi Cabinet in a drive-by shooting today in Dora, said police Capt. Firas Qaiti. Another two Iraqi police commandos were killed and five injured in a car bomb blast at 1230 BST at Madain about 20 km. southeast of Baghdad, police Col. Selam Mehmood, said. A suicide car bomber, apparently targeting a US convoy, exploded his vehicle today and killed two Iraqis and injured nine others in northern Iraq, said police Brig. Sarhat Qadir. The attack happened near the headquarters of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Tuz Khormato, south of Kirkuk, 290 km. north of Baghdad, said Qadir. "With the escalating

operations by security forces, we expect such reactions coming to the surface, but this will have no effect on the operations," Laith Kuba, spokesman for Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, said during a press conference. The first of more than 40,000 soldiers and police deployed to Baghdad's streets early today, were erecting scores of checkpoints on the southern and northern outskirts of the city. Iraqi security forces searched hundreds of vehicles and raided several houses, described as "terrorist dens" in Dora, arresting several suspects, said army Capt. Ihssan Abdel-Hamza.

Hilla, May 30 -- Two suicide bombers strapped with explosives blew themselves up in a crowd of protesting former policemen south of Baghdad today, killing 27 in one of the deadliest attacks in a month of escalating violence. Further stoking sectarian tensions, U.S. troops burst into the home of a leading Sunni Arab politician before dawn, arresting him and three of his sons. After angry protests from Sunnis, the military released Mohsen Abdul-Hamid, head of the Iraqi Islamic Party, saying he was arrested by mistake. Al Qaeda's network in Iraq, led by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for the double suicide bomb attack in the mainly Shi'ite town of Hilla. Police said the bombers mingled with former police commandos who were demonstrating outside a government office because their unit had been disbanded. The first bomber detonated his explosives in the middle of the crowd. As survivors scattered, the other bomber ran with them and blew himself up nearby. More than 100 people were wounded, police said. In an effort to restore public confidence sapped by relentless violence and the long delay in forming a cabinet after the elections, the government launched the biggest Iraqi military operation since the fall of Saddam Hussein yesterday. Officials say 40,000 Iraqi troops will seal off routes into Baghdad and search the city district by district for foreign Arab fighters and Iraqi insurgents. Political leaders have called for calm. There are fears of ethnic tensions between Kurds and Arabs. In the Arab-Kurdish city of Kirkuk, a Kurdish general was shot dead overnight. The militant Army of Ansar al-Sunna claimed responsibility. In the western Sunni-dominated Anbar province, a stronghold of the insurgency, U.S. troops raided two towns on the Euphrates river and killed several foreign fighters, the military said. "Multiple sources of intelligence indicated that elements of the Abu Musab al-Zarqawi terrorist network were operating in the area, including key lieutenants, suicide bombers, and a contingent of foreign fighters," a U.S. military statement said. "Operations against suspected foreign fighter strongholds resulted in killing over a dozen terrorists and foreign fighters. Specifically the bodies of three Saudis and one Moroccan

have been identified and others are being sought within the destroyed buildings." -- Reuters.

Baghdad, May 31 -- Four Americans and an Iraqi were killed when an Iraqi Air Force plane went down in eastern Iraq yesterday, a spokesman for Iraq's Defence Ministry confirmed today. The plane, a six-seater Comp Air turbo-prop usually used for reconnaissance, went down near the town of Jalawla, 150 km north-east of Baghdad, near the Iranian border. It is believed to have crashed in a sandstorm, the spokesman said. "All five on board were killed -- an American and an Iraqi officer and three other Americans," he said. The U.S. military in Baghdad said it had no further information beyond a statement it released late yesterday saying an aircraft with four U.S. military personnel and an Iraqi on board had crashed in eastern Iraq. -- Reuters.

Baghdad, May 31 -- The governor of Iraq's troubled Anbar province, who was kidnapped earlier this month, was found dead along with his militant captors after they clashed with U.S. forces, a government spokesman said today. Laith Kubba told a news conference that the body of Anbar governor Raja Nawaf was found tied to a gas canister in a house near the town of Rawa two days ago. Kubba said the bodies of two Syrians, one Jordanian and an Algerian were beside Nawaf after the fighting erupted. Kubba said the authorities do not know how Nawaf died but it was likely that concrete fell on him after the clashes triggered explosives in the house. -- Reuters.

Baghdad, Jun 1 -- A suicide car bomb exploded at a checkpoint on the road to Baghdad's international airport and near a U.S. military base today, police said. There were no immediate reports of any casualties. They said the bomb detonated among a group of vehicles at the main civilian checkpoint where cars enter the secure airport complex. The checkpoint is close to the entrance to the main U.S. military base in the capital. The airport road is one of the most dangerous in Iraq, with daily car bombings, shootings and other attacks. There are sometimes as many as three car bombings a day on the short stretch of road. -- Reuters.

Baghdad, Jun 2 -- A suicide car bomber attacked a convoy of local government vehicles in the Iraqi town of Baquba today, killing five people including the deputy head of the town council, police said. They said the official, Hussein Alwan al-Tamimi, was travelling with a convoy of vehicles when the bomber struck. Baquba is 65 km north-east of Baghdad. -- Reuters.

Baghdad, Jun 2 -- A suicide bomber today killed at least 12 people when he ploughed his car into a restaurant in northern Iraq where bodyguards of the Kurdish deputy prime minister were eating, Iraq's Defense Ministry said. Deputy Prime Minister Rowsch Shways was not with his guards when the bomber struck in the town of Tuz Khurmatu, southeast of Kirkuk, they

said. Thirty-seven people were wounded, hospital officials said. Another suicide bomber struck in Kirkuk, detonating his car at the gates of the North Oil Company, a state firm that manages pipelines and refineries in oil-rich northern Iraq. Police said one person was killed and 12 wounded. -- Reuters.

ISRAEL

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Three Palestinians were wounded in an Israeli air strike yesterday as violence flared again in Gaza amid pessimism that the Middle East ceasefire will prove enduring. While violence has dropped off, the two sides are no closer to launching a political process than they were when Mahmoud Abbas, the moderate Palestinian president, was elected in January. Yesterday's violence and the varying perceptions of it suggest the ceasefire could collapse due to a series of small incidents getting intertwined and the readiness of Palestinian factions to opt independently for retaliation - real or contrived - against the Israeli army. Israeli officials said the air force targeted two missile launchers that were about to be fired in the northern Gaza Strip by a cell of militants and added the launchers were struck in the attack. Palestinians said an Israeli reconnaissance drone had fired, wounding a man and two women, apparently bystanders, with shrapnel. The fundamentalist Islamic Jihad group said its men were trying to carry out an attack but had emerged unscathed. "While we agreed [with Mr Abbas] to the calming down, we also agreed on the right of the Palestinian people to respond to Israeli violations," said Khaled Batsh, a spokesman for the group. He said it was responding to incidents on Sunday (May 29), including one in which a Palestinian man was shot dead at a checkpoint in the West Bank city of Hebron. The army said he was approaching with a knife and they fired warning shots. Palestinian media reports said he was killed "under the pretext" that he had a knife.

KYRGYZSTAN

Bishkek, Jun 1 -- Fierce scuffles broke out at Kyrgyzstan's Supreme Court today after an angry crowd of some 200 people stormed the building to eject around 100 protesters who have occupied it since late April. Reuters correspondent Olga Dzyubenko saw the attackers throwing out blankets and mattresses used by the people who seized the building on Apr 25 in protest at an earlier flawed parliamentary election. Some 100 unarmed police and soldiers were trying to separate the sides. The incident underscores the continuing volatility of the impoverished Central Asian state more than two months after a popular upheaval in Mar 24 that followed the disputed February-March poll. -- Reuters.

NEPAL

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least two people have been killed in fresh clashes between government soldiers and Maoist rebels in Nepal, the authorities say. The overnight clashes occurred in the south-western district of Kanchanpur, on the border with India. The authorities say the rebels may have suffered heavy casualties. The clashes followed an attack on a police post at Gaddhachauki, situated less than a kilometre from the Indian border. Hundreds of rebels who came on farm tractors attacked the post. The authorities said the rebels fled after three hours of fighting.

PAKISTAN

Islamabad, May 27 -- At least 14 people were killed by a suspected suicide bombing at a Muslim shrine in the Pakistani capital Islamabad today, police said. The blast occurred at the Bari Imam shrine, which is close to Pakistan's main government buildings and the diplomatic enclave, where many embassies and diplomatic residences are located. "Our initial information suggests it was a suicide attack," Islamabad police chief Talat Mehmood Tariq told Reuters, adding that at least 14 people had been killed. Thousands of devotees from the majority Sunni Muslim and minority Shi'ite Muslim sects were attending a festival in the area at the time of the explosion, the private Geo television station said. -- Reuters.

London, May 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Pakistani army says it has crushed militant networks in the tribal area of South Waziristan near the Afghanistan border. The local army commander, Major-General Niaz Khattak, says more than 300 militants were killed and hundreds more arrested during the operation. But he says there was no sign of the Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. "The last nine, 10 months that we have been in operations where we have geared up our intelligence and where we've been able to win over the people who are now ready and forthcoming in giving us information," he said. "We have had no information in South Waziristan of the presence of Osama bin Laden."

Karachi, May 30 -- Six people, including three assailants, were killed in a suicide bomb attack today at a minority Shi'ite Muslim mosque in southern Pakistan, the latest religious violence to rock the country, officials said. At least 18 other people were wounded, four seriously, in the attack at the Mandinatul Ilm mosque in a middle-class area of Karachi, hospital officials said. Rizwan Edhi of the Edhi Welfare Trust emergency service said groups of people angered by the blast set fire to a nearby outlet of the American fast food chain KFC and also attacked a hospital. Hours earlier in Karachi, unknown assailants killed a provincial leader from the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal Islamic opposition alliance, police said. Aslam Mujahid, deputy chief of Jamaat-e-

Islami in Karachi, was kidnapped early in the day and his bullet-riddled body was later found in an abandoned car in the east of the city. Mairaj-ul-Huda, head of Jamaat-e-Islami's Karachi wing, said Mujahid was kidnapped after the funeral of a party member. "Two hours later we received a phone call from the area Nazim that his body has been in a car." Huda said the party suspected the Muttahida Qaumi Movement, a rival regional party that is a member of the governing national coalition, was behind the killing. "The city has been put on high alert," Rauf Siddiqui, home minister for the southern province of Sindh, of which Karachi is the capital, told Reuters. "We have ordered all police stations to remain on high alert and have asked the police and rangers to increase patrolling." "The blast, and the killing of Aslam Mujahid earlier in the day show that all these activities are planned," he said, adding that a reward of 2.5 million rupees (\$42,000) had been offered for information about Mujahid's assassins. -- Reuters.

PHILIPPINES

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Three civilians were killed and 13 others wounded when attackers hurled two hand grenades into a village in Zamboanga City in southern Philippines last night, the military said in Manila today.

RUSSIA

London, May 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Chechen rebel warlord Shamil Basayev has claimed responsibility for the massive power outage that plunged the Russian capital into chaos earlier this week. The claim has been made in a statement published on a web site close to Chechen separatists and emailed to a news agency. "On May 24 and 25 Mujahedin sabotage groups successfully conducted a special operation in Moscow and the surrounding region, causing a major breakdown in the power system," the statement said. Wednesday's (May 25) power outage left many homes and businesses in Moscow without electricity for much of the day. About 20,000 people were stranded in underground metro tunnels and there was chaos on the city's streets. Russia's United Energy Systems (UES) has blamed the outage on an accident at its Chagino power plant, which runs on equipment installed more than four decades ago. The company has said a small fire erupted at the plant south of Moscow on Tuesday, but then the facility's ageing equipment failed on Wednesday. A UES executive said several consecutive days of hot weather may have played a role in the breakdown.

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Russia has promised to shut its two military bases in neighbouring Georgia and pull out its troops in 2008 in a breakthrough deal that should end a

dispute that has poisoned ties for years. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov announced the move after months of rising tension between Moscow and Tbilisi, whose new pro-Western government describes the presence of Russian troops in the two Soviet-era bases as an "occupation". "The final withdrawal will be completed in 2008," Mr Lavrov said after talks in Moscow with his Georgian counterpart Salome Zurbishvili. Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili said the decision should help thaw the chilly atmosphere between the two nations. "I am sure that with the removal of one of the painful problems in Georgian-Russian relations we can adjust to more constructive relations," he said in Tbilisi. Mr Lavrov and Ms Zurbishvili signed a joint communique covering the main stages of the phased withdrawal, something the Georgian side wanted to see before striking a final deal. Ms Zurbishvili said the communique stated that all Russian armour would be withdrawn from the country, while any of the 2,500 soldiers and officers deployed at the bases who wanted to remain residents of Georgia would be allowed to. "We expect up to one-third of the servicemen to use this chance," she said. Ms Zurbishvili said that, as far as Georgia was concerned, the deal did not need parliamentary ratification and would come into effect immediately. But a separate technical protocol would be worked out by experts and ratified by the Russian parliament, she said. "It is not a legally binding document," Ms Zurbishvili said of the communique. "But it is politically binding."

SOMALIA

London, May 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rival Somali warlords have clashed in Baidoa, killing at least 15 people over plans to relocate the government - now based in Kenya - to the city. The heavy fighting broke out in the early hours of this morning, lasting more than six hours, eyewitnesses say. The city remains in hands of Mohamed Habsade, who wants the government to move to the capital, Mogadishu - in defiance of the new president. The Mogadishu warlords want the interim government to set up in their city when it leaves neighbouring Kenya, but President Abudullahi Yusuf, who has little support in the capital, says Mogadishu remains too dangerous and wants to go to Baidoa and Jowhar instead. Since fighting died down, hundreds of people have begun to flee from the city, fearing the clashes may restart as reinforcement militias from both sides are heading towards the city. The row over where to where to relocate the new administration - formed last year after two years of talks in Kenya - is threatening to split the government. A third of Somali MPs have already moved back to Mogadishu. Mr Habsade and his supporters see the

president as an ally of Ethiopia. They feel a move to Baidoa, which is closer to Ethiopia's border, would shift the balance of power in the new government towards the president. Recently, Mogadishu warlords accused Ethiopia of giving weapons and troops to people close to Mr Yusuf, so he could mount an attack on Baidoa. Ethiopia strongly denied the allegation. The African Union has agreed to send some 1,700 troops to Somalia but said it would not send them unless it was safe to do so.

SUDAN

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Sudan's biggest opposition party has said it will boycott the power-sharing government due to take office in July. Umma party leader Sadiq al-Mahdi said that the government would be made up of two groups which were not democratically elected. In January, the Islamic government and southern rebels agreed to end 21 years of war and set up a joint government. Mr al-Mahdi was deposed as Sudan's leader in a coup by current President Omar al-Bashir, in 1989. The Umma party is also boycotting the committee drawing up an interim constitution. In April, Umma said it had been banned from political activity after Mr al-Mahdi said he backed sending those accused of war crimes in the Darfur region to the International Criminal Court.

TURKEY

Diyarbakur, May 30 -- A bomb exploded next to an oil pipeline in south-east Turkey today, causing some damage and spilling around 100 barrels of oil, industry officials said. The blast occurred in the province of Batman where the state TPAO oil company has facilities and caused a fire which firemen rapidly extinguished. It was not clear who planted the device and security forces have launched an investigation. The separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) has carried out similar attacks in the past as part of its violent campaign to create a homeland in southeast Turkey. -- Reuters.

UGANDA

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Ugandan People's Defence Force (UPDF) Monday (May 30) killed 16 rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) fighting in the northern part of the country, an army spokesman said today. The northern Uganda army spokesman, Lt. Tabaro Kiconco said that the 16 rebels were killed in various operations in Pader and Kitgum districts. Kiconco said that the UPDF troops raided LRA bases in Kimiya, Atup, Kalongo and Achuru in Pader district and Lalak Bamboo Forest in Kitgum district. He said six rebels were killed in an ambush while 10 others died in open battle engagements.

Labour Disputes



ARGENTINA

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fifty thousand employees of government banks carried out a two-day strike on May 26 and 27 in Argentina to press for higher wages. A spokesperson for the Banking Association (the union that represents the employees) had declared in advance that employees would provide services only for retired workers cashing their cheques. This strike follows up a 24-hour walkout the week before. It was most effective in the provinces of Buenos Aires, Santa Fe, Santa Cruz and Tucuman. The workers are demanding a 30 percent wage increase, protection of their seven-and-a-half-hour day and a new contract. In another dispute, Cannery workers at the southern town of Puerto Madryn have been on strike for over a month. They are demanding a 100 percent wage increase. Picket lines have effectively shut down fish packing plants and an industrial park located on the docks. Puerto Madryn is located in northern Chubut Province in Argentina's Patagonia region. Last week management offered the strikers 6.50 pesos an hour (about \$US2.20), an 80 percent raise, the same wage granted to workers at another port, Comodoro Rivadavia, also in Chubut, with the provision that the packers accept a three-year wage freeze going forward and a guarantee of social peace. The Puerto Madryn strikers, who insist on 7.80 pesos with no restrictions, have rejected the offer. At the nearby Port of Rawson, south of Puerto Madryn, workers occupying a cannery protested by giving away fish at hospitals and schools. They demanded that Governor Das Neves intervene on their behalf. Instead, provincial authorities have announced that they intend to have the police evict the workers. About 70 percent of workers in the Chubut fish canneries are female. A striker said that the monthly pay at fish canneries in Spain is 1,100 euros (4,000 pesos), while in Argentina it is 500 pesos, which is not enough even for a family with two incomes. The monthly family minimum is estimated at 1,800 pesos.

FINLAND

London, May 31 -- Finns are hoarding toilet rolls as a strike in the paper industry, already in its third week, threatens to go on until the end of June. Talks over pay and working hours have foundered, and employers have now extended a staff lock-out. The paper industry accounts for one-third of Finland's total exports. There are fears the strike could have a wider impact on the Finnish economy, and may damage companies that rely on packaging. An 18 May lock-out

instituted by paper-mill employers, including Stora Enso and UPM-Kymmene, has closed mills around the country. The dispute came after weeks of union protests and wildcat strikes. The most recent attempt at negotiations between unions and employers broke down after a few hours on May 25, but talks will start again at 1000, tomorrow morning. Although details of the talks have not been announced, the employers are thought to want to keep paper plants open during Christmas and mid-summer, saying other industries in Finland do not close down for these holidays. The Finnish Forest Industries Federation, which represents employers, is offering 1,600 euros and an 11-hour cut in annual hours as compensation for workers who might end up working during Christmas and mid-summer, but the unions want more.

FRANCE

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: A strike by four railway federations disrupted train service today across France, wreaking havoc for rush-hour commuters and delaying many long-distance travellers. Only 60 percent of France's fast trains were running, but there was little or no effect on international lines, including the Eurostar train to London, said the train authority, the SNCF. The strike, which began at 1800, GMT, yesterday and was to end at 0600, GMT, tomorrow, cut deeply into Paris' suburban train traffic, with far fewer than the usual trains in operation. Commuters were forced to wait it out - or go home. Railroad workers called the strike to demand better pay and jobs and defend the public service and the right to strike.

KENYA

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: A strike called by the Kenya Union of Civil Servants today paralysed services in government institutions across the country. The striking civil servants are demanding a 600 percent pay rise and have vowed not to relent even in the face of threats of being sacked by the government. In Bomet, officials of Kenya Civil Servants Union said the more than 1,000 members in the region were on a go slow. Branch chairman Jonathan Kirui and treasurer Wilfred Koech said the civil servants were joining their colleagues across the country in the strike to press for better pay packages. In Bondo District, all activities in the government offices were paralysed as civil servants "downed their tools" in solidarity. The worst hit was the Bondo district hospital where both out and in patients waited in vain to receive medical attention and in Gucha district, government offices remained closed. Area DC Samuel Kilele, who convened a meeting with heads of departments in his office called for a lasting solution to end it. In Kilifi, most government offices were deserted as civil servants stayed away

from work and gathered near the District Commissioner's office to be addressed by union officials. Some civil servants who had intended to report to their work stations were barred by their colleagues who heckled them and told them to join the strike. The national vice chairman of the civil servants' union Ramadhan Bendera mobilised workers to stay away from work and told them not to give in to any pressure until the government implements a 600 percent salary demand. Bendera said the strike would force the government to respect its workers. At Taveta town scores of striking civil servants demonstrated outside the local district officer's office then held a morning meeting where their leaders told them to keep away from their offices. The most affected department at the border town was the immigration and by mid-morning reports indicated there was likely to be a crisis at the border crossing, unless civil servants resumed work. Also affected was the Lands office where hardly any workers reported in today.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: ANZ and National bank staff are back on strike again today. The rural team and lending support centre have walked away from the office for the 26th day of strike action. Finsec Union Campaign Director Karen Skinner says it is the biggest strike so far. She says staff are at the end of their tether as the bank has made no steps towards negotiations. Ms Skinner says they have wanted to get back into talks for sometime and have made themselves available, but the bank does not seem interested. The bank, meanwhile, is viewing today's strike as pointless, insisting it has agreed to go into mediation with the union. The rural team and lending support centre staff are the latest to walk off the job. ANZ, National Bank spokesman Andrew McSweeney says union claims that they are refusing to negotiate simply are not true. Mr McSweeney says they agreed to go into mediation around a week ago but they have been advised a mediator is not available for another three weeks. He says an agreed date is the only outstanding issue and that is out of their hands.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, May 27 -- The strike called by various employee unions of the state owned telecommunication firm against its privatisation, continued across the country for the third day today. An official of the central president of union and a member of Unions Action Committee of Pakistan Telecommunication Co (PTCL) has stated that the country-wide strike being observed by the PTCL employees would continue until their demands were met. He said that the demands included job security of thousands of employees after privatisation of the utility, regularisation of contractual and daily wage staff, and

implementation of new pay scales. Meanwhile, in Karachi, thousands of low ranking company employees observed a complete "pens-down and tools-down" strike in different offices and exchanges across the city. The workers attended their respective offices but did not work for the whole day. The telephone inquiry (17), complaint number (18) and centralised number (106) remained inoperative. Work on the Gateway Exchange and Pak Capital Exchange also suffered. Thousands of subscribers were the ultimate sufferers as their faulty telephone could not be repaired or they were unable to book calls due to non-availability of PTCL staff. In addition, Pakistan largest mobile firm-Mobilink has announced that due to the partial breakdown in PTCL optic fibre, the company subscribers are experiencing connectivity problems. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, May 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: A walk-out at Pakistan's leading telecoms company, which has severely hit communications throughout the country, has entered its fifth day. Talks between unions and management have failed to reach a breakthrough as workers protest against the planned privatisation of the state-run company. They fear this could lead to mass job losses at Pakistan Telecommunication Company (PTCL). Commentators believe the government may intervene to try to end the strike. Unions claim that 55,000 employees are on strike, while the company says a skeleton operation is running with 6,000 workers. Local papers reported that several hundred police and Frontier Constabulary (FC) were being mobilised to flush out striking workers from PTCL headquarters in Islamabad, should talks between unions and management break down. Information and technology minister Awais Leghari told a local TV channel that the government planned to deal with striking workers severely, describing them as "miscreants". PTCL is the most profitable public utility in Pakistan and is a critical part of the government's privatisation policy. The government holds an 88% stake in PTCL and plans to offload a 26% controlling stake in the firm, in what would be the largest business sell-off in Pakistan to date. A barrage of international telecom peers - including Singapore Telecoms, China Mobile HK, Telekom Malaysia, Saudi Oger, Emirates Telecoms, Turkcell and the Almal Consortium of Egypt - have been shortlisted as potential buyers. So far, the strike has slowed down repair and maintenance of some of the company's more than five million fixed phone lines. "If the government sticks to its privatisation plans, we'll shut down all the company's operations," said Zia Uddin, who is leading an alliance of nine different trade unions representing PTCL workers. Workers are also concerned that the firm is being sold off too cheaply. "It should have been double what the

government is demanding," said Zia-ud-Din, president of PTCL Employees Union. The controlling stake PTCL is being sold for is \$2.5bn (\$1.37bn), while unions believe it could easily fetch over \$5bn. Meanwhile, PTCL is confident that a deal to end the strike action will be reached soon, despite the fact that the two opposing sides remain split on the privatisation plans. "They have some apprehensions on job security in a post-privatisation scenario," said executive vice president Ali Qadir Gilani. "The government is trying to address those apprehensions, but the anti-privatisation demand is totally unjust." If a deal with the workers fails to materialise the army is on stand by to keep the country's telecoms network operating. The nine unions are meeting on Jun 5, to decide upon their next course of action. The bidding for the 26% stake in PTCL begins on Jun 10 and a deal is expected to be completed by the end of June.

Karachi, Jun 2 -- A labour union leader of Pakistan Telecommunication Company (PTCL) said this afternoon that talks between high-powered official committee and the PTCL workers' representatives remained fruitless for the last three days as the strike entered its tenth day. The Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz has formed a high-powered committee comprising secretaries of IT & Telecom, Privatisation Commission and Interior to hold talks with representatives of the protesting PTCL employees. He said during the talks chaired by the secretary IT & Telecom, the leaders of the protesting workers stuck to their stance of ringing a total breakdown of telecom system on Jun 6 if PTCL privatisation plans are not shelved. There are about 65,000 employees of state owned telephone utility across the country. They are not attending any technical complaints since went on strike. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent

PANAMA

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: In response to last week's police repression of protests against the dismantling of the country's social security system, Panamanian unions organised a general strike of indefinite duration beginning May 26. Throughout the week, police used tear gas to attack thousands of demonstrators in Panama City, Colon and other cities. Sixteen demonstrators were injured and 336 were arrested. The demonstrations had been organised by the National Front in Defense of Social Security to oppose the reforms to the system proposed by President Martin Torrijos. Among the protesters were many workers and teachers. Despite the protests, the Panamanian legislature approved draft reforms that raise the age of retirement for women to 62 from 57 and for men to 65 from 62, and increase workers' contributions to the social security fund from 7.5 percent of wages to 10.75 percent, while increasing the

employers' contribution from 10.75 to 13.25 percent. The Social Security pension fund has a deficit of \$4,000 million and risks insolvency by 2012. On Friday (May 27), over 60,000 workers and students rallied in Panama City to protest the new law. Groups of protesters battled the police, who responded with volleys of tear gas. Over 200 were arrested.

PERU

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Employees of the Volcan Mining Company walked off their jobs on May 26 to demand profit sharing payments owed to them by the company. Volcan management denies owing the workers the money and insists that the strike is illegal. So far, the walkout has affected two out of Volcan's three (zinc) mines, Cerro de Pasco and Yauli. As of May 29, operations were continuing at a third mine, Chungar. Peru is the third largest producer of zinc in the world.

SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg, Jun 2 -- South African miners launched a strike today over job grades at two Samancor Chrome mines, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) said. "There's no activity here at all," NUM official Simon Mtedi at the Western Chrome mine in North West province told Reuters. He said around 700 miners had launched the work stoppage in the morning after a deadlock with management about implementing agreed job upgradings included in last year's wage agreement. Around 1,250 workers also were on strike at Samancor's Eastern Chrome mine in Mpumalanga province, domestic news agency SAPA said. Samancor, owned by the privately-held Kermas Group, is one of the world's biggest producers of ferrochrome, an alloy made from chrome and used in stainless steel to deter corrosion. The firm was not immediately available for comment. -- Reuters.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 27 -- Around 1,000 UK staff at HSBC, Europe's biggest bank by market value, staged a one-day strike over pay today with union officials warning further protests might follow if no settlement is achieved. The 24-hour strike is taking place on the same day as HSBC's annual shareholder meeting in London. The Amicus trade union says the strike is in protest against a 2005 pay award that gave 55 percent of British HSBC workers no pay rise or a rise that was no more than inflation. "Amicus believes that staff are paid peanuts and will be asking shareholders if they think that's fair," the union said in a statement ahead of the shareholders' meeting. About 10,000 members at HSBC's branches and call centres around the country had been called out, a spokesman for the Amicus union said. "There is the possibility of more strikes if there is no pay deal. We will formally seek new meetings with the company as soon as

the strike is finished," he said. A HSBC spokesman said around 1,000 workers were on strike. The strikers represent around two percent of the 55,000 people employed at HSBC's UK retail and commercial bank and the spokesman said operations were unaffected by the industrial action with all branches and call centres open as usual. "On the morning of what Amicus hopes will be a disruptive day for our staff and customers, we are still not expecting to close a single branch. The information we have from our core call centres and processing facilities is that the industrial action has so far caused no disruption whatsoever," the spokesman said. HSBC said earlier this week that Amicus had walked out of confidential talks organised by Acas, the government's industrial arbitration service. The bank said it had made a number of proposals during the five days of negotiations and was prepared to keep talking. -- Reuters.

London, May 29 -- A press report, dated May 28, states: Train guards in Merseyside were staging a 24-hour strike today in a dispute over working hours. It is the second of four planned walkouts by members of the Rail Maritime and Transport (RMT) union who work for Merseyrail. A half-hourly service was operating between Hunts Cross and Southport and Liverpool and Ormskirk. A shuttle service was also operating between Rock Ferry and Liverpool but no other trains were on the Wirral line. There were no trains from Liverpool to Kirkby. The guards were protesting against Merseyrail's demand that they give up four annual rest days so that six new staff can be recruited to cover a reduction in working hours. RMT members want their 36-hour week reduced to 35. An RMT spokesman said 170 Merseyrail guards had gone on strike. He added: "Nobody wants to go on strike, it is always a last resort, but this is an issue of principle. They have put a package on the table which we say is unacceptable. We have been dealing with this issue for the last four or five years and we have still not reached an agreement." Picket lines were formed at Birkenhead Central, Kirkdale and Southport stations. The industrial dispute is the same one that disrupted train services over the Grand National weekend, when workers walked out for 48 hours. Two further strikes are planned for Jun 10 and Jul 9. Merseyrail has apologised to travellers for the disruption caused by the dispute.

UNITED STATES

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated Jun 1, states: Nearly 2,000 Coca-Cola employees in Southern California reached a tentative five-year contract with the company early today, ending a weeklong strike and stopping a rally that had been planned. Workers went on strike May 24 amid a dispute over proposed pay hikes that they contended wouldn't cover increased health care costs, said

Hilda Delgado, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County Federation of Labour. Negotiators for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc. reached an agreement at 0100 hrs, today. The agreement affects some 1,700 drivers, bottlers and warehouse workers in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Awards & Settlements



ANTI-COMPETITIVE PRACTICES, AUSTRALIA

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Federal Court in Sydney has approved a \$5 million fine against the retailer Coles Myer and its Liquorland companies for anti-competitive practices. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission brought charges against Coles Myer in 2003, claiming the Liquorland business was breaching the Trade Practices Act in New South Wales. The retailer admitted it would lodge objections against licensing applications from other hotels and bottle shops in the Liquor Licensing Court but then withdrew the objections if the smaller retailers would agree to certain conditions, which were found to be restrictive. In Sydney today, the Federal Court has approved an agreed settlement between the ACCC and Liquorland, which includes \$5 million in fines and legal costs.

BREACH OF CONTRACT, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated May 31, states: A jury awarded Nine Inch Nails alternative rocker Trent Reznor \$2.95 million after finding his former manager breached his contract and acted fraudulently, a lawyer said today. The jury in Manhattan federal court delivered the verdict Friday (May 27) against John Malm, Reznor's longtime manager, said attorney Zia F. Modabber. The award likely would top \$4 million when interest is added. The civil verdict came after a three-week trial in which Reznor testified that he was stunned to learn in 2003 that despite millions of dollars in earnings, he was left with as little as \$400,000 in cash. "I felt I had an accountant I couldn't trust," Reznor testified. Reznor sued Malm, contending he duped Reznor into signing a contract that gave Malm 20 percent of his gross earnings rather than net earnings, and let Malm collect the commission forever. A lawyer for Malm, Alan Hirth, said in an opening statement that Malm worked many years for no salary and kept nothing secret from Reznor. Nine Inch Nails' fourth studio album and first in six years, "With Teeth," debuted last month at No.1 in sales.

DELAY IN OPENING NEW TERMINAL AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated May 26, states: The Port of Los Angeles will pay \$22.2 million in a legal settlement to a Chinese shipping firm because it failed to open a new terminal on time. City harbour commissioners approved the settlement with China Shipping Holding Co. yesterday. The port will pay the Shanghai-based firm up to \$7.2 million in additional penalties if it fails to complete two expansions of the terminal on schedule. The port, one of the nation's busiest, ran foul of environmental groups and nearby communities because of the amount of diesel and other pollution from ships and port activities. Last year, the port opened the nation's first "green" terminal, which allows ships to use onshore electricity while docked instead of their engines. China Shipping leases the terminal. It had planned to move in two years earlier but an appellate court ordered construction halted after groups sued the port for failing to conduct required environmental reviews. In 2003, the port agreed to pay \$60 million for environmental projects in return for being allowed to finish the terminal. The additional payment to China Shipping is for losses associated with the delay in opening the terminal and the cost of retrofitting its ships to use the port electricity.

OMISSION OF LOGO ON RECORD, UNITED STATES

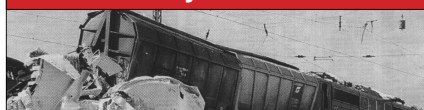
London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated May 31, states: Sony Music was ordered to pay \$5 million for not putting a Cleveland record company's logo on Meat Loaf's *Bat Out of Hell* album. A former talent scout who helped Epic Records land such superstars as Michael Jackson, Boston and The Charlie Daniels Band, Steve Popovich created Cleveland International Records in 1977 and signed singer Marvin Lee Aday - stage name Meat Loaf. He got Epic, a CBS Records subsidiary, to release *Bat Out of Hell*, which sold more than 30 million copies and was among the most popular records of all time. Sony, which bought out CBS, paid \$6.7 million to Popovich and others at the now-defunct Cleveland company in 1998 to settle a lawsuit over album royalties. The settlement required Sony to place the Cleveland International Records logo on future Meat Loaf albums, but Sony delayed for more than a year. Sony claimed the omission was a mistake that it was later corrected. Sony planned to appeal Friday's (May 27) decision.

ROAD ACCIDENT, NEWPORT, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Sydney man has been awarded \$6.4 million in compensation, for the injuries he suffered in a motorbike accident five years ago. In March 2000, Richard Paul Armstead was riding his

motorbike down a winding road at Newport on Sydney's northern beaches when he swerved to avoid a car travelling on the wrong side of the road. The Supreme Court was told Mr Armstead was rendered a quadriplegic when he fell off his bike, and struck the kerb. In the Supreme Court today, the 45-year-old was awarded \$6.4 million, which includes the cost of past and future medical care, equipment and other requirements as well as economic loss. The driver of the car did not stop and has never been identified, and Mr Armstead's compensation will be paid for by a collective insurance fund.

Railway Accidents



AZEEM KHAN, PUNJAB PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

Karachi, May 28 -- Pakistan Railway (PR) said that its Lahore bound goods train from Karachi, derailed when it arrived at Azeem Khan, 16 km from Rahimyar Khan in Punjab Province of Pakistan on Friday afternoon (May 27). As a result railway traffic on the main line between Karachi and various up-country destinations was suspended. The accident took place between the Taranda Saway Khan and Kotsamaba stations at around 1400, local time. Restoration work has already started and officials expressed hope that it will be completed today. The PR authorities said that 13 container wagons derailed and fell over tracks shortly after the UC-271 train had left the Taranda Saway Khan station for an upcountry destination. Two small bridges on watercourses were damaged causing suspension of traffic. The authorities had to halt 30 up-and-down trains at different stations in Punjab and Sindh. The PR officials said the derailment had apparently been caused by some technical fault but added that the exact cause could be determined only after investigation. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Several blocks in "downtown" Baton Rouge were evacuated when a Canadian National train derailed, but no one was injured and no pollutants were released. Tourists visiting the U-S-S Kidd Veterans Memorial and Museum and the Louisiana Arts and Science Museum had to leave yesterday, along with about 500 participants in the River Center's A-B-C bowling championship. That after at least eight cars derailed partially. Four of the cars were carrying propylene oxide -- a volatile, flammable gas with a sweet odour that can cause severe skin irritation and burns. Baton Rouge Fire Department spokesman Robert Combs

says authorities blocked off several blocks in the area. He did not know how long the area would remain off limits. Canadian National spokesman Jim Kvedaras said investigators from the railroad have yet to determine what caused the derailment. And, he says getting the train back on track is priority, but may not occur until later today and could take several hours because the accident occurred in a tourist location. He says crews will want to be more careful in the area so they can minimise damage. Kvedaras says the railroad will pay for any damage, including a busted fountain.

BIJARANI AREA, SINDH PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jun 2 -- Pakistan Railway said seven bogies and the engine (8076) of the passenger train-20-down Khushhal Khan Khattak Express derailed near Bijarani railway station in the Thul area in Sindh province of Pakistan yesterday. Some passengers were injured as well damages to track reported. The train was coming to Karachi from Peshawar. A relief train was dispatched immediately which arranged the engine and bogies on track and cleared the track. An inquiry is being ordered. Earlier, engine driver Baba Rais Ahmed told journalists that while the train was moving at high speed, it appeared to him that the track ahead was unbolting. He applied brakes while ensuring that the train did not get out of control. However, when it approached the station, the engine and the bogies derailed, he added. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

BOWDEN AREA, ALBERTA, CANADA

London, May 28 -- A press report, dated May 27, states: A train derailed north of Bowden early this morning, with two yard locomotives and about one-third of the cars slipping off the tracks. Len Cocolicchio, a spokesman for Canadian Pacific, said the accident occurred at 0230, about one kilometre north of the town. Bowden is about half way between Calgary and Red Deer. Cocolicchio said the cars remained upright and all but one were empty. The full car was carrying pipe. Of the train's 78 cars, 24 left the tracks. Equipment is being brought in to put the cars back on the rails and move the train away so the tracks can be repaired.

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated May 31, states: The Metropolitan Transportation Authority says southbound F train service from Manhattan into Brooklyn is now running smoothly, after a work train derailed this morning near Smith Street, causing major delays for commuters. The MTA says it is still working to restoring service for northbound commuters. The MTA says it expects Manhattan-bound F trains to run express from Fourth Avenue to

Bergen Street at least until midnight today. The G line remains suspended south of Hoyt Street.

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 28 -- A press report, dated May 27, states: Ten rail passengers were treated at the scene today after a commuter train derailed in south London. Three ambulance crews were called to the scene shortly after 1600 this afternoon when the 1550 Streatham Hill to London Bridge service, operated by Southern Railways, derailed at Leigham Junction between Streatham Hill and Tulse Hill. An investigation into the cause of the incident has been launched. A British Transport Police spokesman said: "Two of the eight carriages derailed, but both remained upright. "The 10 passengers on board were taken off the train and no serious injuries have been reported. "Up to four people may be suffering shock, and one woman reported suffering from chest pains." The BTP spokesman added: "The train driver has been breathalysed, as is standard procedure, and that has proved negative. "There is no indication of the cause of the derailment at this stage." A London Ambulance Service spokesman said: "Three ambulance crews and two officers were sent to the scene. "The 10 passengers were checked over at the scene and one adult female was treated in the back of an ambulance after suffering chest pains, but did not require hospital treatment."

MARKLE, EAST LOTHIAN, SCOTLAND

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated Jun 1, states: Travel chaos has hit travellers after an East Lothian train fire closed the east coast mainline. About 200 passengers were evacuated from the Virgin Voyager's Birmingham to Edinburgh service after the incident at Markle near East Linton. No one was hurt but the route was closed down with buses brought in to provide alternative transport. Thousands of rail passengers had their journeys disrupted as a result of the closure.

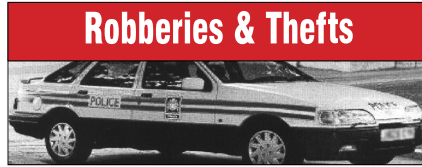
SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated May 30, states: Authorities say three freight train cars derailed last night in San Pedro, about 25 miles south of downtown Los Angeles. One car contains propane, but there have been no reports of injuries or leaks. Two containers are empty. Authorities have not released the name of the rail company that owns the freight train. The cars derailed at about 2030, yesterday. A nearby intersection was temporarily closed to vehicle traffic. Investigators are trying to figure out what caused the crash.

SHARSHADI STATION, BANGLADESH

Karachi May 30 -- Bangladesh Railway said that train services on the

Dhaka-Chittagong route were disrupted for one and half hours following derailment of four bogies of a container train at Sharshadi station on May 29. Railway sources said that the bogies of the Dhaka-bound JLBT One-UP container train derailed when it was crossing Sharshadi station at about 0740, local time. Later, a relief train cleared the track. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.



PAINTINGS, NORWAY

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Oslo police have received several tips about the stolen Munch paintings "The Scream" and "Madonna", after the City of Oslo yesterday offered a NOK 2 million (US\$ 305,000) reward for information leading to the recovery of the paintings. Some of the information has already been discarded, while the police is following some of the other leads, says Morten Hojem Ervik of the Oslo police.



AL-NAVEED (Pakistan)

See "Seizure Of Drugs From Pakistan Vessel, Arabian Sea, Pakistan" under "Miscellaneous".

AUSTRALIAN WHEAT SHIPMENTS UNDER INVESTIGATION BY IRAQ

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Wheat marketers are baffled by Iraq's claim that more than 100,000 tonnes of Australian wheat stranded on vessels in the Persian Gulf is contaminated. The importer, the Iraqi government, claims the 120,000 tonnes of wheat, which has already been paid for, is contaminated with iron dust. But Australian export authorities maintain the cargo is clean and say it underwent its normal thorough inspection by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service. Australia's monopoly wheat export manager, AWB, said the three bulk carriers have been sitting in the Gulf off Iraq's biggest port, Um Qasr, for more than a month. "It is bizarre," AWB spokesman Peter McBride said of Iraq's claims. "We had a similar issue last year with Pakistan. Pakistan claimed we had carnal bunt, which is a wheat disease, which basically floored us because we've never had that disease in Australia. "We worked through that and we've put 650,000 tonnes into that market. "We believe once this issue's finished we will sit

down with the Iraqis and talk about their future trade needs. We value them as an important market for Australian wheat growers - we've been there for 57 years." In a Senate estimates committee in Canberra this week, South Australian Liberal Senator Jeannie Ferris raised concerns that the delay could be costing growers \$100,000 a day in shipping costs. Mr McBride said it was too early to put a figure on any such costs.

CRACKS FOUND IN RUDDERS OF BP TANKERS, UNITED STATES

London, May 27 -- Crude oil tanker Alaskan Explorer arrived Valdez May 25.

DAMAGE TO SPORTING COMPLEX, SPARTA, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated May 28, states: Damage at the World Shooting and Recreation Complex north of Sparta could exceed \$1 million following acts of vandalism at the construction site Wednesday (May 25) night or early Thursday (May 26) morning. Sparta Mayor Randy Bertetto said vandals engaged in a "demolition derby-type" activity with some of the pieces of heavy equipment, running tractors into each other head-on. A construction trailer was damaged and a truck had its tyres slashed. Three four-wheel drive John Deere tractors, four Caterpillar tractors and several pan scrapers also were damaged in the incident. Some of the equipment belonged to E.T. Simonds of Carbondale, which is the general contractor for the road work being constructed on the 3.5-mile long site. Other damaged equipment belonged to Sierra Bravo, a subcontractor for Clinton Electric, another contractor on the project. The Illinois State Police sent crime scene investigators to the scene Thursday. Bertetto said the property is also being patrolled by the Sparta Police Department, Randolph County Sheriff's Department and Illinois Department of Natural Resources, which is developing the shooting complex. "There was a vast amount of damage done," Bertetto said. "The Illinois State Police and Illinois Department of Natural Resources are extremely intent to pursue this to the point of resolution." Bertetto said security has been increased and electronic security devices were being installed this week. Despite the increased security, the site was targeted by burglars Thursday evening. Bertetto said \$8,000 worth of wire was stolen from a fenced-in, gated storage area. The seven large spools of wire had been delivered that day. Despite the damage to equipment, Bertetto said the work schedule on the project has not been hampered. The incident was the second reported act of vandalism at the site. In April, some of the earth-moving equipment was started up and driven on one of the roads, tearing up some of the asphalt.

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

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, May 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: New figures from authorities in China show that an outbreak of the deadly bird flu in the west of the country is five times bigger than originally thought. Chinese officials say more than 1,000 migratory birds have been found dead from the H5N1 virus in a remote area of Qinghai province, which is on the edge of the Tibetan plateau. The number of dead birds was originally put at less than 200. Veterinary official Jia Youling says authorities have sealed off the affected area and are working frantically to vaccinate all 3 million domestic birds in the region. "I need to clarify that although we have taken quite a long time to finally confirm the virus, we have not missed any time to control that disease," he said. "From the second day of the discovery of the cases we began to control the spread of the epidemic. "We've sealed the region off and began to disinfect the area and cull the affected animals."

OUTBREAK OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE, CHINA

Beijing, May 27 -- China found foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks in cattle in three new areas and had brought them under control, a senior Agriculture Ministry official said today. More than 800 head of cattle had been killed and incinerated to control the outbreaks, in Beijing, the neighbouring province of Hebei and the western region of Xinjiang, he said. "All the sick cows and cows living in the same area have been culled. The disease has been put under effective control and has not spread," said Jia Youling, director general of the veterinary bureau of the Agriculture Ministry. No pigs had been found to be infected, he said. -- Reuters.

OUTBREAK OF NOROVIRUS ON UNITED KINGDOM-FLAGGED PASSENGER VESSEL

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A highly contagious virus has struck down about 200 passengers on passenger Oceana (77499 gt, built 2000). Passengers on board the vessel for a 17-day Mediterranean cruise have contracted the norovirus which causes nausea and vomiting for about 24 hours. A P&O spokeswoman said about 130 of the vessel's 2,015 passengers were still unwell. About 10% had been affected. The spokeswoman said: "Passengers who are unwell are being asked to isolate themselves in their cabins for as long as necessary." She added that the 77,000 ton vessel was undergoing an "extensive programme" of sanitation and disinfection to try to prevent the spread of the virus. The company has said passengers who had been forced to isolate themselves would receive compensation. The cruise vessel left Southampton on May 19 and is due

back in port on Jun 5. The spokeswoman said the virus had probably been brought on board by a passenger.

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Around 80 passengers on passenger Oceana remain unwell after contracting a contagious virus, P&O Cruises has said. Passengers were struck down by the norovirus which causes nausea and vomiting for about 24 hours. A P&O spokeswoman said about 200 of the 2,015 passengers had been ill and the ship was being disinfected. The spokeswoman said: "Passengers who are unwell are being asked to isolate themselves in their cabins for as long as necessary." She added that the ship was undergoing an "extensive programme" of sanitation and disinfection to try to prevent the spread of the virus. The company has said passengers who had been forced to isolate themselves would receive compensation. It is currently in Naples and is due to travel to Dubrovnik later today. The spokeswoman said the virus had probably been brought on board by a passenger.

POWER OUTAGE, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

London, May 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Moscow's public transport is now back to normal, bringing relief to thousands of commuters who were stranded by a major power blackout yesterday. The head of the power monopoly Unified Energy System, Anatoly Chubais, is due to appear before prosecutors. A fire and explosion at a substation paralysed public transport and cut the power supply to many apartment blocks, shops, restaurants and hospitals. Power cuts and water shortages are still affecting some parts of Moscow. He apologised for the blackout and said he was ready to take responsibility. He was summoned to testify at 1600, 1200, GMT, today at the Moscow prosecutor's office. About 20,000 commuters in the capital are reported to have been evacuated from underground trains stranded by the outage.

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Direct damage suffered by Moscow companies in the consumer sector, including retail chains and food producers, as a result of the electricity blackout on Wednesday (May 25), may top \$15 million, said Valentin Krokhin, an analyst at RBC. He said total damage caused to companies in this sector, including indirect losses, may significantly inflate this figure, and, consequently, the total amount of lawsuits against RAO Unified Energy Systems of Russia. "At this point, it is very difficult to estimate losses suffered by companies in the consumer sector in the Moscow region, with few big players in the area, which complicates the process of collecting information about the losses incurred by companies operating on consumer markets," Krokhin said. So far, only

the Paterson retail chain, which claims to have lost over \$170,000 during the blackout, said it would take the case to court. General director Yuri Yakovchik said the company had suffered significant losses both in terms of revenue and spoilt products. "After we have determined the amount of damage and it becomes clear who is responsible, we will file a lawsuit," he said. Seventeen of Paterson's 23 Moscow stores were closed on Wednesday and yesterday because of the blackout, with each of the 17 closed stores losing an estimated \$10,000. But most of Moscow's companies find it difficult to estimate the amount of damage at this point, and not all of them are considering going to court. Alla Zabrovskaya, representing IKEA Russia, said her company would not disclose the amount of losses caused by the blackout. She said she would not comment on possible lawsuits against power suppliers. But parent company IKEA is calculating losses in connection with the incident. An IKEA store in southern Moscow did not close on Wednesday, switching to its backup energy resources, but clients were unable to visit a restaurant in the IKEA center and a children's room. Anna Zaitseva, speaking for the Seventh Continent retail chain, uniting 86 stores, said the company was calculating its damages, after which it would decide on measures to compensate them. Some of the group's stores in Moscow had to close because of the power failure on Wednesday, she said, adding that a total of 30 stores were affected.

SEIZURE OF DRUGS FROM PAKISTAN VESSEL, ARABIAN SEA, PAKISTAN

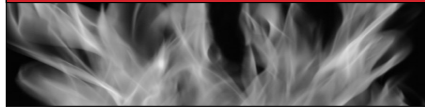
Karachi, May 30 -- Pakistan's Maritime Security Agency (MSA) said this afternoon that Pakistani fishing Al-Naveed, along with 16 crewmembers and 2000 kgs of Hashish has been handed over to it by coalition vessels (possibly a US patrolling ship) operating in the Arabian Sea. A spokesman of MSA said in a statement that the boat was under surveillance by Customs and the MSA for the last two months. The MSA undertook a number of surface and air surveillance missions during this period. However the boat managed to escape Pakistan's EEZ. Subsequently coalition forces apprehended the vessel in international waters and handed it over to the MSA. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL OF TRAINS FOR REPAIRS, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rail commuters experienced major delays after 70 Virgin trains were withdrawn from service with an electrical fault. All of the Voyager fleet were recalled for urgent modifications on Sunday (May 29) night after a "minor detonation" in a component on one of the trains. It is believed a build-up of gas led to the

component exploding. Hundreds of passengers at Birmingham New Street Station over the Bank Holiday weekend were told other carriers would honour their tickets. Alan McLane from Virgin Trains said: "It was an electrical explosion, a new fault, which could be described as a minor detonation. The problems were country-wide." Services were back to normal today.

Fires & Explosions



COAL MINE, MAOPINGCHANG, HUBEI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated May 30, states: A coal mine blast occurred yesterday morning in the county of Yuan'an, central China's Hubei Province, leaving three dead and eight others injured. The local government said the gas blast happened at 0715 hrs, at the Hongjiaya Coal Mine of Maopingchang Township. Eleven out of 22 miners working underground managed to escape after the blast. All the eight injured are in stable condition, according to the local hospital source. The local government has formed a team to investigate the cause.

DEPOT, COLCHESTER, ESSEX, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated May 30, states: A major parcel delivery company's distribution depot was completely gutted in a fire which took ten fire crews two hours to put out. The fire broke out shortly before 2300 hrs on Saturday (May 29) night at the DHL depot in Whitehall Road, Colchester. A 999 call to the fire service was made when smoke was spotted coming out of the depot. When fire crews got to the scene they discovered a well developed blaze. Fire pumps from Colchester, Mersea, Wivenhoe, Brightlingsea, Nayland and Brentwood were scrambled, along with specialist engines from Colchester and a command support vehicle from Essex Fire and Rescue headquarters, in Brentwood. Firefighters remained at the scene all night and throughout much of yesterday, damping down hotspots. An investigation into the fire was started yesterday, but arson has been ruled out. The depot contained parcels and packages due to be delivered tomorrow morning. Three vehicles inside the depot were destroyed. The rest of the vans and lorries were parked outside and were not damaged.

FACTORY PREMISES, OMAN

Karachi, May 30 -- A major fire broke out at the Al Khaleej Polypropylene factory premises on the Sohar Industrial Estate in Oman yesterday, causing severe damage to the company's plant. The fire broke out at the waste recycling plant at 1245,

local time and spread to the depot where finished goods are stored. This was disclosed by Prem Chandran, General Manager of the company to local media. Subsequently, it spread to other areas causing severe damage to equipment and the plant. The Royal Oman Police (ROP) and Civil Defence immediately stepped in to put out the fire. They used helicopters to prevent the fire from spreading to adjacent companies on the estate and to minimise the damage. However, the fire did not affect any of the 217 employees of the company, which operates round-the-clock throughout the year. He also noted that company officials were able to prevent the fire from catching the new plant, which is located adjacent to the old plant. "The fire is under control now", he said, adding: "We are still investigating the reason for the fire". Prem Chandran also said that all the three metalisers and the production line for manufacturing cast card polypropylene have been devastated. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Muscat, Jun 1 -- A fire that broke out in a factory in Sohar Industrial Estate early May 29 morning before causing any casualties. Royal Oman Police (ROP) Public Relations Department said ROP Civil Defence men managed to extinguish the fire which caused extensive damage to the factory. Civil defence fire engines rushed to the site immediately after it was reported to Sohar Police Station. The Civil Defence force was supported by Police Aviation helicopters and ambulance units. The flames were put out before spreading to adjacent factories, thanks to efforts from the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment and Water Resources, Sohar Development Office, private companies and citizens. Investigation is still under way to determine the cause of the fire. The loss estimated is between 20 to 25 Million US\$. Underwriters are Al Ahlia Insurance and Cunningham and Lindsay are attending survey. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FACTORY, BIRMINGHAM, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: One person has been taken to hospital after being rescued from an enclosed courtyard during a severe fire at a factory in Birmingham. More than 70 firefighters tackled the blaze at Slick Fashion in Kenyon Street, Hockley, yesterday night. Computers and IT equipment being stored in the building have been destroyed. West Midlands Fire Service says it is too early to say how the fire started. It began just before midnight.

FACTORY, SYSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 50 firefighters have tackled a fire at a lighting component factory in Syston, Leicestershire. Emergency crews using

eight fire appliances, were called to A & M Wireworks yesterday evening. A fire service spokesman said the fire at the factory on St Peter's Street was mostly under control at midnight, but flared up again later. He said the building was severely damaged and investigators are trying to determine the cause of the fire. Chief fire officer William Welsh said it is likely that much of the building will have to be demolished.

FOREST, EHIME ISLAND, JAPAN

London, May 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Some 1,000 firefighters and Self-Defence Force personnel were dispatched yesterday to fight a forest fire on Mount Washigato in Ehime Prefecture. Eleven helicopters, including SDF air units, were being used to battle the blaze on Omishima Island, which broke out Saturday (May 28). Officials in Imabari, Ehime Prefecture, which has jurisdiction over the island, said the fire had burned some 120 hectares by sundown but no one had been injured and there was no damage to homes. An 81-year-old woman has voluntarily evacuated the area, they said. According to firefighting officials, the blaze at one point came within 100 metres of a hamlet of some 50 houses on the west side of the mountain. It had also come about 400 metres from Oyamatsumi Shrine, home to several important cultural assets, including a suit of armor designated as a national treasure. But officials said the blaze was unlikely to reach the hamlet or the shrine. The fire on the 436-metre mountain was reported to authorities by a resident at around 1615 Saturday.

FOREST, KAMCHATKA, RUSSIA

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated May 26, states: Forest fires are raging in Siberia and in Russia's Far East, taiga and tundra are ablaze. However, the largest taiga fire covering an area of more than 500 hectares has been put out in the Pre-Baikal region on the border with the Krasnoyarsk territory, the territorial department of the forest protection air base told Itar-Tass today. A bonfire caused the fire in the Biryusinsky forest a week ago. The fire spread quickly in dry hot weather. Residents of neighbouring villages and forest protection workers began extinguishing the fire immediately, but it was difficult, as the fire broke out in a "hard-to-reach" area. The situation was complicated by winds up to 20 metres per second, and it was feared that the blaze could spread to the nearby village of Ekunchet. About 200 people, tractors and bulldozers were involved in the firefighting efforts. Irkutsk region prosecutor Anatoly Merzlyakov warned the "leadership" of the territorial forestry agency over insufficient measures to prevent and extinguish forest fires. Numerous cases of negligence by forestry staff were exposed during an inspection, senior aide to the prosecutor Alexander Semyonov said.

Already, 32 legal proceedings have been instituted over forest fires this year. More than 400 forest fires broke out in the Irkutsk region since early May, and it has been established that people are to blame for all fires. Eleven fires totalling 141 hectares have been put out in the Far East over the past day, but another 24 fires were registered. According to the Far Eastern regional emergencies centre, forests and plains covering an area of 220 hectares are ablaze in the Khabarovsk territory, Kamchatka, Amur and Magadan regions. A new fire over 70 hectares has been registered near Kozyrevsk in the Kamchatka region, the emergencies department in the Kamchatka region said. Two forest fires are registered in the region. Forests and tundra of more than 111 hectares are ablaze in the Milkovsk and Kozyrevsk districts of the region. A fire, 65 kilometres away from Atlasovo where about 33 hectares burnt has been put out during the past 24 hours. Since the beginning of spring, eight wildfires totalling more than 370 hectares were registered in the region. Three forest fires have been registered in the Altai territory over the past day, the main emergencies department in the Altai territory said today. The total area of forest fires is about 400 hectares. More than 90 hectares of forests have burnt down in the territory since the beginning of the fire-prone season this year, the regional forestry agency said.

FOREST, QUEBEC, CANADA

London, May 31-- A press report, dated May 30, states: Hundreds of people who live in the northern Cree community of Chisasibi are on their way home. A forest fire, which started early Saturday (May 28), had forced about 600 people to leave their homes in Chisasibi. Nearly 100 firefighters and two water bombers worked overnight to contain the blaze. At one point on Saturday night, it was close to the town of approximately 4,000. Quebec's forest fire prevention group said the fire covered about 300 hectares.

GAS WELL, CROSBY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated Jun 1, states: A natural gas well that exploded into flames overnight near Lake Houston forced the evacuation of at least 15 families and may burn for the next three to five days, authorities said. No injuries were reported in the blast, which happened just after midnight. The Texas Railroad Commission, the state agency investigating the incident, said the well's owner, Louisiana Gas Development Co., had been searching for new fuel sources in the area. The Shreveport, La., company began drilling the wildcat well on May 7 and hit a pocket of natural gas about 11,137 feet below the surface overnight, said Guy Grossman, the railroad commission's spokesman in Houston. That's a dangerous time for drillers, he said. Workers evacuated

the rig when it started to blow natural gas into the air, he said. A "bridge" -- usually a sand formation in the line -- clogged the drill hole for about 30 minutes, and as workers were assessing the situation, the well blew a second time and exploded into flames that shot 100 to 300 feet in the air. Families within a mile radius of the well located at Kennings and Bohemian Hall Roads in Crosby were ordered to stay inside until 0500 hrs, but 15 families who live close to the inferno must stay away until the well is capped or the fire burns itself out, authorities said. Louisiana Gas is putting them up in a Baytown motel. Since the gas fumes are being consumed by the fire, nothing harmful has been detected in the air so far. Grossman said a drilling rig, a vehicle and trailer were incinerated when the well caught fire, releasing some thick black smoke that has since dissipated. Firefighters are closely monitoring the site as it smoulders and boils with flames. Grossman said "the first choice" would be to bring in experts to cap the well and preserve the natural gas supply. The owners of the well, Louisiana Gas Development Co. in Shreveport, La., planned to issue a statement at 1700 hrs.

GRAIN ELEVATOR, VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

Portland, OR, May 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews were this morning still on the scene of a grain elevator explosion at the port of Vancouver, Washington. The incident occurred at around 2000 yesterday, with explosions in two dust-collector bins. "The incident commander already pulled them out once when we realized the second bin was going to explode," fire department spokeswoman Roxy Barnes told KOIN News 6 last night. The situation was complicated by nearby grain, which is highly combustible. In addition, because the grain would swell, firefighters could not use water on the blaze. Portland firefighters assisted in the effort with their carbon dioxide truck. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PREMISES, LIMASSOL, CYPRUS

Limassol, Jun 1 -- The Gregorion Bros sausage production factory in Limassol was completely destroyed by a fire on May 31. Losses are reported to be in the region of CY£10 million. No injuries were reported. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PREMISES, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, UNITED STATES

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire has engulfed an entire block in Northeast Minneapolis. The fire broke out around 0230 hrs, at the corner of Central Avenue and Lowry. Firefighters put out the fire and left the scene, thinking the fire was out. Authorities said the fire restarted shortly before 0300 hrs, and quickly spread to nearby buildings. Tomø Tanning and Salon, a government office and apartments were all

destroyed in the fire. The apartment building had 10 units, nine of which were occupied. Authorities believe everyone in all the buildings got out safely. One firefighter was treated for minor injuries. No one was seriously injured. Firefighters were still working to put out the fire nearly four hours after the fire began.

RESTAURANT, AUSTIN, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Oasis restaurant and salsa venue in Austin, had much of its property destroyed by fire early yesterday morning. By noon, the last evidence of the fire was still not completely extinguished, and smoke could be detected in the air more than a half-mile away. Bruce Watson, chief of the Hudson Bend Fire Department, said firefighters arrived around 0436 hrs to extinguish the fire that he later estimated destroyed 750,000 square feet of the building at a cost of about \$2 million. The Oasis owner Beau Theriot said the fire was probably caused by lightning that hit a lower dining deck and then spread.

SHIPYARD, FANYU, GUANGZHOU PROVINCE, CHINA

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated May 26, states: Five were killed and six others injured today in an explosion at a shipyard in south China's Guangdong Province. The blast occurred at about 1550 hrs, in Fanyu district, which is about 14 kilometres south of the provincial capital of Guangzhou, during construction work on a 4,250-ton capacity ship. Three workers who were painting the ship died on the spot and two others passed away later in the hospital. Unidentified sources revealed that a collapsed wall had caused casualties in the shipyard half a month ago. Guangzhou municipal security supervision bureau has ordered a suspension of operations in the Panyu dockyard, pledging to punish those responsible for the incident.

THEATRE, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: The fire that broke out in the building of the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Academic Theatre in downtown Moscow overnight was extinguished five hours after it started, the main city department of the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry said today. Firemen rated the blaze that broke out at 0335, Moscow time, at the maximum point 5 level. It broke out presumably on the second floor of the old four-storey building in Bolshaya Dmitrovka Street now under reconstruction, the emergencies department said. The fire quickly spread by the scaffolding to the roof covering an area of 1,500 square metres. Cracks appeared on the theatre facade. The roof of the theatre building partially collapsed. Some 50 fire brigades and three search and rescue teams were engaged in the fire

extinguishing efforts. It was also planned to use a firefighting helicopter, but the density of historical buildings around the theatre made it impossible to use the helicopter, said a spokesman for the city emergencies department. The theatre, which emerged in 1940 due to a merger of the Stanislavsky Opera Theatre and the Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre, was scheduled to reopen after a large-scale reconstruction by September 1. The total space of the historical building is 16,000 thousand square metres.

WAREHOUSE, EAST DUBLIN, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated May 31, states: A warehouse fire at SP Newsprint, in east Dublin, over the weekend caused an estimated \$1 today. Firefighters had the blaze isolated several hours after it started Saturday (May 28), but they continued fighting it through until yesterday. Roxie Lassetter, human resources manager at the plant, said the building itself suffered only minor damage. Most of the loss involved 8,400 tons of scrap newspaper. The plant, which is the largest taxpayer in Laurens County, recycles scrap paper into newsprint. Mark Rawlings, the senior vice president of operations, said the cause of the blaze is uncertain, but there are no indications of arson. One suspected cause is that a bale of paper might have already been smoldering when it came into the plant. The warehouse is isolated from the rest of the plant, and the fire did not affect operations. Rawlings said the loss of scrap paper inventory will not impact on production, and all deliveries to customers will go on as scheduled. Dublin and East Dublin fire departments fought the blaze along with numerous volunteer departments, the plant's emergency response team, prison fire crews and volunteer crews from surrounding counties.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 5,000-acre wildfire swept through portions of Maricopa and Pinal counties yesterday afternoon, threatening homes and spurring preparations for evacuations. Authorities warned residents in the path of the "Vekol" fire, 22 miles west of Casa Grande and north-east of the Vekol interchange with Interstate 8, to be prepared to leave their homes. No structures were damaged yesterday night, but 30 to 50 homes were threatened, said Carrie Templin, a spokeswoman for the State Land Department's Fire Management Division. Fire crews said the fire, burning through brush and grass, started in the early afternoon and would grow by acres this morning, said Cliff Pearlberg of the Land Department.

YACHT CLUB, ST.PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two boats

exploded on the territory of a yacht club in St. Petersburg last night. The explosion damaged the hulls of both boats and they sank. No casualties were reported, Director of the yacht club Andrei Zhechkov told Tass. The two boats lost belonged to the Fregat Company. The company commissioned the boats several days ago and was planning to use them for pleasure boat rides. Obviously, the owners preferred not to hire security and left the boats at a non-guarded mooring berth, the yacht club director said. He sees a link between the explosions staged last night and the growing competition in the sector of commercial use of small ships. The St. Petersburg Head Interior Department is investigating.



AIRCRAFT GROUNDED AT SYDNEY AIRPORT, AUSTRALIA

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Australian aviation authorities grounded a Japan Airlines jumbo jet at Sydney airport yesterday after one of the Japan-bound airliner's two main wheel rods broke shortly before its was due to take-off, JAL said today. Nobody was injured in the incident but the airline was forced to cancel Flight 778 bound for Kansai International Airport in Osaka Prefecture, and local aviation authorities are now investigating, JAL said. After checking the aircraft, maintenance crew found the left wheel rods broken at the top, JAL said.

C-FWDO

London, Jun 1 -- Piper PA-28-140, C-FWDO, crashed while conducting touch-and-goes at the pilot's grass-surface airstrip at Crooked Lake, about six miles southeast of Bridge Lake, BC, at 1600, PDT, May 29. The pilot, the sole occupant, was killed.

C-FYAZ

London, May 31 -- Cessna 172H, C-FYAZ, during the take-off, pilot lost control of the aircraft which veered left and ground-looped at 2112, PDT, May 27. The right wing impacted the ground, the propeller struck the ground and the right main gear was torn off the aircraft. The pilot was not injured but the passenger received a minor foot injury.

C-GXVM

London, May 31 -- The Cessna 182P, owned by Omni Aviation Inc, C-GXVM, landed long at Duncan Airport, BC at 1755, PDT, May 29. The pilot was unable to stop the aircraft before it went off the end of the runway and down an embankment. Neither occupant was injured but the aircraft sustained extensive damage.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF COSTA RICA

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Officials yesterday rescued a US tourist who jumped safely into the Pacific Ocean before a small skydiving aircraft he was aboard went down in Costa Rica, the Red Cross said. The Cessna 206 was last heard from around 1500, Tuesday (May 31), and went missing, apparently after encountering bad weather. Four American tourists, a Mexican tourist and a Costa Rican pilot were on board. Authorities pulled the survivor from the water more than a mile from a yacht marina near the exclusive Marriott Los Suenos Hotel, 40 miles south-west of San Jose, the nation's capital, said Noemy Coto, a spokeswoman for the Red Cross. The man said he and two others were able to jump from the aircraft before it crashed. All three were wearing parachutes. The fate of the other five people, including those that jumped, wasn't known. Authorities took the survivor to a hospital for medical treatment. He apparently spent hours in the water awaiting rescue. Late last night, authorities said the survivor told them the aircraft encountered turbulence before going down, according to the Red Cross and a governmental spokesman. A few boats were still scouring the ocean for any sign of the aircraft late last night, but rescuers planned to begin a new search in earnest at daybreak today. The missing aircraft took off from an airport in San Jose and was heading to an airstrip near Esterillos, a small town on the Pacific coast.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF HONDURAS

HR-AHQ.

CRASH, GOMA AREA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: The wreckage of an Antonov transport plane that crashed in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo was located yesterday, according to the plane's owner, the private Congolese company Victoria Air. The ill-fated plane had been carrying 21 passengers, all Congolese, and five crew members; two Russians, one Ukrainian, one Belarussian and a Congolese, Victoria Air official Malira Mavos said in Goma. There were believed to be no survivors. An earlier toll given by a military source after Wednesday's (May 25) crash had spoken of 27 dead. "The wreck was located in the afternoon by a reconnaissance flight... in the town of Bitale, near Bunyakiri, in a mountainous region of Sud-Kivu," said Mavos. Air traffic controllers said the plane disappeared from their radar screens 30 minutes after it took off on Wednesday. The Antonov had been chartered by another firm, Maniema Union. It had been scheduled to stop off at Kindu in the central Maniema region before going on to Kongoloa, in the mineral-rich Katanga province.

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated May 30, states: The remains of 26 people killed last week when a plane crashed into a cliff were recovered today in eastern Congo, a government official said. The Russian-made Antonov-12 crashed on May 23 shortly after take-off near Bunyakiri, about 60 miles south-west of Goma, scattering the plane between two mountains, government officials said last week. A team of 50 soldiers, Red Cross workers and family members recovered the remains early today, said Gen. Gabrielle Amisi, commander of government troops in North Kivu province. Amisi said most of the passengers were from Kindu, the plane's destination.

CRASH, KHARTOUM, SUDAN

Khartoum, Jun 2 -- An Antonov passenger plane crashed today when it aborted take-off in the Sudanese capital, killing at least five people and injuring two others, Sudanese aviation officials said. The plane was bound for el-Fasher in the Darfur region of western Sudan, Ahmed Mustafa Jaylani, head of internal flights in the civil aviation authority, told Reuters "The aircraft crashed at the north end of the runway while taking off. There were 34 passengers on board and six crew," Jaylani said. "So far, we have five people dead and two injured that we know about." The crash happened at 1115 hrs (0815, UTC), he said. "Just before take-off, it could not leave the ground so the pilot tried to stop with full brakes," civil aviation authority spokesman Abdel Hafiz Abdel Rahim said, adding that the left engine then caught fire. A Reuters witness said the plane was lying at the end of the runway with the left side charred but said the body of the aircraft appeared to be intact. Jaylani said Marsiland, a private company operating in Sudan, had chartered the Antonov 24 (An-24) from the owners, who he identified as the al-Majal company. -- Reuters.

CRASH, MAGSAYSAY TOWN, PALAWAN PROVINCE, PHILIPPINES

Manila, May 30 -- A report in a local newspaper states: Four people were killed after a twin-engine Beechcraft Bonanza airplane crashed shortly after take-off from an airstrip in Magsaysay town in Cuyo, Palawan province, today. Air Transportation Office spokesman Col. Manuel Villegas said that the Royal Air charter plane with body number RPC-364 crashed at exactly 1120, local time, at a coconut plantation a kilometre from the airstrip. He said that the aircraft owned by Kenneth Aquamarine was used to transport tons of live fish from Cuyo Island to Manila. The aircraft's pilot and three passengers were killed in the crash. Police Officer 3 Arnel Bagona of the Magsaysay municipal police station identified the fatalities as Capt. Eddax Agraviador, Harry Suico Colegado, Ron Simon Diego and Victor Gallarde Suico. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CRASH, PETERLEE AREA, COUNTY DURHAM, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two men escaped serious injury after their light aircraft made a forced landing in County Durham. The pilots, a 51-year-old from South Tyneside and a 44-year-old from Teesside, received only hand injuries in the incident yesterday. The two-seater Europa XS 914 single-wing turbo aircraft left a small airfield in Fishburn, County Durham, early yesterday evening. But engine failure forced it to land in a farmer's field near Peterlee. A spokesman for Durham Police said the aircraft had flipped onto its roof as it landed in the field, 300 yards from Hulam Farm in Castle Eden. The pilots, Bill Goldsmith, from Boldon, South Tyneside, and Phil Taite, from Stockton-on-Tees, were taken to Hartlepool's University Hospital where they received treatment for minor hand injuries. Both were later released. The Department of Transport's Air Accident Investigation Branch has begun an investigation into the incident.

CRASH, SPEYER AREA, GERMANY

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: The pilot of a light aircraft was forced to make an emergency landing in a car park in mid west Germany yesterday after the aircraft's engine failed. The local fire brigade said the six passengers on board, four of whom were children, escaped with light injuries. One of the children was taken to hospital for further treatment. The Dornier Do-27 aircraft hit several cars in the parking area near the Rhineland city of Speyer, causing around \$225,000 worth of damage.

CRASH, TETERBORO AIRPORT, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft crashed this morning at Teterboro Airport, a busy centre for business and private planes outside New York City, injuring one of the two people on board, authorities said. The Swearingen turboprop was on final approach to the airport when the pilot reported engine problems, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The aircraft crashed at the end of a runway and caught fire. The blaze was soon extinguished, police said. According to the aircraft's tail number listed on an FAA Web site, it is registered to Maci Leasing Corp. in Edison. Moonachie police said the injured person was taken to Hackensack University Medical Centre.

CRASH, UNION LAKE, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES

See N95AK.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: SN Flight

3123 from Brussels to Bologna has been forced to make an emergency landing in Brussels on Thursday. The aircraft had developed an unspecified technical problem. The flight had already left with a 40 minute delay. Thirty minutes into the flight, the pilot decided to return to Brussels. The plane circled Brussels airport for nearly 50 minutes before landing safely.

EMERGENCY LANDING, KARACHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PAKISTAN

Karachi, May 30 -- Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) said today that one of its Fokker (AP-BCZ) bound for Karachi via Rahim Yar Khan, made an emergency landing at Karachi International Airport yesterday following a technical fault in the aircraft. An official of the state owned airline said that flight No. PK 581 with 44 passengers on board first landed Rahim Yar Khan (Sindh Province) late Saturday night (May 29). Before it could take-off, the pilot has observed a fault in the alternate power system. Engineers rectified the fault. However, the fault redeveloped during take-off from Rahim Yar Khan to Karachi. As result, the pilot requested an emergency landing at Nawab Shah Airport, but the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) declined and asked for Karachi airport. The official of PIA said that the aircraft later landed at Karachi Airport this morning and fault was removed. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

EMERGENCY LANDING, LINDBERGH FIELD, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated May 31, states: A Southwest Airlines flight from San Diego to Albuquerque, N.M., returned to Lindbergh Field yesterday night for an emergency landing. The aircraft turned around about 15 minutes after take-off when passengers complained of smelling burning plastic. The passengers were checked out after leaving the aircraft. No one needed medical attention. Southwest Airlines officials did not say what caused the burning smell reported by passengers.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, INDIA

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Air-India flight bound for Paris made an emergency landing at the international airport in Mumbai today due to a technical fault, the airline said. The AI-191 Mumbai-Paris-Newark flight landed at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport at 1139 hrs after the aircraft developed a hydraulic leak. There were 428 passengers on board the flight.

EMERGENCY LANDING, WILL ROGERS WORLD AIRPORT, OKLAHOMA CITY, UNITED STATES

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated May 26, states: An aircraft with

smoke reported in the galley landed this morning at Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City. No injuries are reported. Airport spokeswoman Karen Carney says the Continental Airlines flight had 75 people on board. Carney says other flights at the airport were not affected.

EMERGENCY LANDING, ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

London, Jun 2 -- A Bangkok-bound Thai Airways jet made an emergency landing at a Swiss airport because of a ventilation system problem, the airline said today. The aircraft was forced to return to Zurich yesterday because of a ventilation system problem, said Wasin Kittikul, Thai Airways International's deputy director. He said the aircraft had been fixed and later departed for the Thai capital.

HR-AHQ

London, May 30 -- Cessna TU206F, HR-AHQ, registered to and operated by Inversions Y Servicios Cressida, ditched in the sea about 100 feet from shore following a loss of engine power, at Tela, Honduras, at approximately 1400, CST, May 1. The pilot and three passengers received minor injuries.

INCIDENT AT BARNES-JEWISH HOSPITAL, ST. LOUIS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating an incident last month in which a door flew off a medical helicopter as it was leaving Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis. The door, which came off of an 18-year-old ARCH Air Medical Services BK-117 helicopter, did not strike anyone or anything other than the aircraft itself, said ARCH's program director, Matt Kasten. Pieces of it landed on the roof and the general area of the Market Street Deli at Market Street and Ewing Avenue. The incident occurred at 2137, May 21, as an ARCH pilot was departing Barnes-Jewish after bringing a patient and crew to the hospital.

INCIDENT AT CHUBU CENTRAIR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, JAPAN

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: A high lift loader hit the cargo doors of a parked Japan Asia Airways aircraft during loading sparking a small fire this morning at Chubu Centrair International Airport, airport officials said. A cargo cover caught fire from the heat of the door lights after the loader struck the Boeing 767, which was due to leave for Taipei at around 0815 hrs, but the flames were quickly extinguished, the officials said. Nobody was injured in the incident.

INCIDENT AT TAN SON NHAT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated Jun 1, states: A Pacific Airlines

flight to Hanoi was delayed today when the airline's Airbus A320 ran into technical trouble before it took off, according to the airport authority. The aircraft's front landing gear malfunctioned as the aircraft was taxiing for take-off from Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Ho Chi Minh City, according to Mr Luong Hoai Nam, Pacific Airlines director. The aircraft was then forced to go back to have the technical problems rectified. Delayed passengers were transferred to other Pacific Airlines flights, added Mr. Nam.

INCIDENT NEAR JEAN AIRPORT, NEVADA, UNITED STATES

See N192SH.

N108RA

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated May 31, states: A helicopter crash in Denison, Texas, has several Denison residents upset that it ever took off from its fenced yard at all. The helicopter crash happened just before noon yesterday on Morton at Fairbanks. Denison police and firefighters blocked the street off from both ends for the investigation to be made and then for a tow truck to lift it up and take it back to the same fenced yard. Denison Police Sgt. Billy Shaw said the Federal Aviation Administration will be sending an agent to Denison today and asked that the aircraft be retained in that lot until their arrival. The pilot, identified as Dale Avery Rodger, doesn't have a pilot's licence, nor did the helicopter have a Certification of Airworthiness, according to information on the FAA's Web site. Witness and neighbour Chris Griffitt said he and his family were driving on Morton and stopped to let the children watch the helicopter take off. He pulled up beside another car in a vacant parking lot and said that the other car's occupants were also stopped to see the take-off. Griffitt said the helicopter did a couple of take-offs and landings, then took off once more and lifted over a chain link fence. "He was approximately 70 feet off the ground. He was swerving and spinning around, then fell to the street. I didn't hear the engine shut down. There were still cars on Morton Street," Griffitt described. When he saw it was going down, Griffitt said he forced his car in reverse and got behind the donut shop building. "I heard parts flying by and then he shut the motors down." Griffitt said, "When (the helicopter) hit the ground, the blades were still going around and the engine churning, and things started popping off like fireworks." The helicopter landed on its side, said Griffitt. At least one piece of that flying debris struck the other car, which was still in the open. One of the children in that car had blood coming from her head, but officials said no one's injuries were serious. Shaw identified the rotorcraft as having tail number N108RA, and said it was a 1964 privately-owned Westland Wasp. FAA's Web site calls the helicopter an

Avery Wasp and shows that it was registered in January, but has no Certificate of Airworthiness, nor a temporary certificate. The Web site does not show that Avery has a pilot's licence, rather it lists him as having a Mechanic Certificate. Shaw said no citations were issued yesterday. Other residents said they have called Denison police in the past when the helicopter has been cranked up in the fenced yard.

N110DT

London, May 26 -- Bell 47G-4A N110DT crashed near Bakersfield, California, at 1500, May 25, while on a flight from Shafer, CA. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The one person on board was seriously injured.

N192SH

London, May 26 -- Robinson R22 Beta N192SH made a heavy landing near Jean, Nevada, at 1630, May 25, while on a flight from North Las Vegas, NV, to Jean. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board suffered minor injuries.

N496AC

London, May 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Cessna 172 attempting to land at Raleigh-Durham International Airport crashed near a state park late yesterday, an airport official said. No one was injured. RDU spokeswoman Mindy Hamlin said the aircraft left the airport for Greensboro around 1900 hrs. The aircraft with two people on board was returning from Greensboro around 2207 hrs when the pilot apparently missed the runway and crashed near Umstead State Park in Wake County. FAA investigators are to visit the crash scene today, Hamlin said.

London, Jun 1 -- Cessna 172R (Skyhawk), N496AC, crashed during go-around at Raleigh-Durham International Airport, North Carolina, at 0203, May 27. The two persons on board were not injured.

N7015Q

London, Jun 1 -- Robinson R44 Astro, N7015Q, crashed near Lucerne, California, at 1851, May 28. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were seriously injured.

N760AN

London, May 31 -- Boeing 777-233, owned by American Airlines Inc, N760AN, Approximately 80 nautical miles south of Halifax, the crew noticed fumes in the cabin, and declared an emergency at 2300, ADT, May 28. The flight diverted to Halifax where the aircraft landed at 2321 with ERS on alert. After landing the aircraft was inspected by ERS. There was no indication of fire. As fumes had dissipated, the aircraft was taxied into the gate where a normal deplaning occurred.

N911TW

London, May 30 -- A press report, dated May 29, states: No passengers

were hurt yesterday afternoon when an American Airlines flight veered off the runway while landing at Denver International Airport. None the 109 people on board were injured, but passengers had to disembark and take a shuttle bus to the terminal. Airport spokesman Chuck Cannon said the runway was closed while the accident was investigated. There were no delays at the airport's five other runways, which remained in service throughout the incident. It is not known why the aircraft suddenly veered off the runway.

London, Jun 1 -- McDonnell Douglas DC-9-82, N911TW, operated by American Airlines Inc, ran off the runway on landing at Denver International Airport, Colorado, at 2237, May 28, following a flight from Dallas, Texas. The aircraft sustained minor damage. None of the 111 persons on board were injured.

N9346L

London, May 29 -- A press report, dated May 28, states: A small aircraft crashed today in Bucks County, killing the pilot, authorities said. The two-seat aircraft crashed into some trees near Emerson Elementary School and some homes in Bristol Township at about 1300, destroying the aircraft and killing the pilot, whose name was not released, authorities said. "Preliminary information indicates a possible engine problem," Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Alison Duquette said. The FAA and National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the cause of the crash. Authorities do not know where the aircraft took off from or where it was going, Duquette said. The Grumann American AA-1A was owned by Shaw Aviation of Ivyland, Pa., according to FAA records.

London, Jun 1 -- American General AA-1A (Trainer), N9346L, crashed near Bristol, Pennsylvania, at 1703, May 28. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The one person on board was killed.

N95AK

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated May 30, states: A pilot escaped with cuts and bruises after the small float plane he was flying splashed into an Oakland County lake and flipped over today. Ronald Komer, 55, of West Bloomfield Township was the only person on board the single-engine plane that went down about 1300 hrs, West Bloomfield township fire officials said in a statement. Komer had attempted to land the plane on Union Lake but didn't realise his wheels were down at the time. Witnesses said the plane's nose hit the water and the aircraft slowly flipped over before sinking. Komer said he was unable to get out of the plane when it first hit the lake. "I couldn't get the doors open and it was filling up with water," he said. "I was able to finally get out of the airplane. I was just very happy to be out of the plane before she totally went under." The pilot said he didn't know why the plane's wheels had come down. "I left

the airport, they were up definitely, so we're trying to figure that out," Komer said. Komer joined salvage crews on pontoon boats this evening on the lake, where they planned to flip the plane before removing it from the water. "The plane will be fine, it's in deep water there," he said. "It will be righted up and taken out."

London, Jun 1 -- Cessna TU206G (Stationair 6), N95AK, crashed and capsized on Union Lake, Michigan, at 1705, May 30, while on a flight from Pontiac, MI.

SU-ZCF

Cairo, Jun 1 -- The release of a report into an air crash in Egypt which killed 148 people last year has been delayed from June until the end of the year, the head of the investigation said on Wednesday. Shaker Kelada said investigators needed more time to study what caused Flash Airlines Boeing 737 (SU-ZCF) to crash, killing 133 French tourists in January 2004. The aircraft crashed into the Red Sea just after take off from Sharm el-Sheikh airport. Investigators said in November the Boeing had gone into a steep turn after take-off and the crew did not fully correct it before the crash. Samir Abdel Maaboud, head of Egypt's Civil Aviation Authority, said there were new details which needed study but he did not specify what they were, Egypt's official Middle East News Agency said. He said experts from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) would arrive in Egypt in September to inspect aviation methods and the extent of the Authority's compliance with the annexes of the Chicago international civil aviation convention. -- Reuters.

TI-AHW

London, May 31 -- Understand Aerotour Cessna 206 TI-AHW lost contact with the Control Tower at Tobias Bolanos Airport, San Jose, Costa Rica, at 1156, May 27, while on a flight from San Jose to the Pacific coast. The wreckage of the aircraft was later found on a mountain. The three persons on board were killed.

TURBULENCE DURING FLIGHT FROM BALI TO JAPAN

London, Jun 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Garuda Indonesia flight from Bali to Japan ran into air turbulence this morning that injured eight people on board, authorities said. According to officials of Garuda's Osaka office, flight 882 from Bali's Denpasar Airport to Kansai International Airport in western Japan hit turbulence between 0400 hrs and 0600 hrs, yesterday when the plane was flying above the Philippines and Japan's southernmost island of Okinawa. Five passengers - two men and three women - and three crew members were slightly injured by hitting their heads and backs. Despite the incident, the plane, which had 161 passengers and 14 crew members, arrived at Kansai airport on time at 0750 hrs.

Product Recalls

CANDLE TINS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 1 -- A press release, dated May 31, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Home Interiors & Gifts Inc., of Carrollton, Texas, today announced a voluntary recall of Home Interiors Fundraising Candle Tin Series. The recall involves about 300,000 of the product. The candle flames could flare up out of the tin container during use, posing a fire and burn hazard. There have been ten reports of candles flaring up. Some surfaces where candle tins were placed were scorched by these candles. No injuries have been reported. The recall includes 6.5 ounce, individually packaged candle tins that are 3.25 inches wide and two inches tall with an approximate burn time of 35 hours. Manufactured in the United States, they were sold at through Home Interiors' fundraising programmes and through direct sales associates from April 2005 through until May 3, 2005 for \$8.

Washington, DC, May 31 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Home Interiors & Gifts Inc., of Carrollton, Texas, today announced a voluntary recall of about 300,000 Home Interiors Fundraising Candle Tin Series candles. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The candle flames could flare up out of the tin container during use, posing a fire and burn hazard. There have been ten reports of candles flaring up. Some surfaces where candle tins were placed were scorched by these candles. No injuries have been reported. The recall includes 6.5 ounce, individually packaged candle tins that are 3-1/4 inches wide and 2 inches tall with an approximate burn time of 35 hours. The lidded tins are silver with fragrance name labels on the side. Fragrances include Sandalwood, Suede, Mulberry, Seaside Breeze, Hawaiian Delight, Carrot Cake, Fresh Peach, Baked Apple Pie, Vanilla Crème and Lemon Torte. Sold at Home Interiors' fundraising programs and through direct sales associates from April 2005 through May 3, 2005 for \$8. Manufactured in the United States. Consumers should stop using the recalled candles immediately. Consumers with the recalled candles should go to the firm's Web site at www.homeinteriors.com and click on the candle tin recall for instructions on how to return the candle tins free of charge. Consumers without Internet access can call the firm directly. Information will be available as of May 27 via the Home Interiors' website. For every candle tin returned, consumers will receive a replacement Home Interiors Candle Tin of the same

fragrance and also one of Home Interiors' fragranced body care products. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

COMMUNICATION NETWORK CABLES, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, May 31 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Hitachi Cable Manchester (HCM), Inc. of Manchester, N.H., today announced a voluntary recall of about 1.7 million feet of network communication cables are used to connect computer and electronic equipment, typically in data centres. These are 25 and 50-pair, category 5 and 5e, CMP cables. The recalled cables do not meet the fire resistance standards for cable used in plenum applications. Plenum is the space typically used for air circulation in heating and air conditioning systems. If the cables were exposed to a fire source, smoke or fire could spread more quickly than permitted by the standard for this type of cable. This recall is only for certain CMP cables used in plenum (air duct) applications. CMP cables used in riser (non-plenum) applications are not included in this recall. No incidents/injuries reported. The recalled cables typically were installed in data centers and other commercial applications. The part numbers for the recalled cables are 39419-50 (25-pair, category 5e); 30171-100 (50-pair, category 5e); and 30105-50 (25-pair, category 5). Only HCM brand cables with the following lot numbers are affected by this recall: AE589 and A4309 through A5551. The part number and lot number are printed on the jacket of the cables. Sold at authorized electrical or data communication distributors from about June 2003 through December 2004. Manufactured in Manchester, N.H.

Cables installed in a plenum application will be removed and replaced. Users should contact HCM to coordinate this work among HCM, the property owner and an installer. Because these products were constructed in compliance with HCM's new listing with UL for CMR (riser) cables, they may remain in place if they have already been installed in riser applications. HCM is directly notifying known purchasers about this recall. The 25-pair version of the recalled cable also was manufactured by HCM under a private label arrangement for Superior Essex Inc. Superior Essex has already contacted all affected customers who purchased this cable.

DAIMLERCHRYSLER MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, May 30 -- A press report, dated May 29, states: German carmaker Smart AG, a part of DaimlerChrysler AG, said Friday (May 27) it is recalling 58,000 of its popular ForTwo models in Germany over a possible defect in the front axle. The Boeblingen-based company said the two-seater cars, built between 1998 and 2000, may have a problem with a joint on the axle that could cause it to fail. The company said it wants car owners to have their microcars inspected and, if necessary, have the supporting joints replaced. Company spokesman Hubert Kogel said Smart was made aware of the problem by customers, some of whom had gotten into accidents. None were hurt. Though the recall is aimed at German owners, the company said it was likely cars in other countries could be affected, since more than 202,000 vehicles were sold within the period in question, not only in Germany, but in Italy, Switzerland, Japan, Austria, France, Spain and elsewhere.

TOYOTA MOTOR VEHICLES, ASIA

London, May 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Toyota Motor Corp., Japan's biggest automaker, said today it will recall about 173,000 vehicles in Japan, Singapore and Malaysia due to defects in their brakes and fuel systems. The company said 63,830 Crown, Majesta and Mark X passenger cars, including 23 vehicles in Singapore and Malaysia, will be recalled for problems in their master cylinders - the part in a hydraulic brake system that provides the pressure to engage the brakes. Toyota spokesman Tomomi Imai said the company was aware of one accident in Japan that had been caused by the defect, when a car was unable to brake properly and crashed into another vehicle in front of it. There were no injuries. Another 109,289 Crown and Mark X cars in Japan will be recalled for a separate defect in a part called the O-ring in their fuel systems, said Imai. The two recalls affect vehicles produced between September 2003 and February of this year, he said.

Port Conditions



ITALY

Genoa, May 31 -- Port situation May 31: Genoa: Two general cargo waiting for berth. Average number of days delay in berthing 12-24 hours. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting normal berths. Savona: No vessels awaiting normal berth. No vessels awaiting special berth. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbott Point	30-May-2005	Coal: 1 vessel anchored; 10 vessels due by 18/6; up to 3 days delay expected.
Brisbane	30-May-2005	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 1 vessel berthed; 4 vessels due by 23/6; up to 1 day's delay expected.
Dalrymple Bay	30-May-2005	Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 27 anchored; 34 vessels due by 6/7; 10-30 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; waiting times vary greatly due to different stem supply issues.
Dampier	30-May-2005	Iron ore: Shippers are experiencing some cargo grade shortages and stockpile problems; some vessels will berth out of turn and berthing may change at short notice. Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 10 vessels due by 9/6; up to 10 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 12 vessels due by 11/6; up to 10 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels is always a possibility; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available.
Geraldton	30-May-2005	Iron ore: 3 vessels due by 26/6; no delays expected.
Gladstone	30-May-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 3 vessels berthed, 9 anchored; 33 vessels due by 25/6; up to 8 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed; 7 vessels due by 25/6; up to 3 days delay at present; shiploading activities ceased at 06.00 hrs. 16/5 until 06.00 hrs. 26/5 to enable repairs to be carried out to wharf deck.
Hay Point	30-May-2005	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 3 anchored; 7 vessels due by 9/6; up to 4 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability.
Newcastle	30-May-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels berthed, 1 anchored; 48 vessels due by 23/6; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels berthed; 24 vessels due by 21/6; no unallocated vessels; up to 2 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal, coal product problems with some shippers and cargo receipt.
Port Hedland	30-May-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 5 vessels due by 5/6; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 4 vessels due by 5/6; up to 2 days 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 anchored; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 2 vessels due by 3/6; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Kembla	30-May-2005	Coal: 1 vessel anchored; 15 vessels due by 30/7; CB-1: no vessels; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability..
Port Walcott	30-May-2005	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 7 anchored; 15 vessels due by 16/6; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Line-up expected to change at short notice. Cargo grade shortages and stockpile problems may result in vessels berthing out of turn.
Azerbaijan		
Apsheron	27-May-2005	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 1 vessel in roads to discharge crude oil; 3 vessels due by 28/5, of which 1 gasoline, 1 fuel oil, 1 crude oil.
Brazil		
Paranagua	24-May-2005	Sixteen vessels at berth of which 8 loading (2 soya, 2 pellets, 2 sugar, 2 reefers), 2 discharging fertiliser, 5 loading/discharging, 1 container vessel; 15 vessels waiting in roads of which 8 to load (1 soya, 7 others), 7 to discharge (5 fertiliser, 1 container, 1 other); 57 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Santos	24-May-2005	Five vessels loading at berth (2 sugar, 1 pellets, 2 bulk soya), 6 discharging at berth (3 fertiliser, 2 wheat, 1 chemical products), 5 loading/discharging at berth (2 full containers, 3 others); Private terminals: Terminal 37: 1 vessel loading/discharging full containers; Tecondi: no vessels; Termars: 1 vessel loading/discharging full containers; Rodrimar: 1 vessel loading/discharging full containers; Cosipa: 3 vessels loading steel products; Ultrafertil: 1 vessel discharging fertiliser; Cargill: 1 vessel loading bulk sugar; Santos Brasil: 2 vessels loading/discharging full containers; Dow: 1 vessel loading chemical products; Cutrale: no vessels; 21 vessels waiting in roads; 30 vessels due over the next 7 days;.

Port Conditions

Rio Grande	24-May-2005	One vessel loading soya meal at berth, 1 discharging wheat at berth; 3 vessels waiting in roads; 14 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Sao Sebastiao	24-May-2005	Six vessels berthed; 6 vessels waiting in roads; 2 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitoria	24-May-2005	Fourteen vessels berthed; 21 vessels waiting in roads; Vitoria: 2 vessels loading (1 pig iron, 1 cellulose/granite), 1 discharging wheat; Terminal Vila Velha: 2 vessels loading/discharging containers; Praia Mole: 3 vessels loading (2 steel products, 1 iron ore); Tubarao: 3 vessels loading (2 iron ore, 1 soya), 1 discharging fertiliser; Portocel: 1 vessel loading cellulose; Ubu: 1 vessel discharging coal; 20 vessels due over the next 7 days.

Bulgaria

Bourgas	30-May-2005	Ten vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 containers, 1 profiles, 2 coils, 1 empty vessel), 4 discharging (1 containers, 1 military equipment, 1 profiles, 1 billets); 5 vessels waiting in roads, of which 4 empty vessels to load, 1 to discharge coal; 8 vessels due, of which 6 to load (1 copper concentrate, 1 concrete/iron, 3 coils, 1 transformers), 2 to discharge (1 kaolin, 1 equipment).
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Cyprus

Limassol	31-May-2005	Six container vessels loading/discharging at berth, 2 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 10 vessels due 1/6, of which 5 containers, 1 conventional vessel, 4 passenger vessels; no delays expected.
Larnaca	31-May-2005	Two conventional vessels discharging at berth; 1 conventional vessel due 1/6; no delays expected.

Egypt

Adabiya	30-May-2005	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 5 general cargo, 2 containers; 1 tug..
Alexandria	30-May-2005	Thirty-one vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 27 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker; 14 vessels dry-docked; 18 vessels at inner anchorage, 12 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	30-May-2005	Twenty-one vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 13 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 4 containers; 2 vessels at inner anchorage, 6 at outer anchorage.
Dekheila	30-May-2005	Eleven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 7 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 3 containers; 2 vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	30-May-2005	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 5 containers.
Suez	30-May-2005	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 4 passenger vessels; 4 tugs.
Suez Canal	30-May-2005	Twenty-five vessels transiting Northbound, 12 Southbound.

Estonia

Tallinn	30-May-2005	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 fertiliser vessel loading at berth, 2 vessels discharging at berth (1 wood granules, 1 sawn timber); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 3 vessels due, with 8 days berthing delay expected.
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Georgia

Batumi	27-May-2005	Oil products: 4 vessels berthed, all loading, of which 1 kerosene, 2 gasoil, 1 crudeoil; 2 vessels in roads, both to load gasoil; 6 vessels due by 1/6, all to load, of which 2 fuel oil, 2 crude oil, 1 gasoil, 1 light gasoil.
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India

Kolkata	30-May-2005	5 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (General Cargo, Pipe), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels waiting to load General Cargo; 1 vessel under repair; 2 vessels due (Containers, Edible Oil).
Haldia	30-May-2005	15 vessels operating at berth of which 6 loading (Iron ore-4, Thermal Coal, Bitumen), 8 vessels discharging (Palmolive, Coke-3, Rock Phosphate, Met Ore, POL-2), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels awaiting berth (2 to discharge, 2 to load); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 8 vessels due (POL-2, Crude, Iron Ore, Container-4).
Paradip	30-May-2005	8 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Iron ore-2, Chrome Concentrate-2, Fe. Chrome), 3 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, SKO); 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load.
Visakhapatnam	30-May-2005	11 vessels operating at berth of which 5 loading (Iron ore, C.P.Coke, Rice Bran, Soya, POL), 6 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-3, LPG, MOP; Ammonium Nitrate); 5 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge; 19 vessels due (Iron Ore-6, Steel, Thermal Coal, POL., Containers-3, Ammonia Powder, Ammonia, Coking Coal-2, Steam Coal, Limestone, Crude).
Chennai	30-May-2005	12 vessels operating at berth of which 10 discharging (General Cargo, Logs, Raw Sugar, HM Scrap-2, IND Salt, S.Scrap, Met Coke, S. Coal, Furnace Oil), 2 vessels loading and discharging (S.Pipes/Granite Block, Containers); 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load); 5 vessels due (Containers, MOP, JBAX/Bauxite/GraniteBlock, MSO/HSD, S.Plat/General Cargo).

Port Conditions

Tuticorin	30-May-2005	9 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (General Cargo, Salt, Cement), 6 vessels discharging (Timber Logs, Thermal Coal, Coke, Copper Concentrate, LPG, Raw Sugar); 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge.
Cochin	30-May-2005	3 vessels operating at berth of which 2 discharging (Copra, Furnace Oil), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers.
New Mangalore	30-May-2005	8 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Iron Ore Fines-2, Iron ore (P)), 5 vessels discharging (MOP, LPG, POL Crude, POL Product-2); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load); 21 vessels due (Iron Ore(F)-8, POL Crude-2, Containers, POL Product-5, LPG, Granite Stone-2, Crude Palm Oil, MOP).
Mormugao	30-May-2005	3 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading Iron ore, 1 vessel discharging Met Coke, 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; vessels working at mid stream and loading Iron ore; 3 vessels awaiting berth (2 to discharge, 1 to load); 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to load); 4 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 7 vessels due (Coking Coal-3, Iron ore-4).
Mumbai	30-May-2005	18 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading POL, 13 vessels discharging (General Cargo-5, Other Dry Bulk(Salt), Fertilizer (RM)-2, Fertilizer, POL-4), 4 vessels loading and discharging General Cargo; 13 vessels under repairs/dry docked, 12 vessels under arrest, 17 vessels waiting (under laid up berths not required for cargo operations); 15 vessels due (Containers-3, Oil-3, General Cargo-9).
J.N.P.T.	30-May-2005	9 vessels operating at berth of which 3 discharging (Edible Oil-2, Molasses), 6 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 3 vessels awaiting berth (1 to discharge, 2 to load and discharge); 3 vessels due (Containers-2, MS).
Ennore	30-May-2005	1 vessel operating at berth and discharging Thermal Coal; 1 vessel loading Iron Ore at Inner Anchorage; 1 Thermal Coal vessel due.
Kandla	30-May-2005	16 vessels operating at berth of which 8 discharging (Timber Logs-2, CPO, Palm Oil, Phosphoric Acid-2, DSBO, MS), 6 vessels loading (Rice-2, Mr. Blocks, Salt-2, Agriculture Product), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 4 vessels due (Timber Logs, Wheat, CPO, Chemical).

Israel

Ashdod	31-May-2005	Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 13 vessels discharging at berth (9 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 4 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load/dischARGE; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 18 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected..
Haifa	31-May-2005	Four vessels discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 12 vessels loading/discharging at berth (7 containers, 4 tankers, 1 passenger vessel); 2 vessels waiting anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load/dischARGE; 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 22 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.

Kazakhstan

Aktau	27-May-2005	Oil products: Two vessels berthed, both loading crude oil; 6 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargo.
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Nigeria

Bonny River terminal	25-May-2005	No vessels loading at berth, 1 at anchorage; no vessels due.
Escravos terminal	25-May-2005	No vessels loading at berth, 1 at anchorage; 2 vessels due.
Qua-Iboe terminal	25-May-2005	No vessels loading at berth, 1 at anchorage; 6 vessels due

Pakistan

Karachi	30-May-2005	Two vessels loading at berth (1 MOL, 1 cement), 4 vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 2 general cargo, 1 DAP), 5 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 2 vessels due (1 crude oil, 1 chemicals), with no berthing delays.
Port Qasim	30-May-2005	Four vessels discharging at berth (1 HSD, 1 MEG, 1 wheat, 1 iron ore); 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 iron ore, 1 crude oil, 1 canola seeds).

Russia

Novorossiysk	30-May-2005	Sixteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 bulk NPK, 1 DRI, 1 scrap, 1 slabs, 1 paper, 1 pipes, 1 copper, 2 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 coils, 1 diesel oil), 4 discharging bulk sugar; 6 vessels waiting in roads, of which 3 to discharge bulk sugar, 3 to load (1 equipment, 1 UAN solution, 1 DRI); 53 vessels due, of which 50 to load (5 aluminium, 6 pig-iron, 2 HBI, 2 steel billets, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 scrap, 3 bulk NPK,
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Port Conditions

2 slabs, 1 steel/steel billets, 1 steel sheets, 1 steel billets/slabs, 1 vehicles/coils, 1 steel billets/vehicles, 2 steel billets/ coils, 1 DRI, 2 copper, 1 ammonium sulphate, 4 wheat, 1 oil, 1 WRIC/coils/steel billets, 1 bulk cement, 1 steel billets/pipes, 1 cellulose, 1 barley, 1 coils, 1 paper/ carton, 1 bulk urea, 1 WRIC/steel billets, 1 WRIC, 1 pipes), 3 to discharge (1 zinc ore, 1 copper ore, 1 bulk sugar); Oil terminal: 1 tanker berthed loading crude oil; 5 tankers in roads, all to load, of which 3 crude oil, 1 diesel oil, 1 fuel oil; 6 tankers due, all to load, of which 5 crude oil, 1 diesel oil.

Slovenia

Koper 30-May-2005 Port working normally. Nine vessels berthed of which 5 bulk carriers discharging ore/coal/minerals, 3 vessels loading sawn timber/steel products, 1 Ro/Ro loading paper products/containers; 28 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 5 to discharge/load containers, 5 bulk carriers to discharge ore/ cement/grain, 5 bulk carriers to load coal/grain, 8 vessels to load steel products/sawn timber/timber products/general cargo, 5 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles.

Spain

Bilbao 30-May-2005 Twenty-three vessels operating (6 tankers, 17 others), of which 6 loading, 11 discharging, 6 loading/discharging.
 Cadiz 30-May-2005 Twenty-one vessels in port of which 7 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 2 containers, 1 seeds, 1 slag, 4 passenger vessels, 10 vessels under repair; no delays.
 Sagunto 30-May-2005 Twenty-five vessels in port operating of which 16 discharging (13 steel products, 1 anhydrous ammonia, 1 logs, 1 vehicles), 3 loading (1 steel coils, 1 machinery, 1 bulk fertiliser), 5 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo, 1 vessel discharging/loading steel products; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

Sri Lanka

Colombo 30-May-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. Nine container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 13 vessels discharging at berth (10 containers/feeders, 1 bulk palm oil, 1 bulk fertiliser, 1 bulk pyrophilite); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 container/feeder, 1 bulk cement, 1 bagged maize, 1 bulk LPG); 3 vessels dry-docked, 1 under arrest; no vessels at new tanker berth; 9 vessels due (8 containers/feeders, 1 steel cargo), with no delays expected.

Turkmenistan

Aladja 30-May-2005 Oil products: One vessel in roads to load crude oil.
 Turkmenbashi 30-May-2005 Oil products: 4 vessels berthed, of which 3 loading (1 heating oil, 1 gasoline, 1 fuel oil), 1 waiting to load gasoil; 6 vessels in roads, of which 5 to load (2 gasoil, 1 gasoline, 2 unknown cargo), 1 to discharge crude oil.

Ukraine

Ilichevsk 30-May-2005 Eight vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (5 steel products, 1 oil), 2 discharging/loading containers; 2 vessels in roads, 1 to load steel products, 1 to discharge/load containers; 15 vessels due, of which 7 to load (3 vegetable oil, 3 steel products, 1 sulphur), 1 to discharge slabs, 7 to discharge/load containers
 Mariupol 30-May-2005 Nine vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (1 fire-clay, 1 wheat, 1 sulphur, 2 coal, 1 coke, 1 steel, 1 other vessel), 1 discharging equipment; 5 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 fire-clay, 4 steel; 27 vessels due, of which 26 to load (11 steel, 6 coal, 7 fire-clay, 1 coke, 1 pitch), 1 to discharge/load containers.
 Odessa 30-May-2005 Eighteen vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (5 metal, 1 metal/wood, 1 oil, 1 corn, 1 paper), 5 discharging (1 oil, 1 metal, 1 bananas, 1 luggage, 1 sugar), 2 discharging/loading containers, 2 passenger vessel; 2 vessels in roads, of which 1 to load scrap, 1 to discharge general cargo; 66 vessels due, of which 35 to load (26 metal, 1 scrap, 1 sunflower oil, 1 ferro alloy, 1 ore, 1 wood, 3 corn, 1 wheat), 11 to discharge (3 citrus, 6 sugar, 1 building materials, 1 luggage), 20 to discharge/load containers.

United States

Beaumont, TX 31-May-2005 Louis Dreyfus terminal: 2 days delay expected.
 Corpus Christi, TX 31-May-2005 Channel open under normal traffic. Interstate grain terminal: 2 days delay expected; ADM terminal: no delays expected.
 Galveston, TX 31-May-2005 Channel open under normal traffic. ADM-Farmland terminal: 2 days delay expected.
 Houston, TX 31-May-2005 Cargill terminal: 1-2 days delay expected.

Port Conditions

New Orleans	31-May-2005	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 2 days delay expected. Cargill-Westwego: 2 days delay expected. ADM/Ama: 4-5 days delay expected. Bunge/Destrehan: 3 days delay expected. ADM/ Destrehan: 4-5 days delay expected. ADM/Reserve: 4-5 days delay expected. Cargill/Reserve: 1 day's delay expected. Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 2 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 4 days delay expected.
Portland, OR	31-May-2005	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Seattle, WA	31-May-2005	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Tacoma, WA	31-May-2005	Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected.

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