

Quick-witted crewman foils pirate attack on tanker

Gang surrender after their speedboat is taken and police are alerted, writes Marcus Hand in Singapore — Thursday June 16 2005

INDONESIAN pirates who attacked a Malaysian tanker surrendered after one of the ship's crew stole their speedboat and alerted the authorities.

Ten pirates armed with machine guns and knives attacked and boarded the 6,902 dwt, Malaysian-registered, Nepline Delima 25 nm west of the island of Langkawi in at 0400hrs on Tuesday.

At the time of the attack the tanker, owned by Nepline, was bound for Myanmar with a cargo of diesel. The armed gang took over the vessel, the majority of whose crew were asleep at the time of the attack.

However one of the 19 crew, Mohd Hamid, was able to hide while his colleagues were rounded up and then dived over the side of the deck, making away with the pirates' speedboat.

Kedah police chief Datuk Supian Ahmat told a media conference the sailor who escaped alerted marine police at Bukit Malut at about 9am and a 20-member police team led by DSP Abdul Salam Abdul Halim raced to the scene.

The police team intercepted the tanker 23 nautical miles from Pulau Rebak Besar, Langkawi, at about 1225 hours.

A standoff ensued as the pirates initially refused to surrender and threatened to kill the crew and blow up the tanker if the police stormed the vessel.

However, after three hours of negotiations the pirates surrendered, throwing their weapons into the sea.

Datuk Supian said that only one knife was found when the police boarded the vessel. The tanker's Indonesian master and two crew members were taken to hospital to be treated for injuries to their hands and faces.

The 10 pirates were said to be Indonesian nationals aged between 22 and 45 and are now being held by the Malaysian police.

The pirates carried documents showing they were from Aceh and Medan. Whether they intended to hijack the tanker or take crew members hostage for ransom is not clear.

Dockworkers stage walk out over threat to unions

DISCONTENT over new EU plans to weaken union power on the quayside will spill over into industrial action for the first time today, writes Justin Stares in Brussels.

The International Dockworkers Council has called a three-hour stoppage in all European ports as a protest against the directive on access to port services.

The IDC, one of the more radical stevedoring unions, claims to represent more than 50,000 dockworkers around the world, with members in 10 different European countries.

The stoppage, which is designed to coincide with the first European Parliament hearing on the directive, "could affect 70 ports in Greece, Cyprus, Spain, France, Italy, Sweden, Slovenia and Portugal," the IDC says.

The Council asked the more powerful European Transport Workers' Federation to join in the action, but its approach was rebuffed.

"The ETF said no because we don't feel now is the right time to strike," said ETF maritime coordinator Eduardo Chagas.

But action was being planned for September or October, Mr Chagas added.

"A delegation of trade unionists from the IDC will gather outside the European Parliament in Brussels to raise awareness of the workers' discontent with this process," the IDC said in a statement.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>CAMILLA DESGAGNES</i>	ro-ro	BRB	LR	10,085	7,000	1982	Fire in engine-room in lat 40 22N, long 72 23W, Jun 8. CO2 released in engine-room. Being towed by tugs towards New York.
<i>DAIKOKU MARU</i>	general	JPN	—	496	1,500	1996	Had fire break out at Kanda anchorage May 30. Fire extinguished & owners ordered tug.
<i>ELEFThERIA</i>	bulker	PAN	NV	36,828	63,718	1983	Grounded in lat 55 13.7N, long 11 05.3E, Jun 5. Salvors in attendance. Three tugs on scene. Still aground Jun 8. Part cargo to be lightered. LOF signed.
<i>EVERISE GLORY</i>	general	MYS	NK	13,519	22,531	1979	In collision with cc <i>Uni-Concord</i> in lat 01 25.29N, long 104 29.24E, about 14 km north-east of Horsburgh Lighthouse, Singapore Strait, Jun 4. Sank. Some oil traces. Investigation under way.
<i>FAIZ</i>	general	IND	IR	300	894	1976	Vessel had a fire on board & abandoned 150 nautical miles from Haldia May 31. Being towed towards sandheads, ETA Kolkata 05 Jun. Rptd to have sunk in 20 41 N 88 38 E & large slick in area.
<i>KIPEROUSA</i>	bulker	MLT	RS	14,921	25,370	1984	Grounded in lat 33 21.9S, long 27 25E, Jun 7 after having serious engine-room problems. Crew taken off. Refloated & anchored near grounding site. Engine-room flooded & no power. Tug proceeding to tow vessel.
<i>POLARIS</i>	tug	USA	—	211	—	1955	Sank in Commercial Canal, Iberia, Jun 1 and spilling oil. Canal still closed Jun 4. Crane being used and most of tug above water Jun 5. To be repaired.
<i>PUNJAB SENATOR</i>	container	DEU	GL	53,324	63,523	1997	Reported Jun 2 fire in No.6 hold while on voyage from Singapore to Colombo. Arrived Colombo & investigating damage. Sailed Jun 6.
<i>RICH SPRING</i>	general	KHM	CS	1,258	1,559	1979	Reported Jun 5 adrift in lat 40 46.9N, long 135 19.7E. Vessel abandoned by crew due danger of sinking.
<i>SCAN BALTIC</i>	ro-ro	NIS	LR	10,991	7,680	1984	Dead in water due to engine failure 90 miles off Bermuda May 30. Towed by tug <i>Powerful</i> to Bermuda, arrived Jun 1. Repairs to be carried out at Bermuda.
<i>STAVANGER</i>	passenger	NOR	—	2,434	680	2003	Grounded on Lindoy Island Jun 7. Refloated same day and drydocked in Stavanger. Bow section damaged.
<i>UNI-CONCORD</i>	container	TWN	NK	12,405	17,446	1992	In collision with mv <i>Everise Glory</i> in lat 01 25.29N, long 104 29.24E, about 14 km north-east of Horsburgh Lighthouse, Singapore Strait Jun 4. In Singapore shipyard.
<i>YAMAL</i>	general	RUS	RS	4,110	4,485	1995	In collision with cc <i>Jessica B.</i> in lat 50 11.7N, long 01 51.1W, Jun 6. Holed above waterline & listing to port. Surveyor proceeding. Tug assistance required. Alongside Western Dock, Southampton.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AGENA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Malta, Jun 3 -- General cargo Agena completed repairs and sailed Valletta May 31. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ALEXIS (Malta)

London, Jun 3 -- Bulk Alexis arrived Barranquilla May 25 and departed May 30.

ALGOSAR (Canada)

London, Jun 7 -- On Jun 7 while entering lock No. 3 at Beauharnois, in lat 45 19N, long 73 55W in the Seaway, the starboard fender of chemical/oil carrier Algosar (5854 gt, built 1978) struck the lock wall damaging the concrete structure. Traffic was temporarily interrupted.

ALKMINI A. (Greece)

London, Jun 3 -- Passenger ro/ro Alkmini A. sailed Piraeus Jun 2, bound Norway.

AMBAR (Honduras)

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

ANIARA (Singapore)

London, Jun 3 -- Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus Report: Vehicle Aniara: All cargo has been discharged and the vessel has shifted to Hellenic Shipyards, Skaramanga (GRC) to carry out repairs.

ARATERE (New Zealand)

Wellington, Jun 7 -- Hundreds of passengers had their travel plans disrupted yesterday when ro/ro Aratere (12596 gt, built 1998) had problems with a lifeboat. The trouble began soon after Aratere left Picton on its 10am sailing to Wellington with an estimated 270 passengers. Crew members undertaking a regulation safety drill near Allports Island, in Queen Charlotte Sound, had problems with a hook used to reattach a lifeboat to the ferry. The lifeboat was unusable and Aratere was forced to return to Picton. Some of the passengers had to disembark and wait about three hours for the next sailing of the sister ferry Arahura. Meanwhile, Aratere set sail for Wellington with the rest of the passengers and crew. Interislander spokeswoman Jess Batchelor said the 1400 hrs sailing from Wellington and the 1800 hrs sailing from Picton were cancelled as the hook was repaired. Passengers due to sail on the 400-capacity ferry were rebooked on the larger Arahura. Aratere was scheduled to resume sailing for last night's Wellington to Picton 2200 hrs crossing. Ms Batchelor said the incident was a minor fault. "The actual deployment of the lifeboat was fine. If we had to, we could have used it as part of emergency procedures. It was just

putting it back again." The incident was reported to the Maritime Safety Authority. Spokeswoman Heidi Brook said the authority was satisfied that all proper safety precautions were followed and no further action would be taken. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ASTRO LUPUS (Greece)

London, Jun 8 -- Crude oil tanker Astro Lupus arrived at Sikka, India, on May 26. The vessel has subsequently returned to the Persian Gulf and was last reported departing from Fujairah Anchorage, for Dubai.

ATHOS I (Cyprus)

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: Once as many as 1,700 strong, the unified command coordinating cleanup of the Nov 26 crude oil spill in the Delaware River closed up shop Wednesday (Jun 1), but questions still linger six months after what is believed to be the fourth-worst spill on the river. Instead of sending regular work crews to clean oil from more than 100 miles of shoreline impacted by the spill, the Coast Guard will monitor the river and mobilise crews to specific locations to respond when needed, Coast Guard Petty Officer John Edwards said yesterday. Crude oil tanker Athos I spilled an estimated 264,335 gallons of Venezuelan crude oil on the evening of Nov 26. Coast Guard investigators believe the vessel struck a large metal object resembling a pump casing for a dredge and a sunken anchor near the 40-foot-deep Mantua Creek anchor point maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers. The investigation has not been completed, but Coast Guard officials noted previously that they may never know exactly what caused the spill. To date, Edwards said, work crews have recovered 17,761 pounds of oily solids and materials and 221,910 gallons of oil/water mix; 8,498 gallons of that is oil. At nearly \$167 million, costs of the cleanup have reached more than three times the liability cap of \$45 million placed on Athos I by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA). Tsakos Shipping and Trading surpassed the cap, but turned over all claims to a fund established by OPA after paying \$125 million. The fund, which is capped at \$51 million, has paid out \$41 million in claims, Edwards said. A natural resources damage assessment (NRDA) is still being compiled to determine a cost of environmental damage caused by the spill, which fouled more than 100 miles of shoreline on both sides of the river and killed at least 186 waterfowl.

London, Jun 6 -- A press report, dated Jun 5, states: Investigators have concluded that a rusty anchor on the bottom of the Delaware River ripped the hull of crude oil tanker Athos I last autumn, causing some 265,000 gallons of crude oil to pour into the waterway. Investigators have not identified the anchor's owner or determined how it came to rest on the river bottom, US Coast Guard officials said. There are no markings to indicate its ownership.

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

"It's impossible to say who or where it came from, since it's been down there so long," Coast Guard Lt Rick Minnich said. Coast Guard officials have spent more than six months investigating the cause of the Nov 26 accident. The spill hampered shipping and polluted more than 100 miles of shoreline in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, killing at least 180 birds and coating more than 300 vessels. Initial cleanup costs have been tallied at \$167 million, Coast Guard officials said. Environmentalists fear the oil could harm people and wildlife for several decades. About a dozen lawsuits have been filed in federal court against the vessel's operator and owner, most of them by corporations that operate on the waterway. Current Coast Guard regulations do not require mariners to report the loss of an anchor or other equipment in navigable waterways. Congress, however, is considering a bill that would require them to do so.

ATLANTIC WIND (Cyprus)

Falmouth, Jun 7 -- Chemical/oil carrier Atlantic Wind completed repairs and sailed Falmouth 1605, Jun 3. -- Lloyd's Agents.

AURA (Cambodia)

London, Jun 5 -- General cargo Aura arrived Gelendzhik Jun 1.

AVILA STAR (Bahamas)

London, Jun 8 -- Ref Avila Star departed Antwerp May 22, bound for Cotonou, where it arrived Jun 1. The vessel departed the following day, destination Durban.

BASAVESHWARA (India)

Kochi, Jun 7 -- At 0820, May 27, there was a backfire in the port auxiliary boiler furnace in the engine-room of product tanker Basaveshwara resulting in the furnace door being blown back due to the failure of the cooler. The fire was immediately extinguished by the crew pouring water over it. Further damage to the ship was thereby avoided. After the accident, the vessel shifted, using its own power, from Berth No.12 to an anchorage. Repair work is currently in progress. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Kochi, Jun 9 -- Product tanker Basaveshwara has completed repairs and sailed New Mangalore for Kochi. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BASTO III (Norway)

London, Jun 7 -- Following received from Sandnes, dated today: Passenger Basto III is still in Drammen, undergoing repairs. ETC unknown.

BOKA STAR (Tonga)

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

BROEDERTROUW XVI (Netherlands)

London, Jun 3 -- Tug Broedertrouw XVI arrived Schiedam 1750, Jun 2, towing barge Lastdrager 26.

BUCCANEER (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 3 -- Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, dated today: The crew of Coast Guard cutter Roanoke Island assisted three fishermen off fishing Buccaneer (120 gt, built 1974) after it grounded near Geese Islands, south of Kodiak Island, early this morning. Although reporting no initial distress, the master on board the fishing vessel relayed to the Coast Guard that his vessel had grounded. However, as the tide went out, the master became concerned the vessel might roll over. The Coast Guard diverted Roanoke Island crew, patrolling 40 miles away, to the scene. A nearby vessel crew also responded to the Buccaneer. This vessel tied a line to the stricken vessel's mast to help keep it upright. Once on scene, Roanoke Island's crew assessed the situation and embarked the vessel's crewmen on board the cutter. Mark E. Alwert, the skipper of Buccaneer, and his crew intend to attempt to refloat the vessel during the next high tide.

London, Jun 3 -- Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1800, UTC: Fishing Buccaneer grounded just after midnight last night in lat 56 43.6N, long 153 56.3W. Vessel remains aground, awaiting high tide.

London, Jun 4 -- Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 2200, UTC: Fishing Buccaneer refloated under own power at 0854, UTC, Jun 4. Vessel has no apparent damage and is proceeding to Kodiak for inspection.

CAMILLA DESGAGNES (Barbados)

London, Jun 8 -- Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1505, UTC: Ro/ro Camilla Desgagnes (10085 gt, built 1982), departing, has a fire in its engine-room in lat 40 22N, long 72 23W. Understand crew are abandoning ship. (Note -- Camilla Desgagnes sailed New York 0320, Jun 8 for Canada.)

London, Jun 8 -- Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 2210, UTC: Ro/ro Camilla Desgagnes, New York for Canada, in ballast, was not abandoned by its crew. Carbon dioxide was released in engine-room and the fire is now believed to be out. Vessel is now being towed by a tug towards New York. At 2200, local time, it is planned to enter the engine-room to establish the situation/damage.

CAMILLA DESGAGNES (Canada)

London, Jun 9 -- Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1325, UTC: Ro/ro Camilla Desgagnes: Tug McAllister is alongside the vessel. Understand the intention is for the vessel to be towed to New York after damage assessment is completed. Crew remain on board.

CAPELLA (Cyprus)

London, Jun 3 -- Product tanker Capella arrived Vysotsk May 28 and departed later the same day for Rotterdam, where it arrived 1510, Jun 2.

CARAVOS HORIZON (Malta)

Piraeus, Jun 8 -- Bulk Caravos Horizon remains under inspection at Piraeus. A likely sailing date is not available. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CHIHAYA MARU (Japan)

Yokohama, Jun 8 -- Cement Chihaya Maru (6835 gt, built 2000) ran aground in the port of Ofunato (? Ofunato) in Iwate prefecture at 0900, Jun 5. No other details are currently available. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CHINESE EAGLE (Hong Kong)

London, Jun 3 -- On or about May 27 bulk Chinese Eagle reported a fire in its engine-room approximately 1,200 miles off Durban. The vessel was in the course of a voyage to Sweden laden with a full cargo of coal. The ship's crew injected carbon dioxide and sealed the engine-room. The shipowners contracted salvors to provide assistance, to include a dead ship tow to a South African port where the vessel will undergo repairs. A salvage tug is in attendance with Chinese Eagle. General Average has been declared.

London, Jun 6 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0935, UTC: Bulk Chinese Eagle, in tow, bound Durban, ETA Jun 10.

CHRISOPIGI LADY (Liberia)

London, Jun 3 -- Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 2323, UTC: Product tanker Chrisopigi Lady and bulk Yue Shan are still in Singapore waters undergoing repairs.

Singapore, Jun 6 -- Bulk Yue Shan is currently anchored at Raffles Special Purpose Anchorage, Singapore, undergoing temporary repair before resuming its voyage to the discharge port in China to deliver about 166,000 tonnes of iron ore. Product tanker Chrisopigi Lady is currently docked at one of the shipyards in Singapore undergoing permanent repair to its damaged starboard side shell. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CHRISTOPHER (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jun 3 -- General cargo Christopher arrived Wicklow May 25 and departed May 26, bound Dundalk.

CINNAMON (Cyprus)

London, Jun 3 -- Bulk Cinnamon (18311 gt, built 2003) struck berth at Becancour, PQ, in lat 46 24 18N, long 72 22 46W, while coming alongside at 0722, EDST, Jun 2. The port anchor was lost due to the impact and the wharf was damaged. (Note -- Cinnamon sailed Corinto May 16 for Canada.)

Montreal, Jun 7 -- The lost anchor from bulk Cinnamon was recovered and refitted. The vessel is hoping to repair its bent anchor stock as a result of contacting the pier but it is expected that it will have to be replaced in Europe at the end of the vessel's voyage. The chain was also damaged and will be replaced soon. No other damage reported to the hull. The vessel is currently in the Great Lakes

to load grain. Damage to the pier was very slight and involved the concrete. - Lloyd's Agents.

CLIPPER BOUNTEOUS (Bahamas)

London, Jun 2 -- Bulk Clipper Bounteous (14762 gt, built 1997) lost engine power in the St. Lawrence River near Port Saint Francois, PQ, in lat 46 16 16N, long 72 37 11W, at 1618, EDST, Jun 1, and had to anchor.

Montreal, Jun 7 -- As of Jun 4 bulk Clipper Bounteous was out of Canadian waters, so presumed back in service. -- Lloyd's Agents.

COMOROS STREAM (Netherlands)

London, Jun 8 -- Ref Comoros Stream arrived Sheerness May 26, sailing later the same day for Antwerp, arriving there 0455, May 27. The vessel departed 1822, May 28, destination Santa Marta, where it arrived Jun 6.

CORNER BROOK (Bermuda)

Piraeus, Jun 7 -- General cargo Corner Brook is still at Piraeus undergoing repairs. A likely sailing date is not available. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CRETE CEMENT (Bahamas)

Istanbul, Jun 2 -- General cargo Crete Cement (3701 gt, built 1998), Diliskelesi/Gebze for Immingham, had an engine breakdown at 0725, local time and anchored near Poyraz Bay. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 2 -- Following received from Ankara MRCC, timed 1200, UTC: General cargo Crete Cement completed repairs and proceeded at 0830, UTC.

London, Jun 4 -- A press report, dated Jun 2, states: General cargo Crete Cement was adrift at Canakkale Strait after experiencing engine problems. A tug helped the ship go away from the dangerous location. According to the information received Crete Cement was carrying 3,526 tonnes of iron and steel from Izmit to Britain. Crete Cement's master made an emergency call to Turkish authorities and asked for help. The tug towed Crete Cement to the Kilye region of the Canakkale Strait.

DAIKOKU MARU NO.5 (Japan)

Yokohama, Jun 8 -- At 1130, May 30, a fire broke out on general cargo Daikoku Maru No.5 (496 gt, built 1996), at Kanda anchorage. The fire was immediately extinguished and the vessel's owners ordered a tug. No injuries were reported. -- Lloyd's Agents.

DOOYANG VICTOR (South Korea)

Tunis, Jun 3 -- Bulk Dooyang Victor refloated after discharging its cargo today and is presently at anchorage. Our attending surveyor and the two diving surveyors are ascertaining the damage caused to the bottom of the hull. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Tunis, Jun 8 -- Our surveyors were unable to fully ascertain the damage caused to the bottom of bulk Dooyang Victor as the survey scheduled for Jun

3 at Gabes was cancelled after bad weather resulted in sea conditions being too poor to conduct it. Specifically the underwater visibility was too poor. It was agreed with the shipowner to undertake the survey when the vessel will be at anchorage area. According to our surveyor's first investigations the damage caused to the underwater structure was not very serious and vessel could sail safely to another refuge for repairs. The vessel left Gabes anchorage on Jun 3. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 8 -- Bulk Dooyang Victor passed through the Dardanelles, eastward, Jun 6, destination Karabiga.

ELANTA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jun 3 -- General cargo Elanta sailed Tuzla May 25, bound for Yuzhnyy.

ELEFThERIA (Panama)

London, Jun 5 -- Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 0912, UTC: At 0126, UTC, bulk Eleftheria (36828 gt, built 1983), 3FIU9, destination Port Said, laden with barley, ran aground in lat 55 13.7N, long 11 05.3E. Salvors are in attendance and Danish authorities will attend, before salvage commences. (Note -- Eleftheria was last reported arriving at Rostock on May 30. It is understood that a salvor has secured an LOF.)

London, Jun 5 -- Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1900, UTC: Bulk Eleftheria is still aground. Tug Westsund is on scene. Awaiting arrival of another tug, ETA 0300, local time, Jun 6.

Copenhagen, Jun 6 -- Bulk Eleftheria ran aground in the early hours of yesterday, in the Great Belt, Denmark, close to Agerso Flak south of the Great Belt Bridge. Apparently the vessel was avoiding a collision with two other vessels in the narrow "route T" and during that manoeuvre the vessel ran aground. According to the information available the two other vessels were manned with Danish pilots. Eleftheria did not have a Danish pilot on board. There is no danger of any oil spill nor any other kind of spill. The vessel was loaded with grain from Rostock, bound for Alexandria. -- Correspondent.

London, Jun 6 -- Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1125, UTC: Bulk Eleftheria is still aground. Salvage tugs are on scene and operations are continuing.

London, Jun 7 -- Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1251, UTC: Bulk Eleftheria is still aground. Three tugs are on scene, awaiting high water.

Copenhagen, Jun 7 -- Bulk Eleftheria: An unsuccessful attempt was made yesterday to refloat the vessel. A new attempt will be made today. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Copenhagen, Jun 7 -- The first attempt to pull bulk Eleftheria off the ground west of Ageroe failed, but later today, at high water, the tugs will make another attempt. The grounding took place early Sunday morning, Jun 5, to escape a close situation with

another vessel. After the attempt to pull it off the ground, the vessel moved slightly, but not into a better position. Understand that three tugs, Asterix, Axel and Vestsund are currently attempting to refloat the vessel. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Jun 7 -- Attempts this evening to pull bulk Eleftheria off the ground failed. Divers to check tomorrow and either try to remove sand around and underneath the vessel, or possibly P&I Club to investigate light tonnage for discharging some parts of the full load of grain. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Jun 8 -- Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 0944, UTC: Bulk Eleftheria is still aground. A refloating attempt this morning was unsuccessful, and the vessel's owners are looking for a vessel to lighter part of the cargo prior to a further refloating attempt.

London, Jun 9 -- Understood salvage services are being rendered to bulk Eleftheria under Lloyd's Open Form by Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

ELF (Cook Islands)

Copenhagen, Jun 7 -- General cargo Elf (507 gt, built 1974) was towed from a position off Raageleje, north of Sjaelland, to Hundested by tug Danasund at the weekend (Jun 4-5), after the vessel's engines broke down during its voyage. -- Correspondent.

Copenhagen, Jun 7 -- Tug Danasund connected to general cargo Elf, at sea, at 0930, Jun 3, and the tow was delivered safely alongside in Hundested at 0100, Jun 4. -- Correspondent.

EVERISE GLORY (Malaysia)

London, Jun 4 -- Following press release received from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, dated today: At about 1150 hrs, today, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) received a report from Taiwan-registered c.c. Uni-Concord (12405 gt, built 1992) that it had collided with Malaysia-registered general cargo Everise Glory (13519 gt, built 1979). Everise Glory sank after the collision. The incident occurred outside the Singapore Strait, about 14 km north-east of Horsburgh Lighthouse. MPA is co-ordinating the search and rescue operation. There were 24 crew members on Everise Glory. Twenty-three were rescued by a combination of vessels of the Republic of Singapore Navy, the Police Coast Guard and a passing fishing trawler that was in the vicinity. Two crew members were reported injured. The search is continuing for the one crew member still missing. Uni-Concord sustained damage to its bow and is in a stable condition. There was no injuries reported to the crew of Uni-Concord, which had departed from the port of Tanjung Pelepas and was bound for Bintulu, Sarawak. Everise Glory was heading for Singapore from Western Australia. There was no report of any oil pollution from the two ships. The MPA has issued

navigational warnings on the position of the sunken ship and advised passing ships to keep clear and to navigate with caution. Vessel traffic along the Singapore Strait remains unaffected. MPA will be investigating the incident.

London, Jun 4 -- The collision between general cargo Everise Glory and c.c. Uni-Concord took place in the position: lat 01 25.29N, long 104 29.24E.

London, Jun 5 -- Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0310, UTC: C.c. Uni-Concord remains in the area of the collision.

London, Jun 5 -- Following press release received from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, dated today: The five injured crew members of general cargo Everise Glory were discharged from Changi General Hospital last evening, after being treated for minor injuries. Everise Glory had sunk about 14 km northeast of Horsburgh Lighthouse, after colliding with c.c. Uni-Concord, yesterday morning. The search and rescue operation continues for the missing crew member. MPA patrol craft and passing ships have confirmed that there has been no oil pollution in the Singapore port waters, the Singapore Straits and Horsburgh Lighthouse area, as a result of the collision. However, traces of oil have been sighted around the vicinity of the sunken vessel. Salvage companies have been engaged by the vessel's agents to clean up the oil traces. The MPA has installed a navigational buoy to mark the location of the sunken vessel. The MPA will continue to broadcast navigational warnings to advise ships to keep clear of the area and to navigate with caution. Vessel traffic along the Singapore Strait remains unaffected. The MPA will be investigating the incident.

London, Jun 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore is continuing search and rescue efforts for a Filipino crew member missing after a collision between two vessels. The chief officer went missing after general cargo Everise Glory he was on sank following a collision with c.c. Uni-Concord on Jun 4.

London, Jun 8 -- Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0335, UTC: C.c. Uni-Concord is now at a shipyard in Singapore.

FAIZ (India)

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fifteen persons, including 12 crew members, were missing after general cargo Faiz (300 gt, built 1976) was found abandoned and drifting 150 nautical miles from Haldia in West Bengal today after a devastating fire on board, Coast Guard sources said. Besides the 12 crew members, the wife and two children of the vessel's master were also missing, the sources said. The Kolkata-bound vessel had sailed from Yangon with a consignment of pulses. The sources said that Faiz had been missing since May 30. On May 31, the

Shipping Corporation of India approached the Coast Guard to launch a search operation. The sources said the blaze had gutted the upper deck.

London, Jun 3 -- The Indian Coast Guard has found four charred skulls aboard a cargo ship that was abandoned after it caught fire in the Bay of Bengal, a senior official said today. "The fire reduced the skeletons to ashes, only skulls could be found in a cabin of the ship," Indian coast guard commandant Gurupesh Singh said. "Two of the skulls are believed to be of minors," said Singh, who is based in Haldia, some 114 km south of Kolkata. "We apprehend the ship's captain P.P. Shelly, his wife and two children were burnt to death," he said, adding that the skeletal remains were being sent to Kolkata for forensic tests. Ten people were rescued but five, including the captain and his family were, reported missing after general cargo Faiz caught fire earlier this week. The 53-metre long ship set sail from Yangon last Friday (May 27) with 783 tonnes of pulses for Kolkata, where it was expected to dock on Tuesday (May 31). However, the ship lost radio contact on Monday (May 30) and was finally spotted by coast guard rescue planes two days later. The 10 survivors were rescued from a liferaft, Singh said. One crew member is still missing, he said. "The crew told the Indian coast guard that he jumped off the ship, but failed to board the liferaft. He was swept away by the sea. We are searching him," Singh said. "The ship is now drifting north-west of the Haldia port. Efforts are under way to tow the ship and bring it to Kolkata," Singh added.

Kolkata, Jun 4 -- General cargo Faiz, cargo 797 tonnes of pulses, caught fire in the Bay of Bengal May 31. The vessel's master, Mr P. P. Shelly died with his wife and two children. Ten crew members were rescued Thursday evening (Jun 2) and were being brought back and are expected to reach Haldia today. The Chief Officer is still missing. The hatch cover was closed and the condition of the cargo is as yet unknown. The vessel is being towed by general cargo Atif towards sandheads. The vessel is expected to arrive Kolkata tomorrow. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Chief Officer of general cargo Faiz, which caught fire and was found adrift and abandoned on Jun 2, was still missing as its 10 crew members rescued by the Coast Guard arrived at Haldia today on board coastal patrol vessel Chand Bibi. Coast Guard commander Gurupesh Singh said that four skulls and charred bones, found on board Faiz, could be that of the master, his wife and their two children, but this could be ascertained only after forensic examination. Two human remains had been found on the gutted deck and two in the captain's cabin, he said. Reconstructing the events, he said the fire had broken out at 1000, May 31, on board the vessel, which had sailed from Yangon with a cargo of

800 tonne pulses. A crew member said the missing chief officer, Rajiv Lahiri, had jumped into the water without a lifejacket. The Coast Guard was first informed on Jun 1 by Pervez Rahman, the managing director of the owners of the vessel, that the vessel was 24 hours overdue. The Coast Guard aircraft and vessels immediately began search operations but the vessel could not be located. The operations were hampered by rough seas and poor visibility, the CGS commander said.

Mumbai, Jun 7 -- The Indian Coast Guard has reported a large oil slick off the East Coast near the Sandheads area in the Bay of Bengal, where an Indian vessel, General cargo Faiz met with an accident recently. Four persons on board the vessel, including two children of the Master, are feared dead, while the remaining 10-crew members have been rescued by the Coast Guard. The vessel, which caught fire while it was sailing from Yangon to Kolkata, is believed to have sunk in approximately lat 20 41N, long 88 38E, where the oil slick was spotted. According to the Directorate-General of Shipping, the vessel sailed from Yangon on May 27 carrying 15 persons, including the Master and his wife and two children. The ship, owned by the Kolkata based ITT Shipping Pvt Ltd was transporting 800 tonnes of pulses. The owners had reported the last contact with the vessel on May 30 from near the Sandheads area. The Coast Guard subsequently located the vessel during aerial sorties, following which a coastal vessel, TCI Lakshmi, was directed to the area. Faiz was sighted by the coastal vessel on Jun 2 about three miles east of Sandheads - the accommodation area of the vessel was completely gutted from the bridge to the engine-room. A Coast Guard surface craft reached the scene and on the same day picked up 10 survivors from a liferaft in the vicinity of the area. On boarding the gutted ship, officials from the Coast Guard vessel noticed four skulls in and around the Master's Cabin. Efforts to tow the ill-fated vessel failed and on Jun 5 the gutted remains of the vessel sank. The DGS was informed by the Coast Guard that a large oil slick was sighted in the area. The Coast Guard is, however, continuing the search operations. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Faiz, was being towed in by general cargo Atif and general cargo Solomon. The managing director of T T Shipping Private Limited, Pervez Rahman, offers an explanation as to why the vessel was lost: The towing lines which connected the three ships got disconnected. "On Sunday afternoon, the towing lines from Atif and Solomon got disconnected, leaving Faiz adrift once again. We informed the Coast Guard, they tried to reattach the towing lines but in vain, since the weather was bad and the sea had become rough. Eventually Faiz drifted away and the Coast Guard's

aircraft could not locate the ship even by yesterday," Rahman said. He added that the company, which owns the three ships, was now presuming that Faiz had sunk. "The ship was listing to one side when the Coast Guard handed it over to us. So it is possible that Faiz took on water and consequently sunk," explained officials of T T Shipping Private Limited. Sources in the Coast Guard, however, said that the sailors of T T Shipping Private Limited "did not follow the correct towing procedure, resulting in the ship being lost." Coast Guard officials said: "It is dangerous to tow an unmanned ship, and the procedure for towing is to have a few sailors on board the ship that is being towed. But nothing of the sort was done. Faiz was being towed in its unmanned condition." The Coast Guard added that when they found the ship, it had, indeed, taken in some water, but not enough to result in the ship sinking. Rahman, meanwhile, defended the sailors of Atif and Solomon. "The sea was rough and the weather was going from bad to worse. It would have been extremely risky to put more lives at stake by putting them on Faiz," he said.

FAST INDEPENDENCE (Malta)

See "Brittany, France" under "Pollution."

FLEET TRADER I (Hong Kong)

Lagos, Jun 4 -- Bulk Fleet Trader I was towed out of Lagos May 15, bound Las Palmas. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FREITIND (Norway)

Trondheim, Jun 6 -- General cargo Freitind is still at Kvernhusvik Shipyard. No decision taken as regards the final destiny of the vessel. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FREY (Malta)

Brest, Jun 8 -- General cargo Frey is still at Brest waiting to be towed towards another port for repairs to its main engine. However, no information is available yet as to its destination and/or date of departure. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FRONT GUIDER (Singapore)

Maassluis, Jun 4 -- Bulk/oil Front Guider (89004 gt, built 1991), 9VLG, outbound from Antwerp, struck the Berendrecht Lock at 1900, local time, Jun 4. Both vessel and lock damaged. Vessel is still at lock. Inspections to be carried out. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Maassluis, Jun 5 -- Bulk/oil Front Guider, outbound, struck the outer door of the Berendrecht Lock at 1900, local time, Jun 4, due engine trouble. The vessel could not stop in time and made a large dent in the door. The port authorities were informed, and they went to inspect the vessel to see if the vessel could leave the lock. After inspection the vessel left the lock at 0115, local time, today. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Jun 6 -- Bulk/oil Front Guider departed Antwerp 0115, Jun 5, bound for Narvik.

London, Jun 6 -- Bulk/oil Front Guider came into contact with the lock gate of the Berendrechtsluis in Antwerp on Jun 4, after the vessel's engines failed to reverse. A harbour tug was pushed against the lock gate. Both the tug and the gate sustained extensive damage.

GALAXY (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated Jun 8, states: A back-draught explosion during a fire doomed fish factory Galaxy before it sank in the Bering Sea on Oct 21, 2002, the Coast Guard has concluded. Three men died in the incident. Two days later, a fourth was swept off a Good Samaritan vessel as it searched for survivors in the icy waters. The vessel was carrying a crew of 25 and an observer from the National Marine Fisheries Service when a fire broke out in the engine-room. The cause of the original fire is not known, but it probably started in a generator, Coast Guard Lt Cmdr Chris Woodley said today. The Coast Guard said the explosion was caused moments later when crew-members opened hatches before a fire-suppression system had been activated. That allowed oxygen to flow to the engine-room and triggered the explosion, Woodley said.

GENNY AND DOUG (Canada)

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated Jun 2, states: The Transportation Safety Board of Canada has found that poor communications led to a collision between the Coast Guard support vessel Sir Wilfred Grenfell and fishing vessel Genny and Doug. The two vessels struck each other outside St. John's Harbour, early in the morning of May 3, 2003. The area was blanketed in thick fog at the time, and visibility was reduced. The board's investigation, released today, found the operators of each vessel did little to alert the other. "Even though each knew that the other vessel was present, neither crew took appropriate measures in time to avoid collision," the board reported. The wheelhouse and the port-side hull of Genny and Doug sustained heavy damage. Minor damage was caused to Sir Wilfred Grenfell's bow. The Sir Wilfred Grenfell was found to have been moving "at or near full speed" and was not appropriately staffed on the bridge. Investigators also found that standard helm orders were not used on board Sir Wilfred Grenfell. "This resulted in the vessel altering course into the path of Genny and Doug," the report found. Both vessels were able to return to port after the collision.

GERRITA (NIS\$)

London, Jun 9 -- Crude oil tanker Gerrita sailed Brest May 27, bound Hound Point. The vessel bunkered in Falmouth May 28 and arrived at Hound Point at 0200, Jun 7, departing later that day, at 2330 hrs.

HALA

Piraeus, Jun 7 -- Vessel Hala was reported disabled in the vicinity of the Andaman Islands, in lat 08 47N, long 89 43E. Lloyd's Salvage Form salvage contract was signed with Tsavlis Salvage and tug SB-408 arrived on scene this morning. It is currently carrying out inspections prior to taking vessel in tow for Sri Lanka. -- Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd. (Note -- Hala was reported Jun 5 as being overdue on its voyage to Colombo and subsequently as being adrift and in need of assistance in the vicinity of the Andaman Islands.)

HALA (North Korea)

London, Jun 9 -- Salvage services are being rendered to general cargo Hala, cargo copra expeller cake, by Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd under Lloyd's Open Form, dated Jun 4. (Note -- Hala, North Korea flag, call sign HMWV3, ex Anupusna, 1485 gt, built 1973, arrived Bitung Apr 21 and sailed Apr 26 for India. Vessel arrived Singapore 1120, May 15 and sailed 0040, May 16 for Kochi, India.)

HORIZON 9 (St. Kitts-Nevis)

Karachi, Jun 3 -- According to the local shipping and port circles repair work is still going on onboard general cargo Horizon 9. The engineers are "taking final account" of ongoing repair work. A representative of the vessel's owner said that negotiations are still proceeding amicably with the Pakistani authority, in respect of the settlement of their claim of \$109,000, "to a reasonable extent". The vessel is carrying about 3,000 tonnes of cement in bags for Iraq. Some crew are being replaced, he added. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jun 6 -- General cargo Horizon 9 is still lying off Karachi Port, with repair work still ongoing. The vessel's owner is expected to settle the claim made by the Pakistan authorities, within the next one or two days. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jun 8 -- Understand general cargo Horizon 9 is almost ready to depart. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jun 9 -- Understand from local shipping and port sources that the owners of general cargo Horizon 9 have settled the dues which were incurred in bringing the vessel to a position near Karachi for repairs. A payment of US\$70,000 was made to Pakistani authorities, against a claim of \$109,000, following successful talks between the owners' representative and Pakistani authorities. A formal "NOC" has also been issued to the vessel for leaving Pakistan. The vessel's stern gland has been repaired, along with the power generator, etc. The vessel is taking on food and water, and may sail soon. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

JAVA SEA (Singapore)

London, Jun 7 -- Understood general cargo Java Sea remains in Cairns for repairs to substantial fire-caused damage.

JESSICA B. (Antigua & Barbuda)

See Yamal.

KALININGRAD (Russia)

London, Jun 7 -- Product tanker Kaliningrad sailed Rotterdam 2335, Jun 6, bound Tallinn.

KARINA K. (Georgia)

London, Jun 2 -- Following received from Gigilinis Salvage & Towage, dated today: Salvage operations for general cargo Karina K. have been completed and the vessel has been safely delivered to its owners. The vessel currently remains at the port of Thessaloniki.

KEERA (Australia)

Sydney, Jun 6 -- Adsteam tug Keera (470 gt, built 1986) sustained damage to its superstructure when it made contact with vehicle Morning Rose (45007 gt, built 1980) as it was accompanying the vessel out of Webb Dock, Melbourne May 28. The damage is largely superficial with railings on the forward upper deck and some structures aft of the wheelhouse stove in. Damage to Morning Rose was minimal, according to sources. Keera will continue operating until later this week when repairs will be carried out. Adsteam said the vessel is likely to be out of service for about a week. The company said it would not comment on the incident until its investigations had been completed. Marine Safety Victoria said that it had not yet decided whether the matter would be subject to its full investigation. -- Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News. (Note -- Morning Rose arrived Melbourne May 28, sailed same day, arrived Sydney May 30 and sailed same day.)

KIPEROUSA (Malta)

London, Jun 7 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1034, UTC: Bulk Kiperousa (14921 gt, built 1984), bound Durban, grounded in lat 33 21.9S, long 27 25E, at 0900, UTC, Jun 7. The vessel's crew are currently being taken off the vessel.

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Bulk Kiperousa ran aground at Great Fish Point today on the Transkei coast. The vessel, with a crew of 25, was battered by the sea today as its crew battled with a serious engine-room problem. It was reported that the ship was drifting without power in the Agulhas current before it was blown ashore by strong wind.

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: SA Maritime Authority officials are on their way to bulk Kiperousa that is stranded off the Eastern Cape coast, Sama said today. Meanwhile, the last of the crew have been brought to safety. The other crew members of the ship, which was on its way from Gabon to Durban, had yesterday been transferred to safety in a massive rescue operation. After a period of trying to stabilise the vessel, the entire crew were eventually removed, the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) said. NSRI

spokesperson Craig Lambinon said the vessel appeared to be stuck either on a reef or a sand bank. It was believed to have struck an object two nautical miles offshore south of Hamburg yesterday. No further details were available. Once the poor weather subsided, a salvage team would start removing fuel and oil and might try to refloat it.

London, Jun 7 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1526, UTC: Bulk Kiperousa, carrying a cargo of logs, refloated on the tide and anchored in the vicinity of the grounding. The vessel's engine-room is flooded, and the vessel has no power. A tug is proceeding from East London to stand by the vessel overnight. A salvage tug is due on scene tomorrow morning to take the vessel in tow.

London, Jun 7 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 2215, UTC: Bulk Kiperousa has been moved from the grounding area and is at anchor in shallow water with harbour tug Mpunzi in attendance awaiting the arrival of a salvage tug tomorrow morning. The 25 crew of Kiperousa were taken off by Mpunzi and 18 of the crew now on board South Africa navy hydrographic survey vessel Protea.

London, Jun 8 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0936, UTC: Bulk Kiperousa is currently anchored about 1.7 miles off the coast with tug Mpunzi standing by. A salvage tug is due on scene later today. All the vessel's crew have been taken to East London, except the vessel's master, who is on board Mpunzi.

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Salvors are still assessing the situation on board bulk Kiperousa off the Eastern Cape coast. It is still waiting for a salvage tug from Cape Town. The ship started taking in water yesterday after reportedly hitting a reef at sea near the coastal town of Hamburg. The 25-member crew has taken up board at a hotel in East London. Kiperousa is still aground by the stern off the Eastern Cape coast. National Port Authority officials say its not clear what the ship was lodged on. The ship has taken in more water. Salvors on board the ship are examining it in order to decide on the next step. Bad weather is not making it easy for the salvage team. There are already contingency plans to prevent a possible spillage of oil into the sea. The ship will remain off the coast until it has been stabilized. The plan is to ultimately bring it into a safe port.

London, Jun 9 -- Understood salvage services are being rendered to bulk Kiperousa, cargo logs, by salvors Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd under Lloyd's Open Form.

London, Jun 9 -- A Cesam report, timed 1341, Jun 8, states: Salvage services are to be rendered to bulk Kiperousa by tug Nikolay Chiker under Lloyd's Open Form. The vessel is on voyage from Gabon to the Far

East loaded with logs probably insured on the French market.

London, June 9 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 2330, UTC, June 8: Tug Nikolay Chiker has not yet arrived on scene, it has been delayed by bad weather in area.

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: The South African Maritime Safety Authority has made contingency plans to deal with a possible oil spill from bulk Kiperousa, aground off the Eastern Cape coast. As a salvage ship from Cape Town headed to the area, measures were being put in place should estuaries need to be closed off in the event of an oil spill, said National Ports Authority spokesperson Terry Taylor. A rescue was launched on Tuesday (Jun 7) when a mayday signal was put out by the vessel after it apparently struck an object about two nautical miles offshore, south of Hamburg. It was not clear what the ship was lodged on, but it could be a rock, Taylor said. Most of the crew were transferred to a rescue vessel and taken to land. However, poor weather hampered efforts. The salvor would pump fuel off the ship to make it as light as possible and attempt to float it out to sea where further repairs could take place.

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tug Nikolay Chiker was this morning getting near stranded bulk Kiperousa, as part of an effort to refloat it, the SA Maritime Safety Authority (Samsa) said. Spokesperson Captain Peter Kroon said the tug would try to refloat the stricken vessel during high-tide this afternoon. He said weather conditions were favourable for the salvage attempt. "The wind is picking up, but it is only a fair breeze," he said. "If these conditions hold the work can continue." Samsa said it had given permission for the salvage operation to go ahead without the oil being removed from Kiperousa. "As removal of the oil from the vessel would be very difficult and time-consuming, Samsa has agreed to the salvor's plan to try and get the vessel off the beach as soon as possible." Small amounts of oil were leaking from the ship, but Samsa said the slick was very thin and was dispersing naturally. Pollution response teams from the environmental affairs department were on stand-by if the leakage increased. Kiperousa is carrying 250 000 litres of heavy fuel oil and 63,000 litres of diesel oil. Samsa said the other hazard was that the cargo of heavy logs could enter the water. "There remains the additional hazard of the cargo (very large logs) entering the water, as they would present a navigational hazard and nuisance for some time to come." Kiperousa was en route from Gabon to Durban to take in fuel oil when it ran aground on a reef off Bhenga, just south of Hamburg in the Eastern Cape. "The vessel sustained damage to the ship's bottom, which resulted in the engine-room being flooded and a total loss of power and facilities." The vessel, although at anchor and afloat when abandoned,

unfortunately was blown onto the beach during the night of Jun 7 (Tuesday night), where it now lies aground." A salvage master from the international company Tsavlis and a team of South African divers boarded the ship yesterday to again assess it and they reported that it was largely intact. Based on this information, Samsa said, it was decided to try refloating it this afternoon during the high tide.

MAARTEN JACOB (Netherlands)

Maassluis, Jun 3 -- Fishing Maarten Jacob still under repair in Stellendam. -- Lloyd's Sub-Agents.

MARY NOUR (Panama)

See "Cement Dispute, Mexico" under "Miscellaneous."

MILKYWAY (Liberia)

London, Jun 8 -- Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0300, UTC: Crude oil tanker Milkyway (51955 gt, built 1991), Vung Tau for Brisbane, reported at 2300, UTC, Jun 2 to have sustained stern tube damage after striking an unknown submerged object in lat 5N, long 125 28E. Vessel proceeding to Brisbane under own power where ETA Jun 9.

MOBRO 128 (Bahamas)

Nassau, Jun 8 -- The situation of barge Mobro 128 still with the crane, remains unchanged. It is still aground, damaged, and partially submerged on the breakwater at Nassau. Its owners have solicited salvage proposals but have received little in the way of meaningful and/or satisfactory responses. As a safety precaution the owners have secured the barge to the breakwater structures by means of wire ropes, to minimise the possibility of the wreckage drifting to the vicinity of the harbour entrance. There is a potential formation of a tropical depression in the Caribbean at this time and this could effect the overall situation. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MOON LAKE (Honduras)

Varna, Jun 1 -- General cargo Moon Lake is still aground near Varna. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MORNING ROSE (NIS)

See Keera.

MSC ELENI (Panama)

Maassluis, Jun 7 -- C.c. MSC Eleni is still in Antwerp waiting for repairs. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MSC ROBERTA (Panama)

London, Jun 7 -- C.c. MSC Roberta sailed Piraeus Jun 3, bound Ambarli.

MUNSU (Belize)

London, Jun 3 -- General cargo Munsu arrived St. Petersburg May 28, departing May 29.

MYLINGUR (Faroe Islands)

Torshavn, Jun 7 -- Fishing Mylingur has been sold to UK interests. Temporary repairs are under way in

the Faroe Islands. Permanent repairs will be carried out in Spain. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NAN SHA NO.38 (China)

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: The masters of ferry Nan Sha No.38 and general cargo Zhong Hang 908, which collided in fog near Tsing Yi in February, will be prosecuted, the Marine Department said. The announcement followed the completion of a report into the accident in which 102 people were injured, making it one of the worst marine collisions in Hong Kong waters in recent years. While the department has withheld the report's findings for legal reasons, it will implement several preventive measures in a bid to avoid similar accidents happening again. The vessels were in collision in heavy fog off the south-west corner of Tsing Yi Island on Feb 17. Director of Marine Tsui Shung-yiu accepted the investigation report from the department's investigators yesterday. The department has sought legal advice from the Department of Justice on what charges are to be laid against the vessel masters for alleged breaches of the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance. It will publish the report in full, including the findings and conclusions, when the court case ends. However, it will send the full report to its High Speed Craft Consultative Committee, which comprises ferry operators, and to the mainland's Maritime Safety Administration for their information. Meanwhile, operators of all 132 high-speed passenger ferries operating within Hong Kong waters or to neighbouring coastal cities will be required to install on-board automatic identification systems to enable the department's Vessel Traffic Centre to keep a closer watch on all harbour traffic. All vessels in Hong Kong waters, except high-speed ferries, are restricted to speed limits of eight to 15 knots. Depending on their passenger capacity and other factors, high-speed vessels are given exemption permits to travel at between 15 and 35 knots. At night, however, they are restricted to 15 knots or less. As another preventive measure, the Vessel Traffic Centre will advise vessel masters on speed-restriction exemption permits during fog warnings.

NANTICOKE (Canada)

London, Jun 6 -- On Jun 3, while near Iles aux Barques, Quebec, bulk Nanticoke (22706 gt, built 1980) experienced steering problems due to an inoperative rudder.

NARRABEEN (Australia)

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Manly commuters face three more weeks of ferry service disruptions following the accident involving ferry Narrabeen at Sydney's Circular Quay last week. The ferry, which had 180 people on board, contacted Wharf 5 at Circular Quay last Thursday (May 26), putting an American tourist in hospital with cuts

to her face. Authorities are still investigating the cause of the mishap. Narrabeen has been taken out of service while it undergoes repairs. "There's some damage to the hull that has to be repaired before it goes back into service," a Sydney Ferries spokesman said. He said it would be three weeks before the ferry could resume its Manly to Circular Quay run. In the meantime, buses and JetCats would supplement peak-hour services, the spokesman said. "We've got alternative arrangements in place to minimise any impact to our customers." One side of Wharf 5 remains closed due to damage but was not causing any disruptions to services, the spokesman said.

NORDMILLENNIUM (Cyprus)

See "Persian Gulf" under "Piracy."

NORDSUN (Cyprus)

London, Jun 6 -- C.c. MSC Katie sailed Durban Jun 5.

London, Jun 8 -- It was c.c. Nordsun that sailed from Durban on Jun 5, not c.c. MSC Katie as reported in issue of Jun 8.

OCEAN CARRIER (Norway)

London, Jun 3 -- ConocoPhillips today reported that supply Ocean Carrier (3017 gt, built 1996) sustained damage to its wheelhouse and antenna as a result of hitting a disused North Sea platform in the Ekofisk oilfield, in heavy fog. No-one was injured in the incident.

OCEANA (U.K.)

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

ODHIGITRIA (Liberia)

London, Jun 6 -- Bulk Odhigitria passed through Suez Canal May 29, destination Port Sudan.

PACIFIC QUEST (Panama)

See "Great Barrier Reef Area, Australia" under "Pollution."

POLARIS (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 4 -- A press report, dated Jun 3, states: Sunken tug Polaris (211 gt, built 1955), owned by Viking Marine Transport, spilling oil into a canal at the port of Iberia could close the port for several days, Iberia Parish Sheriff Sid Hebert said yesterday. The tug sank in the Commercial Canal late Wednesday night (Jun 1) and began leaking diesel fuel and oil. Cleanup began yesterday, but the canal, which sees traffic of 2,000 commercial vessels per day, could not be reopened right away. The tug and its pilot, Daniel Bashinelle, of Franklin, did not have a valid licence, Hebert said. Also, the tug's inspection papers were not up to date, the sheriff said. The tug, which holds about 18,000 gallons of diesel fuel had about 10,000 gallons on board when it sank, the Coast Guard said in a written advisory. Hebert said he was not sure how much had leaked by yesterday afternoon, but it was coming

from several places in the hull. A diver inspected the area around the 93-foot tug, which jutted half out of the water and blocked two-thirds of the channel about four miles from the port's public dock. Three people onboard the boat when it sank were not injured. Officials do not know at this point why the tug sank. The spill covers an area of about 1.5 square miles, authorities said.

London, Jun 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tug Polaris continued to slowly leak diesel fuel yesterday as emergency crews worked to contain the spill and prepare the damaged vessel for removal from the port of Iberia's main channel. The tug has leaked about 8,000 gallons of diesel fuel and blocked all traffic through the port's main channel since it partially sank late Wednesday, Port of Iberia Director Roy Pontiff said. Iberia Parish Sheriff Sid Hebert said that clean-up crews had recovered about 5,000 gallons of diesel fuel as of yesterday morning. He said floating pollution booms have contained the spill to an area near the boat. "They have reduced the flow of fuel but it is still leaking," Hebert said. He said the boat, owned by Viking Marine Transportation of Chalmette, is thought to have been filled to its capacity of 18,000 gallons of diesel fuel. Hebert said salvage company workers arrived yesterday morning to begin preparing the tug for removal. Divers spent yesterday running large straps beneath the boat. "The intent is to lift it, maybe weld and repair the damage and then pull it back to dry dock in Amelia," Hebert said. Pontiff said he expects the main channel to be cleared sometime today. "All traffic in and out has been shut down since Wednesday night," Pontiff said. The port is home to about 100 companies, primarily supply and fabrication shops for the offshore oil industry. Pontiff said that companies have been trucking goods out of the port of Iberia to other ports in the area for delivery offshore. The cause of the leak is unknown, Hebert said, but two sources have been identified -- a fuel tank vent and a fuel tank inspection cover. The fuel tank vent was capped, but the fuel tank inspection cover is under water and requires the tug to be lifted out of the water for repair, Hebert said.

London, Jun 5 -- A press report, dated Jun 4, states: The main canal into the port of Iberia is still closed, but the work to get it open continues. Sheriff Sid Hebert of Iberia Parish said the salvage company brought in what they believed was an adequate-sized crane and barge system to raise tug Polaris. But, when the crews tried to lift the tug this morning, there was no movement whatsoever. A bigger crane is expected to arrive tomorrow. It will be at least tomorrow afternoon before the new crane barge is in place and the crews can try again to raise the tug. The clean-up of the spilled diesel fuel is going well. Only 5,000 gallons has leaked from the tug's tanks.

London, Jun 6 -- A press report, dated Jun 5, states: Yesterday a crane from Morgan City almost lifted tug Polaris that has kept the port of Iberia closed for four days. This morning salvage crews turned to a bigger crane docked at the port. By this afternoon, most of the tug was above water, and pumps were being used to drain the hull. Crews will move the tug back to the port where it will be repaired - then it's off to Amelia, where it will be scrapped. Right now, investigators think a faulty repair sprung a leak, sinking the tug. "Apparently there was a wooden patch made and the patch failed," says Lt. Cmd. Rick Paciorko of the Coast Guard. It'll be up to the owner's insurance company to foot the bill for the salvage and cleanup. That could reach a quarter of a million dollars.

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated Jun 6, states: Tug Polaris lifted from the bottom of the port of Iberia is getting some much-needed repairs. Once those repairs are complete Polaris will be moved to Amelia for an investigation. It sank last week and was finally brought to the surface yesterday afternoon. Coast Guard investigators believe an old wood patch on the hull failed, causing the boat to sink.

PONTONOSTOS (Cyprus)

See under "Miscellaneous."

PORVENIR I (Chile)

Santiago, Jun 6 -- Ro/ro Porvenir I completed repairs and sailed 2030, Jun 3, for Talcahuano. -- Lloyd's Agents.

POWERFUL (Bermuda)

See Scan Baltic.

PRIDE OF AMERICA (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated Jun 6, states: NCL America is about to take delivery of its US-flagged flagship passenger Pride of America. The vessel will shortly leave the Lloyd Werft shipyard in Bremerhaven, where it had sunk at its berth in January 2004, necessitating lengthy repairs. The vessel is expected in New York for a Jun 17 naming ceremony, skipping an earlier planned stop in Dover.

PRINS JOHAN WILLEM FRISO (Liberia)

London, Jun 7 -- On Jun 6, lpg Prins Johan Willem Friso was reported passing Cape Finisterre, northbound, on passage Sines for Antwerp.

PUNJAB SENATOR (Germany)

London, Jun 6 -- A press release, issued by Senator Lines, dated Jun 2, states: C.c. Punjab Senator (53324 gt, built 1997) has unfortunately experienced a fire in hold No.6 on its voyage from Singapore to Colombo. Punjab Senator meanwhile arrived Colombo and we are currently investigating the damages and await further information. The vessel is currently on schedule but slight delays can presently not be excluded. The

question of a declaration of General Average is open for the time being. (Note -- Punjab Senator sailed Singapore at 0505, May 28.)

Colombo, Jun 8 -- c.c. Punjab Senator arrived off Colombo port at 0642, May 31. The vessel entered the port at 1720, Jun 1. It shifted to an anchorage at 2340, Jun 2, and re-entered the port at 1230, Jun 5. Cargo operations were completed and vessel sailed Colombo 0705, Jun 6. It's next port of call is Rotterdam. -- Lloyd's Agents.

QUINAULT (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro Quinault is scheduled to go into dry dock to investigate damage sustained when it went aground Tuesday morning (May 31) at Keystone harbour. Ro/ro Illahee was brought onto the Keystone-Port Townsend route on Wednesday (Jun 1) to replace Quinault. Both are 59-vehicle ferries. Washington State Ferries personnel are investigating why the ferry went aground. The master has been placed on administrative leave, per state policy, while the accident is investigated.

Seattle, Jun 8 -- Ro/ro Quinault grounded May 31 and was dry-docked at Dakota Creek, Anacortes Jun 3. Damage reported to be crack in stern casting and rudder post. Estimated time of completion yet to be determined. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Seattle, Jun 8 -- Ro/ro Quinault entered Dakota Creek Shipyard on Jun 3, to repair grounding damage that occurred on May 31. According to the vessel's project manager, Mr Ronald Wolfran, the shipyard will repair a crack in the stern casting and one of the vessel's rudder posts will require renewal due to twisting. The rudder post is currently being fabricated at Foss Shipyard, Seattle, Washington. -- Lloyd's Agents.

RICH SPRING (Cambodia)

London, Jun 6 -- Following navigation warning issued today: Unmanned general cargo Rich Spring, 1258 gt (built 1979), adrift in lat 40 46.9N, long 135 19.7E, at 2230, UTC, Jun 5.

London, Jun 6 -- Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0533, UTC: General cargo Rich Spring, which sailed Sakata 0145, UTC, Jun 4 for Najin, cargo 55 used Japanese cars, was abandoned at 1558 UTC, Jun 5, because it was in danger of sinking. A Japan Coast Guard patrol vessel rescued the members of the crew and they are safe. Rich Spring was drifting in lat 40 48N, long 135 24.4E, at 0300 UTC, today with no crew onboard.

London, Jun 8 -- Following notice to mariners issued today: Unmanned, drifting, general cargo Rich Spring removed.

RIVER PRINCESS

Goa, Jun 4 -- Ore River Princess remains aground off Mormugao and there is no change in the position. The company that was awarded the contract to refloat the vessel has not

carried out any operation to date. In view of the election in the state no further action has been taken in the matter. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ROMANTICA (U.S.A.)

Atlanta, Jun 9 -- Yacht Romantica was recovered afloat by a tug the day after being abandoned, taken in tow and returned to Charleston. Underwriters have reportedly posted the necessary bond, the vessel has been released and is expected to depart Charleston tomorrow. The necessary repairs are reported to be primarily of a cosmetic nature, including replacement of carpeting, refinishing or replacing affected wall coverings, wood trim, etc, in addition to repair or replacement of the bilge pumps. The preliminary estimate is that repairs will not exceed US\$35,000. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SANTA EMMA (Panama)

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated Jun 2, states: Ro/ro Santa Emma, that was abandoned in Cape Tormentine about a year ago, has a new owner. The Federal Court of Canada auctioned off Santa Emma on Wednesday (Jun 1) to Sophia Maritime Inc. for \$66,000, the vessel was sold "as is, where is." The new owner will assume responsibility for the vessel on Jun 7. The salvage company hasn't said exactly what it plans to do with it. Santa Emma can't go anywhere under its own steam. Transport Canada has deemed it unfit to sail because of defects in the engine and hull.

SCAN BALTIC (NIS)

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tug Powerful towed ro/ro Scan Baltic (10991 gt, built 1984) into Bermuda's Dockyard at 2200 yesterday. Powerful was called out on Monday afternoon (May 30) when a distress call came in from Scan Baltic, on voyage from Haiti. It was dead in the water and drifting about 90 miles out to sea after its engines completely failed. However, the rescue mission started off badly as Powerful experienced its own set of problems and had to return to Bermuda on Monday night. Acting Dockyard Superintendent Jerome Robinson said it was only the next evening that Powerful made its way out once again to meet up with Scan Baltic. The tug's master and crew successfully joined up with the drifting cargo vessel about 0300 yesterday and started the journey back to the Island. "When they called me at 0600 yesterday they were still 50 miles out," Mr Robinson said last night. Earlier in the evening, Mr De Silva and his crew were convinced that Scan Baltic would drop anchor out at sea and wait until this morning before coming in to dock. However, it berthed during the evening, the first time a vessel had been brought in to dock at night. Scan Baltic will remain at Dockyard until the needed repairs on the engines can be completed.

Hamilton, Bermuda, Jun 7 -- Repairs to ro/ro Scan Baltic have commenced but they still await further parts from overseas. The local shipping agent has advised that there will be a problem with port congestion within the next few days and that Scan Baltic will have to move from its present position until the regular caller has distributed its cargo. The local agent has estimated that Scan Baltic will remain here for at least another 10 days. Its final destination is scheduled to be Quebec, Canada. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SCHIEBORG (Netherlands)

Bremen, Jun 6 -- Ro/ro Schieborg is still lying at Bremerhaven. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SEA BEE (Mongolia)

London, Jun 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: A hole in the starboard side of the hull adjacent to the engine-room wrecked general cargo Sea Bee in Chinese waters, sources have revealed. Although the cause of damage was unknown, the vessel took on water and sank some 100 nautical miles off the Shanghai coast on May 2, carrying a cargo of 5,000 tons of steel from China to the Philippines. Chinese authorities have so far collected only three bodies among the 23 Vietnamese sailors aboard Sea Bee. Chinese divers searched the ship's wreckage on May 28-29, but did not recover anymore bodies. Thus, the Shanghai Maritime Search and Rescue Centre called off its search mission on Jun 1, according to the Vietnamese Maritime University.

SILBA (Liberia)

London, Jun 7 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0515, UTC: Crude oil tanker Silba (46632 gt, built 1986), Novorossiysk heading for Suez Canal, after calling at Piraeus for stores etc, cargo approximately 70,000 tons fuel oil, is "blacked-out" with an electrical problem. At 0400, UTC, vessel was in lat 37 48.7N, long 23 32.6E. Vessel expects to complete repairs in one to two hours.

London, Jun 9 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1010, UTC: Crude oil tanker Silba is at Piraeus under repair.

SILVA (Cambodia)

Esbjerg, Jun 3 -- General cargo Silva is still in port at Esbjerg. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Esbjerg, Jun 8 -- General cargo Silva is still berthed at Esbjerg. The Port of Esbjerg is awaiting a court decision regarding a possible auction to sell the vessel. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SIR WILFRED GRENFELL (Canada)

See Genny and Doug.

SONG THUONG (Vietnam)

Hanoi, Jun 6 -- There was no oil spill resulting from the sinking of general cargo Song Thuong. Owners abandoned the vessel and Bao Viet Insurance, Vietnam, paid their claim for Total Loss Only. The wreck was sold to a company in Thua Thien Hue

and they are conducting salvage operations to refloat the vessel. -- Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: The long-awaited relaunch of passenger ro/ro Spirit of Ontario I has been postponed. The new Canadian operator had set a relaunch date of Jun 17 -- exactly one year after the giant catamaran's maiden voyage to Toronto from Rochester, N.Y. But a software problem in a jet-propulsion system means yet another delay ranging from several days to as long two weeks, officials said yesterday. The vessel was scheduled to return to Rochester this week, but now looks likely to return this weekend instead.

SPIRIT OF TASMANIA III (Australia)

London, Jun 3 -- Passenger ro/ro Spirit of Tasmania III arrived Devonport (AUS) May 31.

STARLUCK (Cyprus)

Buenos Aires, Jun 3 -- Bulk Starluck sailed from Site 6 of the port of Quequen, Necochea, loaded with 27,560 tonnes of wheat for a Brazilian port with 10.41 metre forward and 10.87 metre aft sailing draughts on May 25. While sailing with the assistance of tugs Kyokko Rua and Rua IV and port pilot, it lost steering and grounded approximately 800 metres from the coast in lat 28 35S, long 58 41W, at 1345, local time. Salvage tugs Alianza Rosario and Buni arrived at the site to assist with refloating operations. The vessel is currently approximately 650 metres from the coast of Quequen with its bow facing the open sea in position lat 28 34.85S, long 58 41.28W. Coast Guard soundings at the site of the grounding revealed a depth of about 10 metres. Salvors Salvamar submitted a salvage plan to the Coast Guard in order to start vessel's refloating operations. According to unofficial information, the vessel might have sustained damages in way of its forepeak and some double bottom tanks. Lightering of vessel's bunkers and part of its cargo was reported under way. -- Lloyd's Agents.

STAVANGER (Norway)

London, Jun 7 -- Following received from Sandnes, dated today: At 0228 hrs, today, passenger ro/ro Stavanger (2434 gt, built 2003), Tau for Stavanger, ran aground on Lindoy Island. There were no passengers onboard, but one of the crew of five, died after a heart-attack shortly after. The ferry refloated by its own means and continued to Stavanger at 0600 hrs. At 0800 hrs, the vessel was drydocked at GMC Shipyard in Stavanger. The vessel is damaged in the bow section.

London, Jun 9 -- Following received from Sandnes, dated today: Passenger ro/ro Stavanger will be out of service for at least seven days. Ro/ros Hjelmeland and Sand are replacing the vessel.

SUDRINGUR (Faroe Islands)

Torshavn, Jun 7 -- Trawler Sudringur will be repaired in the Faroe Islands. Repairs are expected to take eight weeks and cost an estimated DK8.5 million. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SUN RAYS (Georgia)

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control."

TASMAN ENDEAVOUR (Hong Kong)

Wellington, Jun 7 -- The contents of three shipping containers washed up at Muriwai on Friday (Jun 3) were cleaned up at the weekend after a huge effort by teams of stevedores, 50 community volunteers and Auckland Regional Council staff. General cargo Tasman Endeavour (18451 gt, built 1994) lost seven dairy product containers, each holding 20 tonnes of goods and the Maritime Safety Authority warned sailors about the rest, still afloat off Auckland's west coast. The clean-up of hundreds of bags of milk powder and liquid cream bottles was made difficult by 6m waves, higher-than-normal tides and blustery, wet weather. One container was dragged 6km down the beach to the Muriwai parks depot by four-wheel-drive club vehicles and tractors. Two other containers washed up on rocks south of Muriwai posed further difficulties, said principal ARC parks ranger Bruce Andrell. A container which broke open contained 1.5-litre bottles of cream. The third was still sealed and the shipping company brought in a team of stevedores who unloaded it into slings ferried to the depot by Skywork Helicopters. The shipping company has accepted responsibility for full clean-up costs to reduce the risks of pollution. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TENJIN MARU NO.8 (Japan)

Yokohama, Jun 8 -- At 2230, May 20, cement Tenjin Maru No.8 (492 gt, built 1989), Shodoshima for Kobe, ran aground in Akashi Strait. The vessel was refloated by Fukada Salvage. -- Lloyd's Agents.

THIA CHRYSOULA (Cyprus)

Piraeus, Jun 7 -- Bulk Thia Chryssoula refloated Jun 5 and is proceeding to Pohang, ETA 1200, local time, Jun 8. -- Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

Busan, Jun 9 -- Bulk Thia Chryssoula arrived Pohang Jun 8 to discharge cargo on board, which expected to complete on Jun 10 or 11. Vessel is then scheduled to sail for Shanghai for repairs. No repairs are scheduled to be carried out at Pohang. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

THOR ENTERPRISE (Thailand)

London, Jun 7 -- Bulk Thor Enterprise sailed Antwerp 1617, Jun 6, bound Jeddah.

TOM T. (Sao Tome & Principe)

Bucharest, Jun 3 -- Demolition/scraping of general cargo Tom T.

commenced about one month ago and was completed during the week commencing May 23. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TOMISLAV GRAD (Croatia)

Rijeka, Jun 1 -- Chem.tank Tomislav Grad is still laid up at Kraljevica. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Tomislav Grad had an explosion in a tank at Split, Oct 8, 1997, and subsequently arrived Kraljevica later that month.)

TOR CIMBRIA (U.K.)

London, Jun 3 -- Ro/ro Tor Cimbria sailed Zeebrugge 1714, May 31, bound for Immingham, where it arrived 0312, Jun 1.

UNI-CONCORD (Taiwan)

See Everise Glory.

VAST EXPLORER (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two people aboard the research Vast Explorer (106 gt, built 1983) were rescued yesterday afternoon as the vessel was sinking about a half-mile south of Fort Rodman. Stephen Turner and Julian Race, assistant harbourmasters in Dartmouth, responded about 1230 hrs when they heard the vessel's captain make a distress call to the Coast Guard. The captain said the vessel was taking on water just before the entrance to New Bedford Harbor, according to harbourmaster Steven L. Melo. "The propeller shaft lost its seal and the vessel was filling quickly with water," Mr. Melo said. "The vessel was taking on water at a pretty good rate. It was going fast." The vessel had a bilge pump, but it couldn't keep up with the water coming onboard the vessel, Mr. Melo said. Mr. Race boarded the vessel to help the crew pump. Mr. Melo said the de-watering device let them pump the water off the vessel. He said the two assistant harbourmasters' quick action also prevented any damage to the vessel's engines. Mr. Turner escorted the vessel into New Bedford Harbor and the vessel was hauled out of water at Fairhaven Shipyard. No injuries were reported. According to the Coast Guard, the vessel is a 70-foot aluminum-hulled research vessel and is owned by Harbor Cruises LLC of Provincetown. A Coast Guard Falcon jet and Coast Guard cutter responded, as did the Jaguar, a commercial salvage tug vessel.

VERA (Luxembourg)

Southampton, Jun 7 -- Chem.tank Vera completed repairs and sailed Newhaven Jun 6. -- Lloyd's Agents.

VINCENZO FLORIO (Italy)

London, Jun 3 -- Ro/ro Vincenzo Florio sailed Naples May 27.

VOYAGER (Bahamas)

London, Jun 9 -- Passenger Voyager sailed Genoa Jun 4, bound Venice, arriving Jun 6. The vessel departed Jun 8, bound Dubrovnik.

W.E.RICKER (Canada)

Vancouver, Jun 6 -- Research W.E.Ricker: There have been no decisions made as to replacing the damaged parts at this time. As the vessel is due to be replaced within the next five years, they have not made their final decision on whether to repair or not. It remains at berth at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo. A decision may not be made until the end of the year. -- Lloyd's Agents.

WHITE STAR (Cayman Islands)

Genoa, Jun 3 -- Yacht White Star is still under repair, ETC Jul 30. -- Lloyd's Agents.

YAMAL (Russia)

London, Jun 7 -- Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 0025, UTC: General cargo Yamal (4110 gt, built 1995), Vyborg for Cardiff, cargo 4,400 tons pig iron, and c.c. Jessica B. (6326 gt, built 2000), Antwerp for Dublin, were in collision in lat 50 11.7N, long 01 51.1W, at 2142, UTC, Jun 6. Jessica B. appears to be OK, but Yamal is holed above the waterline and listing 5 to 10 deg to port. Master believes the list could be due to cargo shifting. A MSC surveyor is being flown out to Yamal by helicopter to survey the vessel before it will be allowed to enter a port for repair. Yamal has propulsion but will require tug assistance. A French Coast Guard tug is en route to standby until a commercial tug arrives on scene.

London, Jun 7 -- Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 0455, UTC: General cargo Yamal, with MSA surveyor on board, is being escorted by Weymouth lifeboat towards the Isle of Wight. The French Coast Guard tug has returned to Cherbourg. C.c. Jessica B. has proceeded on voyage for Dublin.

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two cargo ships were involved in a collision in mid-Channel, overnight. Russian general cargo Yamal began listing to one side after colliding with Antiguan c.c. Jessica B., 20 miles south of Anvil Point, Dorset, yesterday night. Yamal, with its Russian crew still onboard, is being escorted by a French tug towards the Isle of Wight. A helicopter and lifeboats are on hand to evacuate the crew if necessary. A Solent Coastguard spokeswoman said Yamal, en route from Vyborg to Cardiff, was being escorted out of deeper waters towards the Isle of Wight but that no decision had been made on exactly where it was being taken. The crew of Jessica B., which was sailing from Antwerp to Dublin, reported minimal bow damage and has continued on its journey. Both English and French coastguards responded to the incident, which took place in calm seas.

London, Jun 7 -- Following press released received from the RNLI, Poole, dated today: Weymouth and Swanage RNLI lifeboats were launched overnight after two ships

collided in mid Channel. The incident involving Russian registered general cargo Yamal and Antiguan registered c.c. Jessica B. happened 24 miles south-south-east of Anvil Point near Swanage. Yarmouth's Severn class lifeboat is now standing by Yamal in the sheltered waters of Freshwater Bay. Weymouth's all-weather Severn class lifeboat was launched at 2325 hrs, last night, along with the Mersey class lifeboat from Swanage. There was concern for the 15 Russian sailors onboard Yamal, which developed a 10-degree list to port after the collision. In light winds and slight seas with a moderate swell, Weymouth lifeboat was tasked to put surveyors aboard the ship. It returned to station at 0745 hrs, this morning. Jessica B. reported minimal bow damage, but its reported that the Yamal has damage to the port side of its bridge and living accommodation area and a twenty-foot long gash near the waterline on the port side. It has now been escorted by the Yarmouth Severn class all weather lifeboat to a safe anchorage in Freshwater Bay. Howard Lester, RNLI Coxswain of the Yarmouth lifeboat, says: "We took over from Weymouth lifeboat just after six this morning and our task was to navigate the ship to a safe anchorage in Freshwater Bay. The damage will then be assessed more closely. It must have been a very frightening ordeal for the Russian crew onboard Yamal, as it appears to have considerable damage. It's fortunate that no one was injured."

London, Jun 7 -- General cargo Yamal is now safely in port following a collision with c.c Jessica B. in the Channel last night. Yarmouth lifeboat took over the escort from Weymouth lifeboat at 0600, this morning and navigated the vessel to a safe anchorage at Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight. Yamal has damage to the port side of its bridge and living accommodation area, as well as a 20ft gash near the waterline.

Southampton, Jun 8 -- General cargo Yamal is now alongside at Berth 108, Western Dock, Southampton. The vessel has damage to the port hopper tank, and has been detained by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. Part of the cargo will be discharged in order to gain access to the tank. C.c. Jessica B. has proceeded to Dublin. -- Lloyd's Agents.

YOMOSHIO (Panama)

Zeebrugge, Jun 7 -- Bulk Yomoshio (39126 gt, built 2001), bound Flushing, anchored off Wandelaar with no pilot at 0355, local time, today, had engine trouble at 1233, local time, today. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note -- Yomoshio sailed Santos May 20 for Ghent.)

London, Jun 9 -- Bulk Yomoshio arrived Ghent 0538, Jun 8.

YUE SHAN (Panama)

See Chrisopigi Lady.

ZHONG HANG 908 (China)

See Nan Sha No.38.



PERSIAN GULF

London, Jun 3 -- Following received from Larnaca RCC, timed 0934, UTC: Crude oil tanker Nordmillennium (157093 gt, built 2000) reported at 2238, UTC, May 30, that the vessel had been boarded by three armed pirates in lat 29 27N, long 48 56E. The pirates escaped with cash belonging to the vessel's crew. No injuries reported.



CYPRUS

Limassol, Jun 3 -- General cargo Sun Rays (1811 gt, built 1978), arrived at Limassol on May 28 from Thessaloniki, and as from May 30, has been under detention by the Dept of Merchant Shipping, due to deficiencies. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Limassol, Jun 7 -- General cargo Sun Rays was released from detention and sailed Limassol Jun 3 for Thessaloniki. -- Lloyd's Agents.



AGIOS SPYRIDON K. (Greece)

Piraeus, Jun 7 -- Ro/ro Agios Spyridon K. still remains under arrest. A new auction date is expected to be announced within the week. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ALMOUROL (Portugal)

See Pardelhas.

AMBAR (Honduras)

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

ARDEAL (Romania)

Khulna, Jun 1 -- General cargo Ardeal is still under attachment at Mongla. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

BIGA (Canary Islands)

Bilbao, Jun 2 -- General cargo Biga is still under embargo at Bilbao. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BOREAS (Cyprus)

Bilbao, Jun 2 -- General cargo Boreas is still under embargo at Bilbao. -- Lloyd's Agents.

DIAGORAS (Greece)

London, Jun 6 -- A report in the Jun 3 issue of "Newsfront" states: After

being seized several times, the latest by a private creditor in mid-October, in pursuit of a Euros 143,350 claim against the registered owners: Dane Sealine, passenger ro/ro Diagoras has again been listed for auction, on Jun 29. Lying at Drapetzona, the vessel carries a reserve price of Euros 9 million. This is the sixth time that the vessel has been listed since mid-October, when the reserve price was Euros 15 million.

Piraeus, Jun 7 -- Passenger ro/ro Diagoras still remains under arrest and is scheduled to be auctioned on Jun 29. -- Lloyd's Agents.

EGEON P. (Greece)

London, Jun 6 -- A report in the Jun 3 issue of "Newsfront" states: After being seized several times, the latest by a private creditor at the end of November 2004 in pursuit of a Euro 9,102 claim in an action against the registered owners, Egeon P. Shipping Company, cement Egeon P. has once again been listed for auction, this time on Jun 29. Lying at Perama, the vessel is carrying start-up price of Euro 60,000.

FEEDER 5 (Malta)

Cadiz, Jun 6 -- General cargo Ghinwa, ex Feeder 5, sailed Cadiz Jun 5. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Cadiz, Jun 7 -- General cargo Ghinwa, ex Feeder 5, sailed Cadiz May 22, not Jun 5 as before reported. -- Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN BOOMER (Panama)

London, Jun 6 -- Oceanographic research Ocean Boomer departed Gibraltar 0920, Jun 5, bound for Falmouth.

ORESTES (Panama)

Bari, Jun 1 -- Passenger ro/ro Orestes is still under arrest at Bari. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PARDELHAS (Falkland Islands)

Santiago, Jun 7 -- Trawlers Pardelhas and Almourol: Due to an appeal having been presented, the auction has been suspended until further notice. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PLAVA (Albania)

Bari, Jun 1 -- General cargo Plava (497 gt) is under arrest at Bari. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Plava arrived Bari Feb 19.)

SANTA MAFALDA (Portugal)

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Portuguese master accused of fishing illegally in Canadian waters left Newfoundland today along with his crew. Jose Ramalheira was arrested May 31 and his vessel, trawler Santa Mafalda, seized over alleged fishing violations dating back two years. 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 released last week on a \$10,000 bond and the Crown has agreed to allow his

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

lawyer to appear on his behalf at his next scheduled court date, Jun 29. Today, the owners of Santa Mafalda posted a \$250,000 bond for the release of the ship and Ramalheira, along with 30 crew, immediately left Newfoundland.

Pipeline Accidents



BAIJI AREA, IRAQ

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

EL PASO, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A massive fuel spill in North-east El Paso has soaked into the desert for nearly a week. Tens of thousands of gallons of fuel leaked into the desert from a ruptured pipeline, just north of the Fort Bliss Rod and Gun Club. The clean up is still underway, nearly a week after an estimated 50,000 gallons of gasoline erupted from a pipeline early in the morning on May 28. The pipeline, which transports about 94,000 barrels of gasoline per day between El Paso and Tucson, had a small hole measuring 3 inches by 3 inches. Officials with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) say eventually the whole top of the pipeline blew like a geyser. Additionally, TCEQ officials are also looking into the vapors that were released after the rupture. As a result of the clean up 20,000 gallons of liquid were recovered, however an estimated 30,000 gallons of gasoline remain in the soil. The Federal Office of Pipeline Safety has a special task force currently conducting an investigation into Kinder-Morgan, the owners of the pipeline. As part of the investigation, the affected section of the pipe has been sent to the lab to determine the cause of the failure. No fire or injuries resulted from the leak in this remote area of Fort Bliss.

LARKANA, SINDH PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jun 8 -- Pakistan state owned gas utility: Sui Southern Gas Co (SSGC) said this morning that the gas supply has been restored from a 20-inch gas pipeline, which was "blown up" near Fatehpur village, some six kilometres from Larkana in Sindh Province of Pakistan yesterday. A company spokesman said that the damage to the pipeline, between Punjab and Karachi, was caused by increased pressure and an engineering team will further assess the causes. Earlier, a bomb disposal squad was called from Sukkur, and after inspecting the site, ruled out any possibility of a terrorist act. The gas supply to certain areas in Punjab was affected. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Pollution



ARKHANGELSK, RUSSIA

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: An oil spill estimated at approximately 26 tons of contaminating stuff has been spotted in the area of countryside houses on the outskirts of Arkhangelsk in the north of Russia. The oil spill 15 centimetres high has jammed drainage canals to a distance of 700 metres, said spokeswoman for the Arkhangelsk Emergencies Department Yelizaveta Tsivaryova. Booms have been placed all around the spill to prevent an oil leak into a local river - a tributary of the North Dvina river. The local prosecutor's office has instituted criminal proceedings on charges of contamination of the environment. Suspects responsible for unauthorized fuel discharge have been established, the spokeswoman said. Experts put the ecological damage caused by the oil spill at nine billion roubles. Measures for clean-up on the contaminated territory have been discussed, the spokeswoman said.

BRITTANY, FRANCE / FAST INDEPENDENCE

Brest, Jun 3 -- Upon completion of some repairs at Brest ro/ro Fast Independence departed from Brest on Jun 2, bound for Beirut. -- Lloyd's Agents.

DELAWARE RIVER, UNITED STATES

See Athos I under "Marine."

EL PASO, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

See under "Pipeline Accidents."

GREAT BARRIER REEF AREA, AUSTRALIA

Sydney, Jun 8 -- The owners of c.c. Pacific Quest were fined in Brisbane District Court last week for a pollution incident in 2002. The ship had created an oil slick more than 40 miles long near the Whitsundays on Dec 25, 2002. The ship is owned by SAMAMA, of Monaco, part of the Ofer Group, and managed by Zodiac Maritime. The owners were fined \$180,000 for the incident. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority made an international search to sample oil from six ships in the vicinity at the time, with cooperation from the Maritime Safety Authority of New Zealand where the ship next called. Satellite imagery was used to show the extent of the slick and to pinpoint the culprit ship. -- Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

IBERIA, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES

See Polaris under "Marine."

Weather & Navigation



BULGARIA

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A woman has drowned in Bulgaria as heavy rains triggered floods for the second time in less than two weeks, the national rescue service said today. The woman slipped and fell into the swollen Struma river near the town of Pernik in western Bulgaria, the Trud newspaper reported. The Iskar river near Sofia also overflowed its banks, forcing the evacuation of a psychiatric hospital and homes in several suburbs of the capital, the Citizen Protection Agency (CPA) said. The agency also warned that there might be flooding along the Ogosta river in northwestern Bulgaria tomorrow.

CHINA

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: Heavy rain and mountain torrents have left at least 80 people dead and 60 missing in central and western China, officials and state media reported yesterday as rescuers rushed to evacuate people and ferry in supplies. Hardest hit was Hunan province, where more than 5 million people were affected. Xinhua said at least 47 were killed there and another 50 left missing. In neighbouring Guizhou province, 18 were reported dead while heavy rain in Sichuan killed five. Most of the fatalities in Hunan occurred in Xinshao county and Lianyuan city when runoff from torrential rain surged down Mount Dragon between Tuesday night (May 31) and Wednesday morning. "About 3,500 buildings collapsed in this county alone," said Shen Guirong, director of the propaganda department in Xinshao. "Telecommunications, transportation and water supplies are not working. It will take time to restore them. "We need medicine to treat those who were injured when the buildings collapsed. We don't know how many are injured and are still gathering details." In Xinshao, 210mm of rain fell in just two hours. The resulting mountain torrents were responsible for at least 30 deaths. Eleven people died in Hetang, a town of 51,000 people and one of the most badly affected places in Lianyuan, with 13 still missing. Hetang township official Ouyang Yi said most of the dead were children and the elderly. He said hopes were slim of finding the missing alive. According to Mr Ouyang, 2,000 houses had collapsed, a third of the area's farmland was laid to waste and economic losses were estimated at 20 million yuan. Relief supplies to remote areas had to be taken in on foot because almost all of the local roads had been washed away. Nineteen people died in Xinshao in what one unnamed county flood-prevention official said were the worst

downpours in more than five decades. The official also confirmed that Taizhimiao village deputy party secretary Li Yinghui was killed when he and six other officials were swept away in their minibus as they tried to raise the alarm in surrounding villages. Only one of the officials survived. Yin Huajie, a Flood Prevention and Anti-Drought Commission spokesman from the Hunan city of Shaoyang, last night said workers were still trying to reconnect electricity and restore communications and transport services disrupted by the rain. The Hunan Meteorology Bureau expected the rain to continue for the rest of the week, but in reduced volume. Meanwhile, in Guizhou the downpours forced more than 4,000 residents to be evacuated. Guizhou relief official Zhao Weidong said five people were missing and that the bill for damages across the 32 affected counties has been estimated at 90 million yuan.

Beijing, Jun 4 -- China has dispatched disaster teams to flood-stricken areas, state media reported, after torrential rain razed mountain villages, possibly killing hundreds of people. A team headed by the Ministry of Civil Affairs and including officials from the education, health and water resources ministries, arrived yesterday in the worst hit area, Xinshao county in the south-central province of Hunan. "Efforts should be concentrated on the resumption of power and water supply as well as traffic and communication in the disaster-hit areas," the official Xinhua news agency said in an overnight report. Three days of rain in Hunan and the western provinces of Sichuan and Guizhou killed at least 88 and left 73 missing, state media said. But with houses uprooted and mountain torrents flattening buildings, many more are feared dead. The flooding, an annual event in China that causes huge loss of life, has affected nearly 6 million people so far and caused direct economic losses of 2.47 billion yuan (\$300 million), Xinhua said. More than 70,000 homes were destroyed and 215,000 people evacuated. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: A week of torrential rains and heavy flooding has killed at least 204 people in China and left 79 others missing, but forecasters warned the worst was yet to come, state media reported. The heavy downpours, which began in many parts of China last week, have affected more than 17 million people, including many who have lost property or been forced to flee flooded areas, Xinhua news agency said yesterday. Official statistics showed that 614,000 hectares of farmland were destroyed and 137,900 rooms damaged as flooding affected several provinces, Xinhua said. Tens of thousands of livestock have also been killed. Strong rainfall is expected to pound the Yangtze River, China's longest river, in the coming 10 days and trigger more floods and landslides, according to China's Meteorological Bureau. In

coming days, the Three Gorges area of the river is expected to see 35 to 50 millimeters of rainfall, more than the typical 30-45 millimeters in previous years. The river will enter an even rainier period starting mid-June. Local governments across the country have been ordered to mobilise resources to battle the floods, with the focus on ensuring major rivers and reservoirs are not breached. Vice Premier Hui Liangyu told a meeting of the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters Saturday (Jun 4) that measures should be taken to reduce human casualties and keep property loss to a minimum, Xinhua said. The worst-affected province was Hunan in central China where 75 people were reported dead and 46 others missing, said Xinhua. Economic losses in the province were estimated at 2.3 billion yuan (\$277 million), said Xinhua. A total of 67,000 houses were flattened and another 193,000 houses damaged. Hundreds of government officials and soldiers were working in the disaster-hit areas to rescue survivors and find the missing, and to disinfect areas to prevent disease outbreaks. They were also working to mend damaged roads, repair power and telecommunications infrastructure, and provide food, water, clothes and temporary shelter for the displaced. Emergency relief supplies were meanwhile being rushed to flood-hit areas across the country to help hundreds of thousands of people forced from their homes, reports said. Officials said they had dispatched rice, clean water and other materials while the health ministry issued an urgent circular Friday (Jun 3) calling for immediate measures to stem outbreaks of disease.

GEORGIA

London, Jun 6 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A flood has cut off 15 villages, ruined a number of bridges and about 15 kilometres of motorways, and damaged thousands of hectares of vineyards in eastern Georgia, local administrations said today.

IRAQ

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Berthing operations at Basrah Oil Terminal have been temporarily suspended due to rough weather. Tug boats left bouy number 15 at 2300, local time, yesterday and are presently sheltered at Umm Qasr.

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Due to continuing rough weather at Basrah Oil Terminal, since Tuesday night (Jun 7), tugs are still sheltered at Umm Qasr.

MOZAMBIQUE

Johannesburg, Jun 7 -- The government of Mozambique has appealed for food aid for around 550,000 people after a prolonged dry spell caused widespread crop failures in the south and central parts of the country. The World Food Programme (WFP) confirmed today that it has

been "officially" requested to assist Mozambicans in the provinces of Inhambane, Gaza, Maputo, Manica, Sofala, Zambezia and Tete. "The support, according to the National Institute of Disaster Management, should be mainly provided through food-for-work [activities] and last until the next harvest," WFP said. The aid agency is already assisting about 214,000 people in drought-affected areas through its Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO). The PRRO was meant to help people recover from the previous drought in 2002. WFP said it would adjust its aid plans as soon as the results of a joint WFP/Food and Agriculture Organisation mission to assess crop and food supply become available, "which should be next week". In total, WFP operations in Mozambique currently reach about 580,000 people through targeted programmes, such as school-feeding; providing community safety nets for people affected by HIV/AIDS; food-for-work activities aimed at improving community assets; and food distributions to vulnerable groups. WFP country director Angela Van Rynbach expressed concern at the level of food insecurity in the south and centre of the country. "The situation is worrying for hundreds of thousands of Mozambicans, who will not have enough to eat during the next months. WFP is urging the donor community to respond to the drought that has been affecting people's lives, year after year, since 2002," she said. "However, WFP is facing a [food aid] pipeline break in July, meaning that there are insufficient stocks or pledges to continue with the ongoing operations, let alone expand to meet increased needs," Van Rynbach noted. Without additional funding, WFP will be forced to start cutting food rations for close to 150,000 beneficiaries in July, despite the emerging food security crisis. -- Reuters.

RUSSIA

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated Jun 2, states: Power supply was cut in several settlements in the Rostov region over a thunderstorm. More than 50,000 people were left without electricity, advisor of the emergencies minister Viktor Beltsov said. The thunderstorm hit the Rostov region overnight to today. The Shakhty was the hardest hit where 63 converter substations and 11 feeder lines failed. "About 50,000 people were left without electricity," Beltsov emphasized. Eight hospitals, eight schools and four kindergartens were left without power supply in the city. At present, measures are being taken to provide them with power supply from autonomous power sources, the official of the emergencies ministry pointed out. Seventeen high-voltage power lines were damaged in Novoshakhtinsk. Power supply is cut in apartment blocks where 5,000 people live. According to Beltsov, "the committee on emergency situations held a meeting in the Rostov region, and power supply will be resumed

fully tomorrow. First of all power supply will resume at vitally important facilities," Beltsov remarked.

SOMALIA

Hargeysa, Jun 6 -- At least seven people drowned and thousands of villagers were rendered homeless when flash floods hit Bu'ale district in the Middle Juba region of southern Somalia at the weekend, witnesses and community leaders said yesterday. Large tracts of farmland were also inundated following torrential rains on Saturday night (Jun 4) and yesterday morning. Hectares of farmland that had already been planted with crops were devastated, and food stocks stored underground was also washed away. According to elders in the affected areas, the Juba River burst its banks, flooding more than 30 villages in the district. More than 500 huts were swept away and at least 120 animals killed. The floodwater submerged some villages and destroyed roads linking Bu'ale to the towns of Jilib and Afmadau. Local officials said most of the affected areas were still inaccessible, raising fears that the number of casualties could be higher. Many displaced families moved to higher ground, and some sought refuge at a nearby school in a hilly area. Flooding was also reported in Qardo town in the self-declared autonomous region of Puntland, northeastern Somalia, following heavy rains. At least one person was killed, hundreds of huts were damaged and crops and livestock were swept away. - Reuters.

TYPHOON "NESAT"

London, Jun 3 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Nesat" was located near lat 12.9N, long 133.7E, approximately 860 nautical miles south-south-east of Okinawa. "Nesat" has tracked north-westward, or 315 degs, at 10 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. Recent multispectral satellite imagery reveals the system has become more symmetrical and the eye has reformed. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 105 knots, gusts 130 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 25 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 95 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 85 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 37 feet. At 0600, UTC, Jun 4, the centre is predicted to be near lat 15.8N, long 131.1E, with maximum sustained winds of 105 knots and gusts to 130 knots.

London, Jun 5 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Nesat" was located near lat 18.1N, long 130.6E, approximately 515 nautical miles south-south-east of Okinawa. "Nesat" has tracked

northward, or 10 degs, at seven knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the eye being fixed by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 100 knots, gusts 125 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 20 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 25 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 80 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 100 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 45 feet. At 0600, UTC, Jun 6, the centre is predicted to be near lat 21.2N, long 132.5E, with maximum sustained winds of 100 knots and gusts to 125 knots.

London, Jun 6 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Typhoon "Nesat" near lat 21.2N, long 133.4E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 50 degrees at 10 knots. Position accurate to within 25 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 115 knots, gusts 140 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 25 nautical miles all four quadrants. Forecast position lat 22.6N, long 134.3E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 125 knots, gusts 150 knots. Forecast position lat 24.1N, long 134.7E at 0600, UTC, Jun 7. Maximum sustained winds 125 knots, gusts 150 knots.

London, Jun 7 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office dated today, states: Typhoon "Nesat" near lat 23.4N, long 134.2E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 360 degrees at 5 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 100 knots, gusts 125 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 25 nautical miles all quadrants. Forecast position lat 24.6N, long 134.2E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 95 knots, gusts 115 knots. Forecast position lat 26.0N, long 134.6E at 0600, UTC, Jun 8. Maximum sustained winds 85 knots, gusts 105 knots.

London, Jun 8 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office dated today: Typhoon "Nesat" near lat 25.4N, long 134.3E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 30 degrees at six knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 15 nautical miles all quadrants. Forecast position lat 26.5N, long 135.4E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots. Forecast position lat 27.9N, long 136.7E at 0600, Jun 9. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots, gusts 65 knots.

London, Jun 9 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Nesat" near lat 28.2N, long 137.1E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 35 degrees at 10 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles.

Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Forecasts position lat 29.5N, long 138.3E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots. Forecast position lat 31.4N, long 140.1E at 0600, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots, gusts 50 knots.

UNITED STATES

London, Jun 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Severe thunderstorms swept across Michigan yesterday night, knocking down trees and power lines and blacking out at least 162,000 utility customers. Strong winds and heavy rain also lashed Indiana. The National Weather Service in Oakland County's White Lake Township said several funnel clouds were reported in counties stretching from the western Upper Peninsula to the Thumb region, but none had been confirmed as tornados. About 90,000 DTE Energy customers in southeastern Michigan lost power in the storms, but that number could change significantly as people wake up and realize they lack power, company spokesman John Austerberry said. About 72,000 Consumers Energy customers were blacked out during the storms, and about 61,000 remained without power about 2300, yesterday, Consumers Energy spokesman Kevin Keane said. Storms also dropped hail the size of golf balls in LaPorte County in northern Indiana and caused wind to blow up to 60 mph near South Bend, according to the National Weather Service. Winds gusted to 91 mph near Frankfort, 40 miles northwest of Indianapolis, the service said. The city could be without power for about two to three days, officials said. In Oklahoma, meanwhile, cleanup efforts began yesterday in wild weather after severe storms tore down trees and power lines, damaged several homes and injured five people a day earlier. Storm systems that pounded the state for the second straight day prompted the National Storm Prediction Center to issue a severe thunderstorm watch for 19 western and southern Oklahoma counties. Tornado warnings were issued for Kiowa and Tillman counties in southwest Oklahoma.

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Weekend storms caused severe damage at the Municipal Airport in Lee's Summit. Crews have been working around the clock to clean up since Saturday's (Jun 4) storms. Wind blew away the roof of an aircraft hanger and damaged about 12 aircrafts inside. Damage to the hanger is estimated at more than \$100,000.

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated Jun 6, states: Severe thunderstorms that swept across Michigan knocked out power to more than 185,000 customers before most of them got their electricity back, officials said today. Two suspected funnel cloud touchdowns were reported in Saginaw County during yesterday's storms, National Weather Service forecaster Dennis Dixon said.

Straight-line winds or hail probably caused the other storm damage around the state, Dixon said. As of this afternoon, about 11,000 Consumers Energy customers in southern Michigan were without service, down from 84,000 at the outage's peak, a utility spokesman said. About 103,000 DTE Energy customers in south-eastern Michigan lost power during the storms, and about 35,000 remained blacked out today, a spokesman said.

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Powerful thunderstorms slammed the Upper Midwest and caused heavy flooding, leaving one man missing in Minnesota, destroying a small-town city hall in South Dakota and forcing several people out of their homes. The National Weather Service predicted that more thunderstorms were likely this evening in parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin. Those storms could contain large hail and damaging winds, the weather service said. Jeffrey S. Zelinske, 47, remained missing Wednesday. He was headed to work when a creek surged over its banks and flooded the road with up to 2 feet of water. Wind gusted to 92 mph during the night in north-central South Dakota, destroying the one-story city hall in Onaka, flattening a farm cooperative building in Faulkton and damaging other buildings. The National Weather Service said a tornado briefly touched down yesterday in the south-west corner of South Dakota, damaging farm machinery. About 30 people were forced out of their houses in Edgeley, N.D. In the Twin Cities, lightning strikes were blamed for two fires. The storm also knocked power out to more than 200,000 Xcel Energy customers in the Minneapolis metro area, and more than 63,500 customers were still without power this afternoon.

Earthquakes



INDIA

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated Jun 2, states: An earthquake of moderate intensity hit the Tibet-India border region early today. The quake, measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale, was epicentred at lat 29.3N, long 94.7E. The quake occurred at 0137, IST, this morning, the Indian Meteorological Department said.

INDONESIA

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale shook the island of Nias today, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or property damage, a meteorologist said. The offshore quake hit at 0741 hrs, with the epicentre 62 kilometres west of the main town of

Gunung Sitoli, at a depth of 33 kilometres, said Yono of the Jakarta meteorology office.

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck off the Indonesian coast today, Hong Kong seismologists said. It wasn't immediately clear if there were casualties or damage. The tremor was centred 170 miles south-west of Medan and was recorded in Hong Kong at 1434 hrs, the Hong Kong Observatory said.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Jun 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: One man was killed, several injured and hundreds left homeless in Lae, Morobe Province, following a major earthquake early yesterday morning. The quake measured six on the Richter scale. A spokesman from the Geophysical Observatory in Port Moresby said that the tremor was tectonic in nature caused by movements of the faults and was centred 30 km underground about 15 km northwest of Lae.

TAIWAN

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale occurred in the north-eastern part of Taiwan yesterday, the Chinese main seismological agency said. The quake epicentre was located in the marine zone off the coastline of the Hualien county. There was no immediate information about damage or casualties.

TURKEY

London, Jun 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale shook eastern Turkey today. The earthquake occurred at 1041, local time, and the epicentre was in Karlioiva town of Bingol province, Bogazici University's Kandilli Observatory and Seismology Institute was quoted as saying. The quake was also felt in neighbouring cities and towns where people took to the streets in panic. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damages.

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated Jun 6, states: A strong earthquake today shook south-eastern Turkey, injuring at least 54 people and demolishing homes, and officials dispatched tents and blankets to the area. The quake, with a preliminary magnitude of 5.7, struck near the town of Karlioiva in rural Bingol province, 560 miles southeast of Ankara, the Kandilli Observatory said. Five of the injured were in serious condition while others were treated at a hospital for minor injuries and released. The quake caused several homes to collapse and damaged at least 63 others in neighbouring villages, according to the prime minister's office and local officials. Most homes that collapsed were previously damaged in a March earthquake, Bingol Gov. Vehbi Avuc said. Officials sent 1,000 tents and 2,000 blankets to the area and closed schools for two days.

Volcanic Activity



ANDAMAN ISLANDS, INDIA

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A mud volcano, lying dormant for nearly a century now, erupted yesterday at Narcondam island in Andaman and Nicobar islands. Smoke and mud was noticed coming out of the crater of the mud volcano on the island, which is an uninhabited one, a police superintendent told reporters.

COLIMA, MEXICO

London, Jun 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Mexico's "Fire Volcano" spewed ashes almost 5 km high yesterday, its fiercest eruption of rock and lava in more than 15 years and its third big explosion in two weeks. No casualties were reported after the afternoon eruption of the 3860m Colima volcano in the western state of the same name.

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated Jun 8, states: The Volcano of Fire has rumbled back to life with its strongest eruptions in 20 years, spewing lava and ash clouds. The volcano, which straddles the line between Colima and Jalisco states, 430 miles west of Mexico City, has had six spectacular eruptions in the past three weeks. The largest, late Monday (Jun 6), shot glowing lava three miles above the crater of the 12,533-foot volcano and showered ash over the nearby city of Colima. Authorities handed out surgical masks to prevent people from breathing the fine grit, and so far the volcano has caused no major injuries or damage. Seismologist Tonatiuh Dominguez said the increasing frequency of the eruptions and their intensity signaled the volcano was returning to an explosive stage. Federal Civil Protection Co-ordinator Carmen Segura headed to the volcano zone today and said officials planned to improve their monitoring. Residents of Juan Barragan, El Borbollon and Yerbabuena, all within five miles of the peak, were asked on Monday to leave the towns voluntarily. Most have complied, although about 50 stayed in Yerbabuena. The Colima state government has been trying to relocate Yerbabuena's residents to safer ground, offering them free land. More than 100 have left in the past two years, but those who remain have declared themselves an independent municipality and refuse to leave. Only a few residents of Juan Barragan and El Borbollon remain and about 60 others have been temporarily moved to an improvised shelter in San Marcos, seven miles from the summit. "People had become pretty skeptical in recent years, because they have been evacuated before and then nothing happened," said Luis Rodriguez, civil

defence co-ordinator for the state of Jalisco. However, he said attitudes had changed with the latest eruptions. Many witnessed Monday's explosion while waiting for buses to take them away. Authorities have established an off-limits zone 4.5 miles around the crater, and an alert zone is in effect for seven miles. The volcano has had more than 30 periods of eruptions since 1585, including several significant eruptions in the late 1990s. Scientific monitoring of the volcano began 20 years ago. It came to life again on May 23, sending a stream of burning gas and rock fragments more than 2.5 miles down the slopes and shooting clouds of ash two miles high. Similar eruptions occurred on May 30, Jun 2-3 and Jun 5. Ash coated cars and streets in the state capital, Colima, 20 miles from the peak, and authorities recommended residents wear masks and sunglasses or goggles to avoid respiratory and eye irritations.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Jun 4 -- Two U.S. soldiers were killed in a roadside bomb blast in southeast Afghanistan, the U.S. military said today, the latest casualties in a surge of violence in recent months. The two were in a convoy in Paktika province, near the Pakistani border when their vehicle was hit by the blast yesterday. A U.S. soldier and an Afghan interpreter were wounded, the U.S. military said. Ten U.S. service personnel have been killed in combat in Afghanistan since late March. There was no claim of responsibility for the blast. -- Reuters.

Kabul, Jun 8 -- Insurgents fired at least one mortar bomb into a U.S. military base in eastern Afghanistan today killing one member of the U.S. armed forces and wounding eight, the U.S. military said. Eleven U.S. military personnel have been killed in a wave of clashes, blasts and rebel ambushes in Afghanistan since late March. U.S. troops were preparing to unload supplies from a Chinook helicopter at a forward operating base near Shkin, near Paktika province's border with Pakistan, when the attack occurred, the U.S. military said in a statement. -- Reuters.

ALBANIA

Bari, Jun 1 -- Product tanker Ambar is still under arrest at Bari. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BOLIVIA

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated Jun 1, states: Bolivia's political capital, La Paz, has been gripped by demonstrations as protesters demand the nationalisation of the country's energy industry. Mainly indigenous Bolivians blockaded roads into the

highland city and threatened to march on Congress. A planned session of Congress was postponed for a second day due to disagreements among lawmakers. President Carlos Mesa has accused protest leaders behind weeks of political unrest of planning a coup. The US State department has issued a warning to its citizens living or travelling to Bolivia about the growing unease in the country. The latest demonstrations were far smaller than the ones which on Tuesday (May 31) forced Congress to suspend its first session in over a week. Congress was due to address the controversial issue of autonomy, a key demand of Bolivia's wealthier eastern and southern provinces which are home to most of the country's oil and gas. The session was postponed again today after lawmakers could not agree on an agenda for the discussions. The demonstrators - who include farmers, teachers and students - are tired of having their demands ignored and now appear to be broadening their offensive. Major roads into the country's administrative capital were blockaded with stones. While most demonstrations were peaceful, in some areas of the city a group of around 1,000 people smashed windows, attacked shopkeepers and vandalised cars. The protesters, mainly from the impoverished highlands, want to stop the Congress granting autonomy to the wealthier eastern and southern provinces. They are also demanding the nationalisation of the energy industry, saying a law which increases taxes on foreign gas investors, does not exert enough control over the country's resources. President Mesa has said the gas law is too punishing for the multinationals that have invested billions of dollars in Bolivia's gas fields.

La Paz, Jun 2 -- Peasant roadblocks coupled with a 48-hour transport strike brought Bolivia's capital to a standstill today as protests demanding the nationalisation of the energy sector showed no signs of abating. After two weeks of protests, 60% of Bolivia's highways remained blocked and six major cities isolated, including the capital La Paz, where fuel shortages were reported. Downtown La Paz, the scene of violent protests for the last three days, was calmer as many of the tens of thousands of indigenous protesters had no transport. Schools were closed and many workers stayed home rather than walk hours to their jobs. Protesters also cut highway access to the international airport. President Carlos Mesa's government put the onus on Congress to dispel the worst tension since a bloody Indian revolt toppled Washington ally Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada in October 2003. "The country's eyes are on Congress," Gregorio Lanza, head of conflict prevention in Mesa's government, told local radio. The Roman Catholic and evangelical church leaders were to meet with leaders of the highly fragmented Congress today to urge them to act quickly to stem spiraling

violence. Mesa, a political independent who unsuccessfully tried to work with the indigenous majority, has vowed not to use violence against protesters and has limited police intervention to tear gas to disperse protesters and some arrests of vandals. No one has been killed or seriously injured in the two weeks. Teachers, healthcare workers, truckers and miners have all jumped on the nationalisation bandwagon after Congress approved a law two weeks ago that fell short of their aspirations of state control over Bolivia's most precious resource -- the second largest natural gas reserves in Latin America. The law sharply raises taxes for foreign firms like Brazil's Petrobras and Spain's Repsol, that have invested \$3.5 billion in Bolivia since 1997. The firms say they will invest less due to the changes. Adding to the political deadlock are the demands of the wealthy eastern provinces, home to Bolivia's oil and gas, which want more autonomy from La Paz to exploit their resources -- a move firmly rejected by the Indians of the barren west. Riot police armed with tear gas continued to guard Congress, where leaders were trying to hammer out a compromise agenda that would address the autonomy issue and an assembly to rewrite the constitution to give more power to the indigenous majority. "If we don't resolve it this way, we could have unbridled chaos," said Lanza, who noted that the energy law will not be reviewed at this moment. La Paz's international airport, located up in the militant Indian city of El Alto, was still open but passengers could not get past the morning roadblocks and dwindling fuel stocks caused some flight cancellations. "Many people are taking precautions and arriving before dawn to make their flights," an airport official told local radio. "But we know first hand that there is no public transport, no highway, it is paralysed." -- Reuters.

La Paz, Jun 6 -- Bolivian President Carlos Mesa submitted his resignation late today as he sought to end weeks of crippling protests over nationalization of the country's natural gas reserves that triggered the worst political crisis in his 19 months in office. Mesa, a political independent with little support in Congress, had struggled to stay in power as he faced growing Indian demands for more state control of Latin America's second largest natural gas reserves and calls for more independence from rebellious regional provinces. Congress must still vote on whether to accept Mesa's resignation and he will remain in office until the lawmakers decide. He had offered to step down earlier this year to defuse protests, but the parliament rejected his proposal. Critics said his first resignation was a political ploy to lower tensions. It was unclear whether Mesa's resignation offer would calm protesters who have blockaded La Paz and other cities for more than two weeks and left the capital struggling with gasoline and food shortages. The latest turmoil came after Congress

approved a new energy law increasing taxes paid on foreign companies working in Bolivia's oil and gas fields. Indian leaders protested the law failed to address their demands that the poor, indigenous majority see more benefit from the energy riches. Hours before Mesa's announcement, tens of thousands of Indian protesters, miners and students packed into the centre of the capital to press their demands. They vowed to maintain the roadblocks that have put a stranglehold on La Paz. Today, smoke from burning tyres wafted through the narrow streets of the capital as some protesters dodged police and shot catapults and slingshots before order was restored. Roadblocks of rocks and trenches in the militant city El Alto, above La Paz, have kept fuel trucks from entering the city. Some gas stations today put up "No Gasoline" signs and residents fretted over meat and bread shortages and rising food prices. Under the constitution, the president of Congress will replace Mesa if the parliament votes to accept his offer. The president of Congress, Hormando Vaca Diez, called on protesters to end the blockades and allow the parliament to take its decision without pressure from the streets. He said he would decide tomorrow when to call a session on Mesa's offer. Church leaders had held weekend talks with Mesa, congressional leaders and the Supreme Court chief as they sought to end the political stalemate. They urged protesters to call a truce, but some congressmen had already suggested early elections as the best way for the government to defuse the crisis. Evo Morales, a main opposition and indigenous leader, demanded the resignation of both Vaca Diez and the leader of the lower chamber of Congress. But he said total nationalization of the energy resources remained a priority. "We are a democratic movement and will support a democratic and constitutional solution," he said. -- Reuters.

La Paz, Jun 7 -- Bolivian President Carlos Mesa, who offered to resign to defuse weeks of indigenous protests, today urged early elections after tens of thousands of miners and peasants descended on La Paz to demand nationalization of the country's energy resources. Police fired tear gas to disperse miners, who lobbed sticks of dynamite and rocks during the growing protests calling for state control of Bolivia's natural gas reserves and constitutional reforms for more representation for the poor Indian majority. In a dramatic late-night broadcast, Mesa appealed to the Congress president and lower parliament chamber chief to step aside and allow early elections to halt protests that have blockaded La Paz and other cities. Mesa volunteered late yesterday to resign -- his second such offer this year -- after three weeks of indigenous protests blockaded La Paz and triggered the worst turmoil in his 19-month

presidency of South America's poorest nation. Congress, which rejected a Mesa resignation in March, will hold a session on Thursday (Jun 9) in the southern city of Sucre to debate whether to accept his latest offer to quit. The session was moved to Sucre because La Paz, about 200 miles away, remained too volatile. Under the constitution, Congress President Hormando Vaca Diez would replace Mesa if the legislature accepts his offer. But Indian leaders and protesters have said Vaca Diez is not an acceptable candidate and warn protests will continue to press for the key demand for energy sector nationalization. In a sign of concern over the swelling protests, the United States ordered its non-emergency personnel at its embassy in Bolivia and all U.S. diplomats' relatives to leave the country. The State Department also urged Americans against visiting the country. A blockade of the capital by Indian protesters, especially in the city of El Alto, has caused gas stations to dry up. Taxi drivers are asking passengers to share rides. Residents complain about rising prices and shortages of bread and meat. Public transport workers are on strike and some hospitals in the capital said they are only open for emergencies. The mayor of El Alto said blockades in that city had become so drastic that protesters had stopped families from burying their dead in the cemetery. Mesa appeared on television with the mayor to urge protesters to allow gas, fuel and supplies to flow to the capital. Protesters in El Alto have dug trenches and built barricades around a gasoline plant supplying the capital. Church leaders have been trying to negotiate an end to the crisis, but the political situation remains delicate ahead of the congressional ruling. Evo Morales, a main opposition and indigenous leader, has joined other congressmen in calling for the resignation of Vaca Diez and the leader of the lower chamber of Congress to make way for early elections. No one in Bolivia, except perhaps the multinational oil companies and some elites, could support Vaca Diez as president, he said. He said total nationalisation of energy resources was a demand protest leaders would not negotiate. But he said protesters could allow some humanitarian relief for emergency supplies without lifting their blockades. -- Reuters.

BURUNDI

Bujumbura, Jun 1 -- Burundian troops have killed 17 fighters from the country's sole remaining rebel group in their third reported clash since a May 15 truce, the rebels and army said today. The violence between the army and the Hutu Forces for National Liberation (FNL) comes as the tiny central African nation prepares to hold only its second democratic polls in 12 years, local

elections scheduled for Friday (Jun 3). The FNL, which said it would not interrupt the polls unless provoked, blamed the army for yesterday's attack in the outskirts of the capital Bujumbura. "On May 31, the army ambushed our fighters at Kabezi commune and killed several of our fighters," FNL spokesman Pasteur Habimana. "We are asking ourselves about the will of the government and its army to hold a ceasefire." An army spokesman said it was the rebels that fired first. "FNL elements ambushed one of our soldiers who was going in search of food and there were clashes after. We counted 17 FNL killed," army spokesman Adolphe Manirakiza said. The clash is the third reported since FNL leader Agathon Rwasa and Burundian President Domitien Ndayizeye signed a cessation of hostilities agreement in Dar es Salaam on May 15, seen as a significant step toward finally bringing the rebels into the peace process. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 4 -- A press report, dated Jun 3, states: Attacks on voters and U.N. peacekeepers today forced hundreds of polling stations around Burundi's capital to close early, disrupting the first democratic local government elections since the country won independence from Belgium in 1962. The head of the U.N. mission in Burundi, Carolyn McAskie, said the violence may have been orchestrated by members of the army - a bastion of power for the Tutsi minority - intent on scuttling the transition to democracy after a ruinous 12-year civil war. A series of peace deals in recent years led to the creation of a transitional government, which most of the Hutu rebels have joined, but one group of rebel holdouts remain, and fighting between insurgents and soldiers northwest of Bujumbura forced the closure of 14 polling stations today. Voters caught in the crossfire dived to the ground and stayed there for hours as the two sides battled, witnesses said by telephone. The fighting was just a portion of the violence that forced some 260 of the 6,000 polling stations to close. Most of the stations were in rural areas outside Bujumbura, and U.N. and electoral officials were discussing the possibility of a revote in those areas, McAskie said. "We are going to concentrate our forces 100 percent in these zones so that people can vote," McAskie said. "We will put in place conditions for people to vote freely." Shortly after voting began, U.N. peacekeepers on patrol near the capital were shot at by unidentified assailants and one soldier was hit in the head and seriously injured, U.N. spokesman Penangini Toure said. The assailants fled when the U.N. forces returned fire, he said. The U.N. deployed five battalions of peacekeepers and civilian police officers during the vote, U.N. spokesman Adama Diop said. Burundi's government deployed some 20,000 troops and police officers. In another incident in a province outside

the capital, one person was killed when assailants opened fire near a polling station, army spokesman Adolphe Manirakiza said. Unidentified assailants armed with assault rifles attacked three other polling stations outside the capital, wounding at least six people, Manirakiza said. A grenade attack near a polling station in the capital wounded one person. Attackers also lobbed a grenade at a polling station in a province northwest of the capital, wounding two voters and forcing others to flee. Yesterday, gunmen launched a rocket-propelled grenade attack on two cars carrying voting material in Mpanda, wounding the mayor of the town northwest of Bujumbura. Still, many Burundians undaunted by the violence lined up to cast ballots. Initial results were expected later today. The election was the first in a series agreed upon in the peace deals ending the war that killed an estimated 250,000 people, most of them civilians. Lawmakers are to be elected on Jul 4. The new legislature will then elect a new president on Aug 19.

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Overnight shelling in the Burundi capital, Bujumbura, has delayed the re-run of local elections, postponed from last week because of attacks. Election officers were too afraid to go to the polling stations in five areas. The army has blamed the violence on the only active rebel group, the National Liberation Forces (FNL). The former rebel forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD) won a majority of seats in the first nationwide elections since civil war broke out in 1993. While some officials from the Front for Democracy in Burundi (Frodebu) of President Domitien Ndayizeye have accepted defeat, the party is now accusing the FDD of using the threat of violence to intimidate voters. "The Frodebu party declares that the local elections were not free, transparent..." and urges the election commission to "recognise this fact and take appropriate steps," it said in a statement yesterday. The FDD has won 75 out of 129 municipalities, initial results show. The elections were held under new rules, which oblige political parties to include representatives of both major communities - Hutu and Tutsi. Correspondents say the FDD is now well placed to go into elections for a national assembly next month, while the results are bad news for Frodebu. Under pressure from African leaders, Hutu and Tutsi politicians have hammered out a unique deal which guarantees both communities a share in power. The FDD joined the government two years ago. Last Friday (Jun 3), one person was killed and another injured in a grenade attack on a polling station, the army said. A South African peacekeeper was shot and wounded when the polling station he was guarding came under attack, says the UN mission in Burundi. More than 3,000 councillors were elected, who will in turn choose

members of the senate. Those elected to the national assembly next month will choose the president in August.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Kinshasa, Jun 2 -- Militiamen in eastern Congo's Ituri district attacked UN human rights investigators and peacekeepers today, wounding four Nepalese soldiers and damaging a helicopter, the world body said. The gunmen attacked the helicopters as they took off from Lugo, a village 60 km south-west of Mahagi, on Congo's border with Uganda, after a mission to investigate reports on kidnappings and rapes by militia fighters in the area. "When the mission was taking off at 1230 hrs the militia opened fire on them. The helicopter carrying the investigators was hit but managed to take off," UN military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Thierry Provendier said in Kinshasa. "An attack helicopter was sent in and the Nepalese stayed on the ground to try to secure the area. Four of them were injured but by 1500, local time, the fighting had stopped," he added. The United Nations said it believed the militiamen were members of the Nationalist and Integrationalist Front (FNI), a group it suspects of gunning down nine UN peacekeepers in February. It was unclear whether any militia fighters were injured. A UN military source said one of the peacekeepers had been shot through the stomach but appeared to be in a stable condition while the others had been hit in the arms and legs. -- Reuters.

Kinshasa, Jun 3 -- One of four Nepalese U.N. peacekeepers wounded by militiamen in Congo's eastern Ituri district died overnight of his injuries, the world body said today. Militiamen in the remote area of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) attacked U.N. human rights investigators and peacekeepers yesterday, wounding the four Nepalese and damaging a helicopter, the world body said. -- Reuters.

ECUADOR

Guayaquil, Jun 8 -- A small bomb exploded in front of a branch of US bank Citigroup today in Guayaquil, where representatives from three Andean nations and the United States were holding free trade talks, police said. No one was injured but the blast blew out windows of the bank, located near a hotel where the trade negotiations between Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and the United States were taking place. The talks were not disrupted by the incident. A left-wing organization calling itself the Popular Fighters' Group claimed responsibility for the bombing, police said. The group has carried out previous minor bomb attacks in Ecuador. In a statement sent to local radio stations, the group accused Ecuador's President Alfredo Palacio of being "anti-patriotic, corrupt, and submitting to the will of imperialism from the north." It criticized the

talks on an Andean free trade agreement with the United States. -- Reuters.

ETHIOPIA

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 11 Ethiopians have been shot dead as police clashed with protesters accusing the ruling party of fraud in last month's elections. Correspondents say the Black Lion hospital in the capital, Addis Ababa is full of those injured in the clashes. Hundreds of students have been arrested this week for defying a protest ban. Final results have not been announced three weeks after the polls, as reports of massive fraud are investigated. However, provisional results say the opposition has won the capital's seats by a landslide - a major breakthrough after 14 years of domination by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). The police fired live rounds to disperse stone-throwing protesters in the Mercato and Piazza markets in the city centre. An AP reporter said he had seen 11 bodies in the Black Lion hospital, four of which had bullet wounds in the head. Abebe Terfe, executive secretary of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) said that at least 20 people had been killed but this figure has not been confirmed. The government said it regretted the loss of life, which it blamed on looters, incited by the opposition Coalition for Unity and Democracy. "CUD, which is the perpetrator of the violence, will have to take responsibility," Information Minister Bereket Simon told the Reuters news agency. The CUD has denied being behind this week's student protests. Doctors said they were treating at least 100 people, many of whom had been shot. Some of those who agreed to speak to journalists denied taking part in the demonstrations. Earlier, taxi drivers had gone on strike, joining protests started by students on Monday (Jun 6). Thousands of leaflets had been distributed, calling for the strike. Yesterday, students threw stones at the police who responded by storming a technical college and arresting about 100 people. The students were beaten with batons and rifle butts by police, who also fired shots in the air, witnesses said. On Monday, about 500 people were arrested and a girl died in clashes which began when students defied the 30-day ban on protests which was announced after the poll. According to provisional results, the EPRDF and its allies have won 320 seats so far, giving it a majority in the 547-member parliament. The opposition have, however, won almost 200 seats - a huge gain from the 12 they had in the previous parliament. EU observers have voiced concern over irregular vote counting and biased reports by the state-owned media.

GEORGIA

Tbilisi, May 29 -- Five men died in a gunfight in the Georgian separatist region of South Ossetia today, an

Interior Ministry spokesman said, the first violence this year in a zone patrolled by a three-sided peacekeeping force. The spokesman, Guram Donadze, said one Georgian policeman and four South Ossetians died in the village of Kurta, three km north of Tskhinvali, the capital of breakaway South Ossetia. The circumstances were unclear. Regional police chief Vladimer Jugeli told Georgia's Rustavi-2 television that he suspected it was an attack launched by South Ossetian volunteer fighters. The tiny Georgian region is not internationally recognised as a state but it has rejected all attempts by Tbilisi to bring it back into the fold, including fighting a separatist war to win de facto independence in 1992. Peacekeepers from Russia, Georgia and the Russian region of North Ossetia now keep watch over the region while the search for a political solution continues. -- Reuters.

HAITI

Port-au-Prince, Jun 4 -- As many as 25 people were killed in police raids yesterday and today in the slums of Haiti's capital after the government said it would get tougher on gangs, morgue workers and witnesses said. Residents said the dead were shot by police and accused police of setting slum homes on fire. Police officials had no immediate comment on the death toll and it was not clear whether all the victims were killed in the raids, or if some were shot as gang members returned fire. Haiti's interim government, backed by a 7,400-strong United Nations peacekeeping force, has sought to stabilise the impoverished country since Aristide fled into exile as armed rebels closed in on the capital in February 2004. Human rights groups have accused the Haitian police of summary executions and abuses against supporters of Aristide -- allegations denied by the government. Justice Minister Bernard Gousse and other officials said yesterday authorities planned tougher action against armed gangs in pro-Aristide slums, where victims of a recent wave of hundreds of kidnappings are often said to be held. At least 740 people have been killed in criminal and political violence in Haiti since September. A French diplomat was shot to death this week while driving in the capital. "The police arrived, they started shooting. There were other people shooting too, but they managed to flee," said Ronald Macillon, a Bel-Air resident. "The police killed a lot of people and set several homes on fire," Macillon said. Several other witnesses gave similar accounts. A spokesman for U.N. troops in Bel-Air, Col. Carlos Barcelos, told Reuters the Brazilian contingent based in that slum did not take part directly in the raids, but put up checkpoints and secured the outside perimeter. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated Jun 8, states: The US is working to lift a 14-year-old embargo on selling weapons to Haiti in order to help

police cut rising crime and unrest before elections this year. Washington's ambassador to Haiti, James Foley, said guns were urgently needed to help police guarantee security. Haiti's cabinet chief, Michel Brunache, said a US marine deployment could help restore order in time for the polls. Some 700 people have died in less than a year in Haiti, in a crime wave blamed on politically-aligned gangs. Elections due to be held in the country this autumn will be the first since an armed uprising forced former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide into exile last year. The US has said slum gangs loyal to the former leader are behind much of the crime and unrest in the country. Human rights groups have accused the police of summary executions of Aristide supporters - a charge the authorities deny. At a ceremony in the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, Ambassador Foley said "guns are an extremely important element for police to guarantee security". An estimated \$2.6m (£1.4m) worth of security equipment - including trucks, tactical vehicles and motorcycles - were donated to the police during the ceremony. The US state department and Congress are also considering plans to train Haitian police. The US has acknowledged that it gave Haiti's police some 2,600 used firearms last year, making an exception to its own embargo. The top US diplomat responsible for the western hemisphere, Roger Noriega, visited Haiti today for talks with the interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue. He is believed to have discussed measures to stabilise Haiti before the polls. On Tuesday, Mr Latortue asked the United Nations for more French-speaking peacekeeping troops to be sent to Haiti. About 7,400 UN peacekeeping troops are already in Haiti and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Saturday (Jun 4) that more might now be sent.

IRAQ

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Insurgents killed at least 34 Iraqi civilians today in a bloody string of attacks that included three suicide bombings, booby-trapped motorcycles and a convoy of drive-by assassins who attacked a crowd at a Baghdad bus stop. Augmenting the violence with sabotage, militants blew up a key stretch of pipeline in the north, further hampering efforts to get Iraq's vital oil industry back to full production. The concerted efforts by insurgents to disrupt reconstruction and spread terror among the Iraqi population have intensified in the five weeks since the newly elected government took power on Apr 28. It was the Northern Oil Company's pipeline between the Kirkuk oil fields and the Dibis refinery, about 30 miles west, that was bombed and set ablaze about 0800 hrs by attackers. Fire and black smoke poured from the vast oil spill in the village of Amsha, witnesses reported. The pipeline is guarded by

2,500 Iraqi soldiers and security guards but insurgents have succeeded in breaking the flow of oil to Turkey's Jihan port for more than a month with repeated sabotage.

Baghdad, Jun 3 -- A suicide car bomber rammed his car into a building north of Baghdad, killing at least 10 people and wounding 12, the U.S. military said today. The attack occurred late yesterday in a village south of the town of Balad, about 80 km north of Baghdad, a U.S. military spokesman said. The information had come from Iraqi authorities in the area. "We understand that the car blew up in the courtyard of a house," the U.S. spokesman said, adding that the death toll may rise. Iraq's Defense Ministry confirmed the attack, but had no information on what the motive might have been. Some locals said the victims were Muslim Sufis and that they may have been targeted because of their religion. Earlier yesterday, there were at least three other suicide bombings and other attacks around the country, killing more than 20 people and wounding dozens. -- Reuters.

Tikrit, Jun 4 -- A suicide bomber blew up his vehicle at the entrance to a US base in Tikrit, killing five Iraq soldiers and wounding seven, a police source said today. The attack occurred yesterday at the main gate to the base, which was once one of Saddam's palaces, he said. Police in Tikrit said they had also found a body today of a man who had been blindfolded and shot in the head. -- Reuters.

Mosul, Jun 4 -- Iraqi forces have seized a senior militant leader linked to Jordanian mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and accused of overseeing an array of deadly attacks in Iraq, the Defense Ministry said today. A spokesman for the ministry said Mullah Mahdi, sometimes known as Prince of Princes or Abu Abdul Rahman, was detained after a raid backed by U.S. troops yesterday in the northern city of Mosul, where insurgents have built a base of operations. "This is a very significant achievement. Mullah Mahdi is one of the most dangerous terrorists in the country," the spokesman said. He would not give details of the operation but said six others, including Mahdi's brother, were also seized. Mahdi is believed to be a senior member of Army of Ansar al-Sunna, one of Iraq's most feared militant groups, responsible for a series of spectacular attacks in Iraq. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 5 -- A press report, dated Jun 4, states: The first scheduled passenger flight between the Iraqi cities of Baghdad and Basra has taken place. Some 42 passengers made the 50-minute trip from the Iraqi capital to the southern city, including airways officials and the transport minister. Iraqi Airways intends to operate four flights a week on the route. Airline officials are encouraging the public to use the flight, which avoids a six-to-seven hour drive through dangerous parts of the country. Iraqi Airways flight 015 is

the first scheduled passenger service to come into operation between Iraqi cities since the end of the war. A return flight on the Boeing 727 will cost passengers \$150 (£83). After a test flight earlier in the week, the head of Basra's city council said the authorities hope that international commercial flights will resume soon. There are also plans to open up another civilian airport in the north of the country. Royal Jordanian Airlines runs regular flights between the Jordanian capital, Amman, and Baghdad.

Basra, Jun 7 -- A Sunni Muslim cleric in the southern Iraqi city of Basra has been killed, relatives said today, the latest in a series of assassinations of religious figures that have stoked sectarian tensions. Witnesses said Salam Abdul-Karim was taken from his home on Sunday (Jun 5) by men wearing police uniforms. His body was found the following day. Last week, the imam of a Shi'ite mosque was also assassinated in Basra. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 14 people have been killed in a series of bomb blasts around a town in northern Iraq, police say. Four devices exploded within minutes of each other, three of them suicide bombs near army checkpoints in and around the troubled town of Hawija, near Tikrit. Some victims were Iraqi soldiers. A suicide bomb attack was also reported near a police patrol in the Shula district of northern Baghdad. At least nine people were reported hurt, but no-one is thought to have been killed. Then attacks in Hawija began with a roadside blast in the town. Within seven minutes that was followed by suicide car bombings at checkpoints in Bagara and Dibis - towns close to Hawija - and at a checkpoint in Hawija itself. At least 19 people were reported wounded in the blasts. The car bombings appeared to be co-ordinated, police Col Ahmed Hammoud told the Associated Press news agency. He said that they were all carried out in a similar way, with the drivers waiting in queues of traffic before blowing themselves up at the checkpoints. A fourth car, which had been packed with explosives and left in a nearby village, was being dealt with by Iraqi troops and US soldiers.

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Iraq militants have threatened to kill a Turkish hostage unless Turkey agrees to end cooperation with the US military within four days. In a statement to Dubai television accompanied by video footage of the businessman they said they were holding, the militants warned they would kill him and two companions "unless the Turkish authorities cease all forms of logistical support to the US military as well as cooperation with US firms doing business in Iraq". Seated on the ground in front of a banner bearing the name of the group - the Ali bin Abi Taleb Brigades - and flanked by two gunmen, the hostage held up a

passport which Dubai television said bore the name Ali Abdullah. On May 24, Turkey's Anatolia news agency said a Turkish national named Ali Musluoglu, 48, had been seized by militants demanding that his building materials firm cease its Iraq operations. Turks have frequently fallen victim to the persistent violence in Iraq. Around 90 have been killed in recent months, most of them truck drivers caught in ambushes.

Baiji, Jun 8 -- Saboteurs blew up a main oil pipeline in northern Iraq early today, an official at the Northern Oil company said. A Reuters correspondent at the scene, just north of the refining town of Baiji, said smoke was pouring into the sky. Firecrews and U.S. military personnel were in attendance. The Northern Oil official said the line affected was used to export oil to Turkey from Iraq's vast northern oil fields around Kirkuk. The company official said there had been no exports at the time because of repeated attacks. "This isn't the first time. They've targeted oil for a long time even when there is no exporting," he said on condition of anonymity. A shipping source said exports from the Ceyhan oil terminal at the Turkish end of Iraq's export pipeline, which currently holds 3.6 million barrels in storage tanks, had resumed on yesterday. The shipping source said he did not know how long the flow would continue. "From previous experience we know that they pump for 24 or 48 hours and then they stop," he added. -- Reuters.

Baghdad, Jun 8 -- Iraq's oil exports through its northern pipeline to Turkey remain halted and repairs following a large blast last week are expected to last about 10 more days, an Iraqi oil official said today. "There was a large blast on Friday (Jun 3) and they are still repairing the pipeline," the official told Reuters. A shipping source said earlier that exports from the Ceyhan oil terminal at the Turkish end of Iraq's export pipeline, which currently holds 3.6 million barrels in storage tanks, had resumed yesterday after a four-day halt. A second Iraqi official, speaking at the Northern Oil Company, said saboteurs had blown up a main oil export pipeline just north of the refining town of Baiji. A Reuters correspondent at the scene saw smoke pouring from the site and firefighters in attendance. The second official said the line affected was used to export oil to Turkey from Iraq's vast northern oil fields around Kirkuk. But he said there had been no exports at the time because of repeated attacks. Exports through the northern line have been intermittent since a blast in mid-May. The line has been mostly idle due to sabotage attacks since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. -- Reuters.

Baquba, Jun 8 -- A car bomb that targeted a long row of cars queuing outside an Iraqi petrol station killed at least three civilians and injured another in the city of Baquba today, police said. Eyewitnesses said no security force personnel -- frequent

targets of insurgent attacks -- had been near the car at the time of the blast, 65 km north of Baghdad. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated Jun 8, states: U.S. officials are negotiating with Sunni Arab leaders to pull insurgents into Iraq's political process, a senior U.S. official said today. An American-Iraqi offensive, meanwhile, killed at least 10 militants, including four blown apart by their own car bomb. The U.S. official's statement to reporters came after a Sunni Arab politician and a senior Shiite leader told The Associated Press they were holding talks with some groups in the insurgency, thought to include up to 20,000 fighters in their ranks. "Some insurgents are irredeemable and have to be dealt with in a purely military way and there are some who are looking to enter the political process under some conditions," the official told a Baghdad briefing, given on condition of anonymity. At least 20 Iraqi army soldiers are feared kidnapped in western Iraq near the Syrian border, an Iraqi army official said today. They went missing yesterday after leaving an Iraqi army base in two minibuses from Akashat, a remote village southwest of Qaim, said Capt. Ahmed Hamid. Four U.S. soldiers died in separate attacks north of Baghdad, the military said today. One died in a roadside bombing today near Adwar. Two more died yesterday in an attack on their Tikrit base, while a fourth was killed in a bomb attack just north of the capital. Fighters killed at least nine more Iraqis, including two government officials, in drive-by shootings and a car bomb. Even as political efforts to unite Iraq appeared to gain steam, the president, Jalal Talabani, made comments that could anger Sunnis. He publicly praised Shiite and Kurdish militias, including the Shiite Badr Brigade that Sunni Arabs accuse of terrorizing and killing members of their once dominant community. And top Sunni leaders, sensing their crucial role in the future of Iraq's government, demanded a greater say in drafting of the constitution and threatened to boycott the process if they didn't get it. U.S. authorities have negotiated with key Sunni leaders, who are in turn talking with insurgents and trying to persuade them to lay down their arms, the senior U.S. official told reporters. The official did not name the Sunni leaders engaged in dialogue. The official suggested further measures to calm tensions, including absorbing existing militia groups like the Badr Brigade and the Kurdish Peshmerga into Iraq's own security forces. At a conference marking the second anniversary of the Badr brigade's claimed transformation to a political group, Talabani offered public praise. "You and your (Kurdish) brothers are the heroes of liberating Iraq," he said. Talabani's remarks came despite accusations by Sunni leaders that the militia - formed in 1982 to launch cross-border attacks

from Iran against Saddam Hussein's forces - has killed members of the minority. The Sunni leaders have demanded it be disarmed and complained it provides intelligence and support for some Shiite-dominated special security units. Sunni Arab criticism of Talabani's remarks was swift. Abdul-Salam al-Qubeisi, spokesman of the influential Association of Muslim Scholars, said the president was following "U.S. policies to prolong the struggle in Iraq and turn it into an Iraq-Iraq conflict." U.S. and Iraqi soldiers battled militant for a second consecutive day in the northern tip of Iraq, in the ancient city of Tal Afar about 90 miles east of the Syrian border, killing six militants in a gun battle. Another four militants died when a bomb in car they were driving exploded prematurely. Tal Afar has been an insurgent stronghold throughout the two-year insurgency. Sunni Arab leaders set themselves on a collision course with the Shiite-led government, threatening to boycott a committee drafting Iraq's constitution unless they are given more seats on the panel. Sunni Arab support is crucial for Iraq's government, particularly to approve a new constitution. The draft charter will collapse if three of the country's four provinces that are predominantly Sunni Arab vote against it in a referendum later this year. The Sunnis want 27 representatives instead of the 15 that the Shiites are willing to allow them, and demand that their members appointed to the 55-member committee be allowed to vote, even though they are not elected to the National Assembly.

IRAQ-KUWAIT

Rijeka, Jun 1 -- Ro/ro Star (ex Boka Star) is still laid up at Rijeka. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ISRAEL

Betunia, West Bank, Jun 2 -- Israel began freeing 400 Palestinian prisoners today in a long-delayed gesture it said was aimed at boosting moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas but which Palestinians said was insufficient. Dozens of freed inmates stepped down from buses at a checkpoint near the Palestinian-ruled city of Ramallah along Israel's boundary with the West Bank after traveling several hours from Ketziot prison in southern Israel, witnesses said. The Israeli cabinet this week gave the green light for the long-delayed release, among confidence-building measures agreed on by Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at a Feb 8 summit where they declared a ceasefire. A first batch of 500 prisoners, most of them minor militants, went free on Feb 21, but the release of 400 more was suspended after Islamic Jihad militants killed five Israelis in a suicide bombing on Feb 25. Today's release came amidst U.S. pressure on Israel to "shore up" Mr Abbas ahead of a planned

Palestinian parliamentary election in which his Fatah party will face a stiff challenge from the militant Islamic Hamas movement. However, Palestinians dismissed the latest prisoner release as a public relations stunt that would do little to raise Abbas's popular stature, saying Israel had refused to give them a say in who of some 8,000 inmates in total would be freed. Palestinian officials have called for a more sweeping release of long-serving security prisoners, including militant leaders, whom many Palestinians regard as fighters for freedom from Israeli occupation. -- Reuters.

Jerusalem, Jun 7 -- Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired at least three makeshift rockets at an Israeli border town today, damaging an apartment building but causing no serious casualties, the Israeli army said. Hamas, an Islamic militant group sworn to the Jewish state's destruction, claimed responsibility for the salvo on Sderot, calling it a response to a confrontation between Israeli police and Palestinians at a Muslim shrine in Jerusalem yesterday. "Any harm that befalls al-Aqsa mosque will mean an open, fierce war in all of our land of Palestine, and by all means," the Hamas military wing said in a statement. Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups have largely abided by a truce declared by President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in February. An army spokeswoman said two Sderot residents were treated for shock after a rocket hit their building. Yesterday, Israeli police faced off against Palestinians throwing rocks at Jews who visited the al-Aqsa mosque compound during Israel's annual celebration of its capture of Arab East Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East war. Two Jews were slightly injured and one Palestinian was arrested, police said. Jews revere the al-Aqsa compound as the site of two ancient temples. -- Reuters.

IVORY COAST

Abidjan, Jun 1 -- Cocoa trade in Ivory Coast's western town of Duekoue ground to a halt today after at least 41 people were killed overnight in the latest bout of ethnic bloodletting in the region. Shops and warehouses were closed, trucks locked up and workers told to go home, farmers said. An army commander said a dusk-to-dawn curfew would be imposed from 1900, UTC, today. The army and witnesses said armed men attacked local Guere villagers overnight, killing 41 of them and wounding 64. The victims were shot dead, knifed or burnt. -- Reuters.

Duekoue, Ivory Coast, Jun 2 -- Thousands of people fled a town in western Ivory Coast today after at least 55 people were killed in a massacre and revenge slayings that have inflamed tribal rivalries in the region. The violence, the worst in the West African nation for months, raised the spectre of the world's top cocoa grower slipping back into a civil war

that has killed thousands and threatened to engulf its neighbours. Ivory Coast's army and UN peacekeepers sent reinforcements to the western cocoa town of Duekoue, where scores of men, women and children from the local Guere tribe were shot, knifed and burnt to death by unidentified attackers yesterday. Hundreds of people thronged the roads out of Duekoue, their most precious belongings perched on their heads. Others piled into trucks normally used for cocoa or minivans, with the exodus picking up speed as more soldiers arrived in the town. Yesterday's massacre triggered revenge attacks against the rival Dioula tribe, with residents saying up to 11 were killed. A UN military official said 55 bodies had been found so far around Duekoue, which is at the heart of the former French colony's rich cocoa-growing region near the border with Liberia. Marcel Djahik Kani, a local official at Duekoue's town hall said he had been told 84 Guere had been killed and more than 100 injured. It was impossible to independently confirm the figure. Mamadou Kone, a Dioula, said today he had reports of 11 killed in Duekoue overnight, despite a dusk-to-dawn curfew. "Some were shot and some had their throats cut. There are spent bullets everywhere," he said. -- Reuters.

LEBANON

Beirut, Jun 2 -- A prominent anti-Syrian journalist was killed when a bomb exploded in his car in Beirut today, an attack the opposition blamed on Syria and its Lebanese security allies. The killing of columnist Samir Kassir four days after the start of Lebanon's staggered parliamentary elections shocked a country that is only just coming to terms with the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri in February. Security sources said Kassir died instantly when a bomb under the driver's seat blew up as he switched on the ignition outside his home in the Christian neighbourhood of Ashrafieh. A passer-by was injured. Several cars were damaged and windows in nearby buildings were shattered by the explosion. Interior Minister Hassan al-Sabaa said the bomb weighed 500-700 grams and was most likely detonated by remote control. Kassir, 45, was a columnist for Lebanon's leading *An-Nahar* daily who had for years urged an end to Syria's role in Lebanon. His fiery writings against Syria and the Lebanese "police state" landed him in trouble in 2001 when the Syrian-backed security services seized his passport and threatened him with arrest. He was said to have received several death threats. Syria ended its 29-year military presence in its neighbour in April under international and Lebanese popular pressure. -- Reuters.

MAURITANIA

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated Jun 5, states: No less than 18 servicemen were killed and about 20

wounded in an armed attack at a military base in Mauritania, military sources said today. An armed group put under fire the base in the Sahara Desert near the Algerian border yesterday morning. There were about 50 servicemen at the base at the attack moment. The armed forces were put on the alert, and helicopters are looking for the attackers. Mauritanian authorities believe that the Knights of Change opposition movement might be responsible for the attack. Supporters of the Knights of Change have been arrested for preparing coups in 2003 and 2004. It is also possible that the Salafist Group for Call and Combat close to Al-Qaeda perpetrated the attack. The authorities have arrested about 40 group members in the past 2 months.

NEPAL

Kathmandu, Jun 6 -- At least 25 people were feared killed in southern Nepal today after suspected Maoist rebels ambushed their bus, an army officer said. He said the attack took place in Madi village in the Chitwan district about 150 km south of Kathmandu, which is a rebel stronghold. There was no immediate claim of responsibility from the rebels. -- Reuters.

NIGERIA

Sokoto, Jun 2 -- Sunni Muslim militants killed a Shi'ite man in Nigeria's far north-western city of Sokoto, witnesses said today, describing the latest attack in a religious conflict. Rival Muslim groups have fought sporadic street battles for about two months in the Islamic city on the fringes of the Sahara desert. Residents say about a dozen people have been killed. About 100 young Sunni militants armed with machetes attacked a Shi'ite furniture store-owner at his home at night because they suspected him of financing the building of a Shi'ite compound, witnesses said. He died in hospital of multiple wounds. The death came less than a week after two attacks on the Shi'ite compound in which one person was killed and more than a dozen wounded. -- Reuters.

Sokoto, Jun 3 -- Hundreds of Sunni Muslims burned a local government office in Nigeria's far northwestern city of Sokoto tonight, defying a massive troop deployment sent to quell fighting, witnesses said. Politically charged fighting between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims has killed about a dozen people in the ancient city on the fringes of the Sahara desert in the past two months. Sunni militants, enraged that their leader was arrested for instigating violence earlier in the week, also tried to burn down a radio station, but extra troops and police deployed in the city prevented them from doing so. "The whole secretariat was totally destroyed. Only the walls were left standing," said a witness, adding that 25 cars were also burned in the local government compound. The government deployed about 500 extra

troops and riot police to guard the central mosque and other key areas of the city earlier today, ahead of Muslim prayers which are sometimes a catalyst for violence. "The government will deal with anyone caught breaking the peace and already some arrests were made. Adequate measures were taken to protect people, lives and property," Sokoto State Governor Attahiru Bafarawa said in a state-wide broadcast before the arson attack. -- Reuters. (See issue of Jun 6.)

Kano, Jun 6 -- Hundreds of armed riot police have been deployed in Nigeria's northern city of Sokoto, where Sunni protesters razed a government building in escalating violence with rival Shi'ites that could engulf the mainly Islamic region, government officials said today. Hundreds of protesters who besieged the Sokoto North local government secretariat and set it alight on Friday (Jun 3) were angered by police arrest of a Sunni cleric Umar Dan-Maishiyya, accused by the authorities of inciting violent attacks against the Shi'ite minority, Sokoto state government spokesman Mustapha Shehu said. More than a dozen people have died in Sokoto since February in tit-for-tat violence between the Sunni majority and Shi'ite minority, centred on demands by Shi'ites for access to the city's biggest mosque to preach their brand of Islam. In the past three weeks there has been fighting every Friday, the Islamic days for prayers, between the two groups at the city's main mosque as Shi'ites tried to gain access and Sunnis tried to keep them out. Sokoto State governor Attahiru Bafarawa, who is a Sunni, has attracted the anger of Sunni preachers such as Dan-Maishiyya by suggesting that Shi'ites be allowed to use the city's main mosque. Dan-Maishiyya's consequent arrest for provocative preaching sparked Friday's violence. Sokoto police commissioner, Abdul Bello, said yesterday that 20 people were arrested for Friday's violence but have yet to be charged. "We now have the situation under control," Bello said. Last week 38 people arrested for previous violence were taken to court for public order offences. -- Reuters.

PAKISTAN

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated Jun 1, states: Many shops and businesses in the Pakistani city of Karachi are closed amid fears of fresh unrest after five days of suspected sectarian violence. The hardline Islamist alliance, the MMA, called the one-day strike in protest at what it said was government failure to prevent the violence. About 30 people have died in a number of attacks across the country blamed on rivalry between Sunni and Shia Muslims. In the latest violence, about 100 Sunni Muslims rioted in eastern Karachi. Karachi's financial markets remained open but many businesses and shopping centres closed their shutters. Although many public and private transport operators kept working,

most people stayed at home and roads were largely deserted. Merajul Huda, Karachi head of one of the MMA parties, the Jamaat-e-Islami, told Associated Press: "The public has given full support to the strike against terrorism. Business in the city is closed." Police said the city was mainly tense but calm. Shia leaders had declared three days of mourning over the violence and had urged their followers to remain peaceful. However, about 100 Sunnis were reported to have burned shops and thrown stones in the eastern Malir district in protest at the death of a man allegedly killed in a shoot-out with Shias yesterday. The unrest started on Friday (May 27) when a suicide bomber in Islamabad killed 19 people and wounded nearly 100 in an attack on a shrine where hundreds of Shias had gathered. On Monday (May 30) in Karachi, five people were killed and about 20 others wounded in a suicide attack on a Shia mosque. Later the same day, six people were killed when a mob set a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet ablaze in the city. Also on Monday in Karachi, leading local MMA politician, Aslam Mujahid, was kidnapped and shot dead, although the motive was unclear. Qazi Hussain Ahmed, head of the Jamaat-e-Islami, said the violence was not sectarian but "terrorist activities carried out at the behest of the United States". Police have arrested 56 people for arson and violent attacks in the city over the past two days.

PHILIPPINES

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rebels have killed four members of the Philippine security forces on the southern island of Mindanao, breaking a cease-fire of nearly two years. An army report made public today said two of the victims were killed Sunday (Jun 5) by three newly trained recruits of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, who boarded the minibus on which the two were travelling and shot them dead. The report described the incident as a "test mission" for the new recruits, Xinhua said. In a second attack the same day, some 40 rebels attacked a farming village, abducting and later executing two militiamen. The MILF signed a cease-fire with the Philippine government in July 2003. The two sides were scheduled to meet in Malaysia next month for talks ahead of signing a peace treaty later this year to end the decades-old rebellion. The army said it would submit a protest to the joint committee that monitors the cease-fire with the MILF.

RUSSIA

London, Jun 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Seven Russian soldiers and a policeman have been killed over the past 24 hours in the Russian republic of Chechnya, a local official for the Russian-backed administration has said. Three soldiers were killed and two wounded

during one of 10 attacks against Russian military outposts and camps by Chechen separatist rebels, the official said. Another three soldiers were killed when their truck exploded after driving over a landmine before plunging into a ravine on a road linking Serjen-Yurt and Vendeno in the south of the republic. In the capital, Grozny, a Chechen policeman was killed in a clash with separatist rebels. In another firefight in the village of Cim-Cir, near Nojai-Yurt in the south-east, a Russian soldier was wounded and two rebels wounded.

SAUDI ARABIA

Riyadh, Jun 1 -- Gunmen shot and slightly wounded two Saudi policemen during a chase north of the capital Riyadh today before escaping, security sources said. They said the gunmen were in a car that approached a police checkpoint in the town of Majma'ah, 350 km north of Riyadh. The gunmen opened fire as they fled the scene, slightly wounding two policemen, the sources said. It was not immediately clear if the gunmen were Islamic militants. Pro-US Saudi Arabia, the world's largest exporter of oil, has faced a two-year campaign of attacks by supporters of Saudi-born Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda to topple the monarchy. -- Reuters.

SOMALIA

Mogadishu, Jun 7 -- At least 16 people have been killed and eight injured in separate militia clashes in two towns north of the capital, officials said today. At least 11 people died in Balli Guled village north of Mogadishu, near Galkayo, and another five were killed in heavy factional fighting in Beletweyne on Monday. In Balli Guled, militiamen from a neighbouring district attacked a group of people while they were praying yesterday, said Ali Dirie Alore, a Galkayo official said. An official from the neighbouring district of Adaado, Sharmarke Suley, denied that the militiamen from his area had started the attack and said they were defending themselves. Neither side would give a reason for the violence. In Beletweyne, 335 km north of Mogadishu, two militias fired heavy machine guns and mortars at each other in what officials in the region said was a continuing dispute over grazing rights. A child was among the five killed, and eight people were injured. Some houses were hit by mortar shells and many residents fled the town as the fighting raged late into the night yesterday. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 30 people have been killed and scores wounded in 48 hours of inter-clan fighting in two separate strife-torn regions of Somalia, witnesses and clan elders said today. The fighting in the central Galgudud region and the northern town of Beletweyne opposes rival militias in factional feuds over unsettled scores and banditry, and is not believed to be linked to disputes over the war-shattered country's

transitional government in exile, they said. Today in Galgudud, brief but intense battles between fighters from the Sa'ed and Sulemani subgroups of the Hawiye clan killed at least 12 people and wounded 18 others, said Mumin Hadji Ali, an elder from a neutral faction. After a lull of several hours, fighting between gunmen from the rival Galjeyil and Jajolo resumed today at the Beletweyne trading post about 300 km north of Mogadishu, witnesses said. Yesterday, fierce clashes there killed at least 18 people, including a child, and wounded 23, not including militiamen injured during the battle, according to Elmi Yassin, a businessman in Beletweyne who was attempting to mediate the dispute. Some witnesses said the fighting was linked to banditry, while others blamed it on long-running disputes over water and access to pastures.

Nairobi, Jun 7 -- An operation by a section of the Somali government to rid the capital, Mogadishu, of illegal roadblocks manned by armed militia began today, in a move aimed at restoring security to the war-torn city. "Many of them were removed overnight," Mohamud Jama Sifir, the deputy prime minister in the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) told IRIN from Mogadishu. "There is tremendous public support. The mood in the city is expectant, and there will be no room for those who try to resist." Government leaders who support the move said the initial stage of the exercise had been successful. A crowd forced a group of militiamen who attempted to hold on to a roadblock on one of the city's thoroughfares to abandon it, local journalist Abdullahi Muhammad told IRIN today. The decision to dismantle the roadblocks was made yesterday at a meeting of former faction leaders who are now members of the TFG in Mogadishu. Mogadishu's various factions and their militias have operated dozens of checkpoints in the city since the collapse of the administration headed by the late President Muhammad Siad Barre in 1991. Somalia has had no functioning central authority since the collapse of Barre's government. Civil war erupted in the Horn of Africa state soon after Barre was toppled as various rival factions fought for power. Since then, armed groups have used the roadblocks to extort money from residents. "They were sources for financing militias and factions," Sifir said. He added that non-political bodies such as religious groups and clans had also set other roadblocks. As part of the dismantling plan, the armed men who ran the checkpoints would now stay in designated camps and be provided with food and allowances while plans were made to demobilise them, Sifir said. Two sites in Mogadishu had already been identified, he said. The camps would accommodate the first group of about 1,400 men, and others would be opened to house an additional 1,500 ex-militiamen. So far, the

international community has not given any material support. The local community, including business and civil society groups, are expected to fund the initiative. "We are in the pre-demobilisation stage - establishing conditions for demobilisation to happen," Sifir said. Proper disbandment of militias would entail the setting up of vocational-training programmes and providing education. "It is a process that has started," he said. "The response has been beyond our expectation." -- Reuters.

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated Jun 7, states: Kenya says it is providing planes to fly home members of Somalia's government in exile, who have been in Kenya for nearly three years. Kenya's ambassador to Somalia said that final payments had been made to Somali MPs and they would be repatriated today after a party. If the Somalis do leave, it will be the first time their government has been based inside the country since 1991. In Mogadishu, Somali warlords have dismantled more than 10 out of 43 checkpoints the national security minister has said. Mohamed Khanyare Afrah, a warlord turned cabinet minister, was the first to shut down his checkpoint and his militia vowed not to return. Correspondents say more than \$40,000 are raised from tariffs paid to those manning roadblocks each day. It is the main source of income for some 20,000 militia in the city. Hundreds of people marched with Mr Jama and other ministers through the city's streets dismantling the checkpoints. A monitoring group of 30 people, including the chief of police is overseeing the dismantling process. Last month three key Mogadishu warlords, who spent years fighting each other, began to merge their militias into a joint force. Some 1,400 men have been sent to training camps outside the capital, along with dozens of battle-wagons. Businessmen in Mogadishu have pledged \$70 each month to militiamen as long as they are in the camps. Meanwhile, a delegation led by Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Ali Ghedi arrived in Jowhar today.

SUDAN

Khartoum, Jun 1 -- Sudan has called for general mobilisation of its army reserves in the eastern region bordering Eritrea to secure roads and an oil pipeline after rebels kidnapped three politicians, a local official said. Eastern rebels joined with an insurgent group from the western Darfur region to kidnap three local politicians last month on a major road in Sudan's poor east. Speaking from Port Sudan today, Governor Hatim al-Wasiyla, said the extra troops would number between 500-1,000 and would be to protect the border with Eritrea, major roads and the oil pipeline which runs to the port. Sudan produces about 320,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil. This will rise to 500,000 bpd by August. Wasiyla said the rebels

who kidnapped the politicians came from Eritrea, but said the mobilisation of reserves was not to attack Eritrea, but to defend Sudan. He said the mobilisation would continue until a new government was formed on Jul 9. -- Reuters.

TOGO

London Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Togo's President Faure Gnassingbe has named the leader of an opposition party, Edem Kodjo, as prime minister. Mr Gnassingbe earlier rejected plans for a coalition government put forward by an opposition group he defeated in a disputed election in April. Mr Kodjo, whose Patriotic Pan-African Party is not part of that opposition group, served as prime minister during the 1990s under Mr Gnassingbe's father. Mr Gnassingbe has asked Mr Kodjo to renew talks with the opposition. Negotiations for a coalition government between Mr Gnassingbe and the main opposition group broke down on Tuesday (Jun 7), with Mr Gnassingbe accusing the opposition of trying to undermine his authority by seeking greater powers for the prime minister.

TURKEY

London, Jun 5 -- Kurdish rebels have killed four Turkish soldiers in a clash in southeastern Turkey, officials said today. The clash occurred near the city of Tunceli, the Anatolia news agency reported, citing the governor's office. It was not clear when the fighting took place. Troops reinforced by planes and an attack helicopter were pursuing the guerrillas, it said. Clashes have increased since the rebels shattered a unilateral truce last year. More than 37,000 people have died in the conflict since 1984.

UGANDA

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A senior commander from the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has surrendered to the Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) at Pajimo Barracks in Kitgum district with two fighters, reported local media today. The army said Charles Okullu Bongomin defected on Tuesday (Jun 7) after the UPDF raided their hide-out at Lalak Bamboo Forest in Lukung sub-county. "All the 20 fighters Okullu was commanding fled in disarray and he was only left with two fighters. he reported with one gun and 90 bullets," army spokesman in north Lt. Tabaro Kiconco was quoted as saying. Meanwhile, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni on Tuesday urged LRA rebel leader Joseph Kony to surrender to government forces in northern Uganda or risk the onslaught of the army. Museveni assured Kony that he would receive the same fair treatment and immunity from prosecution as other former LRA commanders, such as former LRA spokesman Sam Kolo, who had surrendered to the government.

Labour Disputes



AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: Seven hundred workers who walked off the Alcan refinery expansion project at Gove in the Northern Territory two days ago are back at work. The entire G-3 construction work force stopped work on Wednesday (Jun 1) over fears they had drunk water contaminated with mercury. But independent samples taken yesterday have come back clear and the staff have returned to work. Alan Paton, from the Electrical Trades Union, says staff accept Alcan's assurance that the original test showing high mercury levels was an anomaly but say it should have been reported to staff earlier. "Our view is that it should have been reported directly to the guys and not waited six weeks for the report to come out," Mr Paton said. "If it had of been reported directly to the guys at the start I don't think the guys would have walked out the gate. "As it stands it was a safety issue, [it] wasn't communicated properly from the G-3 project management and hence the guys walked out the gate because of that." Mr Paton says a range of other safety concerns including air quality will be addressed with management in coming weeks. Site manager Doug Parrish says the two-day shut down will cost the company. Mr Parrish says the delays are regrettable.

London, Jun 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: A dispute between a worker and his supervisor flared today into a snap strike that plunged Melbourne's rail network into turmoil, stranding 40,000 passengers. Only about 20 signallers stopped work on five lines - Werribee, Cranbourne/Pakenham, Epping, Dandenong and Springvale - for half an hour between 0600 and 0800, AEST, but the strike caused cancellations and delays that rippled throughout the network. Among the victims were some of the 3000 RMIT University students sitting their exams this morning. The strike was sparked by a dispute over claims that a signal worker was denied union representation after he was threatened with disciplinary action. The Industrial Relations Commission this afternoon ordered the Rail, Tram and Bus Union to end the action and not stage any further stoppages until its staff harassment case was heard. The union agreed to comply with the order but has threatened further industrial action this week depending on the outcome of a hearing tomorrow. Train operator Connex estimated that about 40,000 travellers would have been affected, including some travelling on lines that were not directly targeted.

BOLIVIA

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

FINLAND

London, Jun 6 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A five-month-old labour dispute in the Finnish paper industry was set to continue after unions today rejected a proposal by a government mediator which had found favour with employers, Finnish news agency FNB reported. Union representatives unanimously voted against the proposal to end the conflict which has culminated in strikes by the industry's 24,000 workers and a lockout, resulting in falling production and some 40 million euros of lost earnings per day. Talks over collective agreements in the sector have stumbled over holidays and bonuses, with companies arguing that days worked at Christmas and over the summer are too costly and hinder competitiveness. Unions said today that the compromise offer did not go far enough. Two weeks ago, employers shut down 45 Finnish factories in a lockout that is to last until mid-June unless a pay dispute pitting the federation against the paper industry union is resolved. The move came a few days after an all-out strike voted by unions.

FRANCE

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Notice has been given of a 24-hour port staff strike at Lavera/Fos starting at 0600, tomorrow. If the strike goes ahead, no discharge, loading or connection operations will be possible. Vessel movements at the ports, however, will not be affected.

GREECE

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: State-run banks are closed in Greece today as bank employees are on a 48-hour strike to avert the legislative settlement the government appears ready to implement on the social security system of bank employees in case no agreement is reached through dialogue. Minister of Finance Giorgos Alogoskoufis assured that the social security rights of bank employees will be settled and talked about a single supplementary fund for the banks. Government spokesman Thodoris Rousopoulos stated that one, apart from observing, will have to make decisions as well aimed at making the social security system viable for the next generations, reiterating that the social security rights will not be affected.

ITALY

London, Jun 3 -- Italian transport unions have called a 24-hour port strike for today in protest against government policy for the sector which they argue "is shortsighted, weakens the port system, and risks leaving Italy's ports out of the market at a time when traffic volumes and competition are sharply on the rise." In a statement the unions focused

strongly on the potential threat to jobs from a policy they argued would lose Italian ports business to the advantage of rivals of northern Europe. Their broader concern at the continuing lack of investment in the ports and a decision-making process constrained by bureaucratic red tape are shared by terminal operators and shipping company clients around Italy.

KENYA

London, Jun 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Kenya's government is reportedly sending out dismissal notices to some 9,000 civil servants who went on strike demanding huge pay rises last week. Labour Minister Newton Kulundu has also ordered managers to lock out those who did not report for work on Thursday (Jun 2) and Friday (Jun 3), reports the Daily Nation paper. Meanwhile, unions have agreed to reduce their demands for a 600% wage increase. The unions are also worried over plans to retire more than 20,000 employees as part of civil service reforms. Amidst threats of the sack, last week's strike call was only partly heeded by Kenya's 120,000 civil servants. However, it appears that some people went to their offices as normal they did not do any work. However, hospitals have been badly affected and two patients have reportedly died because of a lack of nurses. The government has responded by asking retired medical personnel to report for work. The East African Standard reports that the Health Ministry has recruited at least 400 nurses and other professionals to replace striking health workers.

NETHERLANDS

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Dutch local government workers including bus and ambulance drivers, fire fighters and sanitation workers plan a one-day strike for tomorrow, curbing transport and municipal services across the country, to press for higher pay. The FNV Bondgenoten labour union, which represents about 60,000 state employees, called on members to go on strike after local governments offered a 0.6 percent annual pay increase as of Jun 1, while the union demanded a 1.25 percent increase, backdated to Jan 1. The Dutch inflation rate is 1.3 percent. The strike will stop public transport in Amsterdam from 0300, tomorrow. Rotterdam municipal transport will stop running between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Fire and ambulance services will operate only in emergencies, not for tasks such as transporting the elderly to hospital, the FNV said. Talks on pay increases broke down in May, amid government efforts to curb expenditure. The Dutch cabinet in November last year relented on plans to limit pension and insurance benefits for workers, following strikes and protest by hundreds of thousands of people against the original government program. Among last year's protests,

about 200,000 people gathered in an Amsterdam rally and transport workers went on strike.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jun 3 -- A labour union leader of the Pakistan Telecommunication Company (PTCL) said this afternoon that talks between the high-powered official committee and the PTCL workers' representatives have entered the final phase today. The government has promised to announce a relief package for employees soon, in the light of their demands to end the ongoing strike. There are about 65,000 employees of the state owned telephone utility across the country. They have not responded to any technical complaints since they went on strike. Separately, the largest cellular service provider: Mobilink, which has 6.5 million subscribers in Pakistan, has announced that due to ongoing strike of PTCL employees and an optic fiber breakdown, its subscribers are facing temporarily connectivity problem on its network -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jun 5 -- A press report, dated Jun 4, states: Workers at Pakistan's leading telecoms company have called off a nine-day strike after plans to privatise the state-run firm were postponed. The decision was taken after a meeting between union leaders and government officials yesterday. The government planned to sell off 26% of shares in Pakistan Telecommunication Company and invited bids for Jun 10, but 65,000 of PTCL's employees went on strike fearing mass lay-offs, badly hitting the country's communications. PTCL officials said a fresh date would be given for new bids after the concerns raised by unions had been looked into. New bids would be invited for Jun 30, they said, but none were willing to go on record with this date as yet. Union leaders said no new date had been mentioned in the agreement signed between the unions and the government. Analysts describe the postponement as a serious setback to the government's privatisation plans, and forecast it will hit the stock market badly when it reopens on Monday (Jun 6). Privatisation Minister Hafeez Sheikh had repeatedly said the government was determined to go ahead with the bidding.

PERU

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: Workers at Volcan Cia Minera SA, Peru's biggest zinc and lead miner, ended an eight-day strike after the company granted a bonus, a union official said. About 2,200 workers returned to work today at Volcan's Cerro de Pasco and Yauli poly-metallic mines in the central Andes after beginning a strike May 27 to demand 8% of the company's 2004 earnings, Mining Federation spokesman Jesus del Castillo said in Lima. Volcan agreed to pay workers a \$300 one-time bonus, del Castillo said.

Volcan was able to supply its clients during the strike, a company spokesman said in a phone interview in Lima. The two mines affected by the strike, which account for three quarters of the company's output, were operating at 50% capacity.

PHILIPPINES

London, Jun 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. (LC.PH) today said underground operations at its gold mine north of Manila have been halted by workers who went on strike last week due to a dispute with the company over demand for increases in daily wages for the next three years. There have been no underground operations because workers who weren't on strike were being prevented from entering the underground mine by those on strike, the mining company told the stock exchange. It said the Office of the Labor Secretary has "assumed jurisdiction" over the labour dispute to quickly resolve the stand off. Lepanto Mining, which produces around 2,000 metric tons of ore a day, is the biggest gold producer in the country.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jun 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Metrorail strike has had a definite impact on trains running in the Cape Flats, Tshwane Metropolitan and Johannesburg areas. Station platforms are deserted and angry commuters have filled station corridors at Nyanga, in Cape Town. Commuters say that those with paid-for weekly and monthly train tickets are now demanding refunds. They say no alternative transport has been arranged, as promised by Metrorail. The unions are demanding a 6.5% wage increase, while Metrorail is offering 5.5%. Striking workers are expected to march to all major stations across the country to hand over memoranda to Metrorail management. However, Metrorail says its contingency plan is working at a 100% effectiveness and that commuters are getting to work. They say the alternative transport by buses provided for commuters has delayed workers, but is getting them to work. Thandi Mlangeni, a Metrorail spokesperson, says just over 60% of workers turned up for work in the greater Johannesburg area. Trains are expected to be back on schedule by midday.

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Commuters in Cape Town had another bleak day today waiting for any available transport in cold, wintry weather, as Metrorail staff remained on strike. The dispute over pay increases between Metrorail and the United Transport and Allied Workers Union continued with no end in sight. Golden Arrow Bus Services and the various taxi groupings battled yesterday and today to cope with the sudden increase in demand. Key roads leading into and out of the city became much busier,

especially during peak hour. The union has vowed to continue strike action, threatening to throw the transport systems of most big cities into turmoil. "We want 6.5 percent, but the company is offering only 4.5 percent," said Eddie de Klerk, deputy chief secretary of the union. "Negotiations at the bargaining council have deadlocked and yesterday a court determined that our strike is legal. The company is lying when they say they are offering us 5.5 percent. They have offered 4.5 percent with a one percent performance bonus," he said. Metrorail spokesperson Thandi Mlangeni said that reports of chaos at stations in the Cape Peninsula were an exaggeration. "The service is disrupted. But our updates at 0700 hrs, are showing a very positive picture. We have identified gaps and we are trying to close these with more buses." Mlangeni said Metrorail's service was running at greater capacity than yesterday. Tshwane was running at 57 percent, Cape Town at 22 percent, up from two percent at 0500 hrs. Durban was at 81 percent. Train drivers and signal staff may take part in a demonstration outside the Metrorail offices in the city later today, Leonard Immelman, the union's Western Cape representative, announced.

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: One of the unions involved in the Metrorail pay protest called off its strike today with the second waiting for word from its members on whether to continue the strike. The United Association of South Africa (Uasa) said it had called off its strike and asked its members to return to work pending further negotiations with Metrorail. The United Transport and Allied Trade Unions (Utatu) general secretary Chris de Vos said it was waiting for a mandate for its members on whether to continue. "We can't take the decision whether to reject the 4.5 percent offer or accept it," he said. The unions were pressing for a 6.5 percent increase opposed to Metrorail's maximum offer of 4.5 percent or 5.5 percent, depending on the employee's salary. A mandate from Utatu members would take at least a day to come through. Meanwhile, the company said that on the fourth day of the strike, operations were gradually returning to normal with two thirds of striking employees back at work. At 0600 hrs, today services were over 80 percent in all regions except the Western Cape where services were reported to be at 31 percent. According to Metrorail's website buses were being provided as an alternative on some routes.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: UK railway staff have started 24 hours of strike action over the introduction of mobile ticketing machines and the threat the new technology allegedly represents to jobs. Members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union who work for One, the rail company that offers rail services to East Anglia from Liverpool Street station in London, are worried

that mobile ticketing technology will result in redundancies. In return for the introduction of mobile ticketing, the workers would like the company to deliver a one-off technology payment and set payments while the new system settles in. They have rejected an offer of a one percent increase in commission. The RMT said conductors, ticket inspectors and revenue protection members are due to go on strike on Jun 17 and Jul 15, if the disagreement is not resolved before then.

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: The number of working days lost through industrial disputes doubled last year to almost one million, official figures have shown. The actual number of stoppages fell to 130, the lowest on record, but they included massive walkouts by hundreds of thousands of civil servants protesting over job cuts and pay. More than 200,000 civil servants went on strike last November in protest at Government plans to axe jobs, which fuelled the official statistics on working days lost. There were 904,000 working days lost in 2004 compared with 499,000 the previous year, according to data from the Office For National Statistics. The figure was much higher than the annual average of 560,000 for the decade up to 2003 but considerably lower than the average of 12.9 million in the 1970s and 7.2 million in the 1980s. There were almost 300,000 workers involved in labour disputes last year, twice as many as in 2003 and including civil servants and employees in education, transport and communication. The regions with the highest number of working days lost were Scotland and Northern Ireland while the lowest were in eastern England and the South West. Most of the days lost last year were caused by pay disputes, followed by rows over redundancy, working conditions and disciplinary measures. Around 12,400 working days have been lost through strikes between January and March this year from 18 stoppages involving more than 10,000 workers.

UNITED STATES

London, Jun 6 -- A press report, dated Jun 5, states: Teamsters workers ended a two-week strike against Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc. and returned to work today after some members changed their minds and accepted a deal worked out earlier by union negotiators. About 1,650 striking drivers, packers and warehouse workers at the company's seven Los Angeles plants were seeking better wages and healthcare benefits under a proposed five-year contract. The workers are represented by four locals of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, which bargain jointly. On Thursday (Jun 2), negotiators for the four locals urged their members to ratify a contract that they said improved health benefits over the contract that expired in April. Members of three locals did. But at a fourth Local 896 members rejected the deal, 296 to 192. Picketing continued, and the three locals honoured the lines.

This morning, members of Local 896 voted again and ratified it, 277 to 70, said union spokeswoman Hilda Delgado. She said workers planned to return for the night shift tonight. No details of the contract were available. A company spokesman could not be reached for comment.

ZIMBABWE

London, Jun 9 -- A two-day opposition general strike is getting under way across Zimbabwe, called to protest at a huge number of arrests across the country's cities. It coincides with the opening of parliament by President Robert Mugabe. Police say 30,000 people have been detained, while thousands of homes and businesses have been demolished, and as many as 200,000 made homeless. Streets in the capital, Harare, appear quieter than usual, with a heavy police presence in poorer neighbourhoods. Police have warned they will deal "ruthlessly" with any street protests. A coalition of opposition groups called for people to stay at home today and tomorrow. The authorities said the security blitz was designed to clean-up Zimbabwe's urban areas, and crack down on those involved in illegally trading foreign currency and scarce foodstuffs like sugar. The sweep has been heavily criticised by church groups and opposition parties, which have combined to form the "Broad Alliance" and call the strike. Zimbabwe's main opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change, threw its weight behind the strike yesterday. The strike coincides with the state opening of parliament today, during which President Robert Mugabe is expected to announce constitutional changes that could tighten his grip on power. The UN Human Rights Commission estimates that up to 200,000 people may have been made homeless by the operation.

Awards & Settlements



AVIATION ACCIDENT, ARKANSAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: A federal jury today ordered the Little Rock National Airport to pay more than \$2.1 million to the widow of a pilot killed when his American Airlines jet crashed during a severe thunderstorm six years ago. While the National Transportation Safety Board had cited errors by Capt. Richard Buschmann, his widow Susan sued the airport in an effort to clear his name. She said the airport had a runway safety zone that failed to meet government standards. Jurors deliberated less than a half-day before ruling. They rejected the airport's argument that Buschmann contributed to his own death -- and the deaths of 10 others -- when he elected to land during bad weather. Flight 1420 sped off a

runway near the Arkansas River on Jun 1, 1999. The aircraft, still travelling about 90 mph, hit a structure supporting approach lights, broke apart and caught fire. Witnesses said the light tower was 453 feet off the north end of the runway -- shy of the government's 1,000-foot standard. After the accident, the airport reconfigured the safety area to remove obstructions.

BILLING FRAUD, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated Jun 8, states: A suburban Philadelphia hospital has agreed to pay \$4.2 million to settle a Medicare billing fraud suit brought by the federal government. Abington Memorial Hospital, a premier health care facility in Montgomery County, PA, allegedly fraudulently billed the Medicare program by more than \$1 million from 1991 to 1999. The allegations are contained in a 2003 suit filed against the hospital under the False Claims Act in the US District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The action was brought by the US Attorney's Office in Philadelphia. The FCA allows for the imposition of treble damages in cases of government contract fraud. The complaint noted that after the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare discovered the allegedly false billing in a 1994 audit, Abington did nothing to correct its billing procedures or to repay the government. In late May of this year, Abington agreed to settle the action by paying the federal government a total of \$4.2 million. The settlement agreement also calls for the hospital to hire a new compliance staff and correct its billing procedures. "The monetary settlement is significant but perhaps equally important are the steps that have been taken to ensure that the conduct in question doesn't repeat itself," Philadelphia US Attorney Patrick L. Meehan said in a statement. "The new compliance staff will conduct audits annually or more often if deemed necessary to make sure the hospital is operating with the framework of the agreement." According to the suit, Abington defrauded the Medicare and Medicaid programs on bills for outpatient laboratory testing involving blood chemistry, haematology tests and urinalysis tests. The fraud included billing under more expensive billing codes than required for fair reimbursement, double billing, billing for medically unnecessary tests and billing for phantom tests, the government said.

DEATH BY MISADVENTURE, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, datelined Chicago, Jun 2, states: The family of a sixth-grader who choked to death on marshmallows while playing a classroom game settled their lawsuit with the suburban school district for \$2 million today as the trial was in its second week. Jurors were dismissed after the attorneys announced the

deal. The parents of 12-year-old Catherine "Casey" Fish had been asking for unspecified damages. According to the family's attorney, Francis Patrick Murphy, "this case was never about money. This case has been about getting the message across to America that dangerous games should not be played in school, with or without supervision." Casey's parents believed that Glenview School District 34 and teacher Kevin Dorken were responsible for their daughters death. Dorken, who had been supervising the game, was reportedly out of the room when the children started stuffing marshmallows in their mouths, seeing who could hold the most and still say the words "chubby bunny." School attorney Thomas DiCianni had argued that Casey never really was out of teachers' supervision because the way the school's rooms are set up, other teachers were within view of Dorken's room. One of the girls who had been in the room with Casey, Elissa Henricks, now 18, had described the scene to Cook County Circuit Court jurors on Wednesday, saying Casey's lips had turned purple as she struggled to breathe. The girls ran for help and found teacher Linda Friedman in an adjacent room. Friedman testified that she found Casey lying on her side, apparently choking. Dorken walked back into the room and tried to do the Heimlich maneuver on the limp girl, Friedman said, and the school health coordinator then started CPR. Casey died a few hours later at a hospital. Murphy announced his plans to call Casey's parents and Dorken to testify. The school district's \$2 million settlement offer, to be covered entirely by insurance, came as a surprise to Murphy who said it was what the parents had asked for.

DROWNING ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Mendocino County jury has awarded more than four million dollars in damages in connection with the drowning of a 13-year-old boy in a Ukiah municipal swimming pool two years ago. The unanimous verdict was reached yesterday after less than 90 minutes of deliberation. In a pretrial agreement, the school district assumed full responsibility for the boy's death, and freed the city from any financial liability.

FAILURE TO MEET FEDERAL ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated Jun 8, states: A disabled homeowner's complaint that his condominium failed to meet federal accessibility standards has resulted in a record \$1.4 million settlement agreed to by the developers of the 221-unit high-rise. The hallway in Michael Felchlin's condo is two inches narrower than the required 36 inches. The Department of Housing and Urban Development, which negotiated

the settlement on behalf of the homeowner, a resident of The Renaissance complex in San Diego, said the money will go toward making common-area improvements and retrofitting individual units. Work will include widening doorways, lowering thresholds and expanding floor space in bathrooms for wheelchair access. The settlement, announced yesterday, stemmed from a complaint alleging violation of the federal Fair Housing Act. The law requires that multifamily housing occupied after March 13, 1991, be made accessible to people with disabilities, according to HUD. Project developer Lambert Development LLC co-operated along with contractor Roel Construction Co. and architectural firm Carrier Johnson, both of San Diego, in settling the discrimination complaint against the 2Q-year-old project. Homeowner Michael Felchlin moved into the luxury complex in December 2002, and said he filed his complaint three months later after receiving little cooperation from the developer to make what he felt were necessary fixes to his unit. Felchlin, who uses a wheelchair because of a spinal injury from an auto accident more than 30 years ago, spent \$15,000 of his own money to make his two-bedroom condo wheelchair-accessible. The work focused on major alterations to his master bathroom. He will receive \$95,000 as part of the settlement. San Diego building officials said yesterday that they were unaware there had been accessibility problems at the downtown complex and promised to review the project's plans to determine whether mistakes had been made in allowing construction. The \$1.4 million agreement is the largest "design and construction" disability settlement ever brokered by HUD as opposed to the federal court system, said Chuck Hauptman, director of HUD's regional office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity in San Francisco. Under the settlement, the developer will make roughly \$200,000 in improvements to common areas, including modifying building entrances and doors in the corridors, exercise room and public bathrooms and making the common-area kitchen and bathrooms more accessible. In addition, \$1.2 million will go toward making improvements, upon request, to individual units, such as widening doors, lowering thresholds, making lavatories accessible and reinforcing walls to allow the installation of grab bars as needed in some toilet and bathtub areas. Two-bedroom condos in the twin-tower high-rise on Front Street are currently selling in the \$800,000 range, with the asking prices of larger units exceeding \$1 million.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: In one of the biggest damages awards in Seminole

County history, jurors have ordered an obstetrician to pay \$24 million to the family of a seven-year-old Orlando girl who cannot walk or talk because of a botched delivery. Raven Shoaf suffers from a severe form of cerebral palsy. It was caused, both sides agree, when her mother began to bleed internally during her delivery at Florida Hospital Altamonte. That hemorrhage interrupted blood flow to the baby, leaving the child's brain slowly starving for oxygen. Raven cannot use her arms or legs. She has limited use of her head and neck and will never be able to talk, said her attorney, John Elliott Leighton of Miami. The defendant was the mother's obstetrician, Dr. Michael Geiling, an osteopath who practiced in Altamonte Springs and Sanford but has since moved to Porterville, Calif., where he now practices at a women's clinic. His attorney Tom Dukes said: "The case is a tragedy, but we just don't think Dr. Geiling did anything wrong," he said. "Dr. Geiling did everything he could have and reasonably should have done in the face of an emergency that he couldn't have predicted or prevented." A six-member jury heard three weeks of testimony in a Sanford courtroom, then deliberated more than six hours Saturday (Jun 4) before returning with its verdict. The suit initially named four other defendants: Florida Hospital Altamonte, where the child was delivered; Adventist Health System, the hospital's parent company; Mid-Florida OB-GYN Specialists Inc., the company that employed Geiling; and Dr. Juan Ravelo, a colleague of Geiling's at Mid-Florida.

MISLEADING STATEMENTS AND VIOLATION OF ACCOUNTING PRACTICES, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated Jun 7, states: CVS Corp. has agreed to a \$110 million settlement of a shareholders' lawsuit that accused the company of making misleading statements and violating accounting practices. The pharmacy chain filed the proposed settlement yesterday in U.S. District Court in Boston. The settlement would be the third-largest payout of a securities action in federal court in Boston, according to the agreement. CVS said today that the allegations in the lawsuit were unfounded. "We agreed to the settlement purely as a business decision, made in consultation with the company's insurers and counsel to avoid the diversion of resources and the uncertainties associated with any trial," said Douglas Sgarro, CVS' chief legal officer, in a statement. A federal judge will decide today whether to give preliminary approval to the settlement. "We believe this is an excellent recovery for the class members and avoids the risk of continued litigation," said Deborah Weintraub, lawyer for the lead plaintiff, the Plumbers & Pipefitters National Pension Fund, and an attorney with Milberg, Weiss Bershad & Schulman LLP in New York. The

lawsuit, filed in 2001, was to have gone to trial in federal court in Boston last month. The shareholders' lawsuit alleged that CVS made false and misleading statements to artificially raise its stock prices. It also accused the company of delaying accounting on merchandise discounts, counting the items' full value in its earning reports.

MISREPRESENTATION OF PRODUCT, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated Jun 2, states: Apple will offer a \$50 iPod rebate and extended service warranties to more than two million iPod customers after settling a class action lawsuit, pending final court approval. The lawsuit was brought by eight people who complained that Apple had overstated the battery life of various iPod models. Any US resident who purchased or obtained a first, second, or third generation iPod on or before May 31, 2004 is entitled to apply for compensation. The settlement could cost Apple up to \$100mn. San Francisco attorney Andrew Westley initiated the lawsuit after his iPod failed to last the eight hours that Apple advertised. Apple declined to comment, beyond confirming that it had settled the lawsuit. People who fill out a claim form are entitled to receive \$50 redeemable toward the purchase of any Apple products or services except iTunes downloads or iTunes gift certificates. Because the warranty has been extended, anyone who had battery troubles can also get their battery or iPod replaced. A California judge will rule on final approval of the settlement at a court hearing on Aug 25, but lawyers for the plaintiffs expect approval to be a formality. As many as two million people may be entitled to apply and the plaintiffs lawyers said that they have already received some 12,000 complaints.

PATENT INFRINGEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated Jun 7, states: Microsoft has been ordered to pay \$9 million for infringing a spreadsheet patent with Excel. The jury in a Californian court awarded \$8.96 million to Guatemalan inventor Carlos Amado who had sued the software giant for infringing his patent on software for linking Microsoft's Excel and Access applications through a single spreadsheet. Amado filed for a patent on the technology in 1990 and approached Microsoft with it in 1992, said Amado's attorney, Vincent Belusko. The first infringing versions of the software appeared in 1995. Amado had sought about \$400 million. The verdict yesterday covered damages up to July 31, 2003. The court now has to consider damages from August 2003 to the present, but the additional amount will probably be less than what has already been awarded, according to Belusko. Microsoft said it was reviewing the verdict and other matters related to the case. "Microsoft began developing

this technology as early as 1989. It was developed by our own engineers based on our own pre-existing technology," a spokesman claimed.

SEXUAL ABUSE, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: The relatively small Roman Catholic diocese of Covington, Kentucky, said yesterday that it has agreed to create a record-setting \$120 million fund to settle a class-action lawsuit over sexual abuse by priests. The potential payout by the northern Kentucky diocese, which has about 90,000 parishioners, is 40 percent larger than the \$85 million settlement negotiated in 2003 by the Boston Archdiocese, which has 2.1 million Catholics. The previous record was a \$100 million settlement reached by the diocese of Orange County, Calif., in December. "This is a very important and in many ways unprecedented result in an extremely difficult matter," Stanley Chesley, the lead attorney for the plaintiffs, said in a statement. But lawyers and victims' advocates said there is a fundamental difference between the Covington settlement and other large settlements across the country. The fund created by the Kentucky diocese is the maximum amount it will have to pay. Depending on how many alleged victims come forward, it may spend less than the full \$120 million. Any unused money will revert to the diocese. Under the terms of the settlement, which still must be approved by a court, claimants will be divided into four categories based on the nature and severity of the abuse they suffered. Compensation will range from \$5,000 to \$450,000, minus court-ordered attorneys' fees. Despite the size of the fund, the payments are likely to be considerably lower per person than in some other recent settlements. The 87 plaintiffs in the Orange County case, for example, will receive between \$500,000 and \$4 million each. Tim Fitzgerald, a spokesman for the Covington diocese, said the announcement was necessarily imprecise because the number of eventual plaintiffs is unknown. Only the 10 plaintiffs who originally filed the lawsuit in February 2003 have been named. But under the class-action procedure certified by a judge in October 2003, everyone who was abused as a minor by a priest or deacon in the diocese over the past 50 years is automatically a member of the class, unless they opted out of the settlement in writing before Jan 31, 2004. According to the diocese's most recent public report, it has received 205 allegations against 35 priests, nearly 10 percent of the 364 priests who have ever worked for the diocese. Sixteen of the accused priests are dead; five have been laicized, or defrocked; and 14 have been permanently removed from ministry but remain priests, the diocese said. Separately from the class-action lawsuit, the Covington diocese said this year that it had spent \$4 million from its reserves over the

past 18 months to settle 56 individual sex abuse claims. In yesterday's announcement on its Web site, the diocese said it would seek \$80 million for the compensation fund from its insurance companies and promised to sue those companies if necessary to force payment. It said the other \$40 million will come from "a combination of investments and real estate" held by the diocese, including the possible sale of its diocesan office building, a former seminary on more than 200 acres in Erlanger, Ky., about eight miles south of the city of Covington. That property, as well as two other parcels owned by the church, will initially be placed in escrow, it said.

London, Jun 5 -- A press report, dated Jun 4, states: The Seventh-day Adventist Church has agreed to pay three and a half million dollars and alter its policies to settle lawsuits filed by five men who said they were molested when they were students at a church boarding school. A spokesman for the Central California Conference of the Adventist Church, Caron Oswald, says the church was deeply saddened by the lawsuit allegations and hopes the settlements will, as he puts it, bring closure for those involved. The men claimed they were molested during the 1980s by two teachers who worked at the Monterey Bay Academy, which is near San Jose. The allegations included groping in cars off-campus, rape and liquor and drugs in the dormitories.

VIOLATION OF ANTI-TRUST LAWS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated Jun 2, states: A Minnesota jury has returned a \$12 million verdict against Mylan Laboratories Inc. in a lawsuit brought by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and three other health plans. The health-plan providers alleged that after signing an exclusive supply agreement with Mylan in 1997, the generic drug maker dramatically increased its prices on anti-anxiety drugs lorazepam and clorazepate tables, despite no significant cost increases. Blue Cross filed suit in 2001, seeking \$1.75 million in damages related to overpayment to Canonsburg, Pa.-based Mylan. Because the jury found that Mylan willfully violated antitrust law, the award may be tripled and attorneys fees added under applicable Minnesota law, Blue Cross said. "Pharmaceutical companies go to great lengths to maximize their profits, and unfortunately they sometimes cross legal boundaries," said Tom Gilde, litigation counsel for Blue Cross, in a statement. "In this case, the largest generic manufacturer in the United States cornered the market on the active ingredient for the generic versions of two popular anti-anxiety medications and then promptly raised prices by more than 2,000 percent." If the verdict is upheld, Mylan would appeal, the spokesman said. The other plaintiffs were Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, the Health Care Services Corp. (the parent company

for Blue Cross plans in Illinois, Texas and New Mexico) and Federated Mutual Insurance Co.

Railway Accidents



AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Only a limited amount of rail traffic to and from Amsterdam Central Station was possible today morning after the derailment of a freight train yesterday evening. Dutch rail operator NS said only half of its normal amount of trains were operating as efforts continued to remove the train and start repair work. A spokesman for rail network authority ProRail warned commuters of delays ranging from 30 minutes to an hour. Repair works also mean NS services will be limited until tomorrow. Five carriages of a 50-wagon goods train transporting gravel derailed at Amsterdam Central yesterday evening. There were no victims, freight company Railion said. One of the derailed carriages was hauled back onto the tracks overnight, while it was hoped the same could be done with the other four carriages during this morning. The ProRail spokesman said the derailment caused extensive damages. Overhead cabling supports will need to be replaced over six tracks, after which work can be started repairing tracks and switch points. More information about the duration of the repair works will be released later today. The freight train was en route from Amsterdam-Westhaven via Harmelen to Roosendaal, but the five carriages derailed on the west side of the roofed-section of the station shortly before 1900 hrs, yesterday. The Safety Investigation Council, the Transport Ministry's inspectorate and national police force KLPD are investigating the accident. The cause of the derailment was not immediately known.

BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: An early-morning train has derailed near Brisbane's Central Station, delaying rush-hour commuter services. A spokeswoman for Queensland Rail said the accident happened at 0536, AEST, when the bogeys from a front carriage of the Beenleigh-bound train came off the tracks as it was leaving Central. The carriage remained upright, no-one was injured and all passengers were evacuated safely. The derailment was causing delays of at least 10 minutes to all commuter trains, the spokeswoman said. An investigation is under way into how the accident happened. The train is expected to be

hoisted back onto the tracks about midday.

LOS ANGELES AREA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated Jun 8, states: A broken rail joint caused last year's freight train derailment that forced 100 people from their homes and caused \$2.7 million in damage, federal regulators concluded. The Union Pacific train went off the rails on Oct 16 because a joint that connected two, 133-pound rails failed, the National Transportation Safety Board concluded in a report adopted on May 31. Repeated inspections before the crash had failed to discover any problems in the joint bars, the agency said. "The evidence indicates that there were slowly growing fatigue cracks in both joint bars and that at least part of each fatigue crack had been visible on the lower outer portion of the bar for some time before failure," the report said. In the wake of the accident, Union Pacific re-inspected all the joint bars and found a few defective ones but nothing "systemic" that required total replacement, said John Bromley, a spokesman at the railroad. The railroad also talked to suppliers about providing stronger joints, initiated a policy that tells track inspectors how to spot the tiny cracks that could signal problems, and increased ultrasound inspections of the joints to every 90 days instead of about three times a year, Bromley said. "We certainly focused on bars and because of that, it'll make a safer railroad," he said. Because ultrasonic inspections are relatively ineffective in finding joint cracks, the railroad also is testing laser technology to do the job, he added. At least four homes were damaged but no injuries were reported when three locomotives and 11 cars derailed in a neighbourhood east of downtown Los Angeles. The train had been travelling at about 57 mph when the accident occurred. Derailed cars slammed into homes and littered back yards with debris. One boxcar went through the roof of a home. An estimated 5,000 gallons of diesel fuel spilled when the train's fuel tanks ruptured, the NTSB said. The agency said about 100 people were evacuated, although other estimates put the figure at 200. Federal, state and railroad inspectors had examined the track area several times in the weeks before the accident without finding any problems, the report said. The track "had all the inspections required. In some instances, the inspections were done more frequently than required," the report found. "Nevertheless, the inspections failed to detect the developing problems and prevent the ultimate failure." "Additionally, during the two days after the last inspection, more than 100 trains passed over the insulated joint bars without either discovering or reporting a defect," including some trains that ran on the rails after they had broken, the report concluded.

NOVOSELOVKA, ODESSA REGION, UKRAINE

Kiev, Jun 2 -- A freight train smashed into a bus at a level crossing in southern Ukraine today, killing 14 people and injuring eight. The Emergencies Ministry said four of the injured were in hospital in a serious condition. It said the driver of the bus, operating a local route to Odessa, had broken traffic rules. News reports said the crossing had no gate to keep cars off the tracks. "According to initial conclusions, the accident occurred as a result of a failure to observe traffic rules and of the derailment of the train," a ministry statement said. Officials were unable to say how many people were on board the bus when the collision occurred about 1515 hrs. The train, carrying coal, struck the bus in the village of Novoselovka. -- Reuters.

RATLAM, MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated Jun 6, states: Two passengers were killed and 22 more injured, five of them seriously, when five bogies and the engine of the Chittorgarh-Mhow express passenger train derailed near Ratlam this morning. The injured have been admitted to Ratlam Civil Hospital. The reason for the accident is yet to be ascertained. According to Western Railway Ratlam Division spokesman N K David, the accident occurred at around 1100 hrs between Ratlam and Dhoswas railway stations on the Ratlam-Jaora metre-gauge section. The train was travelling towards Mhow when the accident occurred. Rail traffic between Chittorgarh and Mhow was affected due to the derailment. The 474 Akola-Chittorgarh train was terminated at Ratlam and the 473 Chittorgarh-Akola train was also affected by the accident. Railway authorities have requisitioned the services of the fire brigade, ambulances, cranes and other equipment for rescue operations. Accident Relief Trains were also requisitioned from Ratlam and Mhow. Senior Western Railway officials, including Ratlam Division Railway Manager (DRM) Mahesh Kumar Jain, are attending the site to personally supervise the rescue and relief operations. While the reason for the accident has yet to be established, as there was no possibility of the accident being the result of a wrong signal in the area, neither over-speed nor technical error, a fault on the track is believed the most likely cause.

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Four people were injured when a passenger train derailed in Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam district this morning, just a day after a similar accident in the same area. One coach of the train, which shuttles between Poorna near Ratlam and Ajmer in neighbouring Rajasthan, slipped off the track at 0825 hrs, railway officials said. "Four passengers were injured in the accident. They have been admitted to hospital," said a senior railway

official. The condition of one woman is stated to be serious. Five coaches of Chittor-Mhow passenger train had derailed in Ratlam yesterday morning. Two people were killed and 15 injured.

Robberies & Thefts



ARTIFACTS FROM MUSEUM, BAGHDAD, IRAQ

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: Roughly half of the 15,000 items looted from the National Museum of Iraq in 2003 have been recovered, according to its director, who thanked American officials for assistance in restoring the building. Archaeologist and museum director Donny George said law-enforcement and customs officials in the United States had intercepted at least 1,000 artifacts stolen from the museum in the chaotic days after the fall of Baghdad. Another 3,000 or so artifacts have been found and secured in Jordan, Syria, Italy and other nations, said the museum director. However, he said, the governments of Iran and Turkey -- both neighbours with porous land borders -- have failed to respond to legal and diplomatic inquiries. Many stolen Iraqi artifacts or their counterfeits still are advertised on eBay and change hands through channels known to collectors. U.S. law-enforcement and customs agencies say they are on the lookout for antiquities but cannot provide current information on interceptions or prosecutions. U.S. troops, journalists and contractors returning from Iraq are among those who have been caught with forbidden souvenirs -- mostly paintings and small seals and cylinders that can be carved exquisitely and hidden easily. Mr. George said much of the thievery was done by insiders, but told The Washington Times this week that Iraqi and museum authorities have made little effort to find the culprits. The museum is trying to establish a database of the looted artifacts, in part to make them more difficult to sell. The FBI, Interpol and many museums also have put up images of the missing artifacts. In the meantime, Mr. George said, he has asked governments to document and hold on to what they intercept until Iraq is more stable. Thousands of missing pieces are presumed to be inside Iraq, where a corps of mostly untrained volunteers has been scouring markets in search of the missing antiquities. Although the museum has been fortified with tall concrete walls and welded gates that enclose the galleries, Mr. George said it is not safe to reopen the doors to visitors.

Computer Systems



"PSYME" WORM

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated Jun 3, states: Users are being warned not to open junk e-mail messages claiming Osama Bin Laden has been captured. The messages claim to contain pictures of the al-Qaeda leader's arrest but anyone opening the attachment will fall victim to a Microsoft Windows virus. Since Jun 1, anti-virus companies have been catching the junk mail messages in large numbers. Security firms fear that interest in Bin Laden's whereabouts could spark a big outbreak. Several versions of the message have been caught by anti-virus and mail-filtering firms but all bear the same fake information about Bin Laden's arrest. All versions claim that TV news channels such as CNN and the BBC will soon be reporting the arrest and showing more pictures. One version of the malicious message claims to contain pictures grabbed from a military TV channel. Another directs people to a website holding videos of the capture. Anyone opening the attachments or visiting the website will get a version of the Psyme trojan installed on their PC. James Kay, chief technology officer at Blackspider, said that the company had stopped more than a million copies of the message since it first appeared. "We've seen a lot of it overnight when the US was awake," said Mr Kay. "We kind of expected that it would be targeted at the US because of the language used in it," he said. Warnings about the fake Bin Laden arrest virus have also been issued by Panda Software and F-Secure. The vulnerability exploited by Psyme is found in Windows 2000, 95, 98, ME, NT, XP and Windows Server 2003. Users were urged to update their version of Windows to close the loophole.

Miscellaneous



AUSTRALIAN WHEAT SHIPMENTS UNDER INVESTIGATION BY IRAQ

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: There have been some positive reports overnight about three shipments of Australian wheat, rejected by Iraq almost two months ago, but while cautiously optimistic of a resolution, wheat exporter AWB says the grain has not been unloaded. The ships remain off the port of Umm Qasr. AWB spokesman Ryan Mckinlay said: "AWB is aware of comments from

the Iraqi Prime Minister's office that the test results conducted on the three vessels have indicated they are clear of iron contamination and they would be able to discharge. AWB has yet to receive official notification to commence discharge of the vessels. We are actively seeking that confirmation from the relevant Iraqi officials." AWB says it will continue to work with Iraq to get the grain unloaded.

BLOCKADE OF PORTS BY IRISH FISHERMEN

London, Jun 6 -- Ferry services have been disrupted at Rosslare Port due to a protest taking place at the port. Scallop fishermen from Kilmore Quay are blockading Rosslare and Waterford harbours. They are protesting Department of Marine restriction on scallop fishing, which the fishermen say means that instead of fishing for 250 or more days they are now down to 60-70 and therefore makes scallop fishing unviable. The protest is expected to continue for most of the day. The Isle of Inishmore crossing has arrived from Pembroke but the 0845 hrs crossing has been disrupted. Passengers are being asked to take alternative ferries from Dublin. All other Irish Ferries and Stena line sailings are unaffected.

CEMENT DISPUTE, MEXICO

Tampico, Jun 6 -- Storage ship Mary Nour is still in port at Altamira. According to the harbour-master, the situation of the vessel has not been resolved. There is no ETD programmed. -- Lloyd's Agents.

LANDSLIDE, LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated Jun 1, states: At least three people suffered minor injuries when a massive landslide in Laguna Beach sent homes crashing down the hill early this morning. The injured have been admitted to a nearby hospital. Officials say that at least a dozen million-dollar homes suffered extensive damage and crashed down the hill, while 15 other homes appeared to have suffered some minor damage. Mayor Elizabeth Pearson-Schneider confirmed that 12 homes were lost and that 15 were damaged. The rescue crew was able to evacuate most of the residents in the danger zone before the land completely gave way. As a precautionary measure, they also evacuated 40 homes closest to the damage zone. The damage took place mainly in an area called Blue Bird Canyon. The homes which crashed are believed to be worth somewhere in the region of \$1.75 million, which the mayor described as "average" for the area. The three persons who were injured have been admitted to the South Coast Medical Centre in Laguna Beach. Among them two were children, whose condition is good, while the other was a 71-year-old woman whose house was completely destroyed. She was not injured

physically but seemed to be under emotional stress, hospital spokeswoman Maggie Baumann said. One man, who managed to escape, said that his home looked like "like it buckled in the middle and broke in half. Roads were also severely damaged as a result of the landslide.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

Beijing, Jun 9 -- China has discovered a strain of bird flu that is deadly to humans, at a farm in the far western region of Xinjiang. More than 13,000 geese were slaughtered to curb its spread, the Agriculture Ministry said on today, after hundreds of dead geese were found on the farm in Xinjiang's Tacheng district and some 1,000 showed signs of illness. "The Xinjiang Veterinary Office, in accordance with animal epidemic prevention regulations, has adopted measures to seal off and sterilise the area," the ministry said in a statement. "Presently, the outbreak has been brought under control." Tests showed the cases were caused by the H5N1 virus. China last month reported an outbreak in wild birds in the northwestern province of Qinghai, prompting a vaccination campaign that extended to neighbouring regions, including Xinjiang, but experts said the latest cases were unrelated and that migratory birds in Qinghai were unlikely to have been the cause. "It's a completely separate outbreak. Birds won't be flying north at this time of year anyway. So there is absolutely no link between the two," said Lew Young, a researcher at the Mai Po Nature Reserve in Hong Kong. Hong Kong has also said it would step up surveillance of local farms and retail markets for any irregularities among the poultry population. The city, which gets much of its food from China, has not imported any live birds or poultry meat from Xinjiang, but as a precaution mainland authorities have suspended any such sales to the territory. -- Reuters.

OUTBREAK OF BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY, WORLDWIDE

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 9-year-old Holstein cow in Betsukai, Hokkaido, was diagnosed with the 19th case of mad cow disease in Japan, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare said yesterday. The cow was born in the spring of 1996, which is around the same time as many other cows infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy were born.

London, Jun 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 4-year-old Holstein cow in Shikaoi, Hokkaido, has been diagnosed with mad cow disease - the 20th case in Japan, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare said yesterday. Analysis of the meat and internal organs confirmed the diagnosis as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, as mad cow disease is formally known, the ministry said.

OUTBREAK OF NOROVIRUS ON UNITED KINGDOM-FLAGGED PASSENGER VESSEL

London, Jun 3 -- Passenger Oceana arrived and sailed Dubrovnik May 29, passed Gibraltar Jun 2 for Southampton.

PONTONOSTOS (Cyprus)

London, Jun 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: The International Transport Workers Federation will attempt to board bulk Pontonostos (16725 gt, built 1990) at Burnie port this morning following allegations of mistreatment of the seamen on board. Pontonostos, contracted by Forestry Tasmania, arrived in Burnie yesterday to load logs. An ITF inspector from Victoria will arrive in Burnie today and attempt to board the vessel and meet with the Greek workers. Maritime Union of Australia State secretary Mike Wickham claimed the workers were owed \$A105,000 in wages and some had been working 20 months without a break. He claimed there was also an issue regarding lack of proper food. He said the Greek shipping company had refused to deal with the ITF. There was a possibility last night that Burnie wharf workers would stop work and form a picket line in protest over the Greek seamen's treatment. MUA deputy secretary Jason Campbell said he suspected there would be trouble today when the ITF inspector attempted to board the vessel. Unsuccessful attempts to board were made earlier in the week in Melbourne and Hobart ports.

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: Attempts will be made today to force bulk Pontonostos being loaded with Forestry Tasmania logs, to remain docked in Burnie. The captain of the vessel denied access to delegates from the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) and the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) when they tried to board the vessel yesterday. The organisations are concerned 16 Filipino workers on board are being bullied and denied human rights. The federation says its lawyers will try to prevent the vessel from leaving the Burnie Port today. There are concerns workers are owed more than \$US80,000. Jason Campbell from the MUA says delegates want to meet the crew and check their conditions. "It's not Australian what's going on and this is happening in Australia," he said. "You know if we could gain access to the vessel and talk to the crew, which is what we've been requested to do, a lot of this could be sorted out." The ITF's Matt Purcell says the ship will be black-listed by 700 union affiliates around the world if access is denied again today. "This owner will now face a worldwide campaign against their nine vessels from their ITF affiliates worldwide," he said. Mr Purcell says the federation's lawyers will attempt to prevent the vessel from leaving port today. The Burnie Port Corporation has refused to comment on the matter.

London, Jun 3 -- The International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) has criticised the Burnie Port Authority for allowing Bulk Pontonostos to leave port, despite claims some of its workers are owed pay. The Greek ship was loaded with Forestry Tasmania logs yesterday and is now anchored at sea. Union delegates believe 16 Filipino workers on board are owed more than \$US80,000, and are not being treated humanely. ITF spokesman Matt Purcell says the ship was allowed to leave port this morning. "The harbour master in front of myself and the acting secretary of the MUA, and this port, conceded that the company was in breach of the ISPS Code - that is the security code, in not allowing the ITF to come on board," he said. "When asked about what he was going to do about it, he said he wasn't going to do anything about it. I believe that knowing the delicate situation he should have left it alongside until we could board the vessel".

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POWER FAILURE, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A major black-out has left Dubai without power since approximately 0930 hrs, today. The power cut is causing severe disruption to communications, including telephone land lines, mobile phones and e-mail. It is hoped that power will be restored later today. Other parts of the United Arab Emirates are not affected.

POWER OUTAGE, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

London, Jun 2 -- The power outage that hit the Moscow region May 25 caused an economic damage of 503 million 940 thousand roubles (£9.7 million) as of Jun 1, the regional governor's press service said today, adding that the figure was preliminary. Deputy governor Alexei Panteleyev did not rule out that it

might be revised upward "while taking into account various objective economic factors." He underlined that the individuals and companies who suffered as a result of the blackout should show a document proof of their losses. Yesterday, sources at an economic department of Moscow's Town Hall said the aggregate figure for damage, based on a week-long loss-counting, had already reached 779.3 million roubles. "This is the sum that can be proven with documents even today," the sources said, adding that city authorities will keep receiving more documents confirming the damages carried by city services and companies. Many public utilities scrambled to eliminate the consequences of the incident, so they have not documented their losses yet, as has not the Moscow refinery which says that its idling from May 25 until 30 cost it three billion roubles.

RELEASE OF TOXIC GAS, COAL MINE, HUNAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jun 8 -- Seven miners were choked to death by leaking gas in a coal mine in central China's Hunan Province at around 1100, today, according to the Hunan provincial coal mine safety administration. The seven victims were working underground when a large amount of poisonous gas suddenly filled the pit at the Zijiang Coal Mine in the city of Loudi this morning. The specific number of miners working in the shaft when the accident occurred is currently unavailable but it is thought that at least 20 are trapped inside, for reasons unknown.

Fires & Explosions



CHEMICAL STORAGE FACILITY, STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 4 -- A press report, dated Jun 3, states: One person was killed after an explosion and a massive fire burned through a chemical storage facility on Staten Island this afternoon. The two-alarm fire began at a one-storey building at 14 Van Street in West Brighton. Witnesses say they heard two explosions at a metal plating shop. An unidentified man working inside the facility was killed. "It was an accident," said S.I. Borough President James Molinaro. "They were in the process of making some type of synthetic fuel, and there was an explosion from the gases in the tank which they assumed was empty - there might have been some fumes in it - and someone put a torch to it to repair the tank or do something with the tank with a torch, and that was it." "I saw one explosion, and I felt the first one when I walked around the block to

see what was going on," said a worker at the chemical storage facility. "When I saw the second explosion the roof was blowing out of the building." Twenty-five FDNY units and 110 firefighters responded to the blaze, which sent chemicals into the air and oil onto the street. HAZMAT teams also responded to the site, but there appeared to be no cause for alarm. "Nothing hazardous is happening right now as far as hazards to the environment and the people nearby," said FDNY Chief Richard Howe.

COAL MINE, HANCHENG, SHAANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Police arrested five suspects accused of the responsibility for a deadly coal mine blast which claimed 22 lives on Apr 28 in Hancheng, in China's Shaanxi Province, according to local police today. The five suspects were accused of negligence in maintaining coal mine safety, including the legal representative of the coal mine Guo Zongwen, deputy head of the coal mine He Zongfa, deputy manager Jia Lindong, and technicians Han Yongzhang and Luo Peicai. The accident occurred at about 2115 hrs, April 28, in the Shangyukou Coal Mine, a private coal mine near Xihancun Village, trapping 32 miners working underground. Only ten people survived.

COAL MINE, LOUDI, HUNAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated Jun 8, states: An explosion in a coalmine in southern China killed 21 workers and left four missing, the government reported today. The State Administration of Mine Safety said on its web site that the blast occurred at the Zijiang Mine in Loudi, a city in Hunan province, when 224 workers were underground. It reported that 199 miners escaped to safety while 21 died. It also said that four miners were still missing and that rescue efforts were under way. The cause of the accident was under investigation.

FACTORY, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Istanbul, Jun 9 -- Six people, including one child, were killed in an explosion today at a fireworks warehouse in Istanbul, officials said. It was not immediately clear what caused the blast. At least one other person was injured, the state-run Anatolian news agency said. "We have pulled out six bodies," a fire official at the scene told Reuters. Authorities feared one other person could be dead or trapped inside the two-storey warehouse, located in an industrial area on the Asian side of Turkey's largest city, private television channel CNN Turk said on its website. Small explosions were still occurring and smoke continued to pour out of the warehouse while firemen worked to extinguish the blaze in Istanbul's Umraniye district. -- Reuters.

FACTORY, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Fire fighters have suppressed a fire at the Moscow-based Tryokhgornaya Manufactura textile factory that went on fire earlier today. "The main fire crews are already leaving the scene, while several units will continue staying at the fire site," a source at the Moscow fire-fighting service said. Experts from a fire test laboratory will establish the fire causes soon. The Moscow fire-fighting service received an alarm call that the factory's five-storied building on Rochdelskaya Street was on fire at around 1840, Moscow time. The total fire area exceeded 70 square metres, the source clarified. There are no human casualties.

FACTORY, PONTEFRAC, YORKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated Jun 8, states: Over 70 firefighters have tackled a major blaze at a sweets factory in Pontefract, West Yorkshire. They were called to the fire at the Trebor Bassett site on Ferrybridge Road shortly after 2030, BST. It is thought to have begun in a popcorn machine. Crews were drafted in from across West Yorkshire to deal with the blaze. A West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service spokesman said there were no reported injuries and no employees had been working in the factory at the time. He added: "The cause of the fire remains under investigation, but it is suspected that the popcorn machinery may have been to blame. "There is a substantial amount of damage to the single-storey building and several crews will remain there overnight to dampen down the area." The fire was brought under control at 2300, BST. The blaze was confined to the factory, which is based in the industrial estate in Monkhill Works, Ferrybridge Road.

FACTORY, THON BURI, THAILAND

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least two people died in a fire at an eight-storey factory in Prajadhipok road in Thon Buri last night. Two other women survived by climbing on to the roof and hiding from the flames in a water tank. They were later lifted to safety. The blaze started on the second floor of the Chorsiri Karnchang factory, near Ban Khaek intersection, about 1900 and spread rapidly throughout the building, police said. Firefighters took more than one hour to contain the flames. An hour later they learned that five people were still inside the building, including a 72-year-old woman. Two people were later found dead on the third floor and another person reportedly jumped to the ground. It was unclear whether the person was injured.

London, Jun 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: The seven-storey Chorsiri Karnchang factory building that caught fire in Thon Buri on Thursday night (Jun 2) may not be demolished as an initial inspection has found that its structure remains

strong, said deputy Bangkok governor Samart Ratchapolsitte yesterday. Mr Samart inspected the badly burnt building on Prajadhipok road, near Ban Khaek intersection, yesterday afternoon. He said a team of Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) and Thon Buri district inspectors found no serious damage to the building's beams and pillars. Structurally it was still sound and the cracks that had appeared were only on its plaster. The inspectors agreed that the factory had met the building durability standard which required a building to withstand two hours of intense fire, which the building did, and gave firefighters enough time to put out the blaze, Mr Samart said. However, he said, the building owner must also have an independent engineering body check the strength and weight-bearing capacity of the building before starting any reconstruction work on it. The examination should take around two weeks. Disaster prevention staff had inspected the 25-year-old building in February and recommended that the owner equip it with fire extinguishers and other safety gear, he said. Somboon Khanuengwanichakul, BMA's building control director, said the building functioned as a tanning factory on its first floor, had a mezzanine store and living rooms on the second and third floors, bedrooms on the fourth to the sixth floors, a prayer room on the seventh, and a water tank and a telecommunication antenna on the rooftop. The fire killed Surang Khanapermpool, 74, who was paralysed and bed-ridden on the second floor where the flames reportedly started. Pol Lt-Col Ekachai Pratyawuthirat of the Bang Yi Rua police station said Mrs Surang's room was found to have suffered the most damage, and police believe an electric short-circuit sparked the fire from her room. Six other dwellers in the building: the owner, his wife and children and two maids managed to escape. The building had no fire insurance and was mortgaged with a bank for 16 million baht (\$392,000), Pol Lt-Col Ekachai said.

FREJUS TUNNEL BETWEEN FRANCE AND ITALY

London, Jun 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: A truck loaded with tyres and another carrying paint caught fire along with two other vehicles today inside an Alpine tunnel between France and Italy, killing at least two people, officials and news reports said. Traffic through the 8-mile-long Frejus tunnel was halted as firefighters rushed into the passage after the fire broke out, the national highway information centre said. One victim was a truck driver who had fled his vehicle and ran about half a mile through heavy smoke toward a safety area, before collapsing, said Sylvaine Astic, a French regional official. The Carabinieri paramilitary police in Bardonecchia, Italy, said rescuers had found another body, bringing the number of dead to two. They had no

other details. Authorities said the tunnel had been fully evacuated, with only firefighters and investigators inside putting out the remnants of the blaze. An investigation of the cause was under way, with rescue teams combing through ventilation shafts between the various safety zones in the tunnel. The tyre truck was losing fuel before the fire broke out, said an official of Sitaf, the company that runs the Italian side of the tunnel, citing video filmed on one of the closed-circuit cameras inside. "You can see the diesel that is leaking from the turbo-compressor of the truck with the tyres," the Italian news agency ANSA quoted Sitaf official Ugo Jallasse as saying. "It's likely that there was a mechanical problem. The fuel ends up on the engine and goes on fire. In a moment, the vehicle is engulfed by fire," Jallasse said. The flames spread to two other vehicles within seconds, he said. "All of a sudden, I saw smoke pour into the right side of my truck," Dalibor Biksanovic, a 23-year-old Serb who was driving the tyre truck, told ANSA. ANSA quoted firefighters as saying that four vehicles had caught fire: the truck loaded with tyres, a truck loaded with paint, a van of the French tunnel company and a car. Temperatures inside the tunnel reached up to 1,300 Fahrenheit, Lt. Col. Michel Decker of the Savoie region fire brigade said. Eighteen people were evacuated to an emergency tent camp at the French entrance, and seven were treated for smoke inhalation, French officials said. The Frejus tunnel entered service in 1980, linking the French town of Modane with Bardonecchia, Italy. It features safety zones every 300 yards.

Milan, Jun 5 -- An Alpine tunnel linking France and Italy will be closed indefinitely following a 600 degree Celsius truck blaze that killed two people, Italian and French officials said today. The victims, both men, were from Slovakia and Slovenia. The fire yesterday occurred in the Frejus tunnel that cuts under the Alps. Firefighters at Frejus took seven hours to extinguish the blaze in the 13-km tunnel and officials said it would not be opened until they were sure there was no risk of the walls or ceiling collapsing as a result of the searing heat. "The closure of the Frejus tunnel should take several months," said Gilbert Santel, head of the company that manages the French side of the tunnel, adding that prior to the fire some 3,800 trucks passed through the Frejus each working day. Italian Transport Minister Pietro Lunardi said he hoped to find a "rapid solution" because of the economic impact its closure would have on Italy and France. The Frejus tunnel, one of the main road links between France and Italy, connects Lyon and Turin. Survivors said today that the fire in one truck quickly spread down the tunnel, engulfing as many as four other lorries and several cars. -- Reuters.

**GAS PROCESSING PLANT,
XINJIANG PROVINCE, CHINA**

Singapore, Jun 6 -- A blast at a PetroChina natural gas production facility feeding gas to China's West-to-East pipeline killed two people but did not disrupt gas supply, a company official said today. The cause of the blast on Friday (Jun 3) at a gas processing plant in the Kela 2 gasfield in northwestern China's Xinjiang province, is being investigated, PetroChina spokesman Mao Zefeng said. No one was injured and operations at the gas facility located at Xinjiang's Tarim oil basin will resume later this week, he said, adding that a fire sparked by the blast was doused within two hours. -- Reuters.

**GAS WELL, CROSBY, TEXAS,
UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 4 -- A press report, dated Jun 3, states: The gas well blowout near Lake Houston took an unexpected turn today when the towering fire that was gushing from the drill hole took a detour along a fissure in the ground for 300 feet and then exploded to the surface again. Gus Grossman, the Texas Railroad Commission spokesman in Houston, said capping the wildcat well will be more difficult now that it has taken an unconventional route to the surface. "It's a much worse situation now," Grossman said. "We're possibly looking at a much longer time that it may burn." He said work crews may have to drill a new well at a slant that intercepts the blowout, a task that could take 30 days. The new well would be used to "pump fluid" and plug the fissure, Grossman said. The natural gas well, which ignited Wednesday (Jun 1) and forced the evacuation of 15 families, was extinguished for a few minutes at about 1530 hrs, today when the sand from the walls of the drill hole collapsed and plugged it, Grossman said. But then the gas found a way to escape from the pipe and create a new path through a fissure in the ground and created a new release about 300 feet from the original drill hole, he said. The gas bubbling from this fissure then caught fire in the drilling pit. Flames were leaping close to 100 feet as Crosby firefighters were called back to the scene at 1700 hrs, today. Louisiana Gas Development Corp., the well's owners, earlier had released a statement detailing how sediment had partly clogged the original drill hole and reduced the flow of gas. Louisiana Gas continues to pay for evacuees to stay at a Baytown motel. The road next to the site remains closed. Harris County's Public Health and Environmental Services issued an air quality warning yesterday because of sandlike grit from the well that was dusting homes and vehicles within a five-mile radius. Public health officials issued a second alert today, warning any remaining residents that the natural gas fueling the blaze may have travelled underground and could

ignite at other locations. Health officials were also concerned that the odorless contaminant could taint nearby water sources.

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated Jun 7, states: The natural gas well that exploded nearly a week ago by Lake Houston reignited about 0520 hrs, today, 10 hours after sand had collapsed into the main drill hole and temporarily extinguished the fire. "Blowouts can be very fickle," said Gus Grossman, Texas Railroad Commission spokesman in Houston. On several occasions, the walls to the drill hole have been plugged with sand, only to later explode into another inferno. The natural gas has also seeped into fissures underground and then resurfaced as small fires in two dozen other spots within 250 feet of the main drill hole, authorities said. Louisiana Gas Development Corp. of Shreveport, La., which leased property for the wildcat well off Kennings Road in Crosby, said efforts to cap the well have been abandoned. The company plans to drill a relief well that will intercept the blowout. Mud will then be pumped in to douse the blaze. The new well will be drilled 1,500 feet from the existing one, said Gil Dujano, a Texas Railroad Commission employee. Today, workers built a road made of boards that heavy equipment can use. The wooden road is needed to avoid sinkholes, such as the one that injured a worker yesterday. The worker, whose name has not been released, was a subcontractor for Sprint Pipeline. He was expected to be released today from Memorial Hermann Hospital after being treated for first- and second-degree burns. According to Louisiana Gas, the worker was driving a bulldozer to remove the incinerated drilling rig from the site when the dozer sunk. The worker was scalded by hot fluid in the hole before he was pulled to safety, authorities said.

**PREMISES, VACAVILLE,
CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated Jun 7, states: A youthful prank that razed a vacant downtown building Sunday (Jun 5) night resulted in an estimated \$1.2 million in damage, fire officials said yesterday. The second story of the former Vacaville Community Clinic, in the 300 block of Parker Street, erupted in flames at about 1750 hrs, and quickly turned into an inferno. Huge plumes of black smoke billowed out over the city and, for several hours afterward, remained visible from the freeway as well as other parts of town. Road closures were effected at Parker and Cernon streets as firefighters battled the conflagration, which ebbed and flowed in temperamental spurts. Three youths who were trapped inside a second-story office in the burning building were rescued by an off-duty Vacaville Fire Protection District battalion chief and two civilians. The boys - two 15-year-olds and a 13-year-old - later confessed to setting the blaze and were arrested on suspicion

of arson before being released into the custody of their parents. Yesterday morning, the ravaged building continued to smolder as the scent of smoke lingered. Shortly before noon, fire crews snuffed out the last flare-up inside the establishment. An inspection revealed that the roof had collapsed in several places, exposing severely warped walls, and the upper level office space was gutted to its foundations. The building's owner was notified, Assistant Fire Marshal John Fitch said, and the \$1.2 million damage estimate merely a preliminary figure.

**REFINERY, POINTE A PIERRE,
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fire broke out at a unit of State-owned oil company Petrotrin refinery at Pointe-a-Pierre yesterday. The fire which was reported at the 4 Vacuum Distillation Unit at 1125 hrs lasted for just over an hour before it was put out, the company said. It is the main unit involved in the production of fuel oils. But there will be no immediate shortage of products as there are back up units, a company official said. All the company's operations personnel were said to be safe and there were no injuries. Cause of the fire remained a mystery up to late last night. Petrotrin said it was investigating the fire and assessing the damage.

**STONE MINE,
HUONG KHE DISTRICT,
HA TINH PROVINCE, VIETNAM**

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated Jun 2, states: Three people were seriously injured in a mining explosion in Huong Khe district central Ha Tinh province on Jun 2. The accident, caused by over use of TNT explosive, also severely damaged 60 houses, the office of the commune people's committee and the local medical station. Technicians of the Ha Tinh Road Construction Company used 600kg of TNT explosive, far surpassing the amount limit as they thought that the explosive was of poor quality to mine stone.

**WAREHOUSE, NEW YORK,
UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated Jun 7, states: A huge, fast-moving fire tore through a warehouse in the South Bronx early yesterday, destroying everything that had been stored there by about 400 people. Eight firefighters who suffered minor burns and smoke inhalation were taken to Jacobi Medical Center for treatment, the Fire Department said. The fire erupted about 1230 hrs, yesterday at the two-story brick warehouse at 495 Walton Avenue belonging to Metropolitan Security Storage. It rapidly grew to a four-alarm blaze, and 150 firefighters were needed to bring it under control, according to Michael Falotico, a deputy fire chief. The cause of the fire had not been determined as of late

yesterday, he said. "There was a heavy amount of fire when we got here," Chief Falotico said. "The problem is that it is a storage facility, so a lot of people lost everything." By early afternoon, black smoke still gushed from holes that used to be windows, while two fire trucks sprayed water at blackened walls. The twisted remains of fire escapes were evident in the ruins, and the odour of burning plastic filled the air. Remy Ismirly, 44, the warehouse owner, said that roughly 400 people in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Connecticut had left their possessions in rented space at the warehouse while they moved. Some had left their belongings only yesterday, while others have been renting space for a year or two, Mr. Ismirly said. The warehouse will be demolished, Chief Falotico said.

WILDFIRES, PORTUGAL

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: More than 200 firefighters backed by a water-dropping helicopter and nearly 60 vehicles were today battling a large wind-fueled wildfire in drought-hit Portugal, emergency services workers said. One fireman was slightly injured as he battled the blaze which began yesterday afternoon for unknown reasons near the central town of Alhada, some 200 kilometres north of Lisbon and was threatening several buildings. Firefighters evacuated 240 employees from a textile factory which had become surrounded by flames while several local residents scrambled to douse the land around their homes with water to protect them from the encroaching fire, images on state-owned television RTP showed. Portugal, which is suffering though its worst drought in decades, is currently sweltering through a heatwave. The national weather office has issued a heat warning for eight of the country's 18 regions because of forecasts that temperatures there would hover near 40 degrees Celsius over the next few days.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire burning out of control had scorched about 20,000 acres on the Nevada Test Site and Nellis Air Force range, authorities said yesterday. Lightning sparked the blaze Friday (Jun 3) near Dome Mountain, about 70 miles north-west of Las Vegas. "The fire made a pretty good run over the last couple of days, but the crews are making good progress," Kevin Oliver, Bureau of Land Management fire management officer, said in a statement. "We are hoping to have the fire contained by the weekend." More than 450 people were involved in fighting the fire on the ground and from the air. No injuries or damage to structures had been reported. Authorities said the fire was burning in remote, rocky terrain.



ACCIDENT, DUNDEE AIRPORT, SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated Jun 6, states: An instructor and trainee escaped uninjured when a light aircraft crashed through a fence at Dundee Airport after the novice got into difficulties. An instructor had to take control of the two-seater Grob 115 and attempt to land it this morning. The aircraft, which came to rest near the River Tay, was extensively damaged in the emergency landing. Tayside Police said a report on the incident would be sent to the Air Accidents Investigation Branch. The aircraft was owned by Tayside Aviation, a private air school. Managing director Lowat Fraser said: "The student pilot had been practising coming in to land, but veered off to the left near the ground and didn't manage to control the aircraft. "His instructor took over, using the dual control, and rightly took the decision to bring the aircraft down. "He was unable to prevent the aircraft from drifting off the runway and tried to bring it down on to the grass, but there was insufficient room and the plane hit a fence."

C-FCTF

London, Jun 2 -- Reported that Cessna A185E, C-FCTF, crashed at Lake Ouareau, Quebec, 1430, EDT, May 27, while en route from St-Michel-des-Saints to Lac Ouimet near Mt. Tremblant. Weather deteriorated while en route and pilot chose to land on Lake Ouareau to wait out the weather. While attempting to land in reduced visibility and glassy water conditions, pilot misjudged aircraft's height and altitude above the water, aircraft hit the water surface wing tip first and flipped. Aircraft was substantially damaged.

C-FMGJ

London, Jun 7 -- Piper PA22-150, C-FMGJ, was taking off from a private grass strip at Cyod Cold Lake, seven miles east of Alberta, when the pilot aborted the take-off shortly after lift off. C-FMGJ touched down and the nose wheel collapsed causing the aircraft to veer to the left. The main landing gear then collapsed and the aircraft sustained additional damage to the left wing tip, propeller and engine. There were no injuries to the occupants.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF COSTA RICA

London, Jun 4 -- A press report, dated Jun 3, states: A third body has been recovered in the aftermath of the crash of a plane carrying a Canadian and U.S. skydivers in Costa Rica on Tuesday (May 31). One person

survived the crash. Two people remain missing. Red Cross officials say the bodies that have been recovered have not yet been identified. The plane was owned by Milt Burton a movie stuntman who was born in Edmonton but had set up a skydiving business in Costa Rica. He had made more than 8,000 jumps. Two bodies were discovered tangled in the lines of parachutes yesterday. A third body washed ashore south of the capital, San Jose, early today. The survivor is William Slater, a 34-year-old American, who described the pilot ordering people to jump as the aircraft began to pitch and yaw in turbulence. Slater told authorities that he and two other people jumped from the plane. He spent many hours in the water and was not rescued until Wednesday (Jun 1). The others on the plane have been identified as pilot Jorge Melendez; Burton; Emanuel Sanchez Cornejo, a Mexican-born U.S. citizen, and U.S. citizens James Simplicio and Jean Roman.

CRASH, KHARTOUM, SUDAN

See ST-WAL.

CRASH, QUINTANA ROO STATE, MEXICO

Mexico City, Jun 3 -- A small plane smuggling more than a ton of cocaine from Colombia crashed in southeastern Mexico, killing two people on board, the attorney general's office said today. Mexican military and police aircraft were tailing the drug flight when they lost radar contact with it Wednesday night (Jun 1). The plane probably crashed due to bad weather, the office said in a statement. Yesterday, authorities found the crashed plane, a twin-engine turboprop, in the state of Quintana Roo with two bodies inside, one of them carrying a Colombian identification. -- Reuters.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated Jun 2, states: An Air India aircraft bound for New York and carrying 205 passengers aboard made a safe emergency landing in Romania today after reporting fire aboard, a transport ministry official said. "The Boeing 777 landed safely in Bucharest and no one aboard was hurt," said an official. He said the aircraft, which took off from Mumbai and was due to make its first stop in London, reported a small fire on board and asked for permission to land at 1510, UTC. It landed at 1555, UTC. The fire, caused by a short circuit, was put out automatically by safety equipment, the official said. He said passengers were evacuated from the aircraft that was now undergoing checks. The passengers would most likely resume their flight within one hour, he added.

EMERGENCY LANDING, JOHANNESBURG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jun 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Air Zimbabwe

aircraft made an emergency landing at Johannesburg International Airport today, South African Airways spokesperson Onkgopotse JJ Tabane said. It is reported that six passengers were injured during the landing. It appeared that there was smoke in the cockpit of the passenger aircraft. The aircraft had just arrived from Harare.

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated Jun 8, states: Two more injured people were admitted to Harmelia Clinic in Edenvale today after an Air Zimbabwe Boeing 737 made an emergency landing at Johannesburg International Airport. This brings the number of injured to five. The figure includes a seven-month pregnant woman, an epileptic and a passenger with back pains. "The two were admitted later during the day," said clinic manager Rodney van Zyl. "We have discharged three of the five people including the pregnant woman. The remaining two will be kept overnight for observation as one is suffering from a back injury." Ninety-three passengers and six crew members were evacuated this morning when the Boeing 737 from Harare made an emergency landing at the airport. F Jacqui O'Sullivan of Airports Company SA said the pilot made the landing when he noticed smoke in the cockpit. The plane was bound for Johannesburg. Passengers were evacuated immediately and six were taken to the airport clinic where three were discharged soon afterwards. The others were taken to Harmelia. The plane has been towed off the runway.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SHARJAH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Karachi, Jun 7 -- Air Arabia of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said one of its aircraft made an emergency landing at Sharjah International Airport yesterday following developing a technical fault. A spokeswoman from Air Arabia airlines told local media that the G9318 flight with fifty-five passengers on-board from Damascus was about to land at Sharjah International Airport when smoke started coming out from the rear end of the aircraft. "The incident happened at 0355, yesterday, the flight landed five minutes earlier than its scheduled time due to a technical problem that caused the emergency landing," she said. The spokeswoman said the new aircraft, an Airbus 8320, had landed safely at the airport and that everything had been under control. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

EMERGENCY LANDING, ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Thai Airways International flight had to jettison fuel above the Black Forest in southwest Germany and make an emergency landing at Zurich on Wednesday (Jun 1). Flight TG 971, an MD-11 aircraft with 169 passengers aboard, reported a malfunction with its central air data control system,

which measures air pressure and height, after departing from Zurich. The pilots asked to return to Zurich and had to dump fuel to lighten the aircraft before landing, an airport statement said. After repairs the aircraft took off again at 2040, Zurich time, on Wednesday and landed in Bangkok at 1242, yesterday. The aircraft dumped 45 tonnes of jet fuel from a height of 3,660 metres while over the Black Forest.

HK-3462

London, Jun 8 -- Douglas DC-3A, HK-3462, operator Transportes Aereos del Ariari - TARI, crash landed near Miraflores Airport, Colombia, while attempting to return to the airport following engine problems Jun 6. The aircraft was chartered by the army to fly 25 soldiers from Miraflores. The aircraft caught fire after it had been evacuated. There were no fatalities.

INCIDENT AT CHIANG KAI-SHEK AIRPORT, TAIWAN

London, Jun 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: The side door of a United Airlines Boeing 777 aircraft was torn off today when it suddenly moved away from a passenger gantry at Taiwan's Chiang Kai-shek airport, officials said. None of the 143 passengers and 11 crew on the plane - which was bound for Nagoya in Japan - were injured. "It was probably a communication problem," an airport official told reporters. An inquiry has been launched by the Aviation Safety Council into the cause of the incident.

INCIDENT AT PUNTA CANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

London, Jun 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: Passengers on board a Skyservice Airlines Inc Boeing 767 charter flight, who allege they were forced to dodge flying baggage and video monitors during a rough landing in the Caribbean last month, have filed a \$10-million class-action lawsuit against the airline. In their statement of claim, passengers allege they were "thrown around the plane like rag dolls" while touching down May 22 in Punta Cana, a resort destination in the Dominican Republic. "The landing was so violent that the plane bounced off the runway three times before coming to a stop," according to the statement of claim. The oxygen masks in the aircraft were released, while video monitors, baggage and metal containers were thrown around the cabin, injuring some of the 318 passengers. The Boeing 767's fuselage was also damaged, passengers said. The statement of claim alleges passengers suffered soft tissue injuries, bruising, abrasions, sprains and fractures, nervous shock, emotional distress and post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the landing. Statements of claim contain allegations that have not been proved. "The facts indicate that the Boeing 767 aircraft conducted a normal approach, but, for reasons presently unknown, the landing resulted in damage to the fuselage,"

Skyservice said yesterday. "The aircraft was taxied to the designated parking area where passengers deplaned in a normal manner. No injuries were reported at that time." Skyservice said a letter of apology and a travel voucher for \$500 was sent to all passengers whose addresses it had on file.

N215AA

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated Jun 4, states: A US federal court jury has ordered Little Rock National Airport to pay more than \$2.1 million to the widow of a pilot who was killed when his American Airlines McDonnell Douglas MD-82 (N215AA) crashed during a severe thunderstorm in June, 1999. Flight 1420 overran the runway hit a structure supporting approach lights, broke apart and caught fire. Witnesses said the structure was 453 feet off the north end of the runway instead of 1,000 feet which is the standard. After the accident, the airport reconfigured the safety area to remove obstructions.

N47BA

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated Jun 8, states: A jury in a \$200 million lawsuit today cleared Learjet of responsibility for the 1999 death of pro golfer Payne Stewart in a charter plane crash. The twin-engine Learjet 35 (N47BA) went down in a cow pasture in South Dakota after flying halfway across the country on autopilot, as Stewart and the four others on board apparently lay unconscious for lack of oxygen. Everyone was killed. Stewart's widow, Tracey, and their two children sued the aircraft manufacturer, claiming a cracked piece of equipment caused cabin air to escape as the aircraft climbed. Learjet argued that the aircraft lost pressure in another way, and that the aircraft was poorly maintained by Sunjet, the now-defunct Florida company that operated it. The jury deliberated for more than six hours.

N656RS

London, Jun 4 -- A press report, dated Jun 3, states: A small airplane crashed in southern Louisiana today, killing an elderly couple after the plane appeared to nose-dive into an open field. The accident occurred about 0730 hrs, in Jeanerette on the border between Iberia and St. Mary parishes, St. Mary Parish Sheriff Dave Naquin said. Naquin identified the victims as Richard Segura, 69, and Joy Segura, 71, of New Iberia. Investigators were trying to find out the plane's route. The National Transportation was expected to send investigators to the scene. Family members said the couple loved to travel in their Beachcraft Baron 55 airplane and that they were on their way to Kansas, Branson, Mo., and Arkansas when the plane crashed. London, Jun 6 -- Beechcraft Baron B55, N656RS, crashed near Jeanerette, Louisiana, at 1234, Jun 3. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

ST-WAL

London, Jun 3 -- Antonov 24B, ST-WAL, operated by Marsland, 42 people on board, crashed on take-off at Khartoum-Civil Airport at 1128, Jun 2. A fire erupted in the No.1 engine, causing severe damage to the engine and the left-hand side of the fuselage. Three fatalities.

TG-TAG

London, Jun 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: A plane went down in eastern Guatemala yesterday, injuring at least 16 Hondurans, Guatemalans and an Argentine national, two critically, authorities said. The crash occurred in Zacapa province, 95 miles (150 kilometers) northeast of Guatemala City, the capital. Few details were immediately available, but Ricardo Lemus, a spokesman for firefighters, said the aircraft was apparently carrying Honduran businessman representing the "liquor" industry in their country. "There are two in grave condition and the rest are stable," said Lemus, who said the victims were airlifted to Guatemala City for treatment. The pilot and co-pilot, as well as 11 other Hondurans were injured in the crash. Two Guatemalans and an Argentine also sustained injuries. Jaime Arimany, president of Guatemala's industrial chamber, said the Guatemalans onboard the flight told authorities the Hondurans were in this country touring "liquor-producing" facilities. The Zacapa region is a major rum producer.

London, Jun 6 -- Let 410UVP-E3, TG-TAG, operated by Transportes Aereos Guatemaltecos, 17 people on board, crashed after developing technical problems after takeoff from Zacapa Airport, Guatemala at 1600, Jun 2. Aircraft was written off as a result of the crash.

Product Recalls

**COFFEEMAKERS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Jun 2 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Whirlpool Corp., of Benton Harbor, Mich, today announced a voluntary recall of about 529,000 KitchenAid Coffeemakers. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. An internal electrical component of the coffeemaker can overheat and ignite, posing a fire hazard to consumers. Whirlpool Corp. has received 13 reports of incidents involving coffeemakers overheating resulting in minor property damage. No injuries have been reported. The recalled KitchenAid coffeemakers are black, white, red, or blue in color. They are manufactured in 10- and 12-cup models. Consumers can determine if they have one of the recalled

coffeemakers by identifying the product's model and serial numbers, which are located on a label on the bottom of the coffeemaker. The serial numbers of the affected products begin with the letters WCJ, WCK, WCL, WCM, and WCP. Sold through Catalogs, department stores, specialty retailers and on-line retailers nationwide from January 1999 through December 2004 for between \$50 and \$130. Manufactured in China. Consumers should unplug and stop using the coffeemakers immediately and contact KitchenAid for a free comparable coffeemaker model or an exchange for another KitchenAid product. Consumers should not return the coffeemaker to the retailer where it was purchased. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

GENERAL MOTORS MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 4 -- A press report, dated Jun 3, states: General Motors Corp. said today it would recall nearly 300,000 Saturn L Series sedans and wagons because of problems with brake and tail lights. The problem could make it difficult for the driver of another vehicle to realise the Saturn's brakes were being applied and lead to a rear-end crash, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said. GM, the world's largest automaker, said in some vehicles the plastic coating in the rear tail lamp assembly could become distorted if the brake light remains on for an extended period of time. It could make the brake or tail light inoperable or cause it to short circuit, leading to the failure of both brake lamps and the center, high-mounted stop lamp. The defect was found in certain 2000-2002 model years of the L-Series sedan and 2000-2004 model year L-Series wagon, potentially affecting 291,652 vehicles. The L-Series went out of production in January. GM said there has been at least 50 complaints and two crashes - but no injuries - associated with the problem. The recall is expected to begin in September. In April, 22,000 of the L-Series wagons from the 2002-2004 model year were recalled because they were built with centre and passenger side rear seat belt anchors that did not comply with U.S. and Canadian safety standards.

HAIR STRAIGHTENING IRONS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Jun 2 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Sally Beauty Company Inc., of Denton, Texas, today announced a voluntary recall of about 20,000 GVP Ceramic Hair Straightening Irons. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Manufacturer Generic Value Products, of Omaha, Neb. The heated ceramic plates on these irons can loosen and detach during use, posing a risk of burn injuries to consumers. Generic Value Products has received 38 reports of the ceramic

plate in these irons overheating and detaching from the plastic housing, including two minor skin burns from a detached plate. This hair straightening iron has a black housing with golden-colored ceramic heating plates. "Generic Value Products" is written on the top of the iron and "GVP" is written in a white circle on the side of the iron. The iron was packaged in a black and white box with the letters GVP in large type in the upper left hand front corner. The SKU is 264800, which is written on the packaging. Sold at Sally Beauty Supply stores nation-wide and Puerto Rico from Mar 21, 2005 through Apr 5, 2005 for about \$70. Manufactured in South Korea. Consumers should stop using these irons immediately and return them to any Sally Beauty Supply store for a full refund or exchange for a different straightening iron. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

HEDGE TRIMMERS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 9 -- On Jun 8, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Shindaiwa Inc., of Tualatin, Ore., announced a voluntary recall of approximately 25,000 Shindaiwa gas-powered professional hedge trimmers. The heat from the hedge trimmer's muffler can damage the fuel tank, cause a fuel leak and create a fire hazard. Shindaiwa has received 10 reports of fuel tanks leaking. Two small fires were reported, resulting in minor property damage. No injuries have been reported. Shindaiwa Gas-Powered Professional Hedge Trimmers are available in both 30-inch and 40-inch sizes. The products have red engine covers, a red fuel cap and a label on the recoil starter that reads "Professional Shindaiwa." The recall includes all single and double-sided gas-powered professional hedge trimmer models DH231 and HT231 with serial numbers 1010000 through 5050000. The serial number is printed on the engine cover. The product, manufactured in Japan, was sold at Shindaiwa dealers nationwide from January 2001 through until April 2005 for between \$389 and \$449.

KIA SEDONA MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Jun 7 -- Nearly 40,000 Kia Sedona MPVs worldwide are to be recalled. The Korean firm is concerned a potential rear wheel bearing problem could lead to structural damage of the alloy. There are no reported incidents in the UK, but the recall is thought to affect vehicles built between June and October 2004 - up to 5,500 in total.

PORTABLE DVD PLAYER BATTERY PACKS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 9 -- On Jun 8, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Mintek Digital Inc. of Anaheim, Calif., announced a voluntary recall of approximately

116,000 portable DVD player battery packs. The battery can overheat and explode while recharging, posing a burn and fire hazard to consumers. Mintek has received 10 reports of incidents, including nine cases of the battery pack overheating and/or catching fire and one report of the battery pack overheating and bursting. The recall involves battery packs used with the Mintek portable DVD players with a seven inch (diagonal) screen and model number DVD-1710. "Mintek DVD-1710" is printed on the top and bottom of the unit. The DVD player is silver and grey coloured and the battery pack is silver with a nameplate on the bottom

that is marked RB-LiP01 or RB-LiP02. Manufactured in China, the product was sold at electronic and department stores nationwide, including Best Buy, from September 2002 through until January 2005 for between \$200 and \$300.



FRANCE
See under "Labour Disputes."

ITALY
Genoa, Jun 6 -- Port situation Jun 6: Genoa: Two bulk carriers waiting for berth. Average number of days delay in berthing 12-24 hours. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting normal berths. Savona: Two vessels awaiting normal berth. Average delay in berthing 24 hours. One vessel awaiting special berth. -- Lloyd's Agents. (See also under "Labour Disputes.")

SYRIA
Lattakia, May 28 -- Delays are currently one day at Lattakia and four days at Tartous. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbott Point	06-Jun-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed; 8 vessels due by 30/6; no delays expected.
Brisbane	06-Jun-2005	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 4 vessels due by 23/6; up to 2 days delay expected.
Dalrymple Bay	06-Jun-2005	Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 24 anchored; 31 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	06-Jun-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	06-Jun-2005	Grain: 3 vessels due by 7/6, all to load wheat; 1- 2 days delay expected due to (Jun 1) berth congestion and cargo availability.
Gladstone	06-Jun-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed, 9 anchored; 26 vessels due by 27/6; up to 8 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed, 1 anchored; 4 vessels due by 25/6; up to 2 days delay at present.
Hay Point	06-Jun-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	06-Jun-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels berthed, 3 anchored; 52 vessels due by 24/6; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel berthed, 1 anchored; 19 vessels due by 27/6; no unallocated vessels; 1-4 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal, coal product problems with some shippers and cargo receipt.
Port Kembla	06-Jun-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed; 16 vessels due by 30/7; CB-1: 2 vessels due by 14/6; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Azerbaijan		
Apsheron	06-Jun-2005	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: Two vessels at berth (1 jet fuel, 1 crude oil); 4 vessels in roads (3 crude oil, 1 gasoil); 1 crude oil vessel due 6/6
Baku	06-Jun-2005	Oil products: Bay of Baku: No information; Azerneftiyag terminal: no information; Azertrans terminal: Nobel Avenue: 3 vessels due by 7/6 (2 crude oil, 1 naphtha); Sangachal District: 2 crude oil vessels due by 7/6
Brazil		
Paranagua	07-Jun-2005	Twelve vessels berthed of which 2 soya loaders, 2 pellets loaders, 2 sugar loaders, 2 reefer dischargers, 4 other loaders/dischargers; 14 vessels waiting in roads, of which 6 to load (2 pellets, 4 other vessels), 8 to discharge (6 fertiliser, 1 containers, 1 other); 28 vessels due over the next 7 days.

Port Conditions

Santos	07-Jun-2005	Eighteen vessels berthed of which 2 fertiliser dischargers, 4 sugar loaders, 1 wheat discharger, 1 bulk fuel oil loader, 1 pellets loader, 2 bulk soya loaders, 4 chemical products loaders/ dischargers, 1 Ro/Ro loader, 1 bulk sulphur discharger, 1 full container loader/discharger; 19 vessels waiting in roads; 20 vessels due over the next 7 days; Private terminals: Terminal 37: 1 full container loader/discharger; Tecondi: no vessels; Termars: 1 Ro/Ro loader/ discharger; Rodrimar: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Cosipa: 2 steel products loaders; Ultrafertil: 1 bulk sulphur discharger; Cargill: 1 bulk sugar loader; Santos Brasil: 1 full container loader/discharger; Cutrale: 1 bulk juice loader; Dow: no vessels.
Rio Grande	07-Jun-2005	Five vessels berthed of which 1 phosphate discharger, 2 soya oil loaders, 1 cellulose loader, 1 urea discharger; 6 vessels waiting in roads; 27 vessels due over the next 10 days
Sao Sebastiao	07-Jun-2005	Three vessels berthed, 2 waiting in roads; 4 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitoria	07-Jun-2005	Five vessels berthed of which 1 steel products loaders, 1 pig-iron loader, 2 granite loaders; Terminal Vila Velha: 1 malt discharger, 1 full container loader/discharger; Tubarao: 1 soya loader, 2 iron ore loaders; Praia Mole: 3 steel products loaders, 1 coal discharger; Portocel: 1 cellulose loader; Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 23 vessels due over the next 7 days.

Chile

Antofagasta	06-Jun-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 12 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Arica	06-Jun-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 12 vessels due this week.
Iquique	06-Jun-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 13 vessels due this week.
San Antonio	06-Jun-2005	Four vessels berthed, 5 berths vacant; 24 vessels due this week.
San Vicente	06-Jun-2005	Three vessels berthed, 2 berths vacant; 14 vessels due during the week; Steel pier: 1 vessel at terminal, 1 berth vacant; no vessels due this week; Coronel pier: 2 vessels at terminal, 2 berths vacant; 2 vessels due this week; Oil terminal: 1 tanker at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 1 tanker due this week.
Vancouver	06-Jun-2005	Two vessels berthed, 6 berths vacant; 2 vessels anchored; 12 vessels due this week.

Egypt

Adabiya	06-Jun-2005	Nine vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 4 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 2 container vessels; 1 tug boat.
Alexandria	06-Jun-2005	Thirty-four vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 29 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 2 tankers; 21 vessels at inner anchorage, 11 at outer anchorage; 13 vessels dry-docked.
Damietta	06-Jun-2005	Twenty-two vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 14 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 4 container vessels; 2 vessels at inner anchorage, 7 at outer anchorage.
Dekheila	06-Jun-2005	Thirteen vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 1 general cargo, 10 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 container; 1 vessel at outer anchorage.
Port Said	06-Jun-2005	Nine vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 1 passenger vessel, 8 container vessels.
Suez	06-Jun-2005	Nine vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 3 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier, 1 reefer, 4 passenger vessels; 4 tug boats
Suez Canal	06-Jun-2005	Twenty-three vessels transiting Northbound, 21 Southbound.

Georgia

Batumi	06-Jun-2005	Oil products: One vessel loading fuel oil at berth; 1 vessel in roads to load fuel oil; 7 vessels due by 16/6 of which 6 to load (3 crude oil, 1 gasoil, 1 fuel oil, 1 kerosene), 1 to discharge gasoil.
Poti	06-Jun-2005	Oil products: One vessel in roads to load gasoline; 1 vessel due 6/6 to load gasoline.
Supsa	06-Jun-2005	Oil products: One vessel in roads to load crude oil; 1 vessel due 10/6 to load crude oil.

India

Kolkata	06-Jun-2005	4 vessels operating at berth of which 2 discharging (Containers, Pulses), 2 vessels waiting to load General Cargo; 1 vessel discharging Pulses at mid stream; 1 vessel waiting (poor capacity of vessel's Derrick for discharging Logs).
Haldia	06-Jun-2005	15 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Iron Ore-2, Thermal Coal, POL), 9 vessels discharging (Mollasses, Coke-3, Fertilizer, Lime, POL, Crude, Coaltar), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth (1 to discharge, 1 to load); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 3 vessels due (Crude, Noke, Containers).
Paradip	06-Jun-2005	6 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (Chrome Ore, Chrome Concentrate), 4 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, Met Coke, NC Coal); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge.
Visakhapatnam	06-Jun-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (Iron ore, Steel & Granite, Thermal Coal), 4 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, Crude, Styn. Methnol); 11 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (8 to discharge, 2 to load, 1 to Repair); 29 vessels due (Iron ore-7, Steel, Thermal Coal, Granite Blocks, Ilmenite Sand, Soya Bean-2, Containers-3, Rock Phosphate, Styren Monomer, Coking Coal-3, Steam Coal, Steel Cargo, Timer Logs, Bentonite, Caustic Soda, Product, Crude-2).

Port Conditions

Chennai	06-Jun-2005	17 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (Granite Block, IOL), 10 vessels discharging (Trucks, HM Scrap-2, CPO, S.Scrap-3, MOP, Rock Phosphate, Coal), 5 vessels loading and discharging (Granite Blocks/Logs, Granite Blocks/Bauxite, Furnace Oil/LDO, Containers-2); 2 vessels due (IOL, S.Coal).
Tuticorin	06-Jun-2005	8 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (General Cargo, Maize, Granite, Ilminite), 4 vessels discharging (Timber Logs, Thermal Coal-2, Rock Phosphate); 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load).
Cochin	06-Jun-2005	3 vessels operating at berth and discharging (MOP, HSD, Crude); 1 vessel awaiting berth to load and discharge.
New Mangalore	06-Jun-2005	8 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Iron ore Fines-2, POL Product-2), 4 vessels discharging (MOP, Bentonite, LPG, POL Crude); 10 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 8 to load); 9 vessels due (Iron ore Fines-5, Granite Stone, Containers, POL Product, LPG)
Mormugao	06-Jun-2005	4 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (Iron Ore, Alumina), 2 vessels discharging (Furnace Oil, MOP); 2 vessels working at mid stream and loading Iron ore: 2 vessels awaiting berth (1 to load, 1 to discharge); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load Iron Ore; 4 vessels under repairs; 6 vessels due (Containers, Coking Coal, Iron ore-4).
Mumbai	06-Jun-2005	10 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading General cargo, 5 vessels discharging (General Cargo-3, POL-2); 3 vessels loading and discharging (Containers, General Cargo-2); 1 vessel (*) awaiting berth to load; 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge; 2 vessels awaiting order (1 to discharge, 1 to load); 11 vessels under repairs; 12 vessels under arrest, 18 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 17 vessels due (Containers-4, Oil, Fertilizer (RM), General Cargo-11).
J.N.P.T.	06-Jun-2005	8 vessels operating at berth of which 2 discharging (Edible Oil, SKO, HSD), 6 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth to discharge; 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge); 1 Edible Oil vessel due.
Ennore	06-Jun-2005	1 vessel operating at berth and discharging POL Product; 1 vessel loading Iron Ore at Inner Anchorage at (Port Basin); 4 vessels due.
Kandla	06-Jun-2005	15 vessels operating at berth of which 10 discharging (Timber Logs, CPO-2, Benzene, Gasotone, I.Scrap-2, DAP, Coils, Coal), 3 vessels loading (Rice, Agriculture Product, Bentonite), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load); 3 vessels due (Met Coke, Chemical, Furnace Oil)
Israel		
Ashdod	07-Jun-2005	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 11 vessels discharging at berth (8 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 5 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 15 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	07-Jun-2005	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 1 vessel due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	07-Jun-2005	No labour problems. Six vessels discharging at berth (4 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 4 vessels loading/discharging at berth (3 containers, 1 tanker); 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge, 1 car carrier vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 12 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	03-Jun-2005	Oil products: Two vessels berthed, 1 loading crude oil, 1 finished loading crude oil; 3 vessels due by 3/6, all unknown cargo.
Mozambique		
Maputo	07-Jun-2005	Seven vessels are currently in port berthed, of which 3 loading (1 bagged sugar, 1 bulk sugar, 1 aluminium), 2 discharging (1 frozen fish, 1 bulk wheat), 1 discharging/loading containers, 1 dredger; 1 ferro chrome loader due to berth 7/6; 20 vessels due by 20/6 of which 7 to load (1 aluminium, 2 ferro chrome, 2 bulk sugar, 1 cattle cake, 1 mineral coke), 6 to discharge (1 cooking oil, 1 bulk aluminium, 1 bulk maize, 1 bulk wheat, 2 petcoke), 7 to discharge/load (6 containers, 1 containers/steel)
Pakistan		
Karachi	06-Jun-2005	One rice vessel loading at berth, 5 vessels discharging at berth (1 coal, 2 general cargo, 1 DAP, 1 MOP), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 4 vessels due (2 containers, 1 logs, 1 ethanol), with no berthing delays expected.

Port Conditions

Port Qasim	06-Jun-2005	One rice vessel loading at berth, 3 vessels discharging at berth (1 canola seeds, 1 crude oil, 1 iron ore), 1 container vessel discharging/loading at QICT berth; 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 palm oil, 1 canola, 1 iron ore, 1 phosphoric acid).
Poland		
Gdansk	06-Jun-2005	Four vessels loading at berth (1 general cargo, 2 bulkers, 1 tanker), 3 vessels discharging at berth (1 coal, 1 general cargo, 1 grain); 10 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 22 vessels due.
Gdynia	06-Jun-2005	Two vessels loading at berth (1 bulker, 1 general cargo), 4 discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 2 grain, 1 bulker); 18 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 40 due.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	06-Jun-2005	Twenty-one vessels in port operating of which 16 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 scrap, 3 wheat, 2 pig iron, 1 fertiliser, 2 WRIC/coils, 1 coils, 1 steel billets, 1 bulk urea, 1 coils/steel billets, 1 oil, 1 D/O), 4 discharging (3 bulk sugar, 1 general cargo, 2 citrus), 1 discharging/loading containers; 6 vessels in roads of which 3 to load (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 pig iron, 1 D/O), 1 to discharge/load containers; 44 vessels due of which 41 to load, 3 to discharge bulk sugar; Oil terminal: 1 tanker loading crude at berth; 2 tankers in roads to load crude, 1 DO; 2 tankers due, both to load crude oil.
Slovenia		
Koper	06-Jun-2005	Port working normally. Nine vessels berthed of which 3 bulk carriers discharging ore/fertiliser, 1 bulk carrier loading grain, 1 barge loading coal, 2 vessels loading sawn timber/steel products/paper products, 1 Ro/Ro loading containers/general cargo, 1 vessel loading livestock; 18 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 5 to discharge/load containers, 3 bulk carriers to discharge coal/minerals/ore, 3 bulk carriers to load coal, 4 vessels to load sawn timber/timber products/paper products/general cargo, 2 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 1 tanker to discharge mineral oils..
Spain		
Bilbao	06-Jun-2005	Twenty-eight vessels operating (6 tankers, 22 others), of which 6 loading, 12 discharging, 10 loading/discharging
Sagunto	06-Jun-2005	Twenty-one vessels in port operating of which 12 discharging steel products, 4 loading (1 steel coils, 1 cement, 2 bulk fertiliser), 5 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	06-Jun-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. Fifteen container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 23 vessels discharging at berth (11 containers/feeders, 2 bulk palm oil, 1 bulk clinker, 1 bagged fertiliser, 1 project cargo, 1 bagged maize, 2 bulk cement, 3 general cargo, 1 bagged soya bean meal); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 3 vessels dry-docked, 1 under arrest; 1 vessel at new tanker berth; 6 vessels due (5 containers/feeders, 1 Ro/Ro), with no delays expected..
Turkmenistan		
Aladja	03-Jun-2005	Oil products: One vessel in due 3/6 to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	03-Jun-2005	Oil products: 4 vessels berthed, of which 1 loading gasoil, 1 completed loading kerosene, 1 waiting to load jet fuel, 1 discharging crude oil; 6 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 2 gasoil, 1 gasoline, 1 light gasoil, 2 unknown cargo.
Ukraine		
Ilichevsk	06-Jun-2005	Seven vessels in port operating of which 6 loading (4 steel products, 1 oil, 1 wheat), 1 other; 2 vessels in roads of which 1 to load pipes, 1 to discharge steel products; 17 vessels due of which 7 to load (5 steel products, 1 oil, 1 ferronickel), 5 to discharge steel products, 5 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	06-Jun-2005	Eight vessels in port operating of which 7 loading (2 steel, 1 fire-clay, 1 wheat, 1 sulphur, 1 coal, 1 container), 1 to discharge borix; 3 vessels in roads, all to load steel; 35 vessels due of which 32 to load (16 steel, 9 coal, 4 fire-clay, 1 kaolin, 1 sunflower beans, 1 barley), 2 to discharge equipment, 1 to discharge/load groove/steel.
Odessa	06-Jun-2005	Seventeen vessels in port operating of which 10 loading (6 metal, 1 metal/wood, 1 scrap, 1 corn, 1 ferroalloy), 6 discharging (1 citrus, 1 baggage, 1 oil, 3 sugar), 1 discharging/loading containers; 2 vessels in roads, both to load (1 metal, 1 wood); 54 vessels due of which 24 to load (21 metal, 1 scrap, 1 oil, 1 corn), 7 to discharge (2 oil, 2 sugar, 2 baggage, 1 cars), 23 to load/discharge containers.

United States

Houston, TX	06-Jun-2005	Cargill terminal: 1-2 days delay expected.
Kalama, WA	06-Jun-2005	Kalama export terminal: 4 days delay expected; United Harvest terminal: no delays expected.
Portland, OR	06-Jun-2005	All terminals and grain elevators in the Columbia River District are operating normally. There are 2 grain vessels in port, with 2 vessels loading and 2 vessels waiting at anchor.
Tacoma, WA	06-Jun-2005	Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected.

Published by Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit, part of T&F Informa plc, Sheepen Place, Colchester, Essex CO3 3LP.

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ISSN 0047 4908

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