

## Peruvian dockers in privatisation strike

Callao box terminal sell-off sparks indefinite walkout at country's ports, writes Rainbow Nelson — Wednesday June 21 2006

**P**ERUVIAN dockers have started an indefinite strike in response to government efforts to privatise container operations in the country's largest port, Callao.

Workers of the Fentenapu union walked out in ports such as Chimbote and Paita as well as Callao on Monday following the award of a concession to the Dubai Ports World consortium, Consorcio Terminal Internacional de Contenedores.

Four port specialists including DP World and the world number one container terminal specialist Hutchison Port Holdings lodged their bids at the end of last week.

Fentenapu has bitterly opposed the plan, which will see a concession awarded to build and operate a container terminal in the Muelle Sur (South Dock) area of Callao.

Under the plan, 8.3 ha of the port will be transferred into private sector hands and two-thirds of volumes currently handled by the public sector port operator Enapu will move to the new state-of-the-art facility.

DP World's Consorcio Terminal Internacional de Contenedores beat off competition from Hutchison Port Holdings, ICTSI and a joint Spanish-Peruvian consortium of Dragados and Ransa for the 30-year concession.

APM Terminals, SSA Marine and a Peruvian operator, MTC Puertos de Peru, did not bid. SSA Marine and APM Terminals were reportedly put off by maximum tariff restrictions of \$119 per teu and \$178 per feu.

While the unions have opposed the long-running privatisation, shippers and Peru's leading port group have welcomed the process.

"With the process underway, the only thing left is for the government to reach an agreement with the workers of Fentenapu with respect to the opposition of the transfer of 8.3 ha of Enapu to the winning bidder.

"The South Dock needs the area to make its operation even more efficient," said the Association of Peruvian Port Operators.

It argues that planned improvements will bring about a 50% reduction in tariffs, reduce congestion by 45% and provide large savings to shippers with the arrival of gantry cranes and new berths able to receive 4,000 teu ships.

In the first phase the new terminal will have a capacity of 600,000 teu requiring up to

four ship-to-shore gantry cranes and rubber-tyred gantry equipment. Total investment in the terminal, which when fully developed will have a size of 21.5 ha, is expected to reach \$357.5m.

Consorcio Terminal Internacional de Contenedores has committed to develop the facility in three years. Existing operator Enapu will continue to manage a public berth handling the remainder of the port's cargo.

In the long-run, volumes are set to grow from current levels of 900,000 teu to 1.3m teu on the back of improvements and ongoing economic growth in Peru. Political problems in the country have not affected its economic growth, with one of the most stable and fast-growing economies in the region.

## Prompt Paradip prevents oil slick

SWIFT action by Paradip Port Trust has saved large swathes of India's eastern coastline from a potentially devastating oil slick, in a case that has highlighted the importance of places of refuge.

The 30-year-old Indonesian vessel Tirta Niaga 1 was set to discharge 5,900 tonnes of crude palm oil at the Budge Budge oil jetty of the Kolkata Dock System.

However, it developed serious engine and technical problems, and was refused entry by the Kolkata Port Trust.

The vessel changed its course from Sandheads at the mouth of the Hooghly river, and proceeded towards Paradip port.

By the time the ship reached Paradip its condition had worsened considerably, it was listing dangerously to port and there was an imminent danger of oil leaking from it.

The Paradip port authorities swung into action, brought the ship inside the dock, had it berthed at the multipurpose jetty and made arrangements to unload the cargo.

Only after the cargo was unloaded could the ship be propped up, making it possible to undertake repairs.

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

<b>Vessel</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Flag</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>GT</b>	<b>DWT</b>	<b>Bit</b>	<b>Casualty</b>
<b>BUSAN EXPRESS</b>	container	KOR	KR	3,671	4,385	1988	In collision with <i>Jangho Grace</i> in lat 32 35.36N, long 128 48.18E, Jun 1. Proceeded to Kanmon under own power.
<b>CHILEAN REEFER</b>	refrig	DIS	BV	7,944	11,095	1992	Taken in tow of tug Toto, Jun 14, due turbo-charger problems. ETA Durban Jun 15.
<b>CONSING</b>	landing craft	PHL	—	489	—	1982	Sank while berthed at Sitio Agusuhin, in Barangay Cawag, Subic Bay, Jun 10. 400 litres fuel oil spilled. Clean-up under way.
<b>GRAND LUCKY</b>	general	KHM	—	497	1,210	1982	Grounded in lat 32 35.6N, long 128 48.3E, Jun 8. Damaged to engine-room. Oil spill observed. All crew rescued.
<b>GULFSTREAM II</b>	passenger	CAN	—	163	—	1943	Had fire in accommodation in lat 49 20N, long 123 09W. en route in Vancouver harbour, Jun 11. Fire extinguished by crew and Coast Guard firefighting boats. Towed back to berth.
<b>OCEAN D.</b>	bulker	MLT	ABS	16,465	26,780	1977	Reported Jun 12 in lat 12 17N, long 46 39E, with fire in engine-room. Three generators not working, no power and drifting. <i>MSC Namibia</i> on scene and <i>HMS Bulwark</i> proceeding. Under tow of tug <i>Wadi Hateeb</i> , Jun 14 bound Aden.
<b>SARASWATI</b>	bulker	IDN	NK	20,643	27,547	1986	Grounded in the Sunda Strait Jun 9. Damage to ballast tanks 3 and 4 starboard. Towed to Suralaya Jun 12 to discharge cargo. Towed to Merak Jun 13 for repairs.
<b>SETSUYO STAR</b>	bulker	BHS	BV	88,921	170,808	1985	Reported Jun 13 in False Bay, Cape Town, with water ingress into No.1 compartment and cracks in shell plating. Probably to be repaired where is, which will take several weeks.
<b>SHAKHDAG</b>	chem/oil tanker	MLT	RS	10,321	15,441	1999	In collision with chemical tanker <i>Willy</i> in lat 50 30N, long 00 13W, Jun 9. Sustained bow damage and proceeding to Portland. Passed Brunsbuttel Jun 12 bound Tallinn.
<b>SUPERFERRY II</b>	ro-ro	GRC	HR	4,986	1,472	1974	Sustained damage to turbocharger while departing Andros Jun 12. Arrived Rafina same day where departure prohibited until repairs/inspection.
<b>VITAFOS</b>	bulker	PAN	KR	35,378	61,970	1981	In contact with a land-building, while leaving Bremen industrial port Jun 14. Presently lying at Osterort for repairs to two damaged frames.
<b>WILLY</b>	chem tanker	GIB	GL	4,973	7,415	2003	In collision with <i>Shakhdag</i> in lat 50 30N, long 00 13W, Jun 9. Sustained damage to mid section, including crack in way of a ballast tank. Arrived Rotterdam Jun 10 for damage assessment.
<b>YARD NO.203 ODENSE</b>	container	DIS	—	93,500	105,750	—	Had fire in the wheelhouse at Odense Jun 9. All wheelhouse equipment destroyed. Fire extinguished by fire brigade and tug <i>Stevns Iceflower</i> . Delivery will be delayed.

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## The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



### ACHILLEAS (Greece)

Piraeus, Jun 14 — Tug *Achilleas* remains at Amaliapolis for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ALIOS ARTEMIS (Greece)

Piraeus, Jun 14 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Alios Artemis* arrived Keratsini Jun 2 for inspection/repairs. The vessel sailed Keratsini Jun 12 bound for Agioi Theodoroi to load, and then to proceed to Iraklion. — Lloyd's Agents.

### AURORA (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Jun 14 — General cargo *Aurora* sailed Rotterdam Jun 12.

### BELLE NAUTICA (Panama)

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A fishing vessel collided with a cargo carrier and capsized off the southwestern prefecture of Oita today, killing the fishing boat's captain, Shigenobu Hanasaki, coast guard officials said. The 4.9-ton one-man trawler *Jusho Maru* collided with the Panamanian-registered, 20-member, bulker *Belle Nautica* (17979 gt, built 2004) at around 0430 about seven kilometres east of Kunisaki, the officials of the 7th Regional Coast Guard headquarters said.

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The captain of bulker *Belle Nautica* was arrested early Sunday after his vessel capsized fishing *Jusho Maru* killing its captain, off Japan's southwestern Oita Prefecture yesterday, coast guard officials said. The 46-year-old Chinese captain, Li Lin, was arrested on charges of professional negligence resulting in death. The officials said Li is suspected of letting the *Belle Nautica* operate without an adequate watch early Saturday (Jun 10), causing the vessel to collide with the 4.9-ton trawler at around 0430 about 7 kilometres east of Kunisaki.

### BILLY STAR (Philippines)

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

### BLACK PRINCE (Bahamas)

See "Outbreak Of Virus On Bahamas Flag Vessel" under "Miscellaneous".

### BRASA (Malta)

London, Jun 8 — According to LMIU AIS, combined chemical and oil tank *Brasa* in lat 44 8 54.94N, long 28 39 46.25E, 1.3 nautical miles from Constantza, at 1301, today.

London, Jun 12 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Brasa* passed Istanbul Jun 10, bound Jeddah.

### BREEZE (Belize)

See "Poaching Vessels Arrested at Korsakov, Russia" under "Seizures & arrests."

### BRO TRANSPORTER (Sweden)

London, Jun 10 — Chemical tanker *Bro Transporter* sailed Falkenberg Jun 2.

### BUDELLI (Italy)

London, Jun 14 — Passenger ro/ro *Budelli* arrived Naples Jun 10.

### BUSAN EXPRESS (South Korea)

See *Jangho Grace*.

### CEMFJORD (Cyprus)

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC:

Timed 1748, UTC: Bulk cement carrier *Cemfjord* (1850 gt, built 1984, voyage Zwijndrecht for Goole) had engine failure on passage and vessel anchored in lat 53 42.1N, long 00 49.4W, in the River Ouse near Goole Reach. Tugs from Goole proceeding to tow vessel to Goole NIC Cement berth. The vessel has been instructed to call the Coastguard after dealing with tug arrangements and mooring.

Timed 1821, UTC: *Cemfjord* now moored in Goole Docks, assisted by a tug.

Hull, Jun 13 — Bulk cement carrier *Cemfjord* was towed to Goole Jun 9. Vessel was subsequently towed to Hull on Sunday (Jun 11) and berthed Monday. Vessel is currently undergoing repairs to a bent rudderstock, ETC unknown at present. — Lloyd's Agents.

### CHILEAN REEFER (DIS)

Durban, Jun 15 — Refrigerated general cargo *Chilean Reefer* (7944 gt, built 1992) was taken in tow Jun 14 by tug *Toto* and is due to arrive Durban today. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Chilean Reefer* was reported Jun 14 to have been taken in tow due to turbo-charger problems.)

### CICLOPE (Panama)

London, Jun 10 — Bulker with container capacity *Ciclope* arrived Portland, OR, Jun 8.

London, Jun 13 — Bulker with container capacity *Ciclope* sailed Portland, OR, Jun 9.

### CONCEL PRIDE (Nigeria)

Cadiz, Jun 15 — Product tanker *Concel Pride* still in port Algeciras. — Lloyd's Agents.

### CONSING (Philippines)

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated Jun 14, local time, states: The South Korean shipbuilding firm Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Co. has been issued with a notice of violation for last Saturday's (June 10) oil spill on Subic Bay, and fined \$5,000 (P265,150) daily until a complete clean up has been undertaken. The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority's ecology centre issued the notice yesterday. It was addressed to Hak Kon Kim,

project director for HHIC's 230-hectare shipyard on Redondo Peninsula. At least 400 litres of fuel oil spilled on the bay's water as the company's barge, landing craft *Consing* (489 gt, built 1982), sank while berthed at Sitio Agusuhin in Barangay Cawag in Subic town, SBMA ecology chief Amethya dela Llana said. De la Llana said the area, which the HHIC was using as a mooring site, belonged to the jurisdiction of the SBMA. HHIC, she said, violated the SBMA rules on prevention, containment, abatement and control of marine pollution. The rules prescribe \$5,000 as penalty for the first offense. De la Llana also ordered Hak to immediately submit an incident report, conduct cleanup and recovery operations and submit an oil spill contingency plan. The LCT, which came from general cargo *Stella Cosmos*, was transporting steel sheet piles to the construction site of Hanjin in Sitio Agusuhin when it sank. Gregorio Royol, head of SBMA seaport department's port operations division, said the oil spill covered about 1,500 square metres. "The oil spill was already enclosed by a spill boom. The vessel crew and Hanjin personnel are recovering the spilled oil using rags and rubber foams, and putting them into empty drums," he said. He said they have already sent safety officers to the site to monitor the oil spill. He said clean-up operations are being carried out. He said they were also using detergent to treat thin layers of spilled oil while additional spill booms had been installed in the area. Assessments were ongoing on the damages to corals and other aquatic resources. De la Llana confirmed that the Agusuhin area remained a fishing ground.

Manila, Jun 14 — The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Seaport Department reported that landing craft *Consing* sank at 0800, Jun 10, off Cawag town in Subic, Zambales province. The cause of the sinking is still to be determined. *Consing* had originated from the Alava Pier at the Subic Bay Freeport where it had taken on a cargo load of steel sheets and pipes for delivery to the construction site of the Hanjin Heavy Industries shipyard in Cawag town. She was awaiting her turn to unload at the Hanjin Shipyard when the master noticed she was sinking and ordered the crew to abandon ship. There were no reported deaths or injuries to the crew. The SBMA said that the sinking caused a small oil spill in the area and it had dispatched an oil containment tug to clean up the oil spill. About 400 liters of bunker fuel had escaped from the vessel, covering an area of 1,500 square meters. The SBMA is the government agency administering the former US naval base of Subic which has been converted into a freeport and free trade zone. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jun 15 — The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) reported that recovery of landing craft

*Consing's* cargo load of steel sheets and pipes is ongoing. The cargo recovery is being carried out with the use of a mobile crane positioned near the shoreline. The *Consing* is within reach of the crane as it sank only a few metres from the beach of Cawag town, Subic. SBMA authorities also said that crew of the *Consing* appears to have been able to patch up the leaks in the hull, as oil escaping from the vessel has decreased considerably. The *Consing*, an LCT (Landing Craft, Tank) built for commercial use, was at anchor off Cawag town awaiting its turn to unload when the master noticed that the vessel's bow was slowly going down and flooding was taking place in the forward deck. A vessel which was already moored at the pier gave way to allow the *Consing* to dock and unload its cargo. After having unloaded part of its cargo, the *Consing's* crew noticed that the vessel was still sinking. The master then decided to leave the pier and ran the vessel onto the nearby beach to prevent further sinking. The *Consing* is owned by Manila-based Asian Shipping Corp. but is on charter to Hanjin Heavy Industries which is building a shipyard in Cawag town and is being used to ferry construction materials from Alava pier at the Subic Bay Freeport to the shipyard construction site which can only accommodate shallow draft vessels. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### COVE (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1244, UTC: Fishing (general) *Cove* arrived safely at New Bedford yesterday.

#### DANIELLA NATIVIDAD (Philippines)

Manila, Jun 9 — The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has cleared product tanker *Daniella Natividad* for commercial operations after an inspection by its surveyors on Wednesday (Jun 7). The MARINA is the regulatory agency for the Philippine's domestic shipping industry. The *Daniella Natividad* is scheduled to leave the Navotas Fishport in Manila, today, for Batangas, to pick up a consignment of 300 metric tons of diesel. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jun 13 — Product tanker *Daniella Natividad* is now enroute to Mandaue Port in Cebu island central Philippines after loading a mixed cargo of gasoline and diesel from the Petron Refinery in Bataan. The *Daniella Natividad* left the Navotas Fishport on Friday (Jun 9) evening after having been cleared for normal operations by the Maritime Industry Authority. From Mandaue Port, the vessel will proceed to Iligan port in Mindanao to unload the rest of its cargo. From there, the vessel will return to the Petron Refinery in Bataan. Shogun Ships officials disclosed, however, that the tanker is having difficulty in maintaining its normal cruising speed. Officials suspect that the vessel's

turbochargers could be at fault. Repair men are scheduled to meet up with the vessel when it reaches Bataan. Onboard inspection and repairs will be conducted while the vessel is waiting it's turn to take on cargo from the refinery. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### DS FIESTA (Bahamas)

London, Jun 13 — General cargo *DS Fiesta* sailed Immingham Jun 10.

#### EAGLE ONE (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 9 — A press report from the United States, states: The four person crew of the fishing (general) *Eagle One* (58 gt, built 1966) was forced to abandon ship in the vessel's motorised skiff when the 65-foot commercial vessel ran hard aground on three points of rock in Auke Bay. The crew of the vessel was able to safely land their skiff on a nearby stretch of beach located on the southeast corner of Spuhn Island. Coast Guard Station Juneau launched their 27-foot S.A.F.E. boat with a rescue crew. Marine safety officials from Sector Juneau inspected the grounded vessel, and with a crew from the station, will return to the scene at the next high tide as a precaution. The on scene weather was five knot winds. The *Eagle One* was carrying 650 gallons of fuel. There were no reports of injuries or pollution.

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1010, UTC: *Eagle One* has refloated and towed to Auke Bay.

#### EIWA MARU NO.8 (South Korea)

London, Jun 14 — Non specific tanker *Eiwa Maru No.8* arrived Busan Jun 7 and sailed Jun 12.

#### FEDERAL PESCADORES (Panama)

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The owners of bulker *Federal Pescadores*, which ran aground off Fort Lauderdale almost two years ago and damaged a large swath of reef, are spending \$3.2 million to repair it, according to terms of a settlement reached with environmental regulators yesterday. Divers have been removing rubble by hand and using cement to reattach broken pieces of coral to the reef in one of the largest restoration efforts undertaken in Broward County. The vessel had just left Port Everglades on the evening of Oct 6, 2004, when it hit the reef and damaged about six acres of the environmentally sensitive habitat. More than 500 pieces of coral, including several species of star coral and brain coral, were crushed or sheared off by the vessel's impact. Rescue efforts also caused damage. Environmentalists said the repair work paid for by Moon Bright Shipping Co is a critical first step to allow the reef to begin healing. But they said decades would pass before the recovery is complete. "This allows a fresh start, but it doesn't restore the reef," said Dick Dodge, dean of Nova South-eastern University's

oceanographic centre. "It restores the reef in the sense it takes away the loose rubble that can create more damage. The capacity is there to come back, but that can take a hundred years." The settlement agreement between Moon Bright and state and local environmental regulators comprises \$3 million for restoration work and a \$200,000 fine that will be paid into a state environmental trust fund. Eric Myers, director of biological resources at the county environmental protection department, said the restoration work was largely completed and that Moon Bright's bill was in line with those paid by other shippers who have damaged the reef. Damage from the incident extended over an area running at least the 546-foot length of the vessel, with a width of as much as 200 feet. Environmental regulators wanted about 200 tons of loose rubble removed because of the potential to damage the reef further during storms or heavy surf. Divers collected the material and placed it in baskets that were taken about two miles north-east of the accident site. To repair the hard coral, Moon Bright agreed to a restoration technique that has been used in the Florida Keys as well as off California's Baja peninsula. After the grounding, divers stored the coral in protected locations. They reattached the sheared coral heads to the reef using cement that can hold even during strong storms.

#### **FLYINGCAT 3 (Greece)**

Piraeus, Jun 14 — Ferry *Flyingcat 3* remains in Piraeus port. No information regarding repairs is available. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 15 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Ferry *Flyingcat 3* (613 gt, built 1998) was permitted to continue normal scheduling on Jun 14 following inspection of the repairs to the starboard main engine, sustained May 29, and issuance of a class maintain certificate from vessel's class.

#### **FREDERICK G. CREED (Canada)**

London, Jun 15 — Research *Frederick G. Creed* arrived Halifax Jun 9.

#### **GAWIALIS (Netherlands)**

London, Jun 15 — Following received from Kiel, dated today, states: Dutch inland water craft *Gawialis*, length 90m, which had run aground on the river Main with 1500 tons diesel oil was refloated one day after the accident on Jun 1. About 500 tons diesel had been lightered before. The vessel was brought into a repair yard with a damaged rudder.

#### **GRAND LUCKY (Cambodia)**

Yokohama, Jun 9 — General cargo *Grand Lucky* (497 gt, built 1982), cargo 1,000 tonnes scrap, ran aground in lat 32 35.6N, long 128 48.3E, at 1615, Jun 8. Vessel sustained damage to engine-room and oil spill observed. All crew were rescued by Japan Coast Guard. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 9 — Following received Coast Guard Japan, timed 0705, UTC: General cargo *Grand Lucky*, XUKA7, is still aground.

#### **GULFSTREAM II (Canada)**

London, Jun 13 — Passenger (cruise) *Gulfstream II* (163 gt, built 1943) experienced a fire in the accommodation spaces, while en route in Vancouver Harbour, B.C., in lat 49 20N, long 123 09W, on Jun 11. Fire extinguished by crew, Canadian Coast Guard firefighting boats. The vessel was towed back to berth.

#### **HARAPAN SENTOSA I (Indonesia)**

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0202, UTC: Indonesian coastal vessel *Harapan Sentosa I* (168 gt) sank early yesterday morning in the position lat 01 15.7N, long 104 00.69E. Fifteen persons have been rescued. Three are missing. It is considered extremely unlikely that any salvage attempts will be made.

#### **HAWAIIAN LEADER (Bahamas)**

See "Bourgas, Bulgaria" under "Pollution".

#### **HAWK (Cyprus)**

Limassol, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Hawk* (26122 gt, built 1994), carrying bulk cement, ran into trouble two weeks ago, as it got stuck at the Lagos port harbours as a result of the low water level. The vessel was forced to berth against the advice of maritime pilots who warned that an accident could occur, should the vessel be forced to berth. A visit to the Lagos harbours where the vessel got stuck, revealed that plans to discharge the vessel of its content had to be suspended as the agent has waited for another three days for the water level to rise before it can properly berth and discharge. Sources close to the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) disclosed that pilots had to use a tug boat to push the vessel, whose draft was put at about ten metres while the draft of the Apapa port channel is about nine and half metres, making it impossible for the vessel to berth under normal circumstances. It was learnt that the pilot had to bring in the vessel because if he had refused to do that, he would have been reported to the management of the Ports Authority as to be demanding money from the agent before bringing in the vessel. This, the agent Vanguard further learnt, could lead to the sacking of the pilot. Efforts to get comments from both the Public Affairs Department and the Lagos Channel Management Company (a subsidiary of NPA in-charge of the management of the Ports Authority water channels), was futile, as Mr Chris Borha, Assistant General Manager of the Public Affairs was said to be out of town. Vanguard's effort to speak with the Captain of the vessel was also abortive, as he could not understand a word of English. A source close to the harbours'

department disclosed that 48 hours after the vessel ran aground, a few tons of its content were evacuated to allow the vessel to get afloat. The source also disclosed that the vessel will have to go for checks so as to carry out every necessary repairs on the damage it might have sustained. (Note — *Hawk* was reported arriving Apapa-Lagos May 28 from Hoping.)

#### **HESTIA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Jun 15 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: General cargo *Hestia* completed repairs and sailed for Rotterdam at about 1400, local time, Jun 14.

#### **HYUNDAI FORTUNE (Panama)**

London, Jun 9 — London-listed Goldenport Holdings is spending more than \$40m acquiring two containerships, including the charred remains of c.c. *Hyundai Fortune*. The purchase of the 3,007 teu c.c. *Bengal Sea* and c.c. *Hyundai Fortune*, which has a nominal intake of 5,551 teu, represent significant deals for Goldenport over and above expansion. Goldenport is paying \$13m for *Hyundai Fortune* after emerging as the winner in a tender held by Hyundai Marine & Fire and Insurance for the sale of the badly damaged vessel. The company said repairs to *Hyundai Fortune*, partly destroyed by a cargo fire in March, would start immediately with the vessel expected to become operational in 14 to 18 months. Goldenport chief executive Paris Dragnis said *Hyundai Fortune* was "an exciting project perfectly suited" to the company's expertise in maintaining and operating secondhand vessels. Capt Dragnis added: "After the completion of repairs we will take delivery of an extensively renovated vessel at a total cost which we believe will be materially below market value".

#### **IZVORUL MARE 1**

Bucharest, Jun 8 — Understand that while floating crane No 682, owned by United Shipping Agency SRL, Constantza, was being manoeuvred at Constantza by pusher tug *Izvorul Mare 1*, reportedly owned by Canal Service Constantza, the crane's boom contacted a portal crane belonging to stevedoring company Minmetal SA at berth no. 64/65 at about 1245, Jun 8. The portal crane subsequently collapsed onto the floating crane and *Izvorul Mare 1*, resulting in the sinking of the tug. The incident also caused injuries and deaths, although the exact numbers are not presently known. — Lloyd's Agents.

Edinburgh, Jun 8 — At approximately 1300, local time, Jun 8, Danube pusher "Izvoru Mare 1" was pushing a floating crane, within the port of Constanta, when they collided with a bridge. The pusher sank immediately. Six people are believed to have died, four from the pusher and two on the bridge. — Danube Research.

Edinburgh, Jun 9 — Five persons died, another four were injured, while one remained blocked in the cabin of a loading-unloading bridge which collapsed, further to a naval accident which occurred yesterday in Constanta Port. The accident happened at 1230, in the wharfs 64-65 of Constanta Port. According to Neculai Coman, first deputy of the chief of Constanta Emergencies Inspectorate, four workers died as a result of the accident. Valentin Serbanescu, deputy director of the Romanian Naval Authority, declared that the accident occurred when a floating crane was pushed by pusher tug *Izvorul Mare 1*. The arm of the floating crane reached the arm of a fixed crane. In that moment, the loading-unloading bridge crashed over the floating crane and the tug-boat which sank. On the bridge which collapsed there were nine persons, two of them dying instantly. Another two sailors were found dead in the tug-boat. According to Stefanescu another two persons remained stuck in the engine-room of the fixed loading-unloading bridge, from where divers were trying to take them out. One of them was found dead. Five workers who were on the bridge survived, four of them being badly injured and taken to Constanta County hospital, where they were admitted with numerous traumas and broken bones. — Danube Research.

Bucharest, Jun 12 — Understand negotiations in view of wreck removal of pusher tug *Izvorul Mare 1* are under way between Romanian Naval Authority, Constantza Harbour Master, Minmetal SA, owners of the portal crane, United Shipping Agency, owners of the floating crane no. 682 and Canal Services SRL, operators of *Izvorul Mare 1*, on one hand, and the local representative office of Multraship Towage & Salvage on the other hand. A further meeting between the aforesaid parties would reportedly take place at Constantza today. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **JANGHO GRACE (South Korea)**

Yokohama, Jun 9 — General cargo *Jangho Grace* (1257 gt, built 1985) and container carrier *Busan Express* (3671 gt, built 1988) were in collision in lat 34 24.7N, long 130 09.2E, at 0200, Jun 1 and as a result *Jangho Grace* sank, however, its nine crew were rescued by a Japan Coast Guard patrol vessel. *Busan Express* sailed for Kanmon under own power. No injuries or oil spill was observed. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Jangho Grace* has sailed Shikama May 30 for Masan. *Busan Express* sailed Busan May 31, arrived Moji Jun 1, sailed same day arrived Hiroshima same day, sailed Jun 2 and next reported to have sailed Moji Jun 4 for Busan.)

#### **JOSEF MOBIUS (Germany)**

London, Jun 15 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Hopper dredger *Josef Mobius* (5939 gt, built 1974), which was under repair at Lloyds Yard after leakage in

May, was back in service on Jun 9. It left Bremerhaven via the northern lock at 2200, with destination North Sea. (Note — *Josef Mobius* arrived Bremerhaven May 18.)

#### **JUSHO MARU (Japan)**

See *Belle Nautica*.

#### **KARIM I (Cambodia)**

Bucharest, Jun 12 — Salvors righted the wreck of general cargo *Karim I* on keel/upright yesterday with the assistance of tActive *King*, owned by Active Venture IV.KS. Norway / J. Hagenaes Shipping AS Norway and managed by Grup Servicii Petroliere of Constantza. Salvors are presently in preparations for refloating of *Karim I*. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **KIRAN ASYA (Turkey)**

London, Jun 12 — Following received from Coast Guard Coast Guard Manila, timed 1630, UTC: Bulker *Kiran Asya* (39327 gt, built 1997) which grounded in lat 07 06N, long 117 52.37E, on "Jun 10" has been refloated. Vessel is now in vicinity of grounding site and a Coast Guard vessel is enroute to investigate.

Manila, Jun 13 — Reported that a cargo ship of Turkish registry ran aground approximately 35 miles north-west of Mipun Island, Tawi-Tawi, on Jun 10. The report said that bulker *Kiran Asya*, which was loaded with nickel cargoes was enroute to Singapore from Malaysia when it ran aground. All 28 Turkish crewmembers were unhurt. The Philippine Coast Guard are to conduct an underwater inspection to determine if the vessel has sustained any bottom damage and also to provide security to the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 13 — Understand bulker *Kiran Asya* refloated by its own means Jun 13.

London, Jun 13 — A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage report, dated Jun 12, states: A salvage team of SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage Singapore assisted in the refloating operations executed to free the grounded bulker *Kiran Asya*, loaded. The vessel had run aground at the northern Borneo coast more than a week earlier. A salvage team of SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage's Singapore office was dispatched immediately on request of the owners/underwriters after which the vessel was refloated on the morning high tide at about 0735, local time, Jun 11 after some weight redistribution operations.

Manila, Jun 14 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that bulker *Kiran Asya* was able to free itself from its grounded position Jun 11. The vessel using its own power and taking advantage of the high tide pulled free from the shallows off Mapun Island, Tawi Tawi in southern Philippines. The vessel was refloated with the assistance of Philippine Coast Guard search and rescue vessel *Nueva Vizcaya* which provided security and technical assistance. After *Kiran Asya* moved to deeper waters, a team of

Coast Guard divers conducted an underwater inspection. The divers reported no damage to the hull of the vessel. Following the underwater inspection, she was allowed to proceed on voyage to Singapore. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **LIBERTY EAGLE (U.S.A.)**

Chittagong, Jun 15 — Bulker *Liberty Eagle* sailed for Karachi at 1042 hs, Jun 9. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **LIN I (Panama)**

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

#### **LODBROK (Sweden)**

Stockholm, Jun 12 — Repairs to crane barge *Lodbrok* are expected to be completed end of July, beginning of August. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **LONG FU (Panama)**

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The Thu Thiem ferry terminal in downtown Ho Chi Minh City came to a standstill yesterday after general cargo *Long Fu* (10208 gt, built 1980) struck its landing jetty. *Long Fu* ran into the floating wharf of the terminal, which is located next to the Me Linh Square in District 1, at around 1040 hrs while going adrift possibly due to loss of control. The entire floating structure was driven 15 metres away from its anchor. The accident also caused damage to two ferries that were lying at anchor in the Saigon River without any passengers on board. Nguyen Viet Son, deputy director of the HCMC Service of Communications and Public Works, which called a press conference after the incident, said there were no casualties reported. The ferry service between the city's downtown area and Thu Thiem Peninsula in District 2 could only resume by Jun 20, he said. Already-heavy traffic on the Saigon Bridge has become heavier as it is now the only way to go between the city center and District 2. Normally 200-230 ferry crossings transport around 40,000 passengers a day with total revenue of VND32 million (US\$2,000). The authorities are urgently evaluating the damage and mapping out a plan to repair the jetty, Son said, adding the repair cost was forecast at VND8.8 billion (US\$550,000). The Service of Communications and Public Works will cover the repair cost pending compensation by the owner of *Long Fu*, which is being detained by the HCMC Port Authority. According to the HCMC Port Authority, the insurer of the ship will send staff to the city to assess the damage caused in the next few days. Son said the city waterway police and port authority launched a probe into the accident.

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: Ferry traffic across the Saigon River came to a halt yesterday when general cargo *Long Fu* struck a wharf in District 1, forcing thousands of passengers on the Thu Thiem peninsula to find an alternative route. The vessel was being pushed upstream from Ho Chi

Minh City port by two tugs when it started drifting toward Thu Thiem Wharf, where passengers were waiting to board a ferry bound for District 2, said Tran Ngoc Binh Phuong, who works at the wharf and witnessed the mishap. "Although the ship was being towed by the two tugs, it suddenly changed course from the stern, broke free from the ropes and crashed violently into the wharf," he said. The ship also hit two ferries moored on a nearby embankment before coming to a stop, although neither was seriously damaged. "I started the engine and quickly left the wharf heading for the opposite bank when I saw the ship drifting toward the wharf, which clearly threatened the safety of our passengers," said captain Dang Van Mui of the Thu Thiem Ferry C. The violent impact collapsed the pillars on the 20 metre pier. An engineer inspecting the damage said it would take 20 to 25 days to repair the structure, which he said weighs about 100 tonnes. Traffic police and local port authorities said an investigation into the accident was already underway, while the Thu Thiem Ferry Company refused to speculate on when their operations would resume.

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A ferry wharf in Ho Chi Minh City which is undergoing repairs after general cargo *Long Fu* crashed into it will resume limited operations on Jun 21. Ta Thi Hong Tam, director of the city's Ferry and Bridge Maintenance Company, said the Thu Thiem wharf on the Saigon River would begin to berth ferries carrying a limited number of pedestrians, motorbikes, and cars. It would take another two to three months before the wharf returned to its normal 40,000-passenger daily capacity. The wharf was completely destroyed last Wednesday (Jun 7) when the vessel rammed it after losing control. The dock's loss of revenues from the mishap is estimated at over dong 80 million (\$5,000) daily.

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Vietnamese state-owned company has sued a Chinese company, demanding VND11.4 billion (US\$712,500) in compensation as the latter's ship, general cargo *Long Fu*, had struck a Ho Chi Minh City's ferry wharf. The Ho Chi Minh City Ferry and Bridge Maintenance Company filed the lawsuit at the local People's Court today against the Long Phu Shipping SA as its vessel had rammed into the Thu Thiem wharf last Wednesday Jun 7). The company has also asked the court to seize the vessel pending trial. Earlier, Nguyen Viet Son, deputy director of the city's transport department put the damage at around VND8.8 billion (US\$550,000). Meanwhile, the wharf is being repaired and expected to resume limited operations by Jun 21. However, it would take another two to three before the ferry dock returned to its normal capacity. Loss of revenues from the mishap is estimated at over VND80 million (\$5,000) daily.

#### **LONGOBARDA (Italy)**

London, Jun 15 — Chemical tanker *Longobarda* arrived Augusta Jun 13.

#### **MALITAM (Philippines)**

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

#### **MARIAM EXPRESS (Panama)**

London, Jun 14 — On Jun 10, MENAS Operations permanently marked the wreck of Roll On Roll Off *Mariam Express*. The wreck is hazardous to navigation and is located in a major shipping route some 14 nautical miles west of Hamriyah in lat 25 27.377N, long 55 06.227E. Mariners are requested to navigate with utmost caution in the area. The buoy is located close north of the bow of the wreck.

#### **MARIETTE LE ROCH (France)**

London, Jun 12 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 1754, UTC: Fishing (general) *Mariette le Roch*, FVDX, (297 gt, built 1984), with nine crew on board, in lat 55 19N, long 05 21W, at 1519, UTC, Jun 11 when it advised they had had an engine failure and required a tug. At 1910, UTC, vessel was in lat 55 24.4N, long 05 18.4W, 2.8 miles south of Arran. Vessel was inbound Troon with approximately 30 tonnes of fish on board, Urgency broadcast action was initiated and tug *Red Empress* proceeding from Troon with ETA 2030, UTC. Scottish Fishery Protection vessel *Jura* ETA also 2030, UTC. Campeltown lifeboat on scene established a temporary tow in an attempt to hold the vessel in position until *Jura* and *Red Empress* arrived. Tow was taken over by *Red Empress* and headed for Troon, ETA 0040, UTC, escorted by *Jura*. Campeltown lifeboat released. The tow by *Red Empress* continued uneventfully to Troon where vessel was safely secured at 0109, UTC, Jun 12. Later: Understand *Mariette le Roch* will leave Troon tomorrow in tow of a sistership for France.

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

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated Jun 12, states: Passengers on passenger ro/ro *Massachusetts* (99 gt, built 1988) were evacuated after the boat's engine caught fire today in Quincy Bay. According to the Coast Guard, she was carrying 65 people and five crew members at the time of the fire. The boat was headed to Hingham from Rose Wharf. Passengers were transferred to ferry *The Laura* and brought to the Hingham Ship Yard. Officials say the boat pulled up next to *Massachusetts* and everyone was pulled off the burning vessel. The boat fire was put out by a vessel firefighter shortly after 1730 hrs, and according to officials, there are no reports of injuries. The Coast Guard is investigating the incident.

London, Jun 13 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, times 0150, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Massachusetts* has been dewatered

and anchored awaiting towage. Commercial tug on scene awaiting decision where to tow vessel for repairs/survey.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: Passenger ro/ro *Massachusetts* left Rowe's Wharf in Boston Harbor around 1600 hrs and the flames were spotted shortly after. The crew quickly worked to ensure that all 63 passengers got off safely. "As soon as they saw any smoke they put everybody on the upper deck, they made them put their life jackets on, they asked for assistance to get the people off and they didn't open the engine-room door, because they didn't know what was there and they didn't want to take that chance," said Bill Spence of Mass Bay Lines. The passengers and five crew members were transferred onto another ferry and continued on to Hingham. The fire is under investigation and a different ferry was going to be put in to service for today's commute.

London, Jun 14 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1345, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Massachusetts* has been towed to Boston.

#### **MB 54 (U.S.A.)**

London, Jun 13 — A Coast Guard Tampa press release, dated today, states: Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg is trying to find the owner of 60-foot work barge *MB 54* (75 gt, built 2005) that struck the northbound lanes of the Howard Frankland Bridge, Interstate 275, at about 0230 today. It is believed that the barge broke free of its moorings due to the high winds and seas of tropical storm "Alberto". Officials are working to find the owner of the barge and remove the barge from causing further damage to the bridge. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Florida Highway Patrol and the Tampa Police Department are working together to assess the damage. The bridge is now open to traffic with only the right lane closed for bridge workers. The barge is carrying no cargo and there have been no injuries. (Later) A local salvage company is on scene at the Howard Frankland Bridge attempting to tow a work barge that struck the northbound lanes of the Howard Frankland Bridge, Interstate 275, today. The owner of the barge has been identified as Mobro Marine in Jacksonville. The barge is leased locally to M and J Construction in St. Petersburg, Fla., and they have hired DMT Salvage out of East Bay, Fla, to tow the barge to safety.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: A barge (barge *MB 54*) being used to fix the Howard Frankland Bridge instead damaged the roadway after waves from Tropical Storm "Alberto" tore the barge from its moorings and rammed it into a bridge pier. The 60-foot-long construction barge struck the eastbound span of the bridge near the Tampa approach at 0230 today. The unmanned barge then continued to

thrash against the bridge for nearly six hours, grating away concrete in places and cracking part of the pier as crews scrambled to control the vessel and protect the bridge. Officials from the Florida Department of Transportation tossed rubber tyres over the side of the bridge at one point to deflect the barge's blows. A U.S. Coast Guard rescue boat eventually towed the barge away at 0900 hrs. It was taken to the Port of Tampa. Two generators on the barge were crushed and a storage pod was bent by the barge's impact with the bridge. The damage to the bridge, meanwhile, "was primarily cosmetic," said Pepe Garcia, DOT district structures and facilities engineer. No one was hurt, and a lane of eastbound traffic was closed while crews worked to remove the barge. Engineers plan to perform an underwater inspection of the bridge when the weather improves, Garcia said. State officials also are examining why the barge had been near the bridge in the first place. The barge had been used as a construction platform for the last month to perform routine maintenance and repairs on the bridge, state DOT officials said. But as "Alberto" approached Florida yesterday, the private company performing the maintenance, M&J Construction of Tarpon Springs, decided to move the barge just 150 feet south of the bridge, Garcia said. And during that move, part of the cable system that anchors the barge broke, Garcia said. The company chose to moor the barge in its new location anyway, Garcia said. The DOT is now investigating the incident. "We want to understand what they were thinking and why they thought that was the best location," Garcia said. John Varlese, controller with M & J, said he did not know where crews had decided to place the barge, or why they made that choice. The Tarpon Springs company, which in March won a \$2.2-million contract for the maintenance work, will be expected to pay for the cost of any repairs, Garcia said. An estimate of those costs were not available tonight.

#### **MERCURY (Bahamas)**

See "Outbreak Of Virus on Bahamas Flag Vessel" under "Miscellaneous".

#### **MRINAL (Liberia)**

Kochi, Jun 10 — Bulker *Mrinal* was diverted to Hong Kong on Apr 1 due to turbo-charger problems. Following repairs at Hong Kong, the vessel sailed Apr 7 for Singapore. While en route to Singapore, damage was found to the port and starboard main engine couplings, and the vessel towed to Singapore on Apr 21. It took on bunkers and sailed on May 11. Damage was found to the port main engine coupling on May 13, and the vessel proceeded using its starboard main engine. On May 17, the vessel had problems with the starboard main engine coupling. The vessel was taken in tow by tug *Salvage Challenger* on

May 21 and towed to Tuticorin, where it arrived May 30. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MSC YORKSHIRE (U.K.)**

London, Jun 13 — A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV report, dated Jun 9, states: Following extensive operations started early May SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage completed the ex-Container Carrier *MSC Yorkshire* container recovery operations off Cuxhaven. This concerned in total seven containers loaded with cars and a jet-ski, of which one container had spilled its contents. In an operation spanning 17 working days only, the seven containers, 22 cars and a jet-ski were recovered from waterdepths of 30-35 metres. The recovered goods were landed in Cuxhaven for disposal.

#### **NGANHURRA (Australia)**

London, Jun 13 — Floating production tanker *Nganhurra* arrived Singapore Jun 7.

#### **NORWEGIAN CROWN (Bahamas)**

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: An investigation has begun to find out why passenger (cruise) *Norwegian Crown* ran aground on a reef between Spanish Point and Dockyard temporarily stranding more than 1,600 passengers and crew. It is thought the reef struck by *Norwegian Crown* early yesterday morning has most likely been ruined. The ship remained aground for most of the day until high tide in the evening finally lifted the vessel clear of the underwater obstruction allowing it to be sailed to nearby Dockyard. Bermuda was shrouded in dark, low cloud and pounding rain when the ship came to grief attempting to enter the Dundonald Channel outside Grassy Bay at 0825 hrs. A pilot boat, under the guidance of a local mariner, was bringing the ship in for its scheduled docking at Hamilton when the ship shuddered to a halt after hitting a reef. The damage caused to Bermuda's marine environment by the incident is still to be assessed. Bad weather and stirred up sediment made it impossible to view the underwater area yesterday. An early inspection of the ship, which had sailed earlier in the day from St. George's, appeared to show no puncture marks to its hull. An attempt was made shortly after the ship ran aground to pull her clear. Three tugs attempted to haul the ship backwards off the reef but with low tide approaching the ship did not budge and it was soon stuck fast with its bow raised in a shallow upwards angle. Halfway through the day passengers were able to disembark the stranded ship and reach Hamilton using a ferry tender boat, many using the rainy and curtailed excursion to the city to visit shops and restaurants before being taken back out to the cruise ship in the late afternoon. When high tide came at 1840 hrs the ship freed itself from the reef and was redirected to King's Wharf at Dockyard. Acting Premier Paula Cox

last night said she was pleased the ship had been safely removed from the reef and there appeared to be no damage to its hull. She said: "I want to convey a debt of gratitude to the sound technical advice of the Director of Marine and Ports Francis Richardson and his team along with the Department of Maritime Administration and most importantly, the skill and acumen of the tug crews of the *Powerful*, *Faithful* and *Edward E Stowe*." And she said an investigation was underway to ascertain the cause of the incident. Director of Environmental Protection, Dr. Thomas Sleeter, said the reef which the ship hit was more than likely ruined, though his team were unable to view it yesterday because there was too much sediment in the water. In a statement Norwegian Cruise Line said: "Present indications are that the integrity of the ship has not been affected. A full damage assessment will be conducted by a team of divers. NCL continues to work with local authorities to determine what caused the ship to run aground." The cruise ship had sailed from Philadelphia and is scheduled to return there on Sunday.

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: The Government has been criticised for making no Parliamentary statement on the grounding of passenger (cruise) *Norwegian Crown* in Bermuda's waters on Wednesday (Jun 7). The incident dominated the news agenda after a day-long rescue operation to free the 1 vessel and 1,700 passengers and crew on board the *Norwegian Crown* after it hit a reef while attempting to enter the Dundonald Channel between Spanish Point and Dockyard. The cruise ship was making its way from St. George's to Hamilton when she came to grief and remained stuck on the bottom for almost 12 hours before high tide eventually freed the vessel. A preliminary investigation of the reef that was struck by the vessel has shown significant damage to the area and widespread sediment churned up by the rescue efforts to free the vessel affecting coral in the surrounding area. A full investigation is currently being carried out by the Department of Maritime Administration. The *Norwegian Crown* sustained dents to its hull as a result of the grounding, but was deemed seaworthy and sailed on schedule back to Philadelphia this morning. A spokeswoman for Norwegian Cruise Line confirmed the vessel would be returning to Bermuda next week to continue its summer cruise schedule.

#### **NU C**

London, Jun 10 — The captain of fishing (general) *Nu C*, which crashed on the North Jetty at Ocean Shores in February, was fined \$9,000 by the state Department of Ecology for spilling about 575 gallons of diesel fuel and hydraulic oil into Grays Harbor. Ecology spokeswoman Sandy Howard said the captain's negligence



was to blame for the crash. Ralph McGowen, was captain of the vessel at the time, but was asleep while a crew member was at the helm. McGowen admitted that crew members had been asleep when it crashed into the rocks and the man at the helm had also dozed off. The ship's owner, Richard McGowen of Westport, was also asked to pay \$6,000 to cover the department's cost to respond to the incident. Richard McGowen said he thinks the fines are unfair, but he plans to just let his insurance company deal with them. "The insurance company already paid (about) \$148,000 for federal Ecology to come out. Now the state wants to come in and get theirs," he said. "Originally, they couldn't find any fuel, then they went back and had to check on how much fuel I bought. They want \$6,000 for the work their guys did, but when I talked to the guys around the boat and everything, they said (Ecology) came down, looked around and couldn't find anything." Ecology responders say they were unable to stop the oil spill from the vessel because of rough seas. The oil spill occurred a little more than a mile away from the Oyehut Wildlife Area, a sensitive area for coastal fish, wildlife and vegetation. The department collected water samples in the wildlife area that turned up trace amounts of weathered diesel. "We are concerned for marine life anytime oil gets into water," said Jim Sachet, a manager in the Department of Ecology's spills response program. "Clearly, this is an accident that never should have happened." She was stuck on the jetty for four days before responders could fill it with buoyant material so it could be refloated and towed to an Aberdeen shipyard, where it was later scrapped.

#### **OCEAN D. (Malta)**

London, Jun 12 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 2100, UTC: Bulker *Ocean D.* (16465 gt, built 1977), bound Sri Lanka, cargo 24,558 tonnes fertiliser, with 24 crew, reported in lat 12 17.88N, long 46 39.74E, with fire in engine-room. Three generators are not working and vessel has no power and drifting. Container carrier *MSC Namibia* is on scene and assault vessel *HMS Bulwark* is proceeding. Owner is trying to arrange tug assistance. (Note — *Ocean D.*, Ukraine for Sri Lanka, passed Suez Jun 7.)

London, Jun 13 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0117, UTC: Owners of bulker *Ocean D.* report that a tug is proceeding and ETA scene noon.

London, Jun 14 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0955, UTC: Bulker *Ocean D.* is in tow of the tug *Wadi Hateeb* bound for Aden.

#### **OCEAN SERAYA (Panama)**

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Deputy Commissioner Ritesh Kumar Singh said yesterday that the first oil tank

containing 310 tonnes of oil in bulker *Ocean Seraya* had breached at the top and bottom. There was every likelihood that the entire oil from the tank had spilled. It was now being investigated whether the oil spill had spread southward also. He said that Captain Baijal, nautical adviser to the Ministry of Shipping, visited the ship yesterday. As per his report, the salvage team had not opened the first oil tank yet. A senior salvage expert, Captain Van Essan, also arrived here. A 25-member salvage team and three experts were engaged. He said 20 tonnes of oil was pumped out yesterday from the second tank. Residents complained of a foul smell of oil on the beach. The Deputy Commissioner said he would ask the Pollution Control Board authorities to look into the matter.

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Deputy Commissioner Ritesh Kumar Singh said here yesterday that 88 tonnes of oil had so far been pumped out from *Ocean Seraya*, however, the quantity of oil left in the ship after spillage could not be ascertained, he said. All the equipment required for pumping, including those arrived from Singapore yesterday, had been loaded on the ship to pump out the oil. The generator of the ship installed on the front portion and the cranes of the ship were made operational. As such the work of removing the oil from the tanks could be faster, he hoped. Mr. Singh said a few shrimp farmers had complained that their shrimp ponds had been polluted by oil spill and that the shrimps in the pond had died.

London, Jun 11 — Following received from the managers of bulker *Ocean Seraya*, dated today: SMIT Salvage BV are continuing to work to remove bunker oil from *Ocean Seraya*. Pumping from No 1 fuel tank directly into the fuel tanks of tug *Onyx*, which is alongside, commenced on Jun 7 and is ongoing. Salvors are also arranging to commence pumping from No 2 bunker tank. SMIT also arranged for extra equipment to be available to ensure the pumping is as efficient as possible. It is also understood that additional equipment, including disc skimmers, for removal of oil from the damaged tanks will be supplied by the Indian Coast Guard Authority. The International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation, who remain on site providing expert assistance to all involved in the incident, report that their focus has been in assisting the Indian Coast Guard and local authorities. On Jun 8, ITOPF carried out thorough inspections of three separate beaches in Southern Goa. On the first beach, Polem Beach, ITOPF found only very scattered traces of oil contamination, mostly tar balls. In addition, there was no contamination on any of the rocky shores adjacent to the beach. On the second beach investigated, Talpona Beach, only the occasional tar ball was found on the upper shore. Given the fact that the third beach examined, Palolem Beach, is a prime tourist location it is

understandable that local authorities expressed concern in the early stages. On inspection, however, and further to some small-scale clean up of scattered tar balls the previous week, ITOPF found only one tar ball in this location. ITOPF also report that fishing activity was observed at all three inspection sites and there was apparently no concern in the fishing sector regarding oil contamination. ITOPF is working closely with the Pollution Control Board and sampling of beach sand and seawater is ongoing. It is reported that after the Indian PCB tested samples of seawater from Devbagh beach, no detectable levels of oil pollution were found.

#### **ORANGE SEAWAY (Panama)**

London, Jun 13 — General cargo *Orange Seaway* arrived Busan Jun 3 and sailed Jun 4.

#### **PACIFIC SUN (Bahamas)**

See "Outbreak Of Virus On Bahamas Flag Vessel" under "Miscellaneous".

#### **PELANDER (Panama)**

London, Jun 13 — Vehicle carrier *Pelander* arrived Eilat Jun 10.

#### **PHILIPP (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Falmouth, Jun 9 — General cargo *Philipp* is still in port at Falmouth. ETD two weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **PRIOZYORNNY (Russia)**

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Efforts are being made to contain an oil spill off the eastern coast of the Kamchatka Peninsula after poachers scuttled their vessel, fish carrier *Priozorny*, in a bid to escape action from coast guards, emergency services said today. The spill, covering an area of roughly 20,000 square metres, is floating north toward Russia's coast at a speed of 0.6 mph, a spokesman said. The crew of *Priozorny*, which was allegedly poaching crabs in the Sea of Okhotsk, scuttled the vessel Tuesday by opening hatches and switching off the engines after a chase involving helicopters and patrol ships. Authorities boarded the ship as it was sinking and confiscated a large illegal haul of crabs. The 18-member crew, including the master was picked up from rescue rafts by a patrol ship and taken to the regional centre, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, for questioning as part of a criminal case opened by prosecutors.

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: An oil slick from fish carrier *Priozorny*, which the crew is suspected of scuttling to avoid a coast guard check, has been eliminated in the Sea of Okhotsk, the Kamchatka emergency centre said today. It said close to two tons of fuel leaked from the vessel and floated 30-35 kilometres to the north in three days. The slick of 200 to 150 metres came four kilometres close to the coast. The emergency centre said the slick was treated with a sorbent and oil products will fully disintegrate in

five days. The vessel sank on June 6 12 kilometres from the western coast of Kamchatka at a depth of 50-70 metres. The vessel was suspected of poaching and attempted to escape coast guards. When the guards boarded the vessel they found a big haul of crab onboard, but the ship began to sink. A criminal investigation has been launched.

#### PXXI P21

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: A message received at Tristan da Cunha on May 22 from the master of tug *Mighty Deliverer* said that due to bad weather *Mighty Deliverer* was forced to release platform PXXI P21 in alt 35 48S, long 13 35W to avoid risk to platform and his tug. The platform was released at sea unmaned with no onboard fuel, thus contamination free. Eyeball contact with the platform was maintained until May 10. However, after further bad weather the platform started to draw away from *Mighty Deliverer*. From May 16 the tug had been searching for the rig and, the master reported it lost on May 22. Another company tug *Ruby Deliverer* assist in searching but had found nothing. The platform is 104.9 metres, breadth 103.63 metres, draught 13 metres. The platform was found at Tristan da Cunha on Jun 7 on the South East side of Tristan at Tripot Gulch. The platform was visited by Tristan Officials this morning. It is grounded approximately 300 metres from the shore. There does not appear to be any oil leaking, only a small diesel slick, which is nothing to be concern about at the moment, its also good that the penguins have left the island as it is grounded directly of the Tripot Rock Hopper penguin rookery. Talks are underway with its owners.

#### QUEEN OF THE NORTH (Canada)

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: BC Ferries has made an offer on a vessel that could be in service to replace the sunken passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North* by the beginning of next year, if the deal goes through. BC Ferries CEO David Hahn said they have found a three-to four-year-old vessel in Europe that meets 80-90% of BC Ferries' criteria. "It's got capacity for vehicles," said Hahn. "It's got great capacity for passengers. It's got great speed. He said that "some of the things that will be problematic is that how they load and unload the vessels in Europe is different than here." Federal investigators continue to examine the sinking of *Queen of the North*, which sank in the early hours of Mar 22 after it crashed into an island south of Prince Rupert. Ninety-nine of the 101 people on board were rescued. Two passengers are missing and presumed drowned.

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated today, states: B.C. Ferries has received \$67.9 million in insurance compensation for the sinking of passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North*.

Today's news came as the corporation announced its year-end results that show net earnings of \$49.9 million, up \$14.7 million compared to 2005. The investigation into the sinking remains stymied as two employees who were on the bridge on the night of the sinking are not co-operating on the advice of union lawyers who have told them not to speak. The federal government continues to investigate the incident, which has resulted in two lawsuits against B.C. Ferries. Controversy swirled about the ongoing probe last week after allegations that not all of the crew were properly familiar with navigation equipment on the ship's bridge. The insurance payment for *Queen of the North* was received after year end, however, and will be recognized on the statements for the first quarter of 2007. Today's statement said an international search is being conducted for a replacement vessel but news reports last week indicate a vessel has been found in Spain and could be in service as soon as January. Jackie Miller, president of B.C. Ferry and Marine Workers' Union, said the cost of the Spanish vessel could be around \$45 million, with an additional \$30-million for maintenance. The company said \$6.6 million of the insurance payout was recorded as a receivable while the balance will be shown on the 2007 balance sheet.

#### SAMMARINA M. (Romania)

Bucharest, Jun 14 — The owners of ro/ro *Sammarina M.* advise that repairs / reconversion have not been completed yet. Also advised that the estimated time of completion of repairs is not known at present. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### SAMSKIP COURIER (Antigua & Barbuda)

See *Skagern*.

#### SARASWATI (Indonesia)

Jakarta, Jun 15 — Bulker *Saraswati* (20643 gt, built 1986) sailed from Port of Panjang at 2230, local time, Jun 8, bound for Suralaya. Vessel was grounded at 0330, local time, Jun 9, at Sunda Strait. Extent of damage: the ballast tank no. 3 and 4 on the starboard side were torn approximately 50 cm. *Saraswati* discharged some cargo to barge at grounded point. Vessel was towed to Suralaya around 1325, local time, Jun 12. Vessel discharged the remaining cargo at Suralaya. Vessel was towed to Merak Jun 13, for repair purpose until now. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### SCAN BOTHNIA (Isle of Man)

See "Military Equipment Seized From Isle Of Man-Flagged Vessel At Derince, Turkey" under "Miscellaneous."

#### SEA-LAND VOYAGER (Marshall Islands)

See "Drugs Found On Marshall Islands Vessel At Mumbai, India" under "Miscellaneous."

#### SEBA M. (Lebanon)

London, Jun 13 — Bulker *Seba M.* sailed Bourgas Jun 9.

#### SETSUYO STAR (Bahamas)

Cape Town, Jun 13 — Understand bulker *Setsuyo Star* (88921 gt, built 1985), currently in False Bay, Cape town, had water ingress into number 1 compartment and it would appear that cracks have developed in its shell plating with frames having tripped in this area. We furthermore understand that local repairers Dormac have been contracted to investigate and propose repairs which will possibly require the placing of a cofferdam. It is envisaged that this operation may take several weeks to complete. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Setsuyo Star* sailed Sepetiba Term. May 27.)

Piraeus, Jun 15 — Bulker *Setsuyo Star* was on voyage from Sepetiba Terminal to China with a cargo of iron ore when structural damage was observed in No 1 hold. Vessel went to shelter in False Bay and Lloyd's Standard Form contract was signed with Tsavlis Jun 14. Repairs are to be carried out to enable vessel to continue its voyage. A naval architect is due this afternoon and damage will be assessed. However, there is no pollution or water ingress and damage is not believed to be serious. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

Piraeus, Jun 15 — Bulker *Setsuyo Star*: Tug *Smit Amandla* is standing by on scene. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

#### SHAKHDAG (Malta)

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1128, UTC: Combined chemical and oil tank *Shakhdag* (10321 gt, built 1999), loaded with fuel oil, and chemical tanker *Willy* (4973 gt, built 2003), in ballast, were in collision in lat 50 30N, long 00 13.8W, at 1009, UTC, Jun 9. *Shakhdag* sustained bow damage and is now proceeding to Portland, ETA 1800, UTC. *Willy* sustained damage to mid section, including a crack in way of a ballast tank. The vessel is now proceeding to Stanlow.

London, June 9 — A Maritime and Coastguard Agency press release states: At 1120, BST, Dover Coastguard identified on their radar screens that two vessels had been in collision some 20 miles south of Shoreham. The vessels were immediately contacted by the Coastguard who both confirmed that they had collided. Chemical tanker *Willy*, which was in ballast, reported minor damage, which is a split midships in the ballast tank along the upper deck. Combined chemical and oil tank *Shakhdag*, has a cargo of diesel oil on board. This vessel has sustained some superficial damage to its main deck on the stern and some upper deck equipment. Both vessels are now proceeding under their own power. The Coastguard rescue helicopter Victor Alpha from Lee on Solent was scrambled to overfly the

area, and has confirmed that there is no leakage from either vessel, although the area will be monitored. A Maritime and Coastguard Agency Surveyor has now been airlifted by the helicopter to *Shakhdag* to inspect it to ensure that it is safe to enter Portland to discharge its cargo. *Willy* is on passage to a refinery at Stanlow. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency have put their Counter Pollution team on standby. The Secretary of State's Representative is working closely with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in this incident, and the French Maritime Administration have offered any assistance if required.

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1425, UTC: Combined chemical and oil tank *Shakhdag* is bound Portland in lat 50 29.4N, long 00 56.3W. A surveyor is boarding for a damage assessment at 1319, UTC. Vessel cleared to enter Portland. Chemical tanker *Willy* now diverted to Rotterdam for a further damage assessment, position lat 50 27.3N, long 00 41W, speed nine knots.

London, Jun 12 — Chemical tanker *Willy* arrived Rotterdam Jun 10.

London, Jun 14 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Shakhdag* passed Brunsbuttel Jun 12, bound Tallinn.

#### SKAGERN (Sweden)

London, June 9 — A press report, dated June 8, states: Two ships (general cargo *Skagern*, 4426 gt, built 1983, not as reported in issue of June 9) and general cargo *Samskip Courier* collided in thick fog close to Salt End, on the River Humber at 2300 last night. One ship (*Skagern*) had a cargo of copper and timber, the second was a container vessel. Initially, it was thought the ship carrying the timber was about to sink after taking on water. Two tugs towed the stricken ship to King George dock, where repairs will be made. The other ship, with minor damage, made its way to Spurn Point and left the Humber. No one was injured. (Note — According to LMIU AIS *Samskip Courier* was in lat 52 13.3N, long 03 28.24E, at 1001 today, course 123.3 degrees, speed 13.8 knots, bound Rotterdam where ETA 1400 today.)

London, Jun 9 — Owners and Managers of the 4426 gt, 1983 built general cargo *Skagern*, report that the vessel, with pilot on board, was in collision with general cargo *Samskip Courier*, also with pilot on board, at midnight on Wednesday, Jun 7. in the River Humber. The *Skagern* was on passage from Sweden to the Port of Hull with lumber products and copper. As a result of the collision, No 1 cargo hold was breached with ingress of water, causing the vessel to be down by the head. With two tugs in attendance, the *Skagern* proceeded through the locks at approx 0215 on Jun 8, making fast at King George Dock at approx 0530. By 0800, local time, Jun 9, the vessel was a further 1.5 metres down by the head and listing towards the dock. All

possible areas for further ingress of water affecting stability have been sealed by the crew and it is believed the *Skagern* remains stable. Salvage company United Salvage are on site. There is no pollution reported and there were no injuries. Ahlmark Lines AB wishes to thank the local authorities for responding so promptly and professionally to this incident.

London, Jun 9 — General cargo *Skagern* is still taking on water. Attempts to remove the cargo are continuing. — United Salvage Limited.

London, Jun 11 — General cargo *Samskip Courier* arrived Rotterdam Jun 9.

London, Jun 15 — General cargo *Samskip Courier* arrived Tilbury Jun 14 and sailed the same day.

#### SNUVIT-1608

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Two workers were killed and one was injured in an explosion in an oil barge, PDVSA confirmed yesterday. The explosion, Monday (Jun 12) night, happened at the wharf at Las Morochas, when the workers were carrying out maintenance to the system of fuel storage of the barge. Nevertheless "the operational activities" in the lake were not affected, informed the state company.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: Investigations are under way to determine the cause of an explosion and subsequent fire of an oil barge (tank barge *Snuvit-1608*) in Ciudad Ojeda, northwestern Zulia state, that killed two people and left another injured late yesterday, local authorities reported. The barge was owned by CPVEN, a contractor with Venezuelan state oil firm PDVSA. The blast came during maintenance of a fuel tank. Lagunillas Fire Department chief commander Alexis Chacon estimated the incident resulted in serious material losses.

#### SOUMYA (India)

Mumbai, Jun 9 — Barge *Soumya* remains grounded off Miramar beach. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### SPAR JADE (NIS)

Accra, Jun 10 — Bulker *Spar Jade* (18011 gt, built 1985) grounded at the port of Tema Jun 9 while coming alongside. Divers are currently inspecting the vessel. Other vessels which are alongside are unable to sail. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### SPAR ORION (NIS)

London, Jun 10 — Bulker *Spar Orion* arrived Port Arthur Jun 8. (See issue of Jun 2.)

#### STEEL GLORY (Bahamas)

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

#### SUMIT 3

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 11, states: A fertiliser-laden cargo vessel caught by strong wind capsized in Sandwip channel

near Kumira ghat in the Bay of Bengal yesterday morning. Port sources said cargo vessel *Sumit 3*, loading 700 tons of imported fertilisers from a foreign vessel, was heading towards Jessore when strong wind caught it at about 1000, local time. A Navy vessel rescued the 16 crew. The vessel, loaded with fertilisers worth 60 lakh, could not be salvaged.

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A fertiliser-carrying vessel of inland water route sank at Swandip Channel of the Bay of Bengal, Chittagong district, 224 km south-east of Dhaka yesterday, the official news agency BSS reported. Control Room of Chittagong Port Authority and the owner of the vessel was quoted as saying that all the 16 crew of the vessel were rescued by a Bangladesh Navy ship, which rushed to the spot immediately after the accident. "General cargo *Sumit 3*, also reported as *Sumi-3*, sank but the crew are now safe and they are being brought to shore by the Navy ship," said Jamal Hossain, owner of the vessel. Sources said the vessel loaded with 700 tonnes of fertilizers lost balance and sank after falling in heavy rolling in the sea at about 0700 hrs. The crew sent SOS signal to the owner and CPA, and the Navy ship rushed to the spot to carry out rescue operation following the information from the CPA. Efforts are on to rescue the vessel, the sources said.

#### SUPERFERRY II (Greece)

London, Jun 13 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 1040 hrs, Jun 12, passenger ro/ro *Superferry II* (4986 gt, built 1974) sustained damage to the turbocharger of the port main engine after departing from Andros at 1015 hrs for Tinos-Mykonos. Following the incident the vessel returned to Rafina arriving at 1400 hrs, with 223 passengers which were later forwarded to their destinations on board *Sea Jet II* for Tinos-Mykonos and *High Speed III* for Tinos-Mykonos-Naxos-Paros. Passengers for the cancelled return voyage were forwarded on board *Anthi Marina* for Mykonos-Piraeus, *Marina* for Tinos-Piraeus and *Aqua Jewel* for Andros-Rafina.

Piraeus, Jun 13 — Passenger ro/ro *Superferry II* sustained mechanical failure on its left main engine yesterday. The vessel had sailed from Andros and was destined to Tinos and Mykonos islands. Finally the vessel berthed safely at Rafina port the same day at 1400 hrs. The local port authorities prohibited the vessel's departure until inspection by its class surveyor and repair of the damages. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### TAPATIO (Liberia)

London, Jun 14 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1420, UTC: Chemical tanker *Tapatio* (26914 gt, built 2003) lost steering in Houston Ship Channel, Light 152, at about 0730, UTC, yesterday. Tugs assisted vessel

to Houston. Class society inspected vessel and deemed it safe to proceed.

#### **TIRTA NIAGA I (Indonesia)**

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: An Indonesian cargo vessel in “apparent distress”, has anchored about ten nautical miles off Paradip port, awaiting assistance, Paradip Port Trust (PPT) sources said. *Tataniyaga-i* (? product tanker *Tirta Niaga I* (3684 gt, built 1975), carrying about 5,900 tonnes of palm oil, was on its way to Haldia Port when it developed problems near the sandheads. The vessel was then diverted towards Paradip. The PPT authorities said they were yet to be informed about the kind of problem the Indonesian vessel was facing. “We are yet to hear from the vessel and the moment we are requested, our engineers will go and attend to the vessel”, the sources said. The vessel, however, will not come to the port and after repairs will go back to either Haldia or Kolkata Port, they said. (Note — *Tirta Niaga I* sailed Panjang May 28 and arrived Kolkata Jun 10.)

#### **TRANS ARCTIC (NIS)**

See “Brittany, France” under “Pollution”.

#### **VAN GOGH (Marshall Islands)**

See “Outbreak of Virus on Marshall Islands Flagged Vessel” under “Miscellaneous.”

#### **VINLAND (Canada)**

London, Jun 12 — Crude oil tanker *Vinland* (76567 gt, built 2000), had a blow back fire in incinerator room in lat 46 59 57N, long 54 24 27W at 1827, UTC, Jun 10. The fire was extinguished within 10 minutes. One man was injured.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: The Transportation Safety Board of Canada will not investigate a small weekend (Jun 10-11) fire on board crude oil tanker *Vinland* off Newfoundland. She was heading to the refinery in Come By Chance, Placentia Bay, when a fire was reported in the incinerator-room. A crew member was taken to hospital and treated for minor burns. John Cottreau, a public affairs official with the TSB, said an individual on board the ship put a flammable item into the incinerator. That built up pressure, which resulted in a small fire. Cottreau said there is no need for further investigation because there are no problems involving the safety of the ship.

#### **VISTAMAR (Malta)**

London, Jun 15 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Vistamar* (7478 gt, built 1989) ran aground in the Kiel Canal when proceeding to the repair yard at 0800, May 28, Hohenhorn. The canal traffic in the area had been blocked for one and a half hours until the tug *Bugsier 11* arrived from Brunsbuttel and refloated the vessel. Vessel left Kiel at

1800, Jun 13. (Note — *Vistamar* arrived Kiel 1600, May 28 and subsequently arrived Hamburg Jun 14 from Kiel and sailed same day for Bergen.)

#### **VITAFOS (Panama)**

Bremen, Jun 14 — Bulker *Vitafos* (35378 gt, built 1981) while leaving the Bremen industrial port, in collision with a land-building, this afternoon. Two frames of the vessel are said to have been damaged. The vessel is at present lying at Osterort for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Vitafos* arrived Brake Jun 5.)

#### **VOYAGEUR INDEPENDENT (Canada)**

Montreal, Jun 13 — Bulker *Voyageur Independent* (12296 gt, built 1952), up bound into the Great Lakes, when it had a steering gear failure today and struck the causeway for the St. Louis Bridge. This is close to Valleyfield in the Seaway, approximately 80 km from Montreal. The vessel is at the anchorage awaiting inspection etc. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Voyageur Independent* was stationary in lat 45 13 26.34N, long 74 01 17.16W, at 1945, UTC, today.)

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Voyageur Independent* struck a bridge southwest of Montreal has ended up with a damaged hull. The accident also closed the Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague bridge, which was damaged. No one on board *Voyageur Independent* was injured when the ship struck a pillar on the bridge. The ship dropped anchored near the bridge after the accident and it has been ordered to remain there until it has been inspected. A Transport Canada spokesman says the bulk carrier, which was empty, left Sorel and was headed to Hamilton, Ontario, to be loaded. He says preliminary information suggests a steering problem may have caused the accident.

#### **WILHELMINA (Netherlands)**

London, Jun 10 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1815, UTC: Fishing *Wilhelmina* (53 gt, built 1963), 21 metres long, was reported at 1410, local time, today, to have sunk in lat 52 56.3N, long 04 34.8E. One person died, five found safe on a beach.

#### **WILLY (Gibraltar)**

See *Shakhdag*.

#### **WINDOC (Canada)**

Troy, Michigan, Jun 13 — The hull of bulk *Windoc*, an old laker that became a constructive total loss as a result of a fire. The engine-room was cut off and the vessel is in Montreal being used as a storage barge for grain, is scheduled to be moved to Port Colborne, arriving on Jun 18. International Marine Salvage will remove the fire-damaged stern section. It is undecided if Seaway Marine Transport will notch the hull and push *Windoc* as a barge, or to

attach a new stern section to provide power and accommodations. — Great Lakes & Seaway News.

#### **YARD NO.203 ODENSE (DIS)**

Copenhagen, Jun 12 — A fire broke out on board container carrier *Yard No.203 Odense* (93500 gt) at 1900, local time, Jun 9. According to local press reports, the fire started in dunnage wood in the wheelhouse. The fire spread through the wheelhouse, destroying all the equipment. The fire was extinguished by the local fire brigade, assisted by tug *Stevns Iceflower*, which was on timecharter to SvitzerWijsmuller. The yard have said that the vessel will be delayed, but there is no information about the length of the delay. — Correspondent.

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Delivery of container carrier *Yard No.203 Odense* is expected to be delayed after the ship, under construction at Odense shipyard, was severely damaged in a fire last week. Finn Buus Nielsen, managing director at the yard, said the cause of the fire was still under investigation, although the yard's own internal inquiry suggested that the fire may have started when ventilation hoses ignited in the engine-room during welding work. The extent to which the vessel is delayed will depend on repair options, he said. The ship, which is believed to have a nominal capacity close to 13,000 teu, was due to start sea trials next month. One possibility would be to replace the accommodation block with one from the next ship in the newbuilding series, but this would depend on lifting capacity necessary to remove the damaged unit. Although there were people working on *Yard No.203 Odense* when the fire broke out, there were no injuries and evacuation procedures worked well, Mr Nielsen said. Aside from the accommodation block and the engine-room, the bridge has also been damaged. The fire was put out by the local fire brigade, assisted by the tug *Stevns Iceflower*, which was on timecharter to SvitzerWijsmuller.



#### **SOMALIA**

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Product tanker *Lin I*, the Emirati vessel flying the Panama crest, hijacked by Somali pirates on Mar 29, will be released within a week, reports said. There were 19 crew members on board the vessel. Representatives of the pirates and an unidentified Somali businessman yesterday arrived at an agreement after the latter agreed to cough up a ransom of \$500,000. The negotiations took place in Gann, a Somali village 400km north of the

capital Mogadishu, Andrew Mwangura, of the Seafarers Assistance Programme, said. "We received information yesterday morning that the the pirates decided to release *Lin I* after a Somali businessman offered half a million dollars as ransom. It is not clear as to how the money will be handed over to the pirates. Normally, the money will not be transferred in Somalia. Probably, the money will be paid in UAE or in Kenya," Mwangura disclosed. According to reports from Somalia, the *Lin I* was sailing slowly off Somalian territorial waters near Ely, a village between El Maan port and Oboyo when it was overrun. Mwangura disclosed that the settlement had taken time because the Somalian businessman had employed armed militia in a bid to free the vessel. "On Jun 1, there was a heavy shootout between militia and pirates and two persons were killed and two injured. The 19-member Filipino crew of the vessel are still safe and on board. The crew members are suffering now without food and water. The pirates do not allow them to eat more than once a day." Gunmen stormed the fuel tanker brandishing AK-47s as the vessel left El Ade port after off-loading its cargo. The pirates demanded a ransom thought to be in the region of \$400,000. On Apr 15, the pirates killed a Somali negotiating with them for the vessel's release, stalling mediation efforts. The negotiator was gunned down in broad daylight in Gann, a coastal town some 18 km north of Haradhera district.



**UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1520, UTC: Bulker *Steel Glory* (23536 gt, built 1984) has been detained at New Orleans due to nine deficiencies. (Note — *Steel Glory* arrived New Orleans Jun 5.)

London, Jun 12 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1430, UTC: Bulker *Steel Glory* remains under detention at New Orleans.

London, Jun 14 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1420, UTC: Bulker *Steel Glory* remains under detention at New Orleans, and is now reloading cargo.



**AFIYA (Malta)**

Zeebrugge, Jun 14 — Refrigerated general cargo *Afiya* (4371 gt, built

1990), arrived Antwerp 1752, Jun 9, and was placed under arrest/embargo at 2037, same day. Arrest/embargo lifted at 1353, Jun 12, and sailed 2315, same day, for Aberdeen. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**BREEZE (Belize)**

London, Jun 9 — Belize Registrar reported that the Belize registry of fishing (general) *Breeze* was cancelled on Jan 28, 2003. The registry have launched an investigation with the Port Authorities in Korsakov, Russia.

**FARLEY MOWAT (Canada)**

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated Jun 14, local time, states: Research *Farley Mowat* which has been under detention in Cape Town harbour for more than four months has been released to sail from the port. A compromise has now been reached allowing *Farley Mowat* to sail, provided a South African-licensed master takes the vessel out of Cape Town to Saldanha and later out of South African waters before handing over to the regular vessel's master.

**MALTESE FALCON (Malta)**

London, Jun 14 — Roll On Roll Off *Maltese Falcon* sailed Valletta Jun 11.

**PACIFIC SUN II (Panama)**

Karachi, Jun 13 — The honorable Sindh High Court (SHC) has ordered arrest of bulker *Pacific Sun II* (13586 gt, built 1981), for recovery of compensation of \$ 50,000. A local importer-Chawala International of Karachi, has filed a petition in local court that it has imported sugar form India and sugar worth of \$50,000 was damaged during voyage. The court has fixed Jun 19 for hearing and asked the vessel owner to deposit claim money for release of vessel. According to Karachi Port, and Shipping agent, the *Pacific Sun II* has already left Karachi port around 1900 hours, Jun 12, for Kandala. — Lloyd's List Correspondent. (Note — *Pacific Sun II* arrived Karachi Jun 7.)

**PAULIJING (Belize)**

London, Jun 9 — The Belize Registry reported today: As the result of our intervention, the owners of general cargo *Paulijing* are in direct contact with the ITF, since May 24, in order to resolve the crew problems and to ensure the safety of the crew. We have also intervened on the matter of the cargo and are in correspondence with the owners in order to arrive at a satisfactory solution and to ensure the safety of the vessel.

**SCAN BOTHNIA (Isle of Man)**

See "Military Equipment Seized From Isle Of Man-Flagged Vessel At Derince, Turkey" under "Miscellaneous."



**BOURGAS, BULGARIA**

London, Jun 13 — Crude oil tanker *Hawaiian Leader* sailed Varna Jun 13.

**BRITTANY, FRANCE**

London, Jun 9 — Norwegian chemical tanker operator Seatrans has been hit by a second fine for the same pollution offence after failing to persuade a French court to drop proceedings following a conviction for the same offence in Norway. Seatrans, recently fined Nkr2.8m (\$414,000) in Norway for a pollution offence involving its vessel combined chemical and oil tank *Trans Arctic* has been told to pay a further E400,000 (\$468,000) by a court in Brest despite its lawyer's plea that it should not be judged twice for the same offence. According to a local report the court overruled the public prosecutor, who pleaded in favour of dropping the case on the recommendation of the French Justice Ministry. The prosecutor was unavailable to confirm this yesterday. The court recognised the exceptional nature of the case by ordering payment of E50,000 and suspending payment of the remainder of the fine, but re-jected the company's plea that the French prosecution should be dropped altogether following the Norwegian judgment. The case had already set a precedent last October when the trial of the master before a court in Brest was postponed a few days before it was due to open after a claim from Norway to exercise its prerogative as flag state to deal with it. The Norwegian move was attacked by French environmental organisations at the time as an attempt to circumvent the proceedings before the court in Brest, which has been the target of criticism from the shipping sector for the tough line it has taken in recent months in cases of pollution off the French Atlantic coast. Norway invoked the United Nations law of the sea convention signed in Montego Bay in 1982 to justify its action. A lawyer representing a French environmental association said after Wednesday's (Jun 7) hearing in Brest, however: "The Montego Bay ghost ship has been sent to the bottom. Montego Bay only applies to the high sea. Marpol is what counts." The court ruled that the fact the case had been tried in Norway did not prevent it proceeding in France as was the case for any other offence committed within French jurisdiction. With regard to the Montego Bay convention, it noted that France was perfectly within its rights to legislate against pollution in its waters and to take proceedings against any party not respecting that legislation. It argued further, however, that the Montego Bay

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convention was a legal text creating obligations in inter-national public law between states and that an accused party had no right as such to claim to benefit from its provisions. Seatrans managing director Johan Hvide said yesterday that the company was waiting to study a translation of the court's ruling before deciding whether to appeal. He admitted, however, that he had been "very surprised" by the court's decision to prosecute for an offence which the company considered had already been dealt with by the most appropriate authority, namely the flag state. "It is a matter of principle for us," he added. The 1991-built, 5,025 gt *Trans Arctic* was spotted from the air at the head of a 38 km long pollution slick off the port of La Rochelle on March 17, 2005. The court in Brest ordered the master of the *Trans Arctic* to pay 10% of the E400,000 fine and also awarded damages ranging from E5,000 to E10,000 to eight environmental and other local organisations which had initiated civil proceedings against the vessel's master and owner.

#### PRUDHOE BAY, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 9 — British oil major BP is facing a grand jury investigation and criminal probe into last March's oil spill in Alaska. BP's head of Alaskan operations Steve Marshall sent a note to staff this week asking them to co-operate with the federal investigation that could lead to court action and criminal charges. In March, corrosion on one of BP Alaska's transit lines led to a 6,430 barrel (240,000 gallon) oil spill into snow and ice. The company quickly cleared up the spill after it was spotted by an employee on a regular inspection. But the damage was done to the environment and BP's reputation. At BP's annual meeting in April, the company's chairman Peter Sutherland told shareholders the spill occurred despite the company's strong inspection and maintenance programmes. "There was a spillage from corrosion and a hole in the pipeline of a diameter of less than a 5p coin," Mr Sutherland said. "An area of less than two acres of land was remedied afterwards." A BP spokesman confirmed that federal and state agencies were investigating the spill. He disclosed that BP Alaska had received a subpoena from a federal grand jury to supply data and records about the pipeline and its maintenance.



#### CHINA

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Floods and landslides have killed more than 50

people in southern China in recent days, according to official state media. In Fujian province 41 people were killed in floods yesterday, according to the official news agency Xinhua. Mudslides also killed a further 12 people in Wuzhou, in Guangxi region. At least 24 people were injured. The government has estimated that this summer's floods are the worst in three decades in some parts of China. Heavy rains have already forced more than 400,000 people from their homes. Floods have also destroyed 9,300 houses and ruined crops on some 100,000 hectares of farmland, Xinhua said. Weather forecasters predict there is little relief in sight, with more heavy rainfall expected over the weekend. Early yesterday morning, 11 villages were flooded with water up to two metres deep when the Bashili River in Fujian burst its banks. Rescue workers were at the site and 16,000 people had been evacuated, Xinhua news agency said. Heavy seasonal rains have been falling in Fujian in recent days.

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 93 people have died in torrential rains that have battered southern China over the past two weeks, state media says. Eleven people are missing and nearly 12 million have been affected by rains, floods and landslides, the China Daily reports, quoting the Ministry of Civil Affairs. Some 560,000 people have been evacuated and economic losses in the region have been estimated to be more than \$A1.2 million, it added. Fujian province on the south-east coast has been the hardest hit with at least 45 people confirmed killed since the end of May, it said. The water level in some parts of Nanping city rose to six metres. Rains also lashed the south-western province of Guangxi, killing at least 14 people since Monday and forcing the evacuation of 112,000, the newspaper said.

London, Jun 14 — A rainstorm killed 19 people and left another 31 missing in Wangmo County, south-west China's Guizhou Province, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said yesterday. The severe weather hit the county in the past two days, authorities said. The casualties toll may rise as local transport and telecommunications have been seriously disrupted, hampering investigative work. The ministry has sent officials to the county.

#### HUNGARY

London, Jun 9 — A young boy is missing and 21 people have been evacuated from their homes as floods once again hit Hungary. The flooding has occurred around the Danube and Tisza rivers after days of heavy rain, with over 11,000 hectares of land submerged. A seven-year-old boy was swept away by fast-flowing water after falling into a tributary of the Sajó River on Jun 4. Emergency crews have been working around the clock to find him, but the high water levels and strong current have been

hampering their search. People living in some areas which are close to the Tisza river have been moved to temporary accommodation as water levels continue to rise.

#### NEW ZEALAND

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The flood damage bill for Gisborne District Council following storms last October and November and in April/May this year is now expected to be over \$4.5 million. Roading manager Geoff Cobb said the extensive damage during the Labour Weekend storm in 2005 was unfortunately followed by more heavy rain events in April and May. Hardest hit was the central part of the western area, Tiniroto, Pehiri, Te Karaka, Otoko, and the north of the district, particularly the area around Ruatoria.

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency services have been mobilised across New Zealand today after wild storms caused blackouts and closed roads, schools and major transport links. The storms have brought heavy snow and severe gales to many parts of the country. Auckland is without power after storm damage took out a substation, triggering a system failure across large parts of the North Island. Some phone systems and traffic lights are also out, and rail and air transport have been disrupted. Auckland Hospital has postponed all surgeries and is running on generators.

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Severe winter storms are sweeping across New Zealand this morning, with heavy snow and gale-force winds affecting many parts of the country. The low-pressure system that developed quickly over the Tasman at the weekend has brought snow to many parts of the South Island and a small tornado that damaged a number of houses in the west coast town of Greymouth. Torrential rain also caused a series of landslides and flooding, washing away a nearby section of the TranzAlpine railway line. Up to 15 cm of snow has fallen in South Canterbury, coinciding with the start of the ski season. There have been snowfalls down to sea-level in Timaru, where powerlines are down and several roads have been closed. Gales are also buffeting most parts of the North Island, with gusts up to 130 kilometres an hour recorded in Wellington.

Wellington, Jun 12 — A power blackout brought chaos to Auckland today, leaving thousands of houses and businesses without electricity, roads gridlocked, phone lines down and hospitals closed. Strong winds from a cold front that began sweeping northwards yesterday had snapped a power line at the Otahuhu substation, the main supplier of power to the country's largest city from the south, Transpower spokesman Chris Roberts said. An earth-wire at the substation had fallen across a 110-kv feed, one of

two main feeds into Auckland, Roberts said, affecting about 230,000 customers. About half the region — including most of south and central Auckland — were without power from just after 0830 hrs (2030, UTC, Jun 11). West Auckland and the North Shore were unaffected. Power was restored to the central business district at about 1240 hrs. Auckland City Council said power was being restored to the rest of the affected areas in stages, and all areas were expected to have power by 1630 hrs. Roberts said the blackout had affected “everything without back-up power”. It halted trains on the suburban commuter rail network while about 300 sets of traffic lights also failed. Some central city businesses were evacuated, the New Zealand Press Association reported. The council said there had been some reports of sewage overflow and it had asked residents to avoid flushing their toilets unless necessary. Two of the largest hospitals in Auckland were closed due to the blackout, the country’s Health Ministry said in a statement. Auckland International Airport, the country’s main gateway to the rest of the world, was also affected by the blackout, though emergency generators provided enough power and there was no disruption to flights, the airport company said. The weather was also causing problems in areas of the South Island with localised power outages as high winds and low snowfall moved northwards with the southerly front. — Reuters.

#### RUSSIA

London, Jun 13 — The Lena River is flooding populated localities in two more regions in Yakutia — Hangalassky and Namsky. Eight houses have been flooded in Tojon-Ary and Grafsky Bereg villages. The waters are not retreating from the Olekminsk region having risen to a 10-centimetre mark over the last 24 hours. Fifteen houses remain flooded in the town of Olekminsk, and 40 and 35 homes in the villages of Troitsk and Kyllakh, respectively. Three more houses have been flooded in the villages of Olekminskoye and Pervaya Abaga. The Far Eastern regional centre of the Emergencies Situations Ministry reported today that the Lena River had flooded a total of 101 houses in the lowland areas of the Republic of Saha (Yakutia). Intensive rains in the Irkutsk region where Lena starts, the melting of snow in the mountains and excessive dumping of water by the Mamakanskaya hydropower station are believed to be three major causes behind the massive floods.

#### SOUTHERN ASIA

Guwahati, Jun 14 — Nearly half a million people have been marooned by flooding in Bangladesh this week, while in neighbouring northeast India at least 10 people have been killed by overflowing rivers, landslides and lightning. Officials on the Indian side

said today that thousands of people in the state of Assam state had moved to higher ground as rivers, swollen by heavy monsoon rains, burst their banks and inundated more than 50 villages. Police said deaths had been reported over the past two days from western Assam and the neighbouring state of Tripura. In Bangladesh, officials said torrents had swept two people to death after the Matamuhuri river flooded several villages at Chokoria, 220 miles southeast of the capital, Dhaka. Thousands of homes, miles of road and hundreds of acres of cropland were flooded in the northeastern region of Sylhet, where the banks of the Kushiara and Surma rivers were both flowing above their danger levels. Disaster management officials said the rivers would rise further as rainwater flowed downhill across the Indian border.

#### TAIWAN

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Several days of torrential rain have wreaked havoc across Taiwan, causing over NT\$290 million in agricultural damage and leaving one person dead, the Central Weather Bureau said yesterday. The CWB said the rain was likely to continue until Jun 12. A man in Keelung was buried alive while operating a backhoe. He was attempting to dig away excess mud when the accident occurred. So far, he is the only fatality reported. The CWB said the heavy rains had caused several landslides, mudslides and severe damage to roads in over nine different counties, including Taoyuan, Hsinchu, Taichung, Changhua, Nantou, Yunlin, Tainan and Kaohsiung. In Yunlin County, the deluge knocked out a bridge, isolating an aboriginal village. Helicopters have been mobilised to deliver the necessary aid to the trapped villagers. In one of the worst hit areas, 27 schools in Chiayi were forced to close when floodwaters reached over one storey high. Chiayi Airport suspended all flights. The train service to the mountain of Alishan, one of Taiwan’s most popular tourist attractions, was cancelled. According to the CWB, 622.5 mm of rain had fallen in Alishan over the last 24 hours. The figure has far surpassed the “extreme torrential rain” mark set by the CWB. A spokesman for Chiayi city government said the rain had caused water levels in rivers to exceed warning levels, with the Bajhang river rising above the 29-metre warning level by 80 cm. It was less than six metres from the edge of the levee. In Kaohsiung County, at least five roads were closed due to mudslides and falling rocks. By yesterday afternoon, residents reported water was up to knee level on the streets. The CWB said the accumulated rainfall in Kaohsiung mountain regions was 500 mm. Hundreds of rescue workers were dispatched to various affected areas to evacuate flood victims. Mudslides and falling debris were reported in

Taoyuan County and people have been urged not to go near hills or mountainous areas in case of an avalanche. The Water Resources Agency also urged Taipei and Taoyuan County residents to store water as the turbidity level in Shihman Reservoir was becoming increasingly dangerous for human use. The heavy rains have struck a devastating blow to vegetable and fruit farmers. Damage to crops was estimated to be at least NT\$290 million, said the Council of Agriculture, adding that 16% of the island’s crop fields, or 4,785 hectares, had been affected by the flooding. The COA said farmers are entitled to apply for subsidies or soft loans to compensate for their losses. The CWB said the rain front was likely to hover over Taiwan for the next two days. So far, meteorologists have not been able to confirm which direction the front is moving, but said it will probably stay around central and southern Taiwan. The CWB urged those living in mountainous areas to take extra precautionary measures to guard against the rains, adding that heavy rain was also expected to hit eastern and south-eastern Taiwan, as well as Kinmen, Matsu, and Penghu.

London, Jun 13 — Agricultural losses in central and southern Taiwan inflicted by torrential rains in the past five consecutive days increased to nearly 900 million new Taiwan dollars (US\$116.13 million) by yesterday, according to news reaching Hong Kong from Taipei. Quoting statistics provided by the local government, the news report said that Nantou, Taichung, Hsinchu, Changhua and Chiayi counties were the hardest-hit areas, and that the local government will offer financial assistance and low-interest loans to help affected farmers. The most severely damaged crops were watermelons, grapes, persimmons and rice, while poultry farms also suffered heavy losses. A total of 23,830 hectares of farmland were flooded, with nearly 20 percent of its crops destroyed, the news said. Other losses included deaths of 410 swine, 205,000 chickens, 2,700 ducks and 6,525 geese.

#### TROPICAL STORM “ALBERTO”

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm “Alberto”, the first named storm of the 2006 Atlantic hurricane season, developed today from a poorly organized tropical depression in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, forecasters said. The storm had maximum sustained winds near 45 mph, up 10 mph from early in the morning, and was expected to strengthen, according to the National Hurricane Centre. “Alberto” was located about 400 miles west of Key West and about 445 miles south-southwest of Apalachicola, and moving northwest near 9 mph, forecasters said. It was expected to veer toward central or northern Florida, where it could make landfall early Tuesday (Jun 13), forecasters said. Boaters were warned to stay in

port, as up to 8 inches of rain could fall over the Florida Keys and the state's Gulf Coast before "Alberto" nears the peninsula, according to the hurricane centre.

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated Jun 11, states: Tropical storm "Alberto" has brought heavy rains to Cuba, dropping as much as 20 inches on western areas of the country. State TV showed pictures of extensive flooding, with one resident of Juventud island saying he had not seen water levels so high in 30 years. The US National Hurricane Center said "Alberto" had maximum winds of 45 mph. It warned the storm could dump up to 30 inches of rain on western Cuba, triggering possible life-endangering flash floods and mudslides. Reports suggest the Juventud island is worst affected, with most streets flooded. Exceptionally heavy rain has also been falling in tobacco-growing areas of western Cuba.

London, Jun 12 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Alberto": At 0900, UTC, a tropical storm warning has been issued for the Gulf coast of Florida from Englewood to Indian Pass. A tropical storm watch remains in effect from south of Englewood to Bonita Beach. Tropical storm centre located near lat 26.2N, long 87.2W 0900, UTC, position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the north-northeast or 20 degrees at seven knots. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 200 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 150 nautical miles south east quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jun 13. Position near lat 28.1N, long 85.6W with maximum winds of 55 knots and gusts to 65 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds: 75 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 60 nautical miles south east quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds: 200 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 150 nautical miles south east quadrant.

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Alberto" is on the verge of becoming the first hurricane of 2006 in the US after it unexpectedly gained power over the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico and aimed at north-west Florida. Anxious US officials ordered thousands of residents to evacuate barrier islands, floodplains and trailer parks as the storm's maximum sustained winds accelerated to near 110 km per hour. Florida Governor Jeb Bush declared a state of emergency even though the most likely area of landfall was sparsely populated swampland and farming country in Florida's "Big Bend." Florida officials said 26 shelters in 16 counties had been opened for evacuees. "This is a serious storm and we are taking it seriously," Governor Bush said. Around 21,000 people were affected by evacuation orders, local media reports.

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Windows were boarded up and the streets on this island in the Gulf of Mexico were desolate as "Alberto", the first tropical storm of the 2006 Atlantic hurricane season, swirled toward Florida early today with winds below hurricane strength. More than 20,000 people along Florida's Gulf Coast were ordered to evacuate, but officials worried some residents in low-lying areas prone to flooding still would not take the storm seriously. At 0500, EDT, "Alberto" was centred about 65 miles west of Cedar Key, and was moving northeast at about 9 mph, the National Hurricane Centre said. Its top sustained winds were at 65 mph; The minimum for a hurricane is 74 mph. A hurricane warning was posted for the Gulf Coast and a tropical storm warning was extended from Flagler Beach, Fla., northward to South Santee River, S.C. Florida Gov. Jeb Bush signed a declaration of emergency allowing him to call up the National Guard and put laws against price gouging in place. "Alberto" was expected to blow ashore anywhere from north of Tampa to the Panhandle, with storm surges of up to 10 feet. Forecasters said "Alberto" would likely only become a weak Category 1 hurricane because the warm water it needs for fuel isn't too deep in the area. Evacuation orders were posted for people in mobile homes or low-lying areas in at least five coastal counties stretching more than 100 miles. Those ordered evacuated included about 21,000 residents of Citrus, Levy and Taylor counties. Forecasters said it could bring 4 to 10 inches of rain to central Florida and southeastern Georgia.

London, Jun 13 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Alberto": A hurricane warning remains in effect for the Gulf coast of Florida from Longboat Key to the Ochlockonee River. Preparations to protect life and property should have already been completed. The tropical storm warning along the Atlantic coast has been extended northwards to South Santee River, South Carolina. A tropical storm warning is now in effect for the Atlantic coast from Flagler Beach, FL, northwards to South Santee River. A tropical storm warning remains in effect south of Longboat Key to Englewood and west of the Ochlockonee River to Indian Pass. Storm centre located near lat 29.2N, long 84.2W, at 0900, UTC, Jun 13. Position accurate to within 30 nautical miles. Present movement towards the north-east, or 035 deg, at eight knots. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots with gusts to 65 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 50 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 30 nautical miles north-east quadrant, nil elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 150 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 90 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 60 nautical miles north-west quadrant and 30 nautical miles south-west quadrant. Radius of

12-foot seas 200 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 150 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 125 nautical miles north-east quadrant and 75 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jun 14: position lat 32.1N, long 81.9W. Extratropical. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 150 nautical miles east semicircle, nil elsewhere.

London, Jun 14 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Tropical cyclone "Alberto" centre located near lat 33.5N, long 81.4W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement toward the northeast or 40 degrees at 18 knots. Maximum sustained winds 30 knots with gusts to 40 knots. Forecast position lat 35.7N, long 77.7W, at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum wind 35 knots, gusts 45 knots. Forecast position lat 38.5N, long 72.0W at 0600, UTC, Jun 15.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated today, states: After coming ashore in Florida, the remnants of the first named storm of the season churned through the Southeast early today, bringing much-needed rain. By early this morning, "Alberto" had weakened from a tropical storm to a tropical depression over South Carolina and all tropical storm warnings were discontinued, forecasters at the National Hurricane Centre said. The storm was expected to lose all tropical characteristics later in the day, though it was possible the storm could strengthen again. Tropical Storm "Alberto" caused a brief scare and prompted a call for more than 20,000 people to evacuate Florida's Gulf Coast. But no serious injuries or deaths were reported. Forecasters said the centre of circulation would track into the Carolinas from Georgia by today, pushing nasty weather ahead of it. Storm winds gusting over 40 mph began moving into South Carolina late yesterday night, knocking down trees and power lines in three counties. At 0500, EDT, "Alberto" had maximum sustained winds near 35 mph and was moving northeast near 21 mph, forecasters said. The center of the tropical depression was located about 35 miles south-southwest of Columbia, S.C. Two to four inches of rain were forecast for the Carolinas and parts of Virginia, with isolated heavier rains along the coast. Isolated tornadoes also were possible in the Carolinas. "Alberto's" winds were about 50 mph when it came ashore near Adams Beach, Fla., still strong enough to be a tropical storm, but well below even a Category 1 hurricane's 74-mph threshold.

#### TYPHOON "CHANCHU"

Manila, Jun 9 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that it had ordered the convening of a Special Board of Marine Inquiry to investigate the grounding of the non-propelled Tank barge *Billy Star*. The Board is expected to convene its first



meeting next week in Cebu in central Philippines. The Board will try to determine if the owner of the *Billy Star* had been negligent in allowing the vessel to travel despite the presence of a tropical typhoon. The board will also try to find out if the owner and the crew of the barge had taken every precaution to prevent its highly toxic cargo of sulphuric acid from escaping into the environment. Based on its findings the Board can recommend the filing of criminal charges in court as well as the imposition of administrative charges against the owner and the crew of the vessel. The partially submerged barge is reported to be leaking sulphuric acid and poses a serious environmental and health hazard. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jun 9 — Batangas Bay Carriers, Inc., owner and operator of product tanker *Malitam*, reported that awarding of the contract for the repair of the vessel has been postponed to allow for more quotations from other shipyards. Batangas Bay had earlier announced that it would be choosing a from three Manila-based shipyards today. The tanker operator, however, has decided to accept other bids after learning that the earliest these shipyards could start work on the vessel would be in July. The tanker operator also said that it was expanding the scope of the work order. It did not disclose, however, the additional repair work involved. The original scope of work included repairs on the engine, propeller and rudder. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jun 13 — Malayan Towage and Salvage, Inc. reported that it had refloated tank barge *Billy Star* Jun 9 from its grounded position off the shoreline of Sitio Talaba on Sibuyan island in central Philippines. The barge was pulled out of its trapped location by salvage tugs *Tabangao* and *Charger*. The refloating was accomplished after a hole in the barge's hull was patched up and its flooded compartments pumped out. Malayan Towage officials said that the refloating operation was made more difficult by the barge's cargo of highly-toxic sulphuric acid which was leaking from the storage tanks. The barge was taken in tow by *Tabangao* accompanied by *Charger* as a back-up tug and brought to Keppel Batangas Shipyard. The *Billy Star* reached Keppel Batangas shipyard on Sunday where it is now waiting for a tanker to offload its cargo. After offloading, the barge will undergo tank cleaning after which it will be drydocked to repair the fracture in its hull. — Lloyd's List Correspondent. (See issue of Jun 12.)

Manila, Jun 15 — Batangas Bay Carriers, Inc., owner and operator of product tanker *Malitam* reported that it had received two bids for the repair of the vessel. The bids were submitted by Bataan-based Herma Shipyard and Elpa Shipyard which has a drydock facility in Navotas, Manila. Batangas Bay Carriers said that it was waiting for Keppel Batangas Shipyard's bid

before making a decision. The operator said that it hopes to make an announcement by next week. The winning shipyard will carry out repairs on the *Malitam's* engine, propeller, rudder and other additional works. The tanker operator also reported that it had completed renewal work on the flooded engine. This involved opening up, cleaning and identifying damaged parts. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: A tornado that ripped roofs from homes and knocked over tractor-trailers during a 15-mile rampage through Columbia County, Wis., on Tuesday evening (Jun 6) caused damage expected to approach \$1 million, officials said. Columbia County's emergency management director, Patrick Beghin, gave the preliminary estimate late Wednesday. He added that Tuesday evening's twister could have been much worse. The tornado hit southwest and south of Portage, Wis., but generally stayed in rural areas, hitting farms and a large wildlife area, following the freeway for part of its path, and crossing the Wisconsin River twice. Beghin said it dissipated just as it was headed for more populated areas. Beghin said much of it happened in the middle of Pine Island Wildlife Area, which is 5,000 acres of woods and fields. There were no reports of serious injuries.



#### INDONESIA

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake struck off the western coast of Indonesia's Sumatra Island today, the Government said. There were no immediate report of injuries or damage. The 5.9-magnitude quake was centred 330 miles southwest of the town of Bandar Lampung, said Agung Mulyo Utomo, a staffer the country's meteorology and geophysics agency. Local radio station el-Shinta said the quake was lightly felt in Bandar Lampung. Utomo said there were no reports of injuries, damage or a tsunami.

London, Jun 15 — A 5.5 earthquake struck in lat 1.432N, 126.401E, at 0428, UTC, Jun 15. Depth 10 kilometres.

#### JAPAN

London, Jun 12 — A report, dated Jun 11, states: A magnitude 6.3 earthquake in Kyushu, Japan, occurred in lat 33.29N, long 131.18E, depth 155 km at 2001, UTC, today.

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.2 jolted large areas of western Japan

early today, injuring at least eight people, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency and rescue authorities. The 0501 quake measured lower 5 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in Kure, Hiroshima Prefecture, and in Imabari, Yawatahama, Ikata and Seiyo, Ehime Prefecture, and Saiki, Oita Prefecture, according to the agency. Meanwhile, another quake with a preliminary magnitude of 4.8 hit northern Japan at around 0804, the agency said, measuring 3 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale in Hakodate, Hokkaido, and 2 in several parts in Hokkaido, Aomori and Iwate prefectures.

#### MONGOLIA

London, Jun 15 — A 5.8 quake occurred in lat 45.346N, long 97.311E, at 0649, UTC, today, depth 10 km.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter Scale hit the Aleutian Islands off Alaska late yesterday, the US Geological Survey and the National Weather Service (USGS) said. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. No tsunami warning was issued. The quake occurred at 0418, GMT, today at a depth of 15 km in the ocean, a few kilometres west of Kiska Island in the Rat Islands group of the Aleutians, 274 km south-east of Attu Station, the USGS said.



#### MOUNT BULUSAN, PHILIPPINES

Manila, Jun 10 — A restive volcano in the central Philippines spewed a column of ash at least one km into the sky before dawn today, raising concern of an eruption in the days ahead. There were two minor explosions at Bulusan volcano in the Bicol region, but there was no sign of lava flow, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said in a statement. Ernesto Corpuz, one of the institute's chief monitoring scientists, said Bulusan's activity had been increasing and more explosions and ash falls were likely in the coming days. "Our monitoring indicates magma is rising to the surface," said Corpuz. However, he said that the institute could not predict when a major eruption would occur, and it was for now keeping its alert level at 2 on a scale from 1 to 5. Officials have warned residents in three towns of Sorsogon province not to venture within four km of the 1,559-metre volcano because of the risk of sudden explosions. Casiguran town, on Bulusan's northern slopes, was declared under a state of calamity yesterday after ash damaged houses, crops and fish ponds and forced schools to close. — Reuters.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Explosions of ash from the restive Bulusan volcano forced several schools to close today, as officials called emergency meetings to assess damage to agriculture and health. The 1,560-metre Mount Bulusan belched a plume of ash 1.5 km into the sky last night, blanketing at villages in Sorsogon province with thick ash, clouding visibility and keeping people indoors for hours, officials said. The explosion of ash, Bulusan's seventh since Mar 21, was accompanied by mild tremors, but there were no other signs of unrest that would indicate an imminent major eruption, according to the Philippine Institute of Vulcanology and Seismology. The ash was blown by the wind north-west toward the farming towns of Casiguran and Juban, where officials cancelled classes in at least nine primary and secondary schools to safeguard more than 2,600 students from health risks, officials said. Juban's mayor Maria Teresa Fragata said she called an emergency meeting to assess possible health risks and damage to Juban's coconut plantations, rice and vegetable farms, which are the main source of livelihood in the town of 28,000 people. Bulusan's ash destroyed up to pesos 15 million worth of rice crops in Juban in March alone, she said. Philippine scientists have warned of more ash explosions and possible mudflows from Bulusan, about 390 km south-east of Manila. Officials in towns near the volcano have made preparations to evacuate in case of a major eruption.

#### **MOUNT MERAPI, INDONESIA**

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Indonesia's Mount Merapi continued to spew lava and searing clouds of gas and ash today as geologists maintained the highest danger alert on the smouldering volcano. Despite losing a huge chunk of the lava dome forming at its peak on Friday (Jun 9), which lessened the danger of a major eruption, geologists said the volcano still posed a threat. "The 'Beware' status remains as there are no indications that could point otherwise," said Tri Yani of the vulcanology office in Yogyakarta, just south of the volcano. "Beware" status is the top alert on a volcano. Authorities imposed the red alert on May 13 and have since maintained it. The rumbling volcano's activities remained significant, although its lava dome lost about 1.3 million cubic metres of material on Friday evening, releasing heat clouds of gas and ash that reached down five km on its south-eastern slope. The volcano today spewed a large trail of heat clouds that went four km down its southern slope, Yani said. It also emitted at least 82 torrents of lava, one of which reached as far as three km down its south-western slope. Merapi yesterday churned out 25 heat-cloud cascades up to 3.5 km high, and 145 lava flows up to three km down the slope.

Yogyakarta, Jun 13 — An Indonesian state agency monitoring Mount Merapi has lowered the volcano's alert status after a decrease in emissions, officials at the vulcanology centre said today. Merapi in central Java, near the ancient royal city of Yogyakarta, is considered one of the most dangerous volcanoes in the Pacific "Ring of Fire". It has threatened a major eruption for weeks, forcing evacuation of thousands from its slopes. "Merapi's status was lowered from 'alert' to 'prepared'," Triyani, a vulcanologist at the Centre for Volcanological Research and Technology, told Reuters. The centre also recommended that the government let evacuees return home. — Reuters.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A large eruption of searing hot gas and debris sent more than 1,000 villagers fleeing from the slopes of Mount Merapi today, prompting authorities to again raise the mountain's alert level to its highest status. The decision to raise the alert level came a day after it was dropped a notch, and means thousands of people will have to be evacuated, many of whom only returned to their homes earlier today, said government vulcanologist Subandrio. "When we downgraded the status, we said that if its activities increased and we thought it was dangerous to the people then we will review it," he told el-Shinta radio station



#### **AFGHANISTAN**

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 40 suspected Taleban militants have been killed in clashes since Monday (Jun 5), the US-led coalition in Afghanistan says. The clashes between militants and Afghan and coalition soldiers took place in Zabul and Uruzgan provinces, a coalition statement said. Separately, three people have been killed in an explosion near the Afghan capital, Kabul on Friday. Violence has been escalating in southern and eastern Afghanistan. A statement by the US-led coalition said "more than 30" militants were killed in a clash with Afghan and Canadian forces in Arghandab district in Zabul on Monday. "Joint fires were employed, forcing remaining enemies to flee," the statement said. A spokesman for the coalition said the operations against militants would continue in Zabul. "There are known Taleban extremists in Zabul province, and Afghan national security and coalition forces will continue to attack these enemies of Afghanistan until the province is safe and secure," Lt Col Paul Fitzpatrick said. "We will not be

deterred from our mission to provide a safe and secure environment to the Afghan people," he added. Another 14 militants were killed in two separate clashes in Uruzgan province on Thursday, coalition officials said. A clash happened in the Deh Rawood district when a coalition patrol "effectively disrupted the operations of approximately 30 insurgents" who were gathering outside a village. "Coalition forces attacked the extremist positions with artillery, killing 10 enemy fighters. The remaining enemy fighters broke contact and quickly fled the area," the statement said. In a separate operation in the district, four militants were killed after the security forces foiled an ambush attempt. No Afghan or foreign soldiers were injured in these operations, the statement said. On Friday, a politician, a village elder and a driver travelling in a car were killed by a roadside bomb, south of the Afghan capital, Kabul, officials said. Kabul police chief Amanullah Ghazar said the bomb exploded in the Musayi district of Kabul province and hit the convoy of Kabul intelligence chief Humayoon Aini who was returning to the city after a meeting south of the capital. Mr Aini, who was travelling in a different vehicle, was not hurt.

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Afghan and US-led coalition forces killed 37 suspected militants, including a relative of Taliban leader Mulla Omar, in three separate battles across southern Afghanistan, an Afghan army general said yesterday. Omar's brother-in-law, Mulla Amanullah, was killed along with 14 other insurgents in Siachave village, Uruzgan province, when troops stormed the area late on Sunday, said army commander Gen Rehmatullah Raufi. Amanullah was the Taliban commander in Uruzgan province's Dihrawud district. In a second raid early yesterday, troops killed 12 suspected militants in Kandahar's Saidan village. Ten other militants were killed in neighbouring Helmand province's Sangin district late Sunday (Jun 11) in a battle involving Afghan and British forces. Two Afghan men were killed when a roadside bomb struck a vehicle. Gunmen fired at a tanker hauling gasoline to a US base yesterday, killing the Afghan driver, agencies.

Kabul, Jun 14 — Two foreign soldiers and 14 rebels have been killed in the latest clashes in the most serious spell of violence in Afghanistan since the Taliban were overthrown in 2001, military officials said today. The upsurge in fighting comes as NATO forces prepare to take over from U.S. troops in the Taliban heartland in the south. An American soldier died in an ambush in the southern province of Helmand yesterday, said Major Quentin Innes, a spokesman for international forces in southern Afghanistan. The ambush triggered a fierce clash in which coalition forces backed by helicopters and planes

attacked Taliban positions. "We believe 12 suspected Taliban were killed in the bombing," Innes said, adding the coalition was assessing if there were any civilian casualties in the air strikes. The U.S. military said another foreign soldier was killed in eastern Kunar province on Tuesday but did not give his identity. Two Taliban fighters were killed in a gunbattle in the restive province of Zabul after they ambushed a U.S. convoy, wounding two American soldiers. Taliban officials could not be immediately contacted. — Reuters.

## BANGLADESH

Dhaka, Jun 11 — More than 150 Bangladesh opposition leaders and activists were injured in fierce battles with police while trying to stage a blockade of Dhaka today, witnesses said. Rock-throwing protesters fought steel-helmeted riot police at Kanchpur on the outskirts of Dhaka, in which at least 70 people, including former army chief general K.M. Shafiullah, were injured. Police, who retaliated with tear gas and baton charges, also detained nearly 50 people at Kanchpur, on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway. As the battle raged, hundreds of stick-wielding people from nearby villages joined the protesters, forcing police to make a temporary retreat. The protesters burnt several vehicles, including a police car. Several policemen were hurt by flying rocks, witnesses said. Leaders of the opposition Awami League had urged followers to gather at city entry points today to lay siege to the capital. The opposition wants the caretaker administration that will be appointed to organise January's election to be led by a figure acceptable to all political groups, and the armed forces placed under the caretaker leader's control during the polls. Police toured Dhaka overnight with loudspeakers declaring the High Court had banned the blockade and anyone participating could be prosecuted. Authorities deployed more than 30,000 riot police and paramilitary troops in the capital today, home ministry officials said. Awami general secretary Abdul Jalil said the opposition would call for an indefinite strike if the government tried to foil the siege. "I am warning the authorities against trying to stop us by using force. The siege is our democratic right and we are going to implement it," Jalil said. Sporadic violence was also reported from Tongi industrial area, on the city's northern fringe, where nearly 40 protesters were injured and many detained by police, witnesses said. Witnesses said the city's inter-district bus terminals looked deserted with virtually no customers. Ferries and trains moved in the early hours of today, but with very few passengers. Nearly 5,000 opposition activists and suspected criminals had been detained by police in the run up to today's protest, but they spared main leaders in the swoop. — Reuters.

## ETHIOPIA

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 100 people have died and thousands of others have been displaced during clashes over disputed land in southern Ethiopia during the past two weeks, humanitarian sources said. The fighting between the Guji ethnic group and their Borena rivals occurred in the territory between the towns of Yabello and Finchewa, about 400km south of Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital. Conflict over water sources and pasture is common in country's arid southern region, which is inhabited by pastoralists. "We have received reports from local sources saying that up to 100 people have been killed in interclan clashes between Guji and Borena since 30 May, but this figure has not yet been confirmed," said Liz Lucas, a spokeswoman for Oxfam. "The conflict started after the Guji, whose woreda [district] has recently been expanded by the government, started to claim land that previously belonged to Borena," an official of a local NGO said. "Thousands of people have been displaced." The federal police were not immediately able to confirm the clashes. Several humanitarian organisations have suspended their activities in the conflict affected-area. In a related development, two mobile health teams have suspended their work in the Somali Region of southeastern Ethiopia because of clashes between government troops and forces belonging to an insurgency in the area, humanitarian sources said.

## GUINEA

See under "Labour Disputes."

## INDIA

Guwahati, Jun 9 — Four people were killed and 16 wounded when a powerful explosion hit a crowded vegetable market today in Guwahati, the main city of India's troubled northeastern state of Assam, police said. A senior police officer said some of the wounded were in a serious condition. "There is total confusion here. We are busy evacuating the injured to the hospital," Rajen Singh told Reuters by telephone. There were no further details, but a series of grenade attacks in the state yesterday wounded at least 20 people. Those attacks came soon after it was announced a third round of talks between New Delhi and representatives of the region's most powerful rebel group — the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) — would be held on June 22. — Reuters.

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected Islamic rebels hurled three grenades at people buying bus tickets in the Indian portion of Kashmir today, killing one and wounding 18, police said. The attack happened during morning rush hour at the main bus stand in Jammu, the capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state, senior police superintendent Mukesh Singh said.

People were buying tickets for Katra, a launching point for Hindus visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine. No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but Singh said he suspected Islamic militants. At least five of the wounded were hospitalized in critical condition. It was not immediately clear how many of the victims were Hindu pilgrims, because the bus stand also is used by local residents.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The dawn-to-dusk general strike called by trade unions owing allegiance to the ruling Left Democratic Front in protest against the increase in the prices of petroleum products was total and peaceful in Kerala. Barring an attempt by pro-LDF activists to close forcibly a school that was sought to be opened in Kasaragod district, no untoward incident of any significance was reported from any part of the State in connection with the general strike. The LDF had lent its support to the strike called as part of a country-wide agitation by Left parties in protest against the Central decision to increase the prices of petroleum products disregarding the various proposals submitted by them. The situation was band-like all over the State with roads remaining deserted for most part of the day. Although the trade unions had exempted private vehicles from the ambit of the strike, there were only few vehicles on the road in most parts of the State. The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) did not operate most of its services during the strike period and taxis, autorikshaws and other public carriers remained off the road. Vehicular traffic resumed towards evening, but shops and commercial establishments mostly remained closed. Attendance in government offices was thin and not much transaction took place in banks. Markets were deserted. All examinations scheduled for the day had been postponed and schools and other educational institutions had a holiday. Workers took marches in district headquarters around noon as part of the general strike. Addressing the workers, AITUC State general secretary and Trade Union Sponsoring Committee convener Kanam Rajendran pointed out that the situation on the oil front was going to become more serious in the coming days with the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs clearing the proposal to allow oil companies to effect automatic hike in the prices of petroleum products every time the global crude price crosses the \$75 mark. The committee, in a statement issued later in the day, said the strike was total. It had resulted in a bandh-like situation in the State.

## IRAQ

Baghdad, Jun 8 — US aircraft killed Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the al Qaeda leader in Iraq blamed for bombings, beheadings and assassinations, and President George W. Bush said today that American forces had "delivered

justice". Zarqawi was killed on Wednesday in a US-Iraqi operation helped by tip-offs from Iraqis and Jordanian intelligence, officials said. Vowing to fight on, Al Qaeda in Iraq confirmed the death of Zarqawi, who is said to have carried out several beheadings of hostages himself and who appeared in a recent video firing a machine gun in the desert. US forces displayed a picture of the corpse of the bearded Zarqawi with his eyes shut, at a Baghdad news conference. Zarqawi, in his late 30s and whom Osama bin Laden called the prince of al Qaeda in Iraq, had symbolised the radical Islamic insurgency against US occupation, and Prime Minister Tony Blair said he now expected insurgents to seek revenge. "There will be fierce attempts with the death of Zarqawi to fight back," Blair said, adding his death would not end the killing in Iraq but that it was "significant". Bush said the death of Zarqawi, who had a \$25 million bounty on his head, was "a severe blow to al Qaeda," a victory in the war on terrorism, "and it is an opportunity for Iraq's new government to turn the tide in this struggle." Prime Minister Nuri al-Malik said seven Zarqawi aides were also killed in the raid in the city of Baquba 65 km north of the capital. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jun 8 — The Iraqi parliament approved today Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's candidates for interior and defense ministers, ending wrangling that had threatened to plunge his three-week-old unity government into crisis. A series of bombs that killed at least 31 people in Baghdad underlined the monumental task new Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani and Defense Minister General Abdel Qader Jassim face in restoring stability in the country. The legislature also endorsed a Minister for National Security — Shi'ite Sherwan Waeli. The new defense and interior ministers — who both worked in the armed forces during Saddam's rule — will be under pressure to start tackling the kind of bombings that brought more death and mayhem to the Iraqi capital today. Nearly 70 people were wounded in the four attacks that claimed 31 lives — a roadside bomb in a busy market in eastern Baghdad followed by three car bombs in other parts of the city. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jun 9 — Gunmen kidnapped a senior official of Iraq's oil ministry after he left work in Baghdad yesterday, police and ministry sources said today, highlighting the lawlessness still afflicting the vital sector. The incident happened the same day US troops killed Iraq's al Qaeda leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, whose demise the Iraqi Oil Minister Hussain al-Shahristani said would help improve the country's oil production, particularly in the north. The sources said Muthana al-Badri, Director General of Iraq's State Company for Oil Projects (SCOP), was on his way

home in the Sunni district of Adhamiya when gunmen in four cars stopped his car and abducted him but set his driver free. They said the kidnappers have not contacted the ministry or Badri's family. The kidnapping highlights the challenges and dangers which Iraq's oil sector, hampered by violence and political wrangling, face. Badri, who the sources said is in his 60's, has always worked for SCOP. He became head of the company after Saddam Hussein was toppled in 2003. Oil Ministry sources described him as a "professional and energetic." SCOP is in charge of the oil projects for the ministry such as building new refineries and pipelines. Iraq, which sits on the world's third largest oil reserves, has been struggling to produce two million barrels per day, down from nearly three million bpd before the US-led invasion in 2003. Insurgents in Iraq have repeatedly sabotaged oil facilities in the north to hampered efforts to boost crude oil exports, the main source of government revenue. Exports in May were around 1.5 million bpd, according to shipping sources. Exports from the north are on hold due to sabotage which has so devastated infrastructure there that oil exports from the giant Kirkuk field are unlikely to resume until early next year. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jun 11 — Bombs killed nine people in Baghdad and gunmen shot dead five butchers in Mosul yesterday, as US President George W. Bush warned that killing al Qaeda's leader in Iraq would not end violence. Bush said US and Iraqi forces would capitalise on the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi by cracking down on insurgents trying to regroup after losing their leader, blamed for some of Iraq's bloodiest attacks since the US invasion in 2003. "Coalition and Iraqi forces are seizing this moment to strike the enemies of freedom in Iraq at this time of uncertainty for their cause," he said in a weekly radio address. But Bush, signalling that the United States was not ready to start scaling back its military presence of 130,000 troops despite Wednesday's (Jun 7) killing of the Jordanian militant, also warned that violence may get worse in coming weeks. Zarqawi was blamed for a series of attacks on Iraq's Shi'ite Muslim majority igniting a wave of reprisals that brought Iraq to the brink of civil war. His followers have vowed to carry on with the violent campaign after his death in a US air raid north of Baghdad. Two separate bombings killed at least nine people in downtown Baghdad and wounded more than 40, after the government lifted a daytime traffic ban it imposed on Friday amid fears of al Qaeda reprisals for the Zarqawi killing. A roadside bomb struck a busy market in a predominantly Shi'ite Muslim area of the capital, killing three people. A few hours later, a car bomb in a mixed area killed six people and wounded 18, including three

policemen. In the northern city of Mosul, gunmen shot dead five butchers in their neighbouring shops, police sources said. — Reuters.

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Three car bombs exploded in quick succession in the northern city of Kirkuk today, killing at least 15 people and wounding nearly 20, police said. The first explosion was a parked car bomb targeting a police patrol at 0745 in the city centre. Ten people, including two policemen and eight civilians, were killed and nine people, including a police colonel and eight civilians, were wounded in that attack, Brig. Gen. Sarhat Qadir said. A suspected suicide car bomber then tried to go through the checkpoint of the Kirkuk police directorate some 30 minutes later, but the guards opened fire, causing the car to explode. Qadir said two policemen and three civilians were killed and six people were wounded, including one policeman and five civilians. Another suspected suicide car bomber tried to hit a Kurdish political office at 0830 but guards foiled that attack as well, police Col. Taieb Taha said. The guards opened fire on the car, causing it to explode outside the office of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan party. Three civilians were wounded. Kirkuk is 180 miles north of Baghdad.

## ISRAEL

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: A senior Palestinian official in the Gaza Strip has died in an Israeli air strike in the town of Rafah. Jamal Abu Samhadana founded the Popular Resistance Committees, which regularly launches home-made rockets into Israel. Samhadana, a senior security chief in the Hamas-led government, was one of four killed in the attack on a training camp, which injured seven others. He was one of Israel's most wanted men in Gaza, and was thought to be involved in a 2003 attack on a US convoy. A training camp in Rafah - on the Egyptian border - was shaken by four explosions close to midnight local time (2100, UTC). It soon became clear the Samhadana was one of the four killed. Hospital officials said Samhadana's body was incinerated in the strike but his face was recognizable, according to the Associated Press news agency. The Israeli military confirmed the strike, saying it targeted militants who were planning an attack on Israel. Samhadana had become close to the Hamas movement which now controls the Palestinian government. His appointment to the interior ministry recently infuriated Israel and the Palestinian opposition faction, Fatah. The move was also bitterly condemned by the Palestinian Authority President, Mahmoud Abbas. Hamas and the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) expressed their anger over Samhadana's death. A spokesman for the PRC vowed to "open the gates of hell" in response. As word of Samhadana's death

spread, hundreds of angry militants converged on the hospital where his body is lying. They fired their weapons in the air and swore that they would strike back at Israel.

Gaza, Jun 10 — Hamas said it fired rockets at Israel from the Gaza Strip today for the first time since agreeing to a truce 16 months ago. Hamas, which now heads the Palestinian government, announced it was renewing attacks on Israel after an explosion it blamed on the Israeli military killed seven Palestinians relaxing on a Gaza beach yesterday. Israel, which has been firing artillery at Palestinian rocket squads, promised an investigation. There were no immediate reports in Israel that any of the rockets Hamas's armed wing said it aimed across the border today had landed in Israeli territory. Hamas is formally sworn to destroy Israel and carried out nearly 60 suicide bombings in its cities since a Palestinian uprising began in 2000. The Islamic group took power in March after winning a Palestinian election in January. "This is only the start and rocket firings will continue," a spokesman for Hamas's Izz el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades said. "Next time, the rockets will be longer in range and they will hit places deeper inside the Zionist entity. The attacks come in response to the Zionist crimes and the killings of civilians in Gaza," he said. Palestinians said an Israeli artillery shell had caused the deaths on the Gaza beach. The army said it was too early to be certain. "This may have been an accident which caused an artillery shell to fall off course, or an older unexploded shell which went off, or perhaps an explosive device which was tinkered with," said Major-General Yoav Galant. — Reuters.

Gaza, Jun 11 — An Israeli air strike killed two militants from the Hamas Islamic group in the northern Gaza Strip today after they fired rockets at Israel, Palestinian medics said. The Israeli military said it launched a strike at militants attempting to fire rockets. Witnesses also said there had been a second explosion in the area, although the cause was unclear. The killing of the Hamas militants was the first by Israel since the Islamists formally scrapped a 16-month truce with the Jewish state on Friday (Jun 9) and resumed firing rockets and mortar bombs from Gaza. Three other Hamas militants were wounded in the air strike. Hamas said it ended the truce in response to the killing of seven people on a Gaza beach during Israeli shelling. Hamas has abstained from striking inside Israel since a truce was announced in early 2005. It had spearheaded a suicide bombing campaign since a Palestinian uprising began in 2000. — Reuters.

Gaza, Jun 13 — An Israeli missile strike on a vehicle carrying a Palestinian rocket-launching squad in Gaza today killed at least nine people, including two children, witnesses and medics said. It was one of the deadliest strikes from the air in years and came amid a surge of rocket fire

from militants in Gaza following the killing of seven Palestinians, including three children, on a day of Israeli artillery shelling on Friday (Jun 9). "There was an attack on a car that was heading to fire rockets at Israel," an army spokeswoman said in Tel Aviv. Witnesses said they saw rockets in the wreckage of a yellow van hit in the strike east of Gaza City and that there were at least 10 casualties. Medics said nine people were killed, two of them children. Local residents said the men in the vehicle belonged to the Islamic Jihad group. — Reuters.

#### **NIGERIA**

London, Jun 8 — The BBC reported today: Five South Koreans, kidnapped during a raid on a Nigeria oil field, in which five soldiers were killed, have been freed, a group of oil militants said. The claim by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (Mend) has not been independently confirmed. Three of the kidnapped workers are from South Korean engineering firm Daewoo. The others work for the Korea Gas Corp.

#### **PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Jun 9 — Pakistan state owned biggest exploration and production firm-Pakistan Petroleum Ltd (PPL) said gas supply from the Sui gas plant in Balochistan province to two gas utilities-Sui Southern Gas Company and Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Company was 100% restored on Thursday (Jun 8) after main compressor plant resume its full operation. It was suspended late on Tuesday evening when the main plant was closed after outlaws blew up the gas pipeline feeding the plant. However, replacement of the destroyed pipeline was under way and it might be completed by today. Meanwhile, security at the Sui gas field and of the gas pipelines feeding the plant has been tightened and more troops have been deployed in the area. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Islamabad, Jun 10 — Pakistani security forces attacked a militant hideout near the Afghan border today, killing up to 20 people, an army spokesman said. Pakistan is trying to clear its rugged, semi-autonomous border lands of militants, many of whom fled there after US and Afghan opposition forces ousted Afghanistan's Taliban rulers in late 2001. The compound, attacked with artillery and helicopters, was near Dattakhel village, in the North Waziristan region on the Afghan border, said the spokesman, Major-General Shaukat Sultan. An attack was launched before dawn and about 70% of the compound was destroyed, he said. "We believe we killed 15-20 miscreants," he said. The militants at the hideout, who had been responsible for numerous attacks on security force convoys, were believed to be foreigners and their Pakistani allies, he said. Foreign al Qaeda supporters, including many from Central Asia, are known to be taking refuge in the area. Private Aaj

TV, citing a security official, said Uzbeks, Tajiks and Chechens were believed to be among the dead. — Reuters.

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Gas supplies to nearly three million people were suspended today after a bomb attack on a key pipeline in Pakistan's violence-plagued south-western Balochistan province, police said. The pipeline was blown up early in the day in the Dasht area, about 25 kilometres east of provincial capital Quetta. Disruptions hit about two million people in Quetta alone while more than a million others would be affected in adjoining districts of Pashin, Ziarat, Mastung and Qillat. An electric pole was destroyed and another damaged by explosives near the site of the destroyed pipeline while police said they defused homemade devices planted on five more poles. No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but the government had been blaming tribal militants for the subversive activities in the region who are engaged in a protracted but low-scale insurgency for more political and economic rights. After the bomb attack on the pipeline, a fire broke out that gutted at least 50 shops in a commercial area. Pakistan's military ruler General Pervez Musharraf has refused to talk to chieftains of the Bugti, Mengal and Marri tribes who he blames for fuelling the insurgency in the region. The rebel tribesmen accuse the government of exploiting their natural resources without passing on the benefits to the local people.

Quetta, Jun 12 — A blast on a road in the Pakistani town of Quetta killed three people and wounded 11 today, police said. "The explosion went off near a hotel. At the moment, we have received three bodies and 11 injured," senior Quetta police official Zahid Afaq told Reuters. "The numbers of casualties could be high as injured are being brought to hospitals," he said. Afaq declined to speculate on the cause of the blast or who might have been responsible. — Reuters.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A bomb blast damaged a south-western Pakistani railway line to Iran today, but no one was injured, AP reported. The explosion occurred in Naushki, about 200 km south-west of Quetta, said Shoaib Ahmed, a railways official. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. No train was scheduled to pass on the track at the time of the explosion, Ahmed said. Engineers went to the area to repair the line, he said. Meanwhile, police detained 26 men today in connection with a bomb blast at a roadside tea stall in Balochistan that killed five people and wounded 17, AP reported. Several of the detainees were suspected of knowing those who carried out yesterday's attack in Quetta's Saryab Road neighbourhood, said police deputy inspector general Salman Sayed. Meanwhile, security forces launched an operation today

against saboteurs involved in anti-state activities in Balochistan, Online reported. Wadera Alam Khan, a leader of the resistance, told reporters that a heavy contingent of security forces had launched an operation in Tobo. He claimed that 20 helicopter gunships and jet planes had been seen in the sky. However, no loss of life and property has been reported.

### SOMALIA

Mogadishu, Jun 9 — At least six people were killed today in the town of Baidoa in fighting between local militiamen and bodyguards of Somalia's interim president, local journalists said. President Abdullahi Yusuf was not present during the clash, they said, adding that the fighting erupted after a dispute at a checkpoint in the town, seat of the weak interim administration. The journalists, speaking by telephone, said the clash seemed unrelated to battles for control of the capital Mogadishu between Islamist militias and forces allied to a self-styled anti-terrorism coalition of warlords. Media reports said the gunfight erupted when a government technical — a pickup truck equipped with heavy guns — tried to pass a checkpoint manned by a local militia, who demanded a payment. Hundreds of roadblocks, where gunmen extort money from passing drivers, are dotted across lawless Somalia, providing a major source of income for militiamen. Government spokesman Adirahman Dinari was not immediately available for comment. — Reuters.

### SRI LANKA

Oslo, Jun 8 — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels and government called off talks in Oslo without meeting today, peace mediator Norway said, although both sides were continuing to meet teams of mediators separately. "The Tamil Tigers and Sri Lankan government have called off their meeting in Norway without sitting together," Norwegian government spokesman Espen Gullikstad said. The talks were intended to discuss the safety and role of Nordic truce monitors as violence on the island rises. — Reuters.

Colombo, Jun 14 — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels killed at least two security forces personnel today, the military said, as the rebels returned from failed talks with the Colombo government in Norway. The army said a soldier was shot dead by a suspected rebel near the northern town of Jaffna while a Home Guard, part of a unit under police control, was killed near the town of Vavuniya. Several grenades were also thrown at army positions. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said troops operating behind rebel lines in defiance of the truce clashed with them yesterday, with two Tiger fighters and one soldier, apparently wearing Tiger uniform as a disguise, killed. The army denied sending troops into the rebel de facto state in

the north of the island, but said it was possible that a soldier had been abducted by the rebels. The Tiger delegation led by political leader S.P. Thamilselvan returned to Colombo today before boarding a military helicopter to take them to their northern heartland. — Reuters.

### TURKEY

Tunceli, Jun 14 — Turkish troops killed two Kurdish guerrillas during an operation in Tunceli province in eastern Turkey, army sources said today. "After an armed clash between a large group of Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants and soldiers yesterday evening, two slain militants were taken," said an army official. The latest offensive was launched after the killing of two Turkish army officers in a PKK ambush last weekend. "The operation is continuing and a fresh clash could be imminent," said the official. — Reuters.



### BANGLADESH

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Security has been tightened across Bangladesh as a 36-hour general strike called by the opposition Awami League-led alliance gets under way. The Awami League and its 13 opposition allies have called the strike to protest alleged police brutality against their supporters on Sunday (Jun 11). Some 200 people were injured in clashes during opposition protests in Dhaka. The opposition is pressing the government to reform the electoral system ahead of polls due in January. The strike, beginning from early today and ending late tomorrow, is expected to disrupt road transport and keep shops and schools closed for fear of trouble. A police statement quoted by the Associated Press news agency said more than 10,000 security forces have been deployed in the capital, Dhaka.

Karachi, Jun 13 — The prevailing congestion in the Bangladesh Chittagong Port is likely to become more acute due to the 36-hour continuous strike of the Awami league-led opposition combine. The resultant situation is likely to prompt feeder operators to increase congestion surcharges, local media reported and added that a total of 16,929 TEUs of containers are now stockpiled in the CPA shed against the storage capacity of 12,394 TEUs. Moreover, of the total 74 vessels, loading and unloading is going on in 36 only. The other 38 vessels are waiting at the Outer Anchorage of the port. Of the 36 vessels, five are container vessels. Of the 38 waiting at the Outer Anchorage, 16 are container vessels. Due to congestion the turn around time has now increased to six

days. Earlier, the turn around time was four days. It is said that during the 36-hour hartal of the AL-led Opposition combine beginning from 0600 today morning delivery of cargo would remain suspended further deepening the prevailing crisis. It may be mentioned that the the Singapore-based Feeder Operators and the Main Line Operators had imposed congestion surcharges at the rate of 130 US dollars per 20-foot and 260 US dollars per 40-foot containers in view of the congestion in the Chittagong Port. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Dhaka, Jun 13 — Clashes between Bangladesh police and opposition activists left nearly 70 people injured and transport and business were largely paralysed today, the first day of a two-day strike for electoral reforms. An opposition alliance led by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina called the strike to try to force the government to accept demands for electoral reform ahead of next January's parliamentary election. The demands include the removal of the election commissioner and an opposition say in the caretaker administration to be appointed to run the country ahead of the polls. While the impoverished country remains divided over political issues, the business community says it is fed up with repeated shut downs that badly affect production and exports. Obaidul Karim, chairman of the Orion Group of industries, said: "During hartals (strikes) we are forced to close our trade and business. "All my factories and firms have been closed as we do not want to take any risk of their being attacked or damaged. On each hartal day, the country suffers industrial losses up to 6 billion taka (\$85 million)." The Orion Group does business in textiles, pharmaceuticals, banking, electronics, printing, power and construction sectors. — Reuters.

Dhaka, Jun 14 — At least 50 people were injured in the Bangladeshi capital today as opposition activists fought pitched battles with police on the second day of a two-day strike to press for electoral reforms. The clashes in Dhaka erupted after police fired tear gas and used batons to stop activists gathering in the streets to enforce the strike called by a 14-party opposition alliance. The arrest of a local opposition leader from the old quarter of Dhaka further angered the stick-wielding partymen who set fire to at least one car, damaged half a dozen others and attacked the police with rocks. The opposition alliance led by the Awami League called the nationwide strike to try to force the government to accept electoral reform ahead of next January's parliamentary election. The demands include the removal of the election commissioner and an opposition say in the caretaker administration to be appointed to run the country ahead of the polls. "We are agitating to assert our democratic rights," said Tofayel Ahmed, a former minister and senior Awami leader. More than 100 people

were injured on the first day of the strike in clashes between activists and police. About 200 people including women have been arrested across the country. — Reuters.

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Non-stop 36 hours shutdown enforced by Bangladesh's main opposition ended yesterday evening. The shutdown, to press the government for electoral reforms, saw clashes between police and activists, and left over 200 people hurt. Police fired tear gas, live bullets and charged baton during fight with activists of the main opposition Awami League-led 14-party combine. Activists used brickbats to fight back. The opposition activists also torched some vehicles and damaged many others in the capital. The 14-party combine has demanded reform in the caretaker government system, which supervises the country's general elections.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Strike action begun two weeks ago by transport workers in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has paralysed economic activity at the country's leading port, a union source said today. The strike, in the south-western port of Matadi, "affects the whole national network" of the National Transport Office (Onatra), said Etienne Ntadila, staff representative at the public company. Strikers are calling for the departure of Onatra's management committee, which they accuse of "financial embezzlement". Transport Minister Heva Muakasa has suspended the committee but one of the country's four Vice-Presidents, Azarias Ruberwa, is supporting it ahead of the results of a government inquiry. "We're waiting for the conclusions of the audit initiated by the government before any resumption," Ntadila said, underlining that the halt in the port's activity was costing around \$500 000 a day. Dozens of vessels are waiting near the port to unload their cargoes, which can take more than two months to reach Kinshasa, 360km to the north. "If in the short term there is no solution to end the strike, we'll have a lack of products with inevitable consequences on price hikes," said a representative of the Federation of Congo Businesses (FEC). "Stocks of building materials, food products and other things are diminishing. The situation is only getting worse," he said.

### GUINEA

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: A work stoppage to protest low wages and high prices paralysed Guinea's capital today. Most stores, banks and schools shut as many workers honoured the strike, organised by the west African nation's largest labour unions. Four unions, whose membership ranges from blue-collar workers to government-employed teachers,

launched the action yesterday. They called on Guinea's government to raise wages for civil servants, and to lower prices on rice and petrol. The strike continued today. Streets and markets were largely deserted and children stayed home from school. With inflation running high and wages stagnant, the price of a large sack of rice is approaching one month's salary for many civil servants. Yesterday, the administration of President Lansana Conte said it would boost pay slightly for some teachers, so exams can go ahead next month, but the concession fell far short of many labour leaders' expectations.

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated Jun 11, states: Riots erupted in the eastern Guinean town of Kindia after a student was killed by a lorry, underscoring tensions in the West African country shuttered by a general strike to protest rising poverty. "The army and police restored order after the uprising by the youths," senior police official Abou Camara said late yesterday. "Some warning shots were fired and there were some truncheon blows dealt out." Another police source, who asked not to be identified for fear of disciplinary action, said there were at least six wounded students. The indefinite strike to protest sharp increases in the cost of basic goods began on Thursday (Jun 8). It was the latest action by powerful unions spearheading the resistance to ailing President Lansana Conte. The strike closed businesses and government offices across Guinea but has not had a serious impact so far on the crucial bauxite industry and today some private businesses in the capital Conakry opened their doors. There is growing discontent, however, on campuses after the main teachers union announced year end exams this week have been cancelled because of the strike. The unions have demanded the government reverse a 30% increase in fuel prices announced in mid-May, which it said obliterated wage increases set a month earlier. A litre of gasoline costs 5,500 Guinean francs in a country where more than half the population lives on less than \$1 a day.

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated today, states: At least nine people were killed and more than a dozen wounded when soldiers opened fire on student protests in Guinea yesterday, police and witnesses said, as a general strike gripped the West African state. Three people were killed in Conakry, including a child hit by a stray bullet, when an isolated soldier opened fire after being mobbed by angry students protesting at the suspension of exams due for yesterday, a police source said. A witness in the northern town of Labe, 430 km from Conakry, saw the corpses of three demonstrators shot dead by soldiers, in a second day of violent students protests. Three more people died in the eastern town of Nzerekore, 970 km south-east of Conakry, after

troops shot at a protest against President Lansana Conte's government. "Soldiers opened fire on a group of students who were marching on the governor's residence. Two people died there and a third student was killed at the Oumar Drame primary school," said a Nzerekore resident, who asked not to be identified. A riot broke out in the provincial capital after students began to taunt police when it became clear that adjudicators for yesterday's exams had not turned up, despite government reassurances the nationwide tests would go ahead. In another area of Conakry students shouting "Down with the government" ransacked local education offices and rampaged through the streets, despite police efforts to contain them. The general strike, which began on Thursday (Jun 8), was the latest action by unions leading opposition to Conte's disastrous economic management in mineral-rich Guinea. Conte held an emergency meeting with union leaders yesterday, a presidential source said. The outcome was not immediately clear.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan called for restraint from Guinean authorities today after at least nine people died around the West African country when soldiers fired on students during a general strike. Banks, government offices and businesses in the decaying capital Conakry remained shut by the strike, now in its sixth day, which was called to protest against the poor economic record of President Lansana Conte. "The secretary-general is deeply concerned by the killings of approximately 10 students during the demonstrations in Guinea," U.N. chief spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement issued in New York. Police and medical sources said at least nine deaths had been confirmed after rioting in Conakry, the eastern town of Nzerekore and the northern city of Labe. In the capital, yesterday's rioting caused extensive damage. Protesters looted the suburban villa of Conte's brother, Harouna Conte, a police source confirmed.

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: Banks, government offices and businesses in Conakry remained shut by a strike today, a day after at least nine people died around the country after soldiers opened fire on rampaging students. The strike, in its sixth day in the West African country, is to protest against the poor economic record of President Lansana Conte. Police and medical sources said at least nine deaths had been confirmed after rioting in Conakry, the eastern town of Nzerekore and the northern city of Labe.

### INDIA

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

**MEXICO**

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: Leading copper producer Grupo Mexico SA de CV said yesterday it will close its strike-hit La Caridad copper mine in Sonora state and also threatened to shut down its huge Cananea copper mine. The La Caridad closing will affect more than 2,000 workers and is set to take place in the next few weeks. Grupo Mexico head of international relations Juan Rebolledo told Reuters. He said the company hopes to reopen the mine at some point. "The company has no other path but to close the operations and end individual labour contracts," Grupo Mexico said in a full-page newspaper advertisement, referring to La Caridad. The union said it was still preparing a reaction.

**NEW CALEDONIA**

London, Jun 9 — French police yesterday took control of Noumea, the main port in New Caledonia, after a two-week occupation by local trade unionists. The move comes as an ongoing dispute between dock workers and world number two container line Mediterranean Shipping Co has taken the French-controlled Pacific territory to the brink of a general strike. The USTKE union  $\emptyset$  made up of Kanaks, the main indigenous group in New Caledonia  $\emptyset$  wants MSC's freight volumes to be limited to 100 containers a week. According to the union, such a step is necessary to ensure the survival of regional shipping companies. Also caught in the crossfire is Maersk, which last weekend dropped a call by c.c. *Maersk Asia Decimo* at Noumea, citing security concerns. No police or customs officials were on hand, which would have made a discharge a breach of maritime anti-terrorism rules. That could have meant repercussions for the ship at future ports of call. In seizing control of Noumea, the police were acting on a warrant issued by a local administrative tribunal, after the port authorities called for the restoration of normal security conditions. An earlier attempt by around 40 men armed with metal bars to break the union occupation ended in failure last week, with three men taken to hospital in the violent clashes that ensued. Meanwhile, Radio New Zealand International reports that MSC has threatened to take France to the European Court of Justice over the situation in Noumea. For its part, USTKE is threatening a general strike unless the administration intervenes in the dispute.

Sydney, Jun 9 — The three-week port workers' union blockade of c.c. *MSC Caledonien* in Noumea ended at lunchtime yesterday, after police took over the port area from picketers armed with knives. The 600 teu ship was able to discharge the small number of boxes it had brought on its maiden sailing on MSC's new weekly Australia/New Caledonia service, and left for Australia yesterday evening. The vessel had been waiting in the

port for almost three weeks. The Union of Kanak Workers and the Exploited, or USTKE in its French initials, had protested at the competitive impact of the MSC service on regionally-owned carriers like Pacific Direct Line and Sofrana, and the threat to their local stevedoring contractors. Senior representatives from MSC in Europe are expected in New Caledonia next week to discuss a longer-term solution with the French territory's government. MSC's spokesman in Noumea, Ethienne Snijders, said the line had given up four days of talks with USTKE after the union refused to drop demands that MSC limit its volumes in the New Caledonia market. Mr Snijders said that MSC had rejected the demand, saying that its cargo volume was not a workplace issue, and limiting it would amount to an illegal cartel.  $\emptyset$ We will only talk with the state government,  $\emptyset$  he said. The union, which had posted armed men scrutinising cargo coming in and out of the port, is  $\emptyset$ a militant organisation which is serving private interests,  $\emptyset$  Mr Snijders said. He said the union's president was also president of one of four other stevedores in the port competing with MSC's contractor Sato, and was in  $\emptyset$ complete conflict of interest.  $\emptyset$  Mr Snijders said the state authorities in Noumea had needed to act both on security in the port, and the threat to investment in the territory. MSC's French lawyers had also held talks with the government in Paris, which advised MSC to keep the ship in Noumea.  $\emptyset$ Any new operator cannot work like any other company in New Caledonia,  $\emptyset$  he said. The union blockade had set a dangerous precedent for business in the territory, he said. Mr Snijders rejected concern that capacity on the MSC vessel would wreck the Australia/Noumea market, saying that its deadweight-adjusted capability was only around 350 teu and that the larger ship was needed to maintain speed for a weekly frequency. For longhaul export cargo, MSC also had to compete with direct sailings to Europe, he said. Last weekend, Maersk decided to skip its Noumea call over worries about efficiency and safety in the port, though the line stressed its concerns were confined to the port area and that it intended to stay in the Noumea market. Maersk also uses Sato as its stevedore. Mr Snijders said that the arrival of a new Cosco service from Asia next week, using a rival stevedore, had caused no reaction from the unions. The union had earlier rejected an MSC proposal that stevedoring work and use of the port area be controlled through a central desk, he said. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: One day after a massive intervention on the blockaded Noumea wharf on Thursday (Jun 8), police in New Caledonia on Friday remained posted on the French Pacific territory's strategic site to ensure

union picketers do not disrupt further cargo vessels unloading operations. On Thursday, a combined operation from some 120 French gendarmes and 60 police, including a special intervention "anti-crime" squad, stormed the Noumea wharf, that had been blockaded for the past two weeks by USTKE (Union of Kanak and Exploited Workers) members and sympathisers, some of those armed with iron bars. The early afternoon joint police operation, ordered by French High Commissioner Michel Mathieu (who acted on a Court warrant), was also backed by one helicopter and patrol boats. During the operation, French High Commissioner on Friday reported two "slightly injured" within police ranks. During the afternoon raid on Thursday, police have arrested 15 persons, including USTKE President GERard Jodar and his deputy Alain BoEoua. The two have since been kept in custody at the police headquarters in downtown NoumEa. French authorities said today police would maintain a guarding presence on the site for as long as it takes to durably restore normal operations. The port's blockade had since posed a serious threat to its compliance to the post-September 11 International Ship and Ports Facilities Security Code (ISPS) standards. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)'s maritime programme director, Captain John P Hogan, confirmed on Wednesday to Oceania Flash that the ISPF code is put into place for all ports that service international vessels.

**NIGERIA**

London, Jun 8 — The on-going strike by the staff of Nigerian External Telecommunication (NITEL) has paralysed the electronic banking (e-banking) system as some customers are failing to operate their accounts electronically. Investigations also confirmed that major clients such as Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Petroleum Product Marketing Company (PPMC) and Shell, experienced difficulty in transacting business electronically with banks. The most affected banks were United Bank for Africa (UBA) and Ecobank Nigeria as their customers complained bitterly that they could not effect funds transfer, operate smartcards or perform foreign exchange transactions yesterday.

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: A strike at Nigeria's state telephone company is hurting business in sub-Saharan Africa's second-biggest economy where internet access is near impossible and many local and international calls are blocked. The strike at Nitel, which the government is trying to privatise, has shut down the SAT-3 underwater cable, the main gateway for international calls and internet connections to Africa's most populous nation. About 10,000 Nitel workers launched the indefinite strike on Monday (Jun 5) because they had not been paid for four months.



**SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: As security sector unions start negotiations, the death toll linked to the SA Transport and Allied Workers' Union strike has risen to 23. The bodies of three men, believed to be security guards, were found on Wednesday (Jun 7) near Duduza and Tsakane Ekurhuleni. Both parties refused to comment yesterday, raising speculation that an agreement was not too far off. Satawu spokesperson Ronnie Mamba said: "We took a decision not to comment on the content or any substantive issues relating to the talks so that we could truly give the talks a chance." The parties had agreed to talk after Satawu rejected an agreement signed between the five employer associations and 14 other unions. Employers want Satawu to terminate the violent strike, while the union has asked for guarantees that its members will not be victimised. Satawu has been on strike because it believed any wage agreement without its signature was illegitimate.

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The security guard strike has claimed two more lives as talks between unions and employers carried on until late last night. More than 20 deaths have been linked to the strike. Many guards were flung from moving trains, while others were shot or beaten to death. Meanwhile, the talks were continuing last night in a bid to end the strike. An employer representative, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the South African Transport and Allied Workers' Union's rejection of an offer made by employers on Friday was holding things up.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: Talks about the continuing security guards' strike were adjourned today for the parties to "clarify and reflect on issues still in dispute," the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) said. "Given the fact that discussions continued to approximately 0200 hrs, parties agreed to adjourn to clarify and reflect on issues still in dispute," CCMA spokesperson Lusanda Myoli said today. Nerine Khan, the CCMA's director, said the parties agreed generally on most aspects of a new wage offer, with minor differences, which the unions would "caucus." What the parties differed on were interpretations to parts of the agreement, Khan said. Steve Friswell, spokesperson for the employers, agreed with Khan, saying the unions should contact the employers when they were ready to talk. However, leaders of the SA Transport and Allied Workers Union (Satawu) said they would indicate tomorrow whether they are ready to resume the talks.

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: Striking security guards will march to Sandton tomorrow to bring worker demands into the heart of, what they term, the capitalist stronghold. Their union, the

South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (Satawu), says it has not obtained permission for this march, but workers will exercise their right to free movement in a united walk. This is ahead of the planned resumption of the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) mediated talks next Monday (Jun 19). At the last round of talks, the parties failed to reach agreement on certain aspects of the draft agreement. Randall Howard, the Satawu secretary-general, says their walk from Johannesburg to Sandton is to highlight the plight of the workers. Talks about the continuing security guards' strike has been adjourned for the parties to clarify issues still in dispute. The CCMA says Satawu and employers do agree on most aspects of a new wage offer, but says the parties still differ on interpretations to parts of the agreement.

**ZAMBIA**

Lusaka, Jun 7 — Rioting miners at Zambia's leading coal producer have disrupted supply of the fuel to copper mines in Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, a senior industry official said today. Maamba Collieries Ltd Chief Executive Officer Wylbur Simusa said the workers at the state-run mine damaged windows of some houses and company vehicles demanding payment of three months salary in arrears during the unrest yesterday. Simusa told Reuters coal production at the mine, about 400 km south of Lusaka, had been halted after 800 miners were joined by their wives and children in the riots, which only ended after police in combat gear intervened. "The strike and riots which followed afterwards have forced us to halt production. We have suspended coal exports to two copper mines in the Congo and we are not supplying coal to local mines," Simusa said. Simusa said copper mines would have production problems if the supply is not resumed soon, adding that police were guarding the mine to let employees who wanted to resume work do so. — Reuters.

**ASBESTOS-RELATED ILLNESS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: The Dallas law firm of Baron & Budd PC, has announced a jury verdict of \$13.5 million in the second trial on behalf of the family of an East Texas man who died from a cancer caused by his exposure to asbestos fibres as a child. The first trial in the case concluded in March, 2005, with a \$9.3 million verdict for the family of Timothy Shawn Bostic. In August, 2005, the court ordered a new trial. Baron &

Budd attorneys Charla Aldous and Chris Panatier represented the Bostic family in both trials. Jurors in the case heard how Mr. Bostic was exposed to asbestos while working with his father as a child and teenager in the 1960s and 1970s. Witnesses testified that Mr. Bostic frequently used an asbestos-containing joint compound manufactured by Atlanta-based Georgia-Pacific Corp. Court documents showed that Georgia-Pacific officials knew about the health dangers of asbestos as early as 1966. However, the company continued to sell products that contained asbestos as late as 1977. In 2003, Mr. Bostic was diagnosed with mesothelioma, a rare form of cancer caused by asbestos exposure. He died at the age of 41 on Sep 5, 2003. The effects of asbestos exposure, including the onset of diseases like mesothelioma and asbestosis, can take years or even decades to surface. More than 35 years passed before Mr. Bostic began showing symptoms of mesothelioma. He died less than a year after his initial diagnosis. The jury of one man and five women returned the verdict in Dallas Judge Sally Montgomery's County Court on Jun 8. The four-week trial concluded after approximately three hours of jury deliberations. The jury found Georgia-Pacific liable for negligence and failure to warn, awarding Mr. Bostic's family \$7,554,907 in compensatory damages and \$6,038,910 in punitive damages.

**CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: A jury yesterday ordered three chemical manufacturers to pay the city of Modesto, California, \$178 million, finding that their dry-cleaning products contaminated water with suspected carcinogens. Jurors in San Francisco Superior Court found the companies acted with malice because they failed to tell dry cleaners how to use the chemicals perchloroethylene or trichloroethylene without harming the environment. The jury levied more than \$175 million in punitive damages late yesterday and \$3.2 million in actual damages for groundwater contamination. Vulcan Materials Co was ordered to pay \$100 million in punitive damages, Dow Chemical Co was ordered to pay \$75 million and RR Street & Co Inc. to pay \$75,000. "We're gratified at the jury's verdict," said attorney Duane C. Miller, who represented the city in the case. "We believe it's the first time the manufacturers of perchloroethylene have been held accountable for damages caused by that product." Representatives of Birmingham, Alabama-based Vulcan Materials and Midland, Michigan-based Dow Chemical said they planned to appeal. "We think the punitive damages are completely without merit," said David Donaldson, of Vulcan Materials. Dow Chemical said in a statement that there was no proof any of their

products had directly caused pollution in Modesto. Pittsburgh-based PPG Industries and Occidental Chemical Corporation, of Dallas, were ordered to contribute to the \$3.2 million awarded in compensatory damages. Two dry-cleaning businesses that were named in the lawsuit will not have to pay damages. They did not know of the contamination risk, Miller said. Modesto filed the lawsuit in San Francisco Superior Court in December, 1998, but the case did not go to trial until February.

#### **FRAUD, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A federal jury has found a bank and a securities firm liable for a total of nearly \$33 million in damages for their role in frauds committed by the former owner of a Paoli financial firm. The Philadelphia jury's findings on Thursday (Jun 8) followed October's sentencing of former Bentley Financial Services owner Robert L. Bentley to 55 months in prison after he pleaded guilty to fraudulently selling more than \$300 million in uninsured investments. More than 200 clients across the nation — banks, credit unions, school districts and small investors — purchased what Bentley told them were government-guaranteed certificates of deposit from Bentley. In fact, the investments were not insured, leaving their owners vulnerable to big losses. Court-appointed receiver David H. Marion had previously taken control of Bentley's assets, enabling him to repay more than 90% of the investments. His attorneys sought to make up the rest from some of the bankers, brokers and accountants who had helped keep Bentley in business for more than a decade. The jury found Peninsula Bank, of Delray Beach, Florida, and former executive vice president Joseph Marzouca liable for \$13.1 million in damages. The jury also found Southeastern Securities Inc, of Miami, its president Theodore Benghiat, and affiliate SFG Securities Inc liable for \$19.7 million. In each case, the jury found that the firms and the executives "either conspired with or aided and assisted Robert Bentley in his fraudulent activities." The civil action against Peninsula and Southeastern was brought by John H. Lewis Jr and David D. Langfitt, partners at Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads LLP, and by Julie Negovan, partner at Cozen O'Connor, on behalf of Marion, the court-appointed receiver.

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

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: A Norco manufacturer of microchips designed to reunite lost pets with their owners was awarded more than \$6 million in damages by a Texas jury that found a competitor liable for patent infringement and false advertising. Avid Identification Systems Inc, established in 1984 by Norco

veterinarian Hannis L. Stoddard III, pioneered microchips that could be implanted in pets and read by scanners. A federal court jury in Marshall, Texas, recently reached a unanimous verdict finding that Datamars SA, a Swiss manufacturer, and its wholly owned American distributor, Crystal Import Corp, willfully infringed on patents on Avid's microchips and scanners. The jury also found Crystal misled pet owners about the effectiveness of its chips because most animal shelters use scanners designed to read the kind of chips made by Avid and not those that Crystal sells. Dan Knox, Avid's director of companion animal operations, said in 1996 that Avid and Digital Angel, maker of the Home Again pet chip, together developed scanners to read all chips operating on a 125-kilohertz radio frequency. The scanners were distributed to animal shelters across the nation. However, in February 2004, Banfield Pet Hospitals, a national chain, began to implant Datamars chips that operate on the frequency endorsed by the International Standards Organisation, which is widely used in Europe. In a highly publicised incident, a young pit bull that had been implanted with chip at a Banfield hospital was euthanised at an animal shelter in Virginia after a scanner there failed to detect the chip. Concerned that such mistakes could undermine the credibility of pet chipping, Stoddard said, Avid responded with litigation. Avid filed the patent lawsuit in US District Court in eastern Texas in May, 2004.

#### **RAILWAY ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Universal Studios has been ordered to pay nearly \$12 million to a woman who was seriously injured in a 2003 Burbank Metrolink crash that left two people dead and 32 hurt. A jury awarded the money to Jennifer Kilpatrick Thursday (Jun 9), after finding last month that one of Universal's truck drivers caused the collision. Kilpatrick broke her back and was among the most seriously injured on the train. She spent three months in the hospital for surgery and rehabilitation. The jury awarded her \$11,822,867 for medical expenses and pain and suffering. The plaintiffs contended that the truck driver, 63-year-old Jacek Wysocki, ignored red lights and warning bells and tried to beat the train that would hit his truck. "There were lights. There were down gates," said Attorney Jerome Ringle. "That would have warned a motorist unless he had clearly ignored them." Universal's attorneys argued during the trial that Wysocki's truck was parked at an angle that allowed him to drive easily onto the tracks, and that barriers were not clear enough. Wysocki died at the scene, and one of the train's passengers later died. A spokeswoman for Universal declined to comment, the Los Angeles Times said. The jury must still decide

on awards for several more of the victims, unless settlements can be reached with Universal. Before the trial, lawyers for the two sides agreed to let the jury's decision on the company's liability in the first trial apply to all of the remaining cases. Metrolink was part of the original lawsuit, but made confidential settlements with the accident victims before trial.

#### **ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A jury awarded \$3.7 million in damages to a Santa Rosa family that suffered injuries during a crash involving vehicles owned by Harris Ranch Beef Co. and FedEx Ground Package System Inc. The Contra Costa County jury on Friday (Jun 9) found that Selma, Calif.-based Harris Ranch was ordered to pay 80 percent of the damages. FedEx Ground, the Pittsburgh-based trucking division of shipping giant FedEx Corp., was found liable for the remaining 20 percent. Gerald Vincent, his wife, Corey Vincent, and her 11-year-old son sued FedEx Ground and Harris Ranch for negligence after the accident that occurred on Jamison Canyon Road in Solano County on Dec. 26, 2003. The Harris Ranch tractor-trailer rear-ended the FedEx Ground delivery van, which crossed the double yellow line and hit a Toyota Tacoma before slamming into the Vincents' 1999 Dodge Durango, according to the California Highway Patrol. Corey Vincent, 42, had to be airlifted to a hospital, where she underwent emergency abdominal surgery for severe internal injuries. The damages included \$2.5 million for her "physical pain and mental suffering," according to court documents. Her son suffered a broken arm in the crash. Gerald Vincent, 39, who was driving the Durango, did not suffer serious injury.

#### **Railway Accidents**



#### **BEIT YEHOSHUA AREA, ISRAEL**

Beit Yehoshua, Jun 12 — An Israeli train carrying 200 passengers crashed into a van and derailed today, killing at least one person and injuring dozens of others, rescue services said. The impact threw the locomotive on top of one carriage. Three others lay on their sides in a mass of twisted metal. Medics carried out the injured on stretchers along the tracks at Beit Yehoshua, a farming village in central Israel. Several passengers were trapped in the wreckage for two hours before rescuers stabilised their carriage and pulled them out. Police said the train, travelling from Tel Aviv's Ben-Gurion Airport to the northern port of Haifa, hit a van that

stopped at a rail crossing but was pushed onto the tracks by another vehicle that hit it from behind. "The lorry simply stopped on the track and the driver managed to get out before the train slammed into it," a witness, who identified herself only as Miri, told Israel Radio. Ambulances and medical evacuation helicopters rushed to the scene. Rescue services, updating casualty figures, said at least one person was killed and about 60 were injured. Earlier accounts said several people were dead and up to 150 hurt. There was no suggestion from Israeli authorities that the van had been pushed onto the tracks deliberately. Dudi Cohen, the local police chief, described the collision between the two vehicles at the crossing as a traffic accident. Another witness, Avi Adsawi, said the train was not full at the time of the crash, several hours after the morning rush hour. — Reuters.

**BURBANK, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: A jury has ordered Universal Studios to pay \$12 million to a woman who was seriously injured in a 2003 Metrolink crash in Burbank, finding that one of the company's truck drivers caused the collision. The verdict is the first against the entertainment giant since the same jury last month found the company liable for the crash that killed two people and injured 32 others. Metrolink was also sued for its role in the Jan 6, 2003, crash but entered into confidential settlements with the victims before the cases went to trial. Attorney Jerome Ringler, who represents Jennifer Kilpatrick, the injured woman, said the intersection was clearly marked to warn motorists of oncoming Metrolink trains. Ringler accused the 63-year-old delivery truck driver, who died at the scene, of trying to beat the train running along San Fernando Road where it crosses Buena Vista Street. "There were lights. There were down gates," Ringler said. "That would have warned a motorist unless he had clearly ignored them." Kilpatrick was among the most seriously injured passengers on the train. Her back was broken and she spent the next three months in hospitals for surgery and rehabilitation, Ringler said. An elderly passenger died two weeks later. The jury yesterday awarded Kilpatrick \$11,822,867 to cover her past and future medical expenses and pain and suffering. Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Coleman Swart, who presided over the trial in Pasadena, ordered lawyers for Universal and the remaining crash victims to try to negotiate a settlement. If they did not, he told the attorneys, he would let juries determine the monetary damages. Before the trial, lawyers for Universal and the victims agreed to let the jury's decision on the company's responsibility in the first case apply to all the remaining cases. After the

2003 crash, the National Transportation Safety Board concluded that the truck driver may have encountered confusing traffic signals at the intersection. The board recommended that the city of Burbank install more prominent barriers to guide motorists turning from San Fernando onto Buena Vista. It also suggested that California bar flashing red traffic signals at rail crossings and replace them with steady red lights.

**COLUMBUS AREA, MONTANA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated Jun 12, states: An early morning derailment near Columbus could delay rail operations until 0100, officials said. The wreck, which occurred about 0400, today, knocked 11 railroad cars off the track about eight miles west of Columbus, said Lynda Frost, a spokeswoman for Montana Rail Link. About 400 feet of main and sideline would have to be replaced, Frost said. Ten of the cars were empty and the 11th was filled with particle board. No injuries were reported. Crews with Hulcher Professional Services Inc. had hoped to have the wreckage cleared by this afternoon, but the scale of the derailment would likely occupy them until early tomorrow, Frost said. There were 97 cars and three locomotives on the eastbound train. Four were so badly damaged they would have to be scrapped, and several others were still being assessed this afternoon. Ten to 12 trains have been delayed since the wreck, Frost said. The cause had not been determined, and a damage estimate was not yet available.

**KALUTARA, SRI LANKA**

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: At least 42 passengers were injured today when two trains collided in southern Sri Lanka, police and hospital officials said. The accident occurred at a railway station in Kalutara, a town about 25 miles south of Colombo, police spokesman Rienzie Perera said.

**MADERA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: Two freight trains collided head-on today, injuring five train workers, some of whom jumped off moments before the crash. "It's a miracle they survived," said Erica Stuart, a spokeswoman for the Madera County Sheriff's Department. "It's a big, mangled mess." One of the BNSF Railway workers was hospitalized in serious condition, said spokeswoman Lena Kent. The others were treated for minor injuries and released. One of the trains was carrying cement from San Bernardino to the Bay Area and the other was taking pentane, a methane-based liquid fuel, from Richmond to Barstow. Some diesel leaked from an engine, but no cargo spilled, Kent said. A hazardous material team was called as a precaution and the tracks

were closed for at least the day in Madera, about 150 miles southeast of San Francisco. Amtrak, which uses the same rails, had to bus passengers. "It's too soon to determine how this happened but we are doing a full investigation," Kent said. Company investigators didn't know whether the trains hit each other at full speed or how many workers jumped. Some stayed aboard during the collision.

**NEWARK AREA, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated Jun 12, states: Part of a CSX Corp. freight train derailed today as it was heading toward Port Newark, a Conrail spokesman said. No one was injured, and passenger trains were not affected since the Conrail track involved is only used by freight trains, said the spokesman, John Enright. Nine cars of the 50-car train left the tracks, Enright said. The flatbed cars were carrying shipping containers, none of which contained hazardous material, he said. The cause of the derailment was not immediately determined, he said.

**NORWALK, CONNECTICUT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: Part of an Amtrak locomotive pulling eight passenger cars derailed today, stranding 236 passengers and forcing the shutdown of the Metro-North branch to Danbury. No injuries were reported. The southbound electric locomotive derailed near the South Norwalk station at about 1320 as it was switching tracks. The train was put back on line just before 1930 and service was restored tonight. The cause of the derailment was not immediately known. Amtrak and Metro-North officials were investigating. Workers hooked up another locomotive to the rear of the train at about 1600 and pulled the passenger cars, which did not derail, back north to Bridgeport. Passengers were then able to get on other trains. The derailment blocked access from Metro-North's New Haven line to the Danbury branch.

**PORT HURON, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: A train with empty propane cars derailed Wednesday (Jun 7) during a rail switch near 32nd and Petit streets in Port Huron Township. A CSX Transportation train was pushing the tankers west when three tankers and a caboose tipped partially off the tracks, Kimball Township fire officials said. Firefighters from Kimball and Marysville were called to the scene about 1135. No one was injured. CSX spokesman Gary Sease said the accident is being investigated.

**RICHLAND PARISH, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: A train

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

derailment today rendered a section of track in Richland Parish temporarily inoperable. Terry Thompson with the Richland Parish Sheriff's Office said a broken rail caused the second and third engine of a Kansas City Southern Railroad train to jump the track. The derailment happened along US 80 in front of ANR Pipeline Co. between Dunn and Holly Ridge. Thompson said the train was not carrying hazardous material, but the Louisiana State Police HAZMAT team would survey the area to determine the amount of fuel and oil loss from the engine. No one was reported injured. Kansas City Southern will hire a crew to clear the wreckage and repair the track, Thompson said.

**WAIPARA AREA, NEW ZEALAND**

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A wagon derailment on the main trunk line in North Canterbury near Waipara yesterday has damaged the line, causing delays for train services. Toll New Zealand spokeswoman Sue Foley says at around 1800, last night a grain-carrying wagon on a freight train derailed. She says the incident has impacted on passenger train service to Picton, and buses have had to be arranged for pre-booked passengers. Sue Foley says work on the line is expected to be completed this afternoon.



Miscellaneous

**DRUGS FOUND ON MARSHALL ISLANDS VESSEL AT MUMBAI, INDIA**

London, Jun 15 — Container Carrier *Sea-Land Voyager* arrived Port Muhammad Bin Qasim Jun 5 and sailed Jun 6.

**MILITARY EQUIPMENT SEIZED FROM ISLE OF MAN-FLAGGED VESSEL AT DERINCE, TURKEY**

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated Jun 12, states: Turkish coastal security agents have seized six military vehicles, heavy artillery and spare parts from Roll On Roll Off *Scan Bothnia* (8811 gt, built 1998) heading for the United Arab Emirates. The officers of the *Scan Bothnia* misreported the contents of two containers as general merchandise, the Anadolu News Agency reported. After the military equipment was removed from the vessel, it was ordered to remain anchored in the port of Derince. Turkey requires all vessels passing through the Turkish straits to report all explosive or otherwise dangerous cargo. Local officials in the Kocaeli District have reported the seizure to the national government in Ankara, which will decide whether to sanction the vessel or its owners. (Note — *Scan Bothnia* sailed Varna Jun 8, passed

Istanbul Jun 9, and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 40 45.2N, long 29 50.9E, 1.2 nautical miles from Derince, at 0329, Jun 11.)

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: Eight Ukrainians were on board Roll On Roll Off *Scan Bothnia* seized by Turkish authorities earlier this week. Foreign ministry spokesman Vasyl Filipchuk said that Ukrainian officials are carefully following the situations with the ship. The ship was reportedly carrying a shipment of Ukrainian military hardware, including light cannons for armored personnel carriers. The customer for the goods is a US outfit, while the United Arab Emirates was the cargo's destination. Turkish authorities seized the ship because part of its cargo was not properly declared.

**OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"**

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: A new outbreak of bird flu has been discovered in poultry in the Chinese region of Xinjiang, according to the country's agriculture ministry. The H5N1 strain was discovered in birds in Hetian county, the state news agency Xinhua quoted the ministry as saying. The report gave no details of how many birds were infected by the virus. Several cases have been reported in wild birds in recent months, but the last outbreak in poultry was reported in February, in the province of Anhui. China has reported more than 30 outbreaks of bird flu over the past year, but a vaccination campaign which began late last year appears to be proving effective in reducing the number of cases.

**OUTBREAK OF GASTRO-INTESTINAL ILLNESS ON BAHAMAS FLAG VESSEL**

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: Passenger *Mercury* is getting a quick cleaning today in Seattle before it leaves later today for another week-long cruise to Alaska. A spokesman for the cruise line in Miami, Michael Sheehan, says passengers who became sick on the last cruise will receive a pro-rated credit for the time they had to stay in their cabins. The ship arrived in Seattle this morning with what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calls an "elevated" number of people with gastro-intestinal illness. The 121 sick passengers out of the 2025 on board amounted to six per cent of the passengers. In addition four of the 848 crew members were ill. The main symptoms were diarrhea and vomiting. A C-D-C spokeswoman in Atlanta, Lisa Beaumier (bow-meer), says it has an inspector on board to check water, food-handling and cleaning procedures. She says the stomach flu is not uncommon and the best defense for people is washing their hands. It's heard about on cruise ships because they are required to report every case of gastro-intestinal illness.

London, Jun 13 — Passenger (cruise) *Mercury* arrived Juneau Jun 11.

**OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON BAHAMAS FLAG VESSEL**

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Dozens of passengers who left Leith Docks for a cruise last weekend have been struck down by a "highly contagious" winter-vomiting virus. The liner passenger (cruise) *Black Prince* (11209 gt, built 1966), which has been sailing from Leith since 2002, is due back in Scotland tomorrow. Eighty-four cases of the Norovirus have been confirmed on the Fred Olsen liner. It left Leith on Jun 3, bound for a seven-night cruise of the Norwegian fjords, with 210 crew and 412 passengers on board. In a statement the cruise line company said the passengers who have been diagnosed with the bug have been confined to their cabins. The company said: "Fred Olsen Cruise Lines can confirm that there have been a number of cases of a Noro-type virus on its ship *Black Prince* during the current cruise. "The company routinely carries out extensive cleansing and disinfecting programmes every day and immediately the first cases were reported it put into place an even more rigorous hygiene regime. "The next cruise is due to depart from Leith on 10 June and the sailing time has been delayed to mid-evening to allow for extensive treatment of the ship."

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Mercury* (76522 gt, built 1997) has returned to Seattle, from a trip to Alaska, with what it calls an "elevated number" of sick people. In a statement from Miami, the cruise line said 115 of the 2034 passengers and three of the 847 crew members experienced a gastro-intestinal illness during the week-long cruise. The statement says the norovirus is the second-most common virus after the cold and affects 23 million Americans a year. The vessel sailed from Seattle last Friday (Jun 2).

London, Jun 13 — Passenger (cruise) *Black Prince* sailed Leith Jun 11.

London, Jun 15 — Passenger (cruise) *Pacific Sun* sailed Sydney Jun 9.

**OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON BAHAMAS FLAG VESSEL**

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Black Prince* has returned to Leith after 136 passengers fell ill. They are believed to have been struck down by a norovirus, a bug that causes severe vomiting and diarrhoea. The ship, which docked yesterday morning, had been due to set sail again yesterday. However, its departure has been delayed until today to allow it to be disinfected. The cruise company said that claims for compensation would be assessed on a "case-by-case" basis but some angry passengers said they had no intention of using the firm again. Many had been forced to spend much of the cruise confined to their cabins.

### OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON MARSHALL ISLANDS FLAGGED VESSEL

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Van Gogh* was due to sail again yesterday after two virus outbreaks in a fortnight. The *Van Gogh* received a clean bill of health despite 28 passengers falling sick on a cruise of the Norwegian Fjords. Eleven days earlier 70 passengers and 15 crew were struck by a vomiting bug, and the cruise was cancelled. The Travelscope vessel had returned to Harwich, Essex, on Friday (Jun 9) but yesterday it was due to sail again with a new set of holidaymakers on board. The Coastguard said: "It has been cleaned and is free to sail."

### POWER OUTAGE TO REFINERY, ARUBA

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A company spokeswoman said the company expects to restore partial operation within a week. Valero Energy said Friday (Jun 9) afternoon that its refinery on the Caribbean island of Aruba was shut down by a total power failure. A Valero spokeswoman said with all process units down and the loss of 240,000 to 250,000 barrels per day of crude input, lost production includes 80,000 bpd of diesel and jet fuel, 30,000 bpd of naphtha, 110,000 bpd of gas oil, virtually all of which was bound for the U.S. market. "We expect to restore partial operation at the plant within a week, to normalize the operations at reduced rates within two weeks, and be back at planned rates with three weeks," said Mary Rose Brown, a spokeswoman for the company.



### ASPHALT STORAGE TANK, HAWAII, UNITED STATES

Houston, Jun 14 — Tesoro Corp. was examining damage to an asphalt storage tank that temporarily halted asphalt production in Hawaii, a company spokeswoman said today. A hole was blown in the roof of the 20,000-barrel tank at Tesoro's 95,000 barrel per day (bpd) Kapolei refinery, located about 20 miles west of Honolulu, Hawaii, on Tuesday (Jun 13). Tesoro has 18,000 barrels of asphalt on hand and asphalt buyers have told the company 7,000 barrels are needed in the next few weeks, said spokeswoman Natalie Silva. Tesoro ran out of heavy crude to make asphalt in mid-May and Hawaiian paving companies stopped working during that time. Tesoro is the only producer of asphalt in Hawaii. Tesoro is investigating the cause of the explosion and working to determine when it can restart asphalt production, Silva said. Motor fuels

production at the refinery was unaffected by the asphalt production halt, Silva said. — Reuters.

### BARN AND THOROUGHBREDS, HONDO, NEW MEXICO, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: Former Horse of the Year Favorite Trick and Grade 1 winner Saratoga Six were among six Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse stallions killed Tuesday (Jun 6) night in a barn fire at the JEH Stallion Station in Hondo, N.M., according to a farm employee and Paul Jones, a shareholder in Favorite Trick. Favorite Trick was 11. Saratoga Six was 24. The blaze, which injured no humans, also killed the Thoroughbred stallion Gone Hollywood and Quarter Horses The Down Side, winner of the Grade 1 Champion of Champions Stakes in 2003; Fredericksburg, 2005 champion aged stallion; and Southern Cartel, winner of the 2003 Ruidoso and Lazy E derbies.

### CHEMICAL FACTORY, GOLIVALI, INDIA

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A major fire broke out in a chemical factory in a village in Dombivali in neighbouring Thane district today, fire brigade sources said. The fire broke out in a chemical factory in Golivali village at 0340. Five fire engines and five tankers were rushed to the spot to control the blaze, the sources said. The cause of the fire was yet to be ascertained, they said adding that further details were awaited.

### COAL PLANT, COLOGNE AREA, GERMANY

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated Jun 11, states: A fire at a brown coal plant operated by Germany's RWE Power close to the city of Cologne has caused damage in the lower double-digit million euro range according to first estimates, the company said today. The fire broke out early yesterday morning and caused damage in five of the plant's nine blocs. Two of the blocs had been on scheduled downtime for maintenance, while another three with a total capacity of 900 megawatts had to be switched off. "It is not clear when the three blocs can go back on line," a spokeswoman said. "We have started to clean up." The reasons for the fire have not yet been determined, RWE said.

### COTTON MILL, CHESTER COUNTY, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: An old cotton mill continued to burn yesterday, keeping about 500 residents out of their homes in this town about 55 miles south of Charlotte. Gov. Mark Sanford visited the site yesterday and declared a state of emergency. The declaration allows local governments to recoup money spent fighting the fire and protecting the evacuated area. The blaze at the former J.P. Stevens No. 3

mill started Tuesday morning (Jun 6), and firefighters decided to let it burn itself out. About 45 percent of the town had been evacuated as of yesterday night, said Leslie Brakefield, a spokeswoman for Chester County Emergency Management. Great Falls Fire Chief John Jones said residents of four streets around the mill were evacuated because of the thick black smoke. The cause of the blaze was not immediately known. Eddie Murphy, director of Chester County Emergency Management, said the evacuation could last up to a week as the fire continues to burn. "This is the product of a changing textile industry, the condition of the old mill, and things like oils from the old machines," Murphy said. The polluted air that is settling over the town could create other environmental problems, said Claire Boatwright, spokeswoman for the state Department of Health and Environmental Control. The agency and the federal Environmental Protection Agency are taking air and water samples near the fire. Low levels of hydrochloric acid that did not exceed safe levels were found in water sources just above and below the mill, Boatwright said. "Our concern here is health and the environment," Boatwright said. "When chemicals in the plant interact with the heat, it produces a meltdown that might be a threat." The mill had a plastic recycling operation, which is where officials think the fire started. Boatwright said, however, that "no byproduct of melted plastic was found" during a preliminary test Wednesday. Chester County Sheriff Robby Benson said two suspected looters were arrested Wednesday in the evacuated area, which is being protected by police. Residents with appropriate identification will be allowed to return home for brief visits, which will be scheduled on a street-by-street basis as the wind and other conditions allow, officials said.

### FOREST, COUNTY LONDONDERRY, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A major forest fire which spread over 40 acres in County Londonderry has been brought under control, the Fire and Rescue Service has said. The fire at Broughderg forest, close to Six Towns near Draperstown, was reported at about 1500, BST, on Thursday (Jun 8). An intensified effort to halt the blaze began at about 0700, BST, and it was under control about 90 minutes later. Strong winds had fanned the blaze, making it spread rapidly. It is not known how it began. About 80 firefighters and 15 appliances from across Northern Ireland attended the fire, but crews had to withdraw from the area overnight because the conditions were too dangerous. Crews tackling the blaze faced difficulties over water supplies because of recent dry weather. Fire service area commander Ian Doyle said the blaze

had spread rapidly "through five-metre-tall forestry and threatened some property".

### **GASOLINE TANK, GLENPOOL, OKLAHOMA**

New York, Jun 14 — Explorer Pipeline Co. restarted its refined oil products pipeline yesterday afternoon as expected, and the entire system was back up and running at scheduled rates after a gasoline tank fire Monday forced the system to shut, a company spokesman said today. "We restarted at 1600 (CDT) yesterday and all lines are up and running at scheduled flow rates," Rod Woodford, manager of shipper relations, said today. A fire in a 150,000-barrel products tank containing 87 octane regular gasoline ignited Monday morning at the Explorer facility in Glenpool, Oklahoma, a suburb of Tulsa. The cause was lightning, the company said. Explorer on Monday shut its 28-inch-diameter Houston-to-Tulsa pipeline that can move up to 700,000 barrels per day of total products volume, although it normally operates at a rate of about 560,000 bpd. Also shut was the northern, 24-inch, 350,000-bpd throughput line from Tulsa to Wood River, Illinois. The Wood River-to-Chicago and Greenville, Texas-to-Dallas spurs were able to run on Monday until stored product ran out. But Explorer said the entire system was back running at scheduled flow rates today. The damage at the Glenpool site was limited to the tank struck by lightning. The company said it was too early to estimate the cost of damage. "Tank 373 appears to be a total loss," Woodford said. "But all the damage was confined to that tank." — Reuters.

### **JETTY, KOCHI PORT, INDIA**

Kochi, Jun 15 — The Chemical Berth owned by a Government Enterprise, a fire broke out at the conveyor belt situated at the Jetty for direct delivery to the warehouse. The cargo under discharge was sulphur from *Stella Teresa* Fire fighting operations were carried out and the fire was extinguished within two hours. There is no damage to the vessel or any casualty to personnel. However, the vessel's discharge operations are temporarily suspended and the repair work of the conveyor system is being undertaken on a priority basis. Loss of cargo in the accident is initially assessed at one tonne. The discharge operation is expected to commence very soon. — Lloyd's Agents.

### **PREMISES, FAYETTE COUNTY, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators believe the fire that destroyed a landmark shopping center in Fayette County Friday (Jun 9) was accidentally sparked when workers using cutting torches sliced through electrical wiring, Dunbar Fire Chief Tom Bierer said. Workers were using cutting torches to remove material

from the former loading docks in the vacant Pechin Shopping Village in Dunbar Township, Chief Bierer said. State police Fire Marshal William Large, who also helped to fight the huge fire as chief of the Hopwood Fire Department, learned that electrical wires sparked when they were cut and ignited Styrofoam nearby, Chief Bierer said. The fire quickly swept through the shopping center, a cluster of frame buildings with a common roof off Pechin Road that once offered groceries, baked goods, hunting supplies, beer and other items at low prices. The center was destroyed, with only portions of concrete block walls jutting from the smoldering wreckage and collapsed roof yesterday. Firefighters from 15 Fayette County companies spent nearly eight hours Friday fighting the fire before bringing it under control. Dunbar firefighters returned there early yesterday and again through the day to hose down debris that reignited and spewed smoke over the community, the chief said. No damage estimate was available last night. No one was injured in the blaze, which broke out around 1500 hrs. The center's businesses and cafeteria, which became famous and attracted a following around the country for their low prices, inexpensive meals and friendly service, moved last year to the nearby Laurel Mall on Route 119.

### **PREMISES, GLENDALE, ARIZONA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Two Wal-Mart Supercentres in Glendale were the target of an apparent arson attack late Thursday (Jun 8) and could remain closed all weekend as fire investigators gather evidence. The fires caused an estimated \$5 million in inventory loss and forced the evacuation of employees and customers, Elio Pompa, a spokesman for the Glendale Fire Department, said Friday. A Wal-Mart spokeswoman said the fires started in the plastic-flower aisle at the 24-hour stores. The fires were ignited between 2140 and 2300, Pompa said.

### **REFINERY, QUEBEC, CANADA**

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: Valero Energy Corp.'s Jean Gaulin refinery in Quebec had an explosion in one of the units today. Workers reported the fire earlier today at the 215,000 barrel-per-day Ultramar Inc. refinery. Ultramar's emergency response team and the City of Levis' fire prevention department quickly contained the fire. No injuries were reported and employees since have returned to work. The refinery employs 490 individuals. Ultramar Inc. is a Canadian subsidiary of San Antonio-based Valero Energy Corp.. Valero assumed control over the refinery operations in 2001 through its merger with Ultramar Diamond Shamrock Corp. Richard Boucher, vice president and general manager of the refinery,

says the company is still assessing the extent of the damage to its facilities. The cause of the fire and the explosion is still being investigated. The unit had been closed for a major shutdown at the refinery that had been taking place over the last two months for maintenance. The fire had begun while restarting the unit, although investigators are still uncertain why. As of this afternoon, the tank truck loading racks were now operational and some of the refinery units that had been closed were currently being restarted. There is no impact to production because the refinery has been undergoing planned maintenance. The startup schedule is not expected to be delayed.

### **SLOPS TANKS, CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: The Corpus Christi ship channel is clean and completely open for business. The crews cleaning up the 137,253 gallons of oil spilled last week have managed to get it all out of the water, said Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Tim Cummins. Now they'll spend about two weeks cleaning it off the shoreline and docks. To minimize wake while crews work on the shore, vessels must travel slowly when they're west of Tule Lake Lift Bridge. But the channel is otherwise back to normal. "The majority of everything has been cleaned," said Bob Grimes, director of public affairs for Valero. "We're down to the slow part now. The oil is out of the water, and they're concentrating on the shoreline." About 137,000 gallons of oil overflowed from Valero waste tanks during heavy rains on Jun 1. A fire caused by a lightning strike to one of the tanks made the situation worse because the water used to fight the fire caused the tanks to overflow more. The rain caused the same problem at the Citgo refinery, where about 230 gallons overflowed. Citgo spokesman Chuck Cazalas said Citgo had finished its part of the clean up, including the shore, on Sunday. Grimes said to clean the shoreline, sand with oil on it would be scooped up and removed, and rocks and concrete would be cleaned by hand with hot water. Fewer than 10 birds were affected by the oil. Cummins said two swallows and one brown pelican died after landing in the oil. Allan Strand, field supervisor of the U.S. Parks and Wildlife Department's Corpus Christi office, said that's better than he might have expected. "For the amount of oil that was reported spilled, that's not a lot," he said. The Texas State Aquarium is helping rehabilitate the three other birds that landed in the oil - two ducks and a seagull. Debbie Prevratil, curator of marine mammals and birds at the aquarium, said the sparrows died because they were so small that they had a hard time recovering from the oil. And the pelican already had lost a wing before the spill and was already weak. It's hard for birds to

recover once they've had oil on their feathers, Prevratil said. But the ducks and the gulls are doing fine.

**STORAGE TANK, OIL FIELD, RALEIGH, MISSISSIPPI, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: The U.S. Chemical Safety Board will conduct a full investigation of an oil field explosion that killed three workers in Mississippi and review practices of the oil and gas industry nation-wide. The Jun 5 explosion at Partridge-Raleigh LLC oil field appeared to be caused when a worker lit a welding tool and ignited vapors in two production tanks, CSB investigator Johnny Banks said today.

**WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 9 — A fire along a highway in central Alaska more than tripled, reaching an estimated 10,000 acres and moving to within a mile of the city of Nenana. All homes along a 13-mile stretch of the Parks Highway were evacuated last night, said Pete Buist, fire information officer for the Alaska Division of Forestry. Buist said he did not know how many homes were evacuated but six or seven of them were in the most danger. The fire started Wednesday (Jun 7) at a home near the town of Anderson along the highway, which runs between Wasilla and Fairbanks. Fire management officer Robert Schmoll said details were sketchy, but initial reports indicated the homeowner had used a burn barrel and then dumped embers. The embers lit grass or brush and ignited the fire, he said. Winds gusting up to 25 mph spread it north. Smoke was pouring into Nenana and even reached Fairbanks, 55 miles to the north. Fire crews and rigs were positioned at the most threatened buildings, and fire retardant was being dropped on the blaze, Buist said.

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: Embers from a burn barrel ignited a fire that spread to 15,000 acres today, burning at least one building and forcing people to evacuate homes along a 13-mile stretch of highway, officials said. Strong wind pushed the flames along the Parks Highway toward the city of Nenana, a river and rail transportation hub of 550 people about 55 miles south-west of Fairbanks. The fire was within a mile of Nenana, with the Tanana River between the city and the flames. All the homes along the stretch of highway were evacuated last night, and aircraft were dropping fire retardant on the blaze, said Pete Buist, fire information officer for the Alaska Division of Forestry. He didn't know how many homes were evacuated but said six or seven were in the most danger. The fire started Wednesday (Jun 7) at a home near Anderson, and wind gusting up to 25 mph spread it north. The highway was closed yesterday as the fire

spread. Smoke from the fire poured into Nenana and even reached Fairbanks, according to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated Jun 10, states: Firefighters saved six homes in a north-western Arizona community which were evacuated today after an 11,000-acre wildfire came within a quarter of a mile of the houses. Evacuees of the Golden Valley community, about 15 miles west of Kingman, were allowed to return home tonight. "It could have been a lot, lot, lot worse," Wendell Peacock, a spokesman for the team battling the blaze said. As the fire approached the community, Peacock said, a crew was able to burn vegetation between the homes and the fire, stopping the blaze. The fire was 40% contained tonight. No other homes or buildings were threatened by the fire, which broke out Wednesday and Thursday (Jun 7-8) when lightning storms moved through north-western Arizona.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: Crews worked to contain a 6,000-acre wildfire that was within a mile of two subdivisions, authorities said tonight. The fire was threatening 26 homes north of Heber, about 140 miles north-east of Phoenix. It was 40% contained. Officials expected more air tankers and helicopters on the scene tomorrow to help battle the fire. Crews worked today to build containment lines on the fire's western and northern edges. Approximately 20 residents who heeded an evacuation order yesterday were at a Red Cross shelter in Heber, said Greg Eavenson, chief deputy for the Navajo County Sheriff's Department. Lightning sparked the fire a week ago. Elsewhere, a wildfire charred about 1,500 acres in Page in north-eastern Arizona, and a 12,637-acre wildfire in a wilderness area near Kingman in north-western Arizona was 95% contained, officials said.

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: A wildfire south-west of Fairbanks grew to about 58,000 acres today as it changed course away from the city of Nenana and headed toward the town of Anderson. The fire was still about four miles away from Anderson and was not a threat to the town, said fire information officer Tom Kempton with the interagency incident management team. Officials did not immediately call for evacuations in the Anderson area. Meanwhile, Nenana residents who had voluntarily evacuated have returned to their homes. The loss from the fire remained at a handful of houses and cabins. Elsewhere, a 275-acre wildfire near Delta Junction called the Jarvis Creek Fire is considered inactive as crews conduct mop-up activities, according to Pete Buist, another forestry spokesman. A fire near the Little Delta River south of Birch Lake is up to 9,000 acres, he said.

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: Strong winds today thwarted efforts to battle several wildfires that have burned more than 20,000 acres across Arizona. A blaze threatened five subdivisions on the west side of Flagstaff, forcing more than 100 homes to evacuate tonight. The fire was driven by wind gusts of up to 46 mph as it scorched roughly 250 acres, fire officials said. Several air tankers were dropping water and retardant on the blaze as it burned away from the downtown. "It's looking very good," said Connie Birkland, a spokeswoman for the Coconino National Forest, "but that doesn't mean that it's out. We still have a ways to go, and we still have homes in danger." An estimated 120 homes were threatened, though none were burned. Officials said a number of campgrounds were consumed by flames but an exact number was not immediately known. The cause of the fire, which was spotted about 1600 hrs, was under investigation. Crews continued to work on a 6,000-acre wildfire that threatened homes on two subdivisions north of Heber, about 140 miles north-east of Phoenix. It was 40% contained today. The blaze was sparked by lightning on Jun 6, authorities said. Elsewhere, a wildfire charred about 1,500 acres in Page in north-eastern Arizona, and a 12,637-acre wildfire in a wilderness area near Kingman in north-western Arizona was 95% contained, officials said.



**CRASH, BELLA COOLA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA**

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: The RCMP are investigating after a small aircraft believed to be carrying two people crashed near Bella Coola on B.C.'s Central Coast. The Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Victoria had received a call yesterday saying the light aircraft had gone down into the trees near a private airstrip. A search-and-rescue aircraft and two helicopters were sent the scene. The search crews found the aircraft buried in mud up to its wings, making the cockpit inaccessible. A spokesperson said it didn't appear that anyone could have survived. The search was later called off because of poor weather conditions and the case was turned over to the RCMP. Authorities have not released any more information about a possible flight plan or who was thought to be on board.

**CRASH, MOSCOW AREA, RUSSIA**

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft

on a training flight crashed outside of Moscow yesterday, killing the pilot-instructor and a passenger. The Yakovlev Yak-52 hit the ground around 1600 hrs as it approached the landing strip near the village of Klimyentevo, said a duty officer with the Emergency Situations Ministry. It was unclear who was at the controls of the aircraft at the time of the crash. No one on the ground was injured.

#### **CRASH, RENO, NEVADA, UNITED STATES**

See N5455D.

#### **CRASH, TIWI ISLANDS, NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA**

See VH-JDJ.

#### **CRASH, UNADILLA, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: A single-engine private plane crashed at a private air strip in the southwestern corner of Livingston county tonight, killing the pilot and only person on the plane. Officials have not identified the man. The plane hit some trees before crashing at the Richmond Airport in Unadilla Township, about 12 miles south of Fowlerville. Witnesses say they heard an explosion after the plane crashed shortly after 1900 hrs.

#### **EC-GOS**

London, June 9 — Air Tractor AT-802 EC-GOS, owned and operated by the Instituto Balsar de la Naturaleza, was destroyed following an in flight encounter with inclement weather during cruise flight near Molinicos, Albacete Province, Spain, at 1750, UTC, May 30. The pilot, the sole occupant was killed.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, ATHENS AIRPORT, GREECE**

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A Boeing 757, heading from Egypt to Manchester Airport, made an emergency landing at Athens Airport in Greece after the pilot fell ill. The Monarch flight from Luxor landed safely at 2256, local time, 2056, BST. Reports suggested the pilot had had a stroke but the airline did not confirm these. A spokeswoman later said he had been well enough to walk off the aircraft. None of the 180 passengers on board the Boeing 757 were injured. They are due to return to the UK early today. The Monarch spokeswoman said: "They landed safely and everything was fine and he [the pilot] actually walked off the aircraft and is with paramedics now." She said a replacement crew for the aircraft would be sent from Manchester because the whole crew of the original aircraft would have exceeded the limit on their working hours. The new flight to the UK is expected to take off at about 0300, BST, arriving in Manchester at about 0600, BST.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A freight aircraft has made an emergency crash landing at Birmingham International Airport after developing problems with its undercarriage. The Boeing 737-300 landed on the main runway and collapsed on to its side. The two crew members were unhurt. The TNT aircraft was travelling from Liege in Belgium to Stansted Airport, when it was diverted to Birmingham. Flights at Birmingham have been disrupted, but passengers are being advised to turn up to check in. Most services into the airport have been diverted to Nottingham East Midlands Airport or Coventry Airport or have been cancelled. It is believed the aircraft will not be cleared from the runway until this evening.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, CHUBU CENTRAIR, INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, JAPAN**

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 7, states: Boeing 747 jumbo cargo jet operated by Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings of the United States made an emergency landing at a central Japan airport today after an engine fire, officials said. No crew members were injured in the landing at Chubu Centrair International Airport, said airport spokesman Kazutaka Sado. Fire trucks were standing by as the aircraft landed. It was not immediately known how many crew boarded the flight, which was originally bound for Brazil via Anchorage. The pilot of the Boeing 747-200F noticed a fire came out from the No. 1 engine soon after taking off from the same airport, Sado said. After consuming much of its fuel by hovering over the Pacific for about one hour, the cargo plane landed safely at the airport, Sado said.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: Fire rescue was on hand at Miami International Airport as an American Airlines aircraft that reported having a hydraulic problem landed. There are no reports of any injuries or major problems on the aircraft. American Airlines spokesman Tim Smith said a flight from Puerto Rico to Orlando was diverted to Miami International Airport after pilots reported a hydraulic warning light had come on. The jet landed without apparent problems just before 1230 hrs. Smith said Flight 478 was carrying 264 passengers and nine crew members. He added that the pilots had full control of the aircraft, with three backup systems. The flight was en route from San Juan, Puerto Rico, to Orlando, where it was scheduled to land about 1420 hrs, according to the American Airlines Web site. Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman

Laura Brown said authorities first discussed diverting the aircraft to Nassau, Bahamas, before opting for Miami. The passengers will go on to Orlando on another aircraft.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, MIDWAY AIRPORT, CHICAGO, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 8 — Southwest Airlines 737 was forced to make an emergency landing at Midway Airport this morning. Flight 1513 had just taken off from the airport when a small fire in the engine compartment forced the pilot to return to Midway. The aircraft landed safely. The aircraft was headed to Fort Lauderdale. There are no reports of any injuries. The jet was eventually towed back to the terminal. All the passengers are now being placed on another flight.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 13 — A regional jet flying from Washington, D.C., to St. Louis made an emergency landing in Pittsburgh yesterday after a hydraulic system failure, but the 38 passengers and three crew members were unhurt. American Connection flight 5526 landed at Pittsburgh International Airport shortly before 1500 hrs after one of its two hydraulic systems failed in mid-flight, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported. The pilot landed using a backup system, which later failed when the aircraft was on the ground, and the aircraft had to be towed to a gate, where the passengers disembarked. The airline was making arrangements for the passengers to continue traveling to St. Louis, the newspaper reported, quoting airline spokesman Bill Mishk. The aircraft is operated by American Connection, a regional affiliate of American Airlines and a unit of the St. Louis-based Trans States Airlines Inc.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA**

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated Jun 10, states: An Asiana Airlines Airbus aircraft made an emergency landing last night and landed safely without its nose, radar and windows. The aircraft landed at the airport of Seoul. The aircraft lost parts in a severe storm between Cheju island and Seoul. Hail also destroyed the aircraft's cockpit windows which were made of security glass. The windows remained in place but the pilots were unable to see through the glass. The radar could have solved the problem, but was also damaged by the storm. The pilots decided to use two very small windows on both sides of the cockpit. The aircraft was carrying 200 people, including 177 students of primary education schools on a school trip, a spokesman of Asiana Airlines said today. The pilots Lee Chan-go and Kim Yong-ik will be rewarded because they landed the aircraft safely despite all the problems. No one was injured in the incident.



## FLIGHTS GROUNDED, SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE AIRPORTS, AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 14 — Aircrafts at Sydney and Melbourne airports had been grounded after a problem with air traffic control, an Airservices Australia (AA) spokesman said today. AA spokesman Richard Dudley said air traffic control systems in Melbourne had failed, affecting all flights through airspace in southern Australia. Mr Dudley said all aircrafts in Sydney and Melbourne had been grounded, while flights from other airports that had been due to pass through southern Australian airspace had been delayed. Flights into Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and Hobart airports were among those affected. "A problem with our air traffic control system in Melbourne is affecting flights across southern Australia," Mr Dudley said. "In particular, it is affecting flights leaving Sydney and Melbourne airports and flights destined for Melbourne." Advertisement: "Everything is grounded at the moment at Sydney and Melbourne airports while we investigate the cause of the problem." Mr Dudley said he had learned of the problem only at 1520, AEST, and he did not know at this stage for how long aircrafts had been grounded. Planes that had already taken off, bound for Sydney and Melbourne, were being allowed to land at those airports, Mr Dudley said. "At the moment, as a precaution, we are leaving planes on the ground at Sydney and Melbourne until the cause of the problem with the air traffic system is known," Mr Dudley said. "We are landing those planes that are in the air at Sydney and Melbourne." Travellers are advised to contact their airline about the delays. The air space affected by the problem is called the Southern Flight Information Region, Mr Dudley said.

### N23LE

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated Jun 11, states: A small aircraft made an emergency landing at CapitAl City Airport about 1300 yesterday. Airport officials say the aircraft's front landing gear locked and the aircraft had to land on its back wheels. Two passengers were on board, neither one was injured. The aircraft was damaged though. Crews had to temporarily shut down the runway to respond to the accident and clear the way.

London, Jun 13 — Piper PA-28-201T (Arrow) N23LE landed at Lansing, Michigan, with its nose gear up at 1602, Jun 10, while on a flight from Pontiac, MI, to Mason, MI. The two persons on board were not injured.

### N292HH

London, Jun 14 — Piper PA-32R-301T (Saratoga IITC) N292HH crashed near Kansas City, Missouri, at 0012, Jun 13. The two persons on board were killed.

### N3265X

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated Jun 12, states: A Cessna 310L aircraft made an emergency landing in Butler County this morning. Butler County 911 said that the Cessna 310L had problems with its nose gear. The aircraft circled the Butler County Airport to burn off fuel in order to land, officials said.

London, Jun 14 — Cessna 310L N3265X had nose gear collapse on landing at Butler Airport, Pennsylvania, at 1615, Jun 12. The aircraft sustained minor damage. The one person on board was not injured.

### N5136X

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: A small airplane crashed today in the mountains near Lookout Pass along Interstate 90, killing the two people aboard, Shoshone County Sheriff Chuck Reynolds said. Reynolds said the plane was flying eastbound near Kellogg toward the Montana border. The north Idaho wooded terrain was obscured by dense fog and a low cloud ceiling at the time. The two people aboard weren't immediately identified pending notification of relatives. The crash site was secured by the Shoshone County sheriff's department and federal investigators were called.

London, Jun 9 — Cessna TU206G (Stationair 6), N5136X, operated by Majestic Alliance, while on a flight from Missoula, Montana, to Couer d'Alene, Idaho, with two persons on board, crashed, at 2140, UTC, Jun 8, at Mullan, Idaho. The aircraft was substantially damaged and both persons on board died.

### N5455D

London, Jun 8 — Beechcraft Bonanza H35 N5455D crashed near Reno, Nevada, at 2205, Jun 7, while on a flight from Reno to Corona, California. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

### N627PA

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: Two people were killed today when the plane they were in crashed into a mountain just west of Lake Pleasant, authorities said. One man and one woman died in the crash, said Neil Ashton, a battalion chief with Peoria Fire Department. The names of the victims were not immediately known. Nobody else was aboard the single-engine plane when it crashed, Ashton said. Ashton did not know which of the two people was piloting the aircraft. It was not immediately known where the plane took off from or its planned destination, and the cause of the crash also was not known. Ashton said the plane was barely recognizable after the crash. "All I can see is a wing and tail," he said.

London, Jun 9 — Cessna 152, N627PA, operated by DGV Holdings Inc DBA, while on a local flight from Deer Valley Phoenix, with two persons on board, crashed into a mountainous

area, near Glendale, Arizona, at 2140, UTC, Jun 8. The aircraft was destroyed and both persons on board died.

### N69146

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: The crash of a small aircraft near Ellington Field last year, killing two, was the result of a loss of engine power and the pilot's decision to return to the airport, a probable cause finding by the National Transportation Safety Board says. The Piper PA-46-310P (Malibu) (N69146), carrying Austin-area veterinarian Real Ransom and his wife Cindy Attwood Ransom, had taken off from Ellington at about 0930, Sep 17, and quickly climbed about 200 feet. Witnesses told investigators that the aircraft started making a left turn shortly after take-off. The NTSB report said that shortly after take-off, the tower controller heard a weak transmission that was not completely understood, although the words "engine" and "power" were heard. "The controller asked the pilot to 'Say again,' but there was no response. She again asked, 'Say again' and the pilot transmitted, 'I'm going down.' There were no further communications from the pilot," the NTSB report said. Investigators have determined that when the aircraft was about 400 feet in the air, its engine stopped. While in a left turn, the left wingtip hit the ground and the aircraft cartwheeled. The Ransoms were killed instantly. "Witness reports of the airplane's flight path along with the wreckage distribution path were consistent with the pilot's attempt to return to the airport," the NTSB report says. The reason for loss of engine power could not be determined. The NTSB report noted that the dark conditions may also have been a factor in the crash. A survey of the aircraft showed that the fuselage, engine and wing burned on impact. The aircraft's landing gear and wing spoilers were in a retracted position, and no mechanical deficiencies were noted.

### N7043G

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated Jun 12, states: A B90 aircraft crashed into a house at the end of a runway today in Tampa, killing the pilot and badly burning the co-pilot, a police officer said. The B90 plane hit the house about 1230 hrs ET near Peter O. Knight Airport close to downtown Tampa, said police spokeswoman Laura McElroy. Two men were in the aircraft at the time of the crash. The pilot died at the scene, and his co-pilot is in critical condition at Tampa General Hospital with serious injuries caused by burning jet fuel, an emergency responder said. Federal Aviation Administration officials were unable to say if the aircraft was taking off or landing or whether weather was a factor in the crash. An investigation is under way. One woman was in the house on Severne Avenue when the plane hit,

but she escaped without injuries. Firefighters are working to put out flames at the house.

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: A co-pilot is recovering in the hospital after yesterday's B90 aircraft crash in a Tampa neighborhood that killed the pilot. Fire officials say the aircraft crashed shortly before 1300 hrs into a home on Davis Island south of Tampa. A woman whose house was hit survived and said no one else was home. The area was experiencing heavy rains but it's not clear if weather was a contributing factor. Tampa police say the private aircraft crashed as it was trying to take off from the airport located on the island. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating. Aviation officials say the pilot alerted air traffic controllers he was having some type of fuel problem.

London, Jun 14 — Beechcraft Queen Air 65 N7043G crashed into a residence near Tampa, Florida, at 1632, Jun 12, while on a local flight from Sarasota, FL. The aircraft was destroyed. One of the two persons on board was killed and the other was seriously injured.

#### **N922FT**

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 7, states: Tradewinds International Airlines' Boeing 747-200F N922FT was damaged after sustaining an engine failure on take-off from Rionegro/Medellin-JosÉ María Cúrdova Airport, in Colombia. It was loaded with flowers. Take-off was aborted but the airplane overran the wet runway and came to rest 150 metres past the runway end. MDE has a single 3500 metre long runway. The airport was closed from 0705 hrs to 0940 hrs.

#### **N95CE**

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: A small aircraft carrying three men crashed into a lake as the pilot tried to land during a storm, authorities said today. Crews recovered the tail piece of the single-engine aircraft this morning, but there were no signs of survivors, said Lt Darren Gilbert, Utah County Sheriff's Department. Two men and a pilot from Utah County were returning from St. George, in south-west Utah, when the aircraft went down at about midnight, Gilbert said. He said the last radio contact was at about 2345 yesterday when the pilot reported he was on final approach to Provo Municipal Airport. Search and rescue workers located the debris field in Utah Lake early today, but had to leave the water because of lightning in the area.

London, Jun 11 — A press report, dated Jun 10, states: Bad weather today caused rescue workers to suspend a search for three men who were on board an aircraft that crashed in the murky waters of Utah Lake. The pilot and two passengers were still missing after a day of searching and picking up pieces of floating field of debris yesterday

about two miles west of a state park harbour in Provo. The single-engine turboprop aircraft crashed shortly before midnight on Thursday (Jun 8). The lake is shallow and the water in the search area averages only nine to 12 feet deep, but the silty bottom makes it difficult to see, even for divers wearing masks, Utah County Sheriff's Lt Darren Gilbert said. "Once they're in the water, visibility is about nil," Gilbert said today. Dive crews from Utah, Wasatch and Summit counties and the state Department of Public Safety were searching today. "Because the wind picked up we were getting rough surf up there. It's hampering search efforts," Gilbert said. Gilbert said public safety workers would probably resume their search tomorrow morning. Authorities were also using two different kinds of sonar to try to locate the bodies. More debris from the crash washed towards shore overnight, but there was no sign of the men who were on board. Missing were Blaine Pugmire of Springville, Harold McGuire of Highland and Ray Hooper of Mapleton. Pugmire, an experienced pilot, was flying McGuire and Hooper back from a conference in St. George when the aircraft crashed during a storm. The stormy weather delayed the search for hours and searchers were called back to shore several times because of high winds and waves and the threat of lightning. The Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board were also investigating the crash.

London, Jun 13 — Lancair IV-P N95CE crashed into a lake near Provo, Utah, at 0538, Jun 9, while on a flight from Saint George, UT, to Provo. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were killed.

#### **VH-CZE**

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: Two people survived after being forced to crash their plane into the ocean. The plane, a Piper Seminole, was on its way from California to "the Big Island". The Coast Guard said the pilot reported losing an engine. The plane ran into trouble about a thousand miles off the coast of California. The two people aboard ditched the plane, which then sank, about 535 miles northeast of Hilo. A ship on its way to China was able to rescue the two people from the water. They were not seriously hurt.

London, Jun 9 — Piper PA-44-180 (Seminole), VH-CZE, operated by Airflight Pty, while on a flight from Santa Barbara, California, to Hilo, Hawaii, with two persons on board, declared an emergency, at 2115, UTC, Jun 8, due to engine failure, and ditched in the Pacific Ocean, 710 miles north-east of Hilo. The aircraft was destroyed and both persons on board were rescued, uninjured, by a vessel at sea.

Hawaii, Jun 9 — At about 0148, PST, today, a couple ditched their twin-engine Piper Seminole aircraft about

535 miles north-east of Hilo, lat 25 04.11N, long 147 26.53W, after reporting engine trouble. The U.S. Coast Guard dropped 10 flares to mark a visual point for them to "ditch" the aircraft and a vessel rescued the man and woman. Since there were no injuries, the vessel continued to her destination. The aircraft sank in under four minutes. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **VH-JDJ**

London, June 9 — The wreckage of Beechcraft A36, VH-JDJ, operated by AIB Pty Ltd, was discovered at Bathurst Island, NT, at 0920, local time, June 1. The pilot was fatally injured and the aircraft was destroyed.

#### **VT-DAC**

London, Jun 12 — Bell 407 helicopter VT-DAC, operator Deccan Aviation, lost rotor revolutions per minute and landed hard during a training flight near Jakkur Aerodrome, Bangalore, India, at 1700, local time, Jun 5. The helicopter sustained substantial damage. There were no injuries.

#### **XC-LJU**

London, June 9 — Schweizer 269D helicopter, XC-LJU, owned and operated by the Government of Mexico, was destroyed when it crashed near Ciudad Juarez, State of Chihuahua, Mexico, at 1030, CDT, May 30. The pilot and his two passengers were killed.



#### **AIRCRAFT ENGINE VANES, WORLD-WIDE**

London, Jun 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Rolls-Royce has had to recall faulty aircraft engine parts manufactured at one of its factories. The company yesterday confirmed that an inquiry had been ordered at the Inchinnan plant in Renfrewshire after three engines shut down in mid-air on passenger jets because of components built there. In the most serious case, an engine on a plane which flew from Sydney airport failed after take-off. Two other mid-air engine failures were traced to defective vanes made at Rolls-Royce's Scots factory for V2500 aircraft engines. In at least eight incidents the vanes, which suck air into the engine, had broken under pressure. Rolls-Royce has been recalling all the faulty parts, which it said were made over a period of a month in 2004 during a brief change in the production process. A leaked company document said: "Confidence in Inchinnan's reputation has been severely dented." Another internal document said: "A vane failed during service causing an engine shutdown. It was one of three

in-service failures for the same reason.” The Civil Aviation Authority said it was investigating the problem. Rolls-Royce insisted the incidents were isolated and there had been no recurrence of the fault. A spokesman, Peter Barnes-Wallace, said: “These were three incidents out of the 20 million flying hours Rolls-Royce engines clock up every year. We have been recovering all the vanes in question and expect to recall the final one this month.”

**HONDA MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE**

Tokyo, Jun 14 — Japan’s Honda Motor Co. said today it would recall and repair a combined 561,594 units of the Odyssey, CR-V and Step Wgn models globally to fix a faulty ignition switch that could cause the engine to stop. The recall and repairs would cost the company around 2.73 billion yen, a spokeswoman said. Of the total, 483,185 units are in Japan and were built between October 1994 and May 1997, Honda said in a filing with Japan’s transport ministry. Most of the recalls outside Japan cover the Odyssey minivan sold in North America. No accidents were reported overseas, while five people in Japan suffered burns from contact with melted ignition switches. — Reuters.

**MOBILE PHONES, JAPAN**

London, Jun 9 — Sanyo Electric Co said Tuesday (Jun 6) it will repair for free a program defect in the 500,000 W32SA model mobile phone handsets it makes for KDDI Corp’s au service. A user can get it fixed at KDDI’s au shops or by renewing the program using a repair program Sanyo is sending to the cellphones. The

company said one of the problems is the handset battery may not be fully charged. The company has also received complaints that some batteries have cracked and become deformed. The company attributed the defect to a program that controls the battery charge.

**NISSAN MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN**

London, Jun 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Nissan Motor Co is recalling some 150,000 cars due to troubles with brake parts and electric devices, the transport ministry said. The firm reported the recall to the ministry, saying it will cover 144,298 Elgrand minivans produced between April 2002 and Dec 2005, as well as 11,154 March minicars produced between Feb 2002 and March 2004 in Japan. The minivans have a design problem that may make the braking distance longer, while the minicars have trouble with its electric switch system, the ministry said.

**SAFETY HARNESSES, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 9 — A press release, dated Jun 8, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Summit Treestands LLC, of Decatur, Ala. , today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 106,000 Safety Harnesses Sold with Hunting Tree Stands. The harnesses could fail during use, resulting in consumers falling from tree stands and suffering serious injuries or death. No incidents/injuries have been reported. The harnesses are tan or light brown

and were sold as an accessory with the following tree stands or ladders: Viper X5, Goliath X5, Razor X5, Bushmaster X5, Broadhead Backpacker, Bullet Backpacker, Clearshot, Openshot, and MegaSampson. Only harnesses with øManufactured in 2005,ø and øMade in Chinaø printed on a label on the harness tether are included in this recall. They were sold at sporting goods stores nationwide from June 2005 through to May 2006 for between \$200 and \$300 for the tree stand including the harness.



**BANGLADESH**

See “Bangladesh” under “Labour Disputes.”

**ITALY**

Genoa, Jun 12 — Port situation: Genoa: No vessels awaiting berths. Savona: No vessels awaiting normal, one vessel awaiting special berth, average delay in berthing 12 hours. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd’s Agents.

**SYRIA**

Aleppo, Jun 10 — Waiting time presently 24 hours at Lattakia and two days at Tartous. — Lloyd’s Agents.  
Aleppo, Jun 15 — Waiting time presently 24 hours at Lattakia and two 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
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbot Point	19-Jun-2006	Coal: One vessel loading at berth; 1 vessel arrived; 11 vessels due by 12/7; up to 1 day's delay expected.
Brisbane	19-Jun-2006	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Five vessels due by 23/6.
Dalrymple Bay	19-Jun-2006	Coal: Three vessels loading at berth; 17 vessels arrived; 33 vessels due by 6/7; 1-3 days delay for BHP, 15-30 days delay for NTH GoonYella, 7-15 days delay for other grades expected.
Dampier	19-Jun-2006	Iron ore: Delays expected: 2-8 days; Parker Point A berth: 17-day shutdown 15/6-3/7; 1 vessel due 29/6; Parker Point B berth: 1 vessel loading at berth; 1 vessel arrived; 11 vessels due by 27/6; Parker Point C berth: 2 vessels arrived; East Intercourse Island; 1 vessel loading at berth; 10 vessels due by 1/7.
Esperance	19-Jun-2006	Iron ore: Three vessels due by 23/6.
Geraldton	19-Jun-2006	Iron ore: One vessel loading; 1 vessel at anchor; 2 vessels due by 30/6.
Gladstone	19-Jun-2006	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Three vessels loading at berth; 17 vessels arrived; 38 vessels due by 9/8; 10-13 days delay expected; Barney Point: 1 vessel loading at berth; 4 vessels arrived; 5 vessels due by 30/7; Plant shutdown notice: no shiploading operations 10-15/7 for maintenance and upgrading of terminal facilities.
Hay Point	19-Jun-2006	Coal: Two vessels loading at berth; 15 vessels due by 3/7; 1-3 days delay for BHP, 15-30 days delay for NTH GoonYella, 7-15 days delay for other grades expected.
Newcastle	19-Jun-2006	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: Three vessels loading at berth; 11 vessels arrived; 39 vessels due by 9/7; 6-13 days delay expected; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels loading at berth; 3 vessels arrived; 20 vessels due by 8/7; 4-8 days delay expected.
Port Hedland	19-Jun-2006	Iron ore: Delays expected: up to 4 days; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: One vessel loading at berth; 7 vessels due by 1/7; "B" berth: 1 vessel loading at berth; 1 vessel arrived; 6 vessels due by 28/6; 14 other vessels due by 9/7 at A or B berth 2/4; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island "C" berth): 1 vessel loading at berth; 3 vessels due by 26/6; (Finucane Island "D" berth): 1 vessel loading at berth; 1 vessel arrived; 4 vessels due by 26/6; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel due 23/6.
Port Kembla	19-Jun-2006	Coal: One vessel loading at berth; 1 vessel at anchor; 12 vessels due by 20/7; 5-7 days delay expected for centennial/tahmoor grades.
Port Walcott	19-Jun-2006	Iron ore: Two vessels loading at berth; 3 vessels arrived; 10 vessels due by 3/7; 6-10 days delay expected.
Whyalla	19-Jun-2006	Iron ore: One vessel loading; 1 vessel at anchor; 6 vessels due by 29/7.
<b>Bulgaria</b>		
Bourgas	19-Jun-2006	Eight vessels in port of which 4 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 coils, 1 scrap), 4 discharging (1 billets, 1 gasoil, 1 scrap, 1 iron ore); 4 vessels in roads, all to load (1 chemicals, 1 gasoil, 1 coils, 1 empty); 12 vessels due of which 3 to load (1 copper anodes, 1 coils, 1 COC bensoil), 9 to discharge (1 concrete iron, 1 metal, 1 salt, 1 sugar, 2 copper concentrate, 2 coal, 1 iron ore).
Varna	19-Jun-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Balchik: Thirty-five vessels in port operating of which 25 loading (1 scrap, 2 bulk maize, 1 steel sheets, 1 hardboard, 1 liquid urea, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 4 bulk clinker, 8 soda, 2 bulk silica sand, 1 chamote/kaolin, 1 technical salt, 1 bulk STP, 1 cement), 2 discharging (1 raw phosphate, 1 clay), 8 discharging/loading (7 containers, 1 bulk coal); no vessels waiting in roads.
<b>Cyprus</b>		
Laranaca	20-Jun-2006	No vessels at berth, none at anchorage; 1 conventional vessel due 21/6; no delays expected.
Limassol	20-Jun-2006	Six container vessels discharging/loading at berth; 10 vessels due 21/6 of which 5 containers, 1 conventional vessel, 4 passenger vessels; no delays expected.

**Egypt**

Adabiya	19-Jun-2006	Four vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 4 general cargo.
Alexandria	19-Jun-2006	Thirty-eight vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 30 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 5 container vessels; 22 vessels at inner anchorage, 15 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	19-Jun-2006	Twenty-two vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 15 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 4 container vessels; no vessels at inner anchorage, 7 at outer anchorage.
Dekheila	19-Jun-2006	Thirteen vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 6 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 2 tankers, 2 container vessels; no vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	19-Jun-2006	Six vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 1 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier, 4 container vessels.
Suez	19-Jun-2006	Six vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 3 general cargo, 3 passenger vessels; 4 tug boats; 3 vessels dry-docked.
Suez Canal	19-Jun-2006	Six vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 3 general cargo, 3 passenger vessels; 4 tug boats; 3 vessels dry-docked.

**Israel**

Ashdod	20-Jun-2006	No labour problems; One vessel loading general cargo at berth, 8 discharging at berth (5 general cargo, 3 bulk cargo); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge general cargo; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 20 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	20-Jun-2006	No labour problems; Five vessels loading/discharging at berth (1 container, 4 tankers); 1 vessel due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	20-Jun-2006	No labour problems; One vessel loading general cargo at berth, 5 discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 3 bulk cargo), 8 loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 4 tankers); 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 bulk cargo, 2 containers, 1 tanker); 5 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 14 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.

**Pakistan**

Karachi	20-Jun-2006	One vessel loading rice at berth, 9 discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 1 wheat, 2 urea, 1 DAP, 3 sugar), 2 loading/discharging containers at berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load containers, 10 waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 cement, 2 sugar, 4 general cargo, 1 fertiliser); 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked; 7 vessels due (3 containers, 1 general cargo, 1 sugar, 1 MOL, 1 ethanol), with no delays expected.
Port Qasim	20-Jun-2006	Four vessels discharging at berth (1 palm oil, 2 sugar, 1 fuel oil); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load containers, 5 waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 container, 1 canola, 1 peas, 1 sugar, 1 palm oil); QICT berth: 1 vessel loading/discharging containers.

**Russia**

Novorossiysk	19-Jun-2006	Ten vessels in port operating of which 9 loading (1 WRIC, 1 bulk cement, 1 scrap, 1 coils, 1 steel billets, 1 slabs/steel billets, 1 aluminium, 1 cellulose, 1 wheat), 1 discharging bulk sugar; 3 vessels in roads, all to load (2 D/O, 1 wheat); 54 vessels due of which 48 to load, 5 to discharge (1 vegetable oil, 1 debars, 3 bulk sugar), 1 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 1 tanker loading crude at berth; 3 tankers in roads, all to load (2 crude oil, 1 diesel oil); 5 tankers due, all to load crude oil.
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**Slovenia**

Koper	19-Jun-2006	Port working normally; Twelve vessels berthed of which 3 loading (1 sawn timber, 2 bulk cargo), 5 discharging (3 bulk cargo, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker), 4 discharging/loading (3 containers, 1 car carrier); 23 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 7 to load (2 bulk cargo, 5 sawn timber/general cargo), 11 vessels to discharge (1 car carrier, 4 tankers, 1 general cargo, 5 bulk cargo), 5 to discharge/load (4 containers, 1 car carrier).
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**Spain**

Bilbao	19-Jun-2006	Twenty-eight vessels in port operating (3 tankers, 25 others), of which 5 loading, 11 discharging, 12 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	19-Jun-2006	Twenty-one vessels in port operating of which 2 loading (2 steel products, 1 bulk fertiliser), 18 discharging (14 steel products, 1 gas, 1 fruit, 2 vehicles), 1 discharging/loading timber; Outside commercial wharf: no vessels; no delays expected.

**Ukraine**

Illichevsk	19-Jun-2006	Seven vessels in port operating, all loading (5 steel products, 1 wheat/barley, 1 wheat); 1 vessel in roads to load steel products/wood; 17 vessels due of which 6 to load (3 steel products, 2 sulphur, 1 iron ore concentrate), 11 to discharge/load containers.
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## Port Conditions

Mariupol	19-Jun-2006	Thirteen vessels in port operating, all loading (8 steel, 2 fire-clay, 1 wheat, 2 coal); 16 vessels in roads of which 11 to load (6 steel, 2 coal, 2 fire-clay, 1 ammonium saltpetre), 3 to discharge (1 equipment/containers, 1 containers, 1 equipment); 50 vessels due of which 45 to load (26 steel, 7 coal, 6 fire-clay, 1 fire-clay/kaolin, 2 coke, 1 kaolin, 2 slag), 4 to discharge (1 feldspar, 1 containers/equipment, 2 equipment), 1 to discharge/load equipment.
Odessa	19-Jun-2006	Fourteen vessels in port operating of which 7 loading (1 scrap, 3 metal, 1 pig iron, 1 barley, 1 wheat), 6 discharging (2 passenger vessels, 2 baggage, 1 sugar, sand), 1 discharging/loading containers; 5 vessels in roads of which 2 to load scrap, 1 wheat), 1 to discharge general cargo, 2 to discharge/load containers; 78 vessels due of which 47 to load (36 metal, 6 pig iron, 3 ferroalloy, 2 barley), 5 to discharge (2 bananas, 1 citrus, 1 general cargo, 1 oil), 26 to load/discharge containers.

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