

Pilots in dock as claims for berth collisions soar to \$200m

INSURANCE chiefs are sending out an urgent call to shipowners to tighten berthing procedures after collision claims have spun out of control.

Claims may have surged to \$200m a year or more across the industry if the experience of leading protection and indemnity providers is typical.

Controversially, insurers suspect that weaknesses in pilotage are to blame for some of the losses.

They contend that some pilotage services — including those staffed by people in their eighties — are in serious need of revamping.

Some 25% of claims are being ascribed to bad ship handling, and of those one-third are blamed on pilot error.

Standard P&I Club has taken an initiative by sending out thousands of copies of a new publication, A Master's Guide to Berthing, said to be the first of its kind, which took two years of research led by loss prevention head Eric Murdoch to prepare.

Incidents have increased in size and frequency, partly because of the trend to high sided ships, especially containerships and car carriers, the latter "fiendishly difficult to berth" according to Mr Murdoch.

Damaged port equipment has become much more expensive to replace.

Alistair Groom, chief executive of Standard management company Charles Taylor, said some of the incidents involved new ships owned by the best companies and sophisticated docks.

Although the club was doing all it could to address claims costs, an increasing proportion was spent on physical damage, with the past year seeing one of the heaviest amounts at \$20m.

With ship types becoming larger, their momentum was greater and the facilities to which they were sailing were becoming more expensive. Claims of this type were rising at a time when others generally were going down.

Clubs often have to put up large bonds to port authorities to guarantee that claims will be paid.

Mr Murdoch said that estimates for one claim alone last year were at present running at \$8m, the largest claim of any type for the club in the policy year.

This was understood to refer to a dry bulk carrier that hit a the piles of a berth in Japan, with relatively light damage on either side but putting the facility out of action for three months and resulting in severe loss of earnings.

Berth collisions have been reported to the club from northern Europe, Korea, Japan, the US and Canada, although not Australia.

Mr Murdoch was concerned over instances of misjudged distances and wrong manoeuvres. Masters often relied on pilots to berth the ship and could intervene only when things were going wrong, he said.

It was difficult to identify what a pilot was doing and sometimes communication between pilot and tugs was in a language other than English.

Mr Groom called for improved training of personnel, including more simulator training, although he recognised this could be expensive.

Collaborating with Mr Murdoch in the new publication were Capt Chris Clarke of Warsash Maritime Centre, Ian Dand of BMT SeaTech and Standard claims director Brian Glover.

The guide admits that "ship handling is an art rather than a science" but insists that knowledge of a vessel's characteristics is essential when it encounters close quarters situations, narrow channels and the effects of crosswinds and currents.

James Brewer
Lloyd's List Editorial

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>AHMET AKGUL 1</i>	general	TUR	BV	4,568	7,348	1982	Sustained engine breakdown while transiting the Dardanelles, May 21 and anchored near Gelibolu. Effected repairs and sailed same day. Arrived Ashdod May 24.
<i>ALIDA</i>	fishing	NLD	—	2,625	2,690	1984	Broke down with severe engine failure in lat 49 46.2N, long 03 31.1W, May 20. Tugs requested. Later started auxilliary engine and proceeding to Scheveningen.
<i>HYUNDAI NO.105</i>	vehicle	PAN	—	40,772	12,893	1986	In collision with crude oil tanker <i>Kaminesan</i> in lat 01 12.9N, long 103 53.4E, May 22. Taking water & anchored. All 20 crew abandoned & sank in 40 mm of water in lat 01 13.3N, long 103 57.7E, May 23. No pollution reported. Investigation under way. Voyage: Ulsan (KOR) to Europe. Cargo:4,191 automobiles.
<i>KAMINESAN</i>	crude oil	PAN	NK	159,813	303,896	2003	In collision with vehicle <i>Hyundai No.105</i> in lat 01 12.9N, long 103 53.4E, May 22. Port bow and forepeak damaged. No injuries. No pollution. Towed back to Singapore and anchored off coast. Voyage: Mina al Ahmadi (KWT) to Ube (JPN). Cargo: 279,949 tonnes crude oil
<i>LIL</i>	bulker	PAN	NK	10,421	17,409	1995	In collision with general cargo <i>Quoc Tu Giam</i> in the Inland Sea, off Moji May 19. Sustained heavy damage to starboard side shell plating in way of No.3 hold, which began flooding. ETC for temporary repairs May 30. Voyage: Saiki (JPN) to Dalian (CHN). Cargo: Cement clinker (16,500 tonnes).
<i>NEPTUNUS</i>	tanker	SWE	GL	4,609	7,035	1991	Had fire in engine-room while transiting the Kiel Canal May 21. Extinguished with assistance from tugs & other vessels. Towed to Brunsbuttel same day for investigation. Sailed May 22 in tow. Arrived Fredericia May 24, for repairs, ETC end June. Voyage: Liepaja (LVA) to Flushing (NLD). Cargo: Heating oil.
<i>PARTNER</i>	general	VCT	GL	1,395	2,226	1971	Had main engine breakdown and towed to Bolnes Shipyard about Feb23. Still under repair May 27.
<i>PAUL GILMORE</i>	product tanker	CYM	LR	10,937	16,421	1984	Towed to Buenos Aires, due leakage of oil through propeller. Arrived May 16. Spare parts awaited. Repairs not completed May 28, ETC May 31/June 1.
<i>QUOC TU GIAM</i>	general	VNM	—	5,512	7,015	1985	In collision with bulk <i>Lil</i> in the Inland Sea, off Moji May 19. Sustained bow plating damage in way of forepeak tank and forecastle store. Berthed at Moji May 20. Temporary repairs completed May 26, still in port pending investigation. Voyage: Ube (JPN) to Subic Bay (PHL). Cargo: Fertiliser (6,300 tonnes).
<i>SEAGULL I</i>	fishing	FIN	—	156	—	1966	Sank in lat 55 13N, long 17 09E, about May 26. All four crew rescued by fishing <i>Helle Christine</i> .
<i>SOZIDANIE</i>	fishing	VUT	NV	7,805	5,539	1992	Had fire on board in lat 27 37N, long 15 18W, May 23. All 83 crew abandoned in lifeboats & rescued by mv <i>Inger</i> . Tugs on scene. Fire out May 26. Towed to position 10 miles off Las Palmas. Arrived Las Palmas in tow May 28.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ABALONE (Belize)

Belize City, May 17 — General cargo *Abalone* arrived at Belize on May 6, from Cayman Islands, sailed on May 14, destination Tampico. — Lloyd's Agents.

AEOLUS EXPRESS II (Greece)

Piraeus, May 24 — Passenger ro/ro *Aeolos Express II* arrived at Perama port, Piraeus, on May 19, where she remains under repair. Date of completion unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

AHMET AKGUL 1 (Turkey)

Istanbul, May 21 — General cargo *Ahmet Akgul 1* (4568 gt, built 1982), Kherson for Ashdod, sustained engine breakdown while transiting Dardanelles at 0630, local time, today, and anchored off near Gelibolu. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Ahmet Akgul 1* was last reported sailing Constantza May 13 for Kherson.)

Istanbul, May 21 — General cargo *Ahmet Akgul 1* completed repairs by own means and upon completion of inspection and formalities sailed from Canakkale at 1630, local time, today. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALIDA (Netherlands)

London, May 20 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1600, UTC: Fishing *Alida* (2625 gt, built 1984), 13 persons on board, has broken down with severe engine failure in lat 49 46.2N, long 03 31.1W, at 1533, UTC. Tugs requested.

London, May 20 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1624, UTC: Fishing *Alida* has managed to start up its auxiliary engine and is now resuming passage to Scheveningen, under its own power.

ANNA (Lebanon)

Cagliari, May 20 — General cargo *Anna* is still at Cagliari. Cargo shifting operations are underway in order to make the vessel stable. — Lloyd's Agents.

ASPERITY (U.K.)

London, May 22 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRSC, timed 1546, UTC: Product tanker *Asperity* (2965 gt, built 1997), Pembroke for Poole, 2793 tonnes unleaded fuel, had main engine failure in lat 50 07.5N, long 06 00.4W at 1500, UTC. Master taking advice from technical department. No estimate for time of fixing. Tug *Anglian Princess* proceeding, ETA 1730, UTC.

London, May 22 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRSC, timed, 1833, UTC: Product tanker *Asperity* making way under auxiliary electric power, ETA Poole 2100, UTC, May 23. Tug *Anglian Princess* to escort past Lizard Point.

London, May 23 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRSC, timed 2310, UTC, May 22: Product tanker *Asperity* in lat 49 53N, long 05 01W at 2300, UTC. Vessel proceeding at 7.6 knots, under auxiliary power, ETA Poole 1600-2100, UTC, May 23. Tug *Anglian Princess* released 2259, UTC.

London, May 23 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 1037, UTC: Product tanker *Asperity* making way, under auxiliary power, ETA Anvil Point at 1600, local time. Meeting Poole pilot at 2030, local time.

London, May 24 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 0210, UTC: Product tanker *Asperity* is now safely alongside at Poole.

AURA (Cambodia)

Bucharest, May 24 — General cargo *Aura* sailed from off Tulcea port on May 20, bound for Hereke. — Lloyd's Agents.

BERGE NICE (French Southern Territories)

London, May 21 — Lpg *Berge Nice* arrived Quintero May 19.

London, May 24 — Lpg *Berge Nice* sailed from Quintero on May 23.

BRITISH TRADER (Isle of Man)

London, May 25 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0755, UTC: Master of Lng *British Trader* (93498 gt, built 2002) has advised that there was a minor electrical fire on board vessel earlier, which caused damage to one of the transformers, but that this has been contained. There were no injuries or damage to the vessel, which is presently under own steam and in position lat 29 47.5S, long 34 56.0E approximately 180 miles east of Durban, on a course 270 degs and making 14.5 knots. Vessel will rendezvous with a helicopter 50 miles off Durban at 1800, UTC, today. From Durban the vessel will be bound for Singapore.

London, May 26 — Reported loaded Lng *British Trader*, Bonny for Taiwan, will collect necessary equipment to effect repairs, at Durban.

CAPE AFRICA (Taiwan)

Rotterdam, May 24 — A quayside in the Dockyard in Simon's Town has been the scene of much activity over the past week following the arrival of bulk *Cape Africa* in False Bay last Tuesday (May 17), where it is presently at anchor some 6.9 kilometers off Simon's Town with the salvage tug *Smit Amandla* in attendance. Salvors SMIT Salvage have announced that the second phase of the salvage operation - the repair process - will begin with the fitment of a habitat over the area of structural damage on the bulk carrier on Wednesday (May 26) of this week and personnel have been hard at work in Simon's Town finalising preparatory work on the habitat, which is a massive steel structure measuring some 26m x 11m x 1.5m in size. Weather permitting, the barge *Njord* will transport the habitat out to the bulk carrier on Wednesday morning and the heavy metal structure will be secured into position alongside the *Cape*

Africa, adjacent to the area of structural damage. The structure will be hoisted up and into position over the area of damage and held in place, once pumping out of the water in No.3 hold begins. The outside pressure of the water on the structure will assist in sealing it against the ships side shell plating and once in place, it will be secured by welding. This will create a safe and water-free environment in which to conduct the necessary repairs - a process that will take approximately three weeks. The Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism and the South African Maritime Safety Authority subscribe to a precautionary approach and in this regard several measures are in place, including anti-pollution measures along the coastline, the continued presence of the Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism's oil pollution abatement vessel *Kuswag IV* and regular overflights by the patrol aircraft 'Kuswag VIII', ongoing consultation with and observation by marine biologists and other such professionals, as well as any such short term measures considered prudent by environmentalists. — SMIT Salvage BV

London, May 26 — A press report, dated today, states: The repair of bulk *Cape Africa* is due to commence today with the fitting of a giant cofferdam fabricated and assembled by Durban ship repair company Dormac Ship Repair. Close inspection revealed a gaping hole below the waterline on the port side of the ship, which was later measured at more than 20m in length and about 5m wide. Subsequent inspections have revealed additional stress to the frames in adjacent holds and there are concerns that the plating and frames on the starboard side of hold No. 3 may also be damaged. The cofferdam necessary to undertake this repair, there are no dry docks in South Africa capable of handling capesize vessels, is 26m x 11m x 1.5m. This is being fitted alongside the vessel's hull and lowered into position to create a dry habitat in which the repair crew can operate.

CAPENSIS (South Africa)

London, May 24 — Following received from Port Elizabeth, dated today: Local agents of fishing *Capensis* advise that vessel is still under repair. It is expected that its engine will be refitted towards the end of this week. It is anticipated that it will sail from Port Elizabeth by Jun 4.

CHUNG HO LIN (Hong Kong)

See "Lamma Island, Hong Kong" under "Piracy".

CIUDAD DE ENSENADA (Liberia)

Buenos Aires, May 20 — Bulk *Ciudad de Ensenada* is still berthed at Villa Constitucion and no repairs have been performed to date. — Lloyd's Agents.

CONTSHIP AUCKLAND (Liberia)

London, May 26 — C.c. *Contship Aucklands* sailed from Singapore at 0815, May 25, destination Colombo.

DA PENG HAI (China)

Gibraltar, May 21 — At 0430, May 20, incoming bulk *Da Peng Hai* (29500 gt, built 2002) had engine failure and collided with bulk *Sun* (36526 gt, built 1983), which was anchored in Gibraltar Bay. Both vessels examined by surveyors and detained. At 1300, May 21, *Da Peng Hai* was released from detention and departed Gibraltar to her next port, as classification surveyors said that she sustained very slight damage and was able to continue her voyage safely. *Sun* will not be able to leave, as temporary repairs have to be carried out. — Correspondent.

Gibraltar, May 24 — Bulk *Sun* was released from detention by the surveyor, at 1930, local time, May 21, as the vessel cannot be repaired at Gibraltar due to draft restriction. She will be taken to Algeciras across the bay for permanent repairs. The vessel is required to stay within the bay area until repairs are complete. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 25 — Bulk *Sun* departed Gibraltar at 1421 hrs, May 24.

DELFINI II (Greece)

London, May 25 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Hydrofoil *Delfini II* (142 gt, built 1977) sustained damage to the port main engine while departing from Spetses bound for Hydra-Poros-Piraeus during the afternoon of May 24. Spetses Port Authority prohibited departure pending inspection of the repairs and the nine passengers were forwarded to their destination on hydrofoil *Eurofast 1*.

DIAMOND PRINCESS (Bermuda)

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Strong winds pushed passenger *Diamond Princess* (115875 gt, built 2004) into Victoria's Ogden Point breakwater and the end of Pier A while it tried to dock yesterday evening. The vessel aborted the usual mooring procedure and tied up across the outer end of Pier A, waiting for the west winds to drop. "They scraped bottom there for sure. You could hear the scraping and the crunching," said eyewitness John Selman, who was out at the tip of the breakwater when the vessel passed a few metres away. Bob Milne, another witness at the same spot, said he saw the vessel drop anchor and watched it take "a bit off Pier A." Paint was scraped off the starboard side of the vessel. "To my understanding there were no injuries," said harbour authority CEO Michael Cormier, who was at the pier for a ship welcoming ceremony that was cancelled due to the low-speed collision. The hull wasn't holed, he said. *Diamond Princess* was coming in to dock about 1815 when it got into trouble. Winds were gusting to 54 kilometres-per-hour around that time, Environment Canada said. The master and the B.C. pilot who was aboard planned to sit tight and wait for the wind to ease before moving, he said. Normally, many of the passengers would have disembarked for a few hours in town. Cormier said the cruise ships usually dock without assistance from tugs, except one to handle a stern

line, as was the case yesterday. Bow thrusters help the vessel get in close while it slowly inches in to the dock. The vessel was scheduled to depart Victoria at midnight and head to home port in Seattle. (Note — *Diamond Princess* sailed Ketchikan May 20 for Victoria(BC).)

London, May 24 — Passenger *Diamond Princess* was reported departing Victoria(BC) on May 21, destination Seattle, where it arrived at 1225, May 22. Vessel departed Seattle at 0303, May 23, bound for Juneau.

DIAMOND PRINCESS (Liberia)

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Sapphire Princess*, formerly named *Diamond Princess*, was delivered to its U.S. owner today, on completion of repair work.

DONA ELVIRA (Panama)

London, May 20 — Following navigation warning issued at 2117, UTC, May 19: Ro/ro *Dona Elvira*, 430 persons on board, taking on water in lat 04 36.3N, long 05 56.1W. Vessels in vicinity requested to keep a sharp lookout and assist if possible. Reports to be sent to Gris Nez MRCC.

London, May 21 — A press report, dated today, states: French troops rescued hundreds of Liberian refugees stranded on board broken-down ro/ro *Dona Elvira* off the West African coast yesterday, delivering them food and water and towing the vessel back to shore. The refugees were returning to Liberia after fleeing the country during its 14 years of civil war.

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Dona Elvira* carrying 340 passengers — mostly Liberian refugees sailing home from Nigeria and Ghana — was towed into the port of Abidjan last night after drifting for two days on the high seas after its engines failed. Panos Moutziz, deputy representative of the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR in the Ivory Coast said he visited the vessel earlier in the day to assess the needs of the refugees and found they were in a deplorable state. The vessel, left Lagos, Nigeria, on May 3 and stopped in Ghana to pick up more passengers on its way to the Liberian capital Monrovia. It sustained engine failure off the port of San Pedro in western Ivory Coast and was then driven out into the Atlantic by high winds. The vessel was finally rescued by the French warship *Le Henaff*, which towed into Abidjan and sent aboard emergency supplies of food and water. Moutziz said that UNHCR staff had identified 324 of those on board the *Dona Elvira* as Liberian refugees and holders of UNHCR refugee cards. They had all been living in Nigeria and Ghana but had chartered the vessel to make their own way back to Liberia, he added. There were also 14 Nigerians, 2 Ghanaians and 22 crew, he added. However, according to Moutziz the ferry was a rusty and unsafe for such a journey. There were no lifeboats of life saving facilities on board and supplies of food and water had run out by the

time it was rescued late on Wednesday (May 19). Mourtzis said that once the refugees had recovered from their ordeal, UNHCR planned to fly them to Monrovia.

EL SHADDAI (Nigeria)

London, May 26 — Reported on May 14, passenger ro/ro *El Shaddai* was still at Monrovia.

FLYING DOLPHIN XIV (Greece)

London, May 25 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Hydrofoil *Flying Dolphin XIV* (142 gt, built 1981), 52 passengers on board, sustained damage to the steering gear while sailing from Glossa-Skopelos bound for Skiathos during the afternoon May 24. On arrival at Skiathos, departure was prohibited pending inspection of the repairs. At the time vessel was performing the schedule Alonissos-Skopelos-Glossa-Skiathos-Volos. Passengers were forwarded to their destinations on other vessels of the same Line.

FOS (Panama)

Bucharest, May 24 — Chem tank *Fos* has not been sold yet and the vessel's agents have advised that the final court judgement in the case will not be entered for approximately two months. — Lloyd's Agents.

FOUR ETOILES (Italy)

London, May 22 — Bulk/oil *Four Etoiles* arrived Tuzla May 15, from Trieste.

GLUECKSBURG (Liberia)

Limassol, May 20 — C.c. *Gluecksburg* is still under detention at Limassol carrying out repairs after its contact with the quay. — Lloyd's Agents.

Limassol, May 24 — C.c. *Gluecksburg* was released and sailed May 23 for Valencia. — Lloyd's Agents.

GRIETJE

Maassluis, May 25 — Fishing *Grietje* left the dock on May 18 and is actively fishing. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

GSF DEVELOPMENT DRILLER I (Vanuatu)

London, May 27 — Following received from GlobalSantaFe, dated Houston, Feb 25: GlobalSantaFe announced today that an incident involving the company's newbuild semi-submersible drill platform *GSF Development Driller I* (30271 gt, built 2003), occurred May 24 at the JSL Shipyard, Singapore. According to initial reports, a structural failure occurred in the derrick beams during a routine load test, causing damage to equipment within the derrick. An investigation team has been established and is in the process of determining the cause of the incident. A recovery team has also been established to assess and expedite repairs. The rig was expected to be delivered during July of this year. Based on the initial assessment of the damage, it is anticipated that the delivery of the rig will not be delayed by more than 60 days. The costs of repairing the damage are expected to

be paid by the equipment manufacturer or its insurer, and the delay is not expected to have an adverse impact on the company's financial results for 2004.

GULF ACE II (U.S.A.)

See *Gulf Horizon*.

GULF HORIZON (U.S.A.)

London, May 20 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, timed 1425, UTC: Tug *Gulf Ace II* arrived Wilmington, NC, this morning and safely disembarked the crew of barge *Gulf Horizon*.

Freeport, Bahamas, May 24 — Understand barge *Gulf Horizon*, with the fire now out, is being towed toward the USA, listing to port. We further understand that a salvage company might have been engaged to assist in levelling off the barge. — Lloyd's Agents.

HAMNAVOE (U.K.)

Kirkwall, May 25 — Passenger ro/ro *Hamnavoe* was taken out of service and sent to dry dock in Bremerhaven for repairs on May 17. The vessel returned to operate her scheduled service on the Pentland today. — Lloyd's Agents.

HAUKUR (NIS)

London, May 25 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 0950, UTC: General cargo *Haukur* (2026 gt, built 1990), cargo 1,100 tonnes of rock, had minor fire break out in engine-room in lat 63 35.8N, long 09 18.6E, about 1000, local time, today. A Coast Guard vessel is currently alongside and reports smoke visible but no flames. No danger to vessel or crew.

London, May 26 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 0950, UTC: General cargo *Haukur* sustained damage to crankshaft main bearings. It was towed into Hitra at 1211, UTC, yesterday.

HERAKLIA (Greece)

London, May 21 — Following received from the managers of bulk *Heraklia*, dated today: *Heraklia* is presently carrying out permanent repairs at Shanhaiguan Shipyard. The vessel is expected to remain in the shipyard for at least a couple of weeks.

HERNES (Cyprus)

Reykjavik, May 27 — Bulk *Hernes* (4924 gt, built 1980) grounded at the harbour mouth in Thorlakshofn at 1330, local time, May 26. The vessel was believed to be sitting in sand. *Hernes* was refloated during high tide at 2330 same day with assistance from Coast Guard vessel *Tyr* and is presently being towed by *Tyr* to Hafnarfjordur harbour, due to some malfunction in her rudder. — Lloyd's Agents.

HYUNDAI NO.105 (Panama)

London, May 23 — A press release from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, dated today, states: Vehicle *Hyundai No.105* (40772 gt, built 1986), proceeding westbound in the Singapore Strait, more than 4,000 cars on board, was in collision with crude oil tanker *Kaminesan* (159813 gt, built

2003), eastbound in the the Singapore Strait, loaded with 279,949 tonnes of crude oil, about six kilometres south-east of Sentosa Island at 2345, local time, May 22. Prior to the collision, warnings were given to the two vessels by the MPA's Vessel Traffic Information Service. The vessels also communicated with each other. The port bow and forepeak tank of the *Kaminesan* were damaged. *Hyundai No.105* also sustained damage on its port side with a hole measuring about 50 metres by 20 metres. Both vessels were anchored subsequently south of the TSS, away from the main shipping lane. At about 0715, local time, May 23, *Hyundai No.105* sank. All 20 crew members on board were rescued. There was no injury to the crew members of both vessels. Port operations and vessel traffic remain unaffected. Navigational broadcasts have been issued to inform vessels to keep clear of the sunken vessel. As a precaution, an anti-pollution craft would continue to monitor and clear any oil. MPA will be investigating the incident.

London, May 23 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0335, UTC: *Hyundai No.105* was in collision with *Kaminesan* just outside the Traffic Separation Scheme, last night. *Hyundai No.105* sank as a result of the collision. No pollution reported. Understand the *Hyundai No.105* has sunk to a reasonable depth.

London, May 23 — Following received from Eukor Car Carriers Inc, operators of *Hyundai No.105*, dated today: Vehicle *Hyundai No.105*, Korea to Europe, loaded with 4,191 automobiles, has been involved in a collision with the crude oil tanker *Kaminesan* in lat 01 12.9N, Long 103 53.4E at 2246, May 22. On board the *Hyundai No.105*, there were no personnel injuries and no sign of any pollution. *Hyundai No.105* was hit on its aft port side and taking in water. Just north of the collision the vessel dropped anchor at a safe anchorage at 0157, local time. The vessel continued to take on water and by around 0700 hrs the crew abandoned vessel and it sank in approximately 40 metres of water. Wijsmuller Salvage have been appointed as salvors and along with environmental protection experts are on stand-by at the site and have taken every precaution to prevent any environmental damages. Wijsmuller have also marked the site of the sinking to alert other passing vessels and avoid the risk of any other vessel colliding with the sunken vessel.

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The Hyundai Motor Co said vehicle *Hyundai No.105*, en route to Europe with 3,000 Hyundai and Kia vehicles and 1,000 second-hand Japanese cars, sank early today off Singapore following a collision with crude oil tanker *Kaminesan*. The cause of the collision is under investigation, however no one was killed or injured in the mishap and no oil leak was reported. Damage was estimated at approximately \$57 million, including \$40 million for the vehicles and \$17 million to the vessel, according to Eukor Car Carriers, owner of the sunken vessel.

London, May 24 — Following press release received from Eukor Car Carriers Inc: Eukor Car Carriers, Inc. has been advised that final Indonesian approvals for the divers and salvors to inspect vehicle *Hyundai No.105*, lying in 40 metres of water, just inside Indonesian waters, are expected tonight. In anticipation of such approvals, the salvage company has, this afternoon, prepared the barge platform to be towed to the site as soon as the relevant permissions have been granted, hopefully tomorrow, whereafter diving could commence on Wednesday. Weijismuller's appointment is to inspect the vessel for any potential oil leaks as well as to remove the 800 tonnes of bunker oil from the vessel. Diving will start immediately permission has been received, to assess damages and commence preparations for bunker salvage work. The discussions regarding a potential salvage of the vessel and its cargo have yet to commence and will be subject to underwater inspections before any decisions can be made.

London, May 25 — A huge insurance claim of up to \$80m could be looming from vehicle *Hyundai No.105* that sank with more than 4,000 vehicles onboard after a collision with crude oil tanker *Kaminesan* in the Singapore Strait at the weekend. The 12,899 dwt car carrier *Hyundai No. 105*, operated by Eukor, sank seven and half hours after it collided with the fully-laden 303,896 dwt *Kaminesan*, owned by Mitsui OSK Lines, while transiting the Singapore Strait on Saturday evening (May 22). The westbound car carrier was in collision with the eastbound tanker in the Singapore Strait at 2345 Saturday despite warnings from the Singapore vessel traffic control system. "Prior to the collision, warnings were given to the two vessels by the MPA's Vessel Traffic Information Service. The two vessels also communicated with each other," said the Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore. An MPA spokeswoman said the VTIS had warned the two vessels at 2339, local time, that they were on a collision course and the vessels had acknowledged the warning. The cause of the collision remains unclear but a Singapore lawyer said that the VTIS recordings should make it straightforward case in terms of establishing which vessel was in the wrong. The MPA said the Panamanian-flagged *Hyundai No.105* had a hole 50 m by 20 m ripped into its port side. The car carrier moved out of the shipping lane to an anchorage just inside Indonesian waters following the collision. At 0715, May 23, the vessel sank, its crew of eight South Korean officers and 12 Filipino seafarers having already been safely evacuated from the vessel. "Our primary concern is to secure the vessel and its cargo from causing any environmental damage and ensuring that it is not a threat, in any way, to passing ships," said Carl-Johan Hagman, president and chief executive of Eukor. South Korean-based Eukor is 40% owned by Wilh Wilhelmsen and 40% by Wallenius, with

the remaining 20% controlled by Hyundai and Kia. "We will go to any lengths to prevent any environmental damage in salvage operations and have the full support of our insurance companies," he said. Svitzer Wijismuller has been appointed as salvors to remove 830 tonnes of bunkers from the vessel once they receive clearance from the Indonesian authorities. No fuel leakage has been reported from the vessel. At the time of the collision, the tanker was laden with 279,949 tonnes of crude oil and transiting eastbound in the Singapore Strait on a voyage from the Middle East to Japan. None of the cargo was spilled from the *Kaminesan*, avoiding a potential environmental disaster. MOL spokesman Hidenori Onuki said the vessel had sustained damage to one of its ballast tanks, the vessel's forepeak was broken and there was some water ingress. Pictures in the local press showed a gash in the tanker's hull above the waterline. The car carrier was carrying 4,191 cars worth around \$40m, while the 17-year old vessel is valued at \$17m. The vessel was insured with the UK P&I Club and the Norwegian Hull Club. The *Hyundai No.105* had been bound for Sheerness and Bremerhaven with 3,000 new cars for Hyundai and Kia, as well as more than 1,000 secondhand Japanese cars. The *Kaminesan* has its P&I cover with the Britannia Club and its hull is insured with Mitsui Sumitomo in Tokyo. Insurance costs could increase sharply if the Indonesian authorities order a wreck removal. The vessel capsized to port and is lying just inside Indonesian waters on its side in 46 m water depth. The MPA is issuing navigational broadcasts to inform shipping traffic to keep clear of the sunken vessel. According to Eukor, an inspection of the sunken *Hyundai No.105* by divers would take place as soon as possible to establish the physical state of the vessel. The *Kaminesan* is now anchored in Singapore waters where the crew of 26 are helping the authorities with their inquiries. Investigations into the collision are being carried by the MPA as the collision occurred in Singapore waters, although the car carrier later sank in Indonesian waters. The crew of the *Hyundai No.105* are also co-operating with the investigations by the authorities. MOL's Mr Onuki said he did not know when the tanker would be sailing from Singapore and they were in discussions with the class surveyor from Class NK. He would not reveal the tanker's charterers but said that the company was talking with the cargo owners in Tokyo. (See issue of May 25.)

London, May 25 — Following press release received from Eukor Car Carriers Inc: The operators of vehicle *Hyundai No.105*, Eukor Car Carriers Inc, have advised that they have now received permission from the Indonesian Government to commence underwater inspection of the vessel and its cargo. The salvage barge arrived at the site at 1245, local time, and divers will be sent to inspect the vessel and conditions in general within the next couple of hours. The salvors have

reported that at this stage, there is no sign of any pollution from the fuel oil on board the vessel and weather conditions remain stable. Svitzer Wijismuller, the salvors, have been monitoring the site since Sunday morning. The site of the sinking has been marked to alert other passing vessels and avoid the risk of any other ships colliding with the sunken vessel. Svitzer Wijismuller's appointment is to inspect the vessel for any potential oil leaks as well as to remove the 800 tons of bunker oil from the vessel. Diving will now start immediately to assess damages and commence preparations for bunker salvage work. The discussions regarding a potential salvage of the vessel and its cargo have yet to commence and will be subject to underwater inspections before any decisions can be made.

London, May 26 — A spokeswoman for Eukor has strongly denied reports that oil leaked from the vehicle *Hyundai No.105*, which went down south of Singapore over the weekend with 4,000 vehicles worth \$40m following a collision with an MOL crude oil tanker *Kaminesan*. The Indonesian Coast Guard claimed to have spotted a small oil spill around the car carrier, which was carrying 990 metric tons of bunkers when it hit trouble eight km from Singapore in waters 40m deep. The Indonesian government says that it would deploy oil booms for the spill which was described as minor. However, Patsy Phay, representing Eukor, said that the salvage company employed to empty the bunkers, Svitzer Wijismuller, has found no sign of an oil spill. Ms Phay has become so irritated by reports of oil spills from the car carrier that she instructed the salvage firm to take photos of the area to prove that none has leaked.

London, May 26 — Following notice to mariners broadcast May 24: Sunken wreck of vehicle *Hyundai No.105* exists in vicinity of lat 01 13.3N, long 103 57.7E.

London, May 27 — An Indonesian official involved in clean-up operations for the sunken vehicle *Hyundai No.105* has stated that the wreck must be removed from the Singapore Strait. Indonesia has told salvage operators that the vessel must be removed from the bottom of the sea because it poses a danger to passing vessels which might hit it, said Tri Yuswoyo, co-ordinator for the clean-up operations in Indonesia. The vessel sank in Indonesian waters next to the Singapore Strait on Sunday (May 23) seven and half hours after a collision with the fully laden 303,896 dwt crude oil tanker *Kaminesan* in the strait itself. The vessel, with a beam of 30 metres, is lying on its side in about 46 m of water. Taking into account tidal variations, the wreck has a clearance of around 13 metres. The wreck is just two cables from the edge of the eastbound lane of the traffic separation scheme and it would only take a large vessel to be slightly out of lane to collide with it. "If the salvage operators can't do it, we'll find another one and another one after that," Mr Yuswoyo said. It is understood that Indonesia is yet to

issue a wreck removal order for the car carrier. Mr Yuswoyo said either explosives would have been used to blow it up into parts to be removed separately or the vessel lifted by cranes. Salvage experts said the vessel could not be lifted whole and would have to be cut into sections. The cost of wreck removal in the region of \$50m. The cause of the collision is yet to be established and is under investigation by the Singapore authorities. Meanwhile, the Indonesian authorities continue to complain of oil leaking from the wreck, despite denials from Eukor that this is the case. Salvors Switzer Wijsmuller has been engaged to remove 900 tonnes of bunkers from the wreck. "Recently, the oil that's been floating up has been occurring more frequently and we're going to try and pump out the oil as soon as possible," Mr Yuswoyo. However Patsy Phay, representing Eukor, said it was not true the vessel was leaking and that the salvors had confirmed this.

London, May 27 — Following press release received today: Svitzer Wijsmuller, the appointed salvors for vehicle *Hyundai No.105*, which sank in 46 metres of water last Sunday (May 23), have again confirmed that there is still no sign of any pollution from the ships fuel oil since they started to monitor the site, last Sunday. A group of media personnel, who were at the site Tuesday, also failed to find any trace of bunker fuel leakage. Weather conditions in the area remain stable and the company's divers have today commenced their underwater inspection of the vessel. Preparations are in progress for the removal of the 830 tons of bunker oil contained in the vessel's fuel tanks and the removal operation is expected to commence sometime tomorrow. The owners and authorities are awaiting further reports from the salvors before deciding what action to take regarding salvage of the vessel and any such decision will not take place until all bunker fuel has been removed.

JOSEPH H.FRANTZ (U.S.A.)

London, May 21 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1335, BST: Bulk *Joseph H.Frantz* (9589 gt, built 1925) reported three foot stress crack in No 3 port ballast tank last night in Lake Huron. Vessel is proceeding Detroit to unload stone cargo, then proceeding Toledo for repairs.

London, May 25 — Bulk *Joseph H.Frantz* arrived at Detroit at 2119 hrs on May 21, departing at 0507 hrs, the next day, bound for Toledo(USA), where it arrived at 0952 hrs on May 22. Vessel departed Toledo(USA) at 1825 hrs, May 24, destination Superior.

KAMINESAN (Panama)

See *Hyundai No.105*.

KARAM P.

See "India" under "Port State Control".

KINEI MARU (Japan)

Yokohama, May 26 — Since damage to the both general cargo *Kinei Maru* and chem.tank *Kojima Maru No.32* was slight, they both continued their

voyages. *Kinei Maru* sailed for Oita and *Kojima Maru No.32* also set sail for Oita at 0630, local time, May 3. — Lloyd's Agents.

KORMORAN (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 24 — General cargo *Kormoran* arrived Amsterdam at 1845, May 21, and sailed 1810 today for Aalborg.

KOUTALIANOS (Cyprus)

London, May 24 — Bulk *Koutalianos* sailed from Alexandria May 20 for Italy.

LA FAMILY ISLAND EXPRESS (Bolivia)

London, May 26 — Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1535, UTC: General cargo *La Family Island Express* (526 gt, built 1939) has sunk two nautical miles north of Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, in lat 19 53.7N, long 70 45.7W. One of the crewmen was lost.

LAKE EXPRESS (U.S.A.)

London, May 26 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The new \$18 million Milwaukee-to-Muskegon ferry *Lake Express* (2000 gt) was damaged as it sailed to Wisconsin from Alabama, the site of its construction, a U.S. Coast Guard commander said today. The damage to a stabiliser on the *Lake Express's* starboard side has been repaired and should not delay the vessel's launch next week, said Mark Hamilton, a commander at a Coast Guard station in Milwaukee. Hamilton said the ferry sustained the damage when it struck the earth beneath the water's surface in Sturgeon Bay on May 18. But Jeff Fleming, a spokesman for Lake Express LLC, said the ferry sustained the damage when it struck a pier. The Coast Guard, which will conduct another inspection of the *Lake Express* prior to the expected launch next Tuesday, was continuing its investigation, Hamilton said.

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard, which will conduct another inspection of ferry *Lake Express* prior to the expected launch Tuesday (Jun 1), was continuing its investigation into damage sustained as it sailed to Wisconsin from Alabama, Hamilton said. The ferry was repaired in Sturgeon Bay, Fleming said. He noted two other minor problems on the ferry's trip from Alabama to Milwaukee: A door to the car deck came loose in the Gulf of Mexico and was repaired during the stop in Sturgeon Bay. On May 18, one of the four engines failed and was fixed after arrival in Milwaukee.

LECONTE (U.S.A.)

London, May 20 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1415, UTC: Ro/ro *Leconte* is approaching Ketchikan now and is expected to be berthed around 1500, UTC.

London, May 21 — A press report, dated May 20, states: Ro/ro *Leconte* has arrived in Ketchikan for repairs after it ran aground and struck a reef last week, tearing large gashes in its hull. The ferry arrived at the state-owned shipyard in Ketchikan this morning. It

took three days going at about 4 knots an hour to tow the ferry the 263 miles to Ketchikan from Cozian Reef, where it had been hard aground in the Peril Strait about 30 miles north of Sitka. Nona Wilson, a spokeswoman for the Alaska Marine Highway System, said the plan now is to have a dive team go under the vessel to reassess the damage, perhaps even taking photos, to give to naval architects and engineers at Alaska Ship & Dry Dock, which manages the shipyard. Divers previously found two gashes between 30 feet and 40 feet long on both sides of the ship's keel. The damage was more extensive than initially believed. Wilson said the first thing that needs to be figured out is how to best put the ship on blocks so that it is stable and not damaged further. It will probably take two days to assess the damage and come up with a blocking plan. The ferry will probably be pulled out and placed in a floating dry dock for repairs on Monday, Wilson said. *Leconte* could be in dry-dock for a month. The repair work on the hull will be done while the ferry is in dry-dock. That work will include "basically putting on a new bottom," Wilson said, including taking off the damaged steel, applying new steel and painting the bottom. *Leconte* then will be refloated and any other work done at that time because it is less expensive than doing it while in dry-dock. It is uncertain how much the repairs will cost. The ferry, which joined the Alaska Marine Highway System fleet in 1974 and cost between \$30 million and \$35 million, will have to go through sea trials as if it is a new ship to make sure it is seaworthy. It's undetermined when the ferry will return to service. A high-speed catamaran operated by Allen Marine left Sitka today for a trip to Angoon, Hoonah and Juneau. The catamaran is filling in for the ferry. *Leconte* was going from Angoon to Sitka in south-east Alaska on May 10 when it ran aground. Eighty-six passengers and 23 crew were evacuated. A Coast Guard investigation revealed that the crew made a decision to change course and veer close to Baranof Island before striking the reef. The crew decided to navigate between Otstoa Island and Baranof Island and failed to see a navigation aide marking the proper route past the reef. Workers patched and plugged the leaks in the vessel's hull so that it could be towed to Ketchikan. Crowley Marine Services was in charge of the salvage.

Anchorage, May 25 — Ro/ro *Leconte*: Contacted Ketchikan Dry Dock this morning and was advised the following: Vessel was placed into dry dock last night. The damages are so severe that they had to build special cradles and substantial blocking units to support the vessel. A representative of Lloyd's and the owner's representative, together with a dry dock official, will be doing a "walk through" today to determine the full extent of damages. Damages noted so far as follows: Five out of seven water-tight compartments have been breached; MSD on both sides of the keel have been contaminated — this will need to be mitigated before any

crew is allowed to begin repairs as this is a safety issue; keel has turned approximately 70 ft. There is no time-frame at present for the duration of repairs but it is believed it could take between four and six weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

LEGLAND II

London, May 22 — Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC, timed 0347, UTC: Fishing *Legland II*, 22.5 metres, six persons on board, was in collision with fishing *Martina Eilis* in lat 51 20.8N, long 06 24.6W at 0135, UTC, today. *Legland II* reported taking on water and required pumps. *Martina Eilis* subsequently supplied a pump to the casualty and escorted them to Dunmore East. SAR Operations terminated at 0226, UTC.

LI DA (Mongolia)

Yokohama, May 26 — General cargo *Miya*, Osaka for China, collided with general cargo *Li Da*, Moji for Okayama, in the Kurushima Strait, 2,400 metres from Okadohana, Namikata town in Ehime Prefecture at 0425 hrs, May 14. *Miya* drifted towards Imabari about 7 km and sank about 200 metres from Umashima, in the strait, about two hours later. Eight of the *Miya's* crew were rescued by the Imabari Coast Guard soon after the collision. According to the Coast Guard, visibility was not bad although it was foggy. The cause is under investigation. — Lloyd's Agents.

LIGHTING SUN (Pakistan)

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *Lighting Sun*, carrying more than 200 passengers, has sunk in southern Bangladesh. The double-decker vessel sank during a heavy storm in the Meghna river near Chandpur, 170 km (105 miles) south of Dhaka. Police said 57 survivors have been found, leaving many others feared dead. Eight bodies have been found so far. *Lighting Sun* was en route to Dhaka from the southern Madaripur area, when it capsized during a tropical storm, at about 0330, local time, today (2130, UTC, May 22). The head of police said 50 people had managed to swim ashore and a further seven had been rescued. Women and children were reported to be among the eight dead found so far. Many of the passengers were asleep when the accident happened and were feared to be trapped inside the vessel, Mohammad Dulal Miah, a police officer at the scene said. The ferry sank close to shore, but the river is turbulent there and it is hampering the rescue work, Mr Miah said. Villagers and fishermen using motor boats are trying to rescue survivors, according to local reports.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Bangladeshi rescuers picked up 13 more bodies overnight, raising the death toll of yesterday's launch mishap to 23 today. Some 200 people are still missing in the river Meghna, as a Dhaka-bound launch *Lighting Sun* crammed with 200 to 300 passengers capsized amid fierce storm near south-eastern town

Chandpur, 170 km from the capital Dhaka yesterday, before dawn. Ten bodies were retrieved yesterday while over 50 passengers managed to swim to safety. Police source said the fishermen and divers picked up 13 more bodies overnight from the river and inside the hull of the overturned vessel, raising the death toll to 23 so far, as thousands of relatives of missing people are waiting anxiously along the river bank. The rescue vessel and divers are trying to refloat the ferry, as Chandpur administration feared over 100 more persons were still trapped inside the ferry, while the strong current of the mighty river Meghna might have taken away many other bodies to the downstream falling in the Bay of Bengal. A television channel last night added besides the overloading passengers and other cargoes, the launch carried about 100 goats, which were all drowned. Police source said three other ferries also sank in southern Bangladesh during last night's strong storms, but fortunately there was no casualties in those accidents.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from yesterday's accident involving ferry *Lighting Sun* in south-eastern Bangladesh climbed to 60 today, as rescuers searched for more than 100 people still missing after the vessel capsized in a tropical storm. A government salvage vessel had pulled most of the wreckage from the Meghna River, and while rescuers did not expect to find more bodies inside, some bodies may have been swept downstream, rescue official Mohammad Amir Hossain said. Hundreds of anxious relatives thronged the banks of the river to look for loved ones after the accident yesterday when the double-deck ferry capsized near Chandpur town with about 250 people on board. The Shipping Ministry ordered an investigation into the sinking and three crew members of the ferry were detained for questioning. Sixteen bodies were found stuck in mud under the ferry late today, bringing the death toll to 60. Twenty-nine bodies were recovered earlier today, while fifteen bodies were found yesterday. The victims included 11 children. Rescuers said about 104 people were still listed as missing. They estimated that 80 people swam to shore safely, and said seven injured passengers were rescued from inside the vessel.

LIL (Panama)

See *Quoc Tu Giam*.

LORD NELSON (U.K.)

Gravesend, May 21 — Yacht *Lord Nelson* passed Gravesend, outwards, at 1642, May 20. — Port of London Authority.

LT PEACE (Panama)

Taipei May 27 — Understand from the owner of c.c. *LT Peace* that repairs have been completed and that the vessel undocked from Kaohsiung shipyard on May 19 and resumed her voyage. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAJOR HUBAL (Malta)

London, May 26 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1350, UTC: Bulk *Major Hubal* (21531 gt, built 1985) had a 60,000-lb steel plate drop against its hull during loading/unloading operations at Greensport Dick Dock No 32, Houston, at 2325, UTC, May 24. Severe water ingress has resulted and tugs are alongside. A salvage plan has been drawn up. (Note — *Major Hubal* arrived Houston May 22 from Odessa.)

MARTINA EILIS

See *Legland II*.

MILLER FREEMAN (U.S.A.)

Anchorage, May 20 — Ketchikan dry dock advised that oceanographic research *Miller Freeman* arrived Ketchikan Port on May 7 for repairs. These were completed by May 15 and the vessel is now back in its regular service. Extent of damages were not extensive; no damages were sustained to the hull. However, the centre board, an "instrument pod" which is part of the vessel's mission, was extended past the hull and when the vessel hit the reef this unit was "wiped off." This was the only replacement/repair which was required. — Lloyd's Agents.

MIYA (Belize)

See *Li Da*.

MONTE VENTOSO (Spain)

London, May 24 — Understood fishing *Monte Ventoso* is still aground with endeavours to refloat the vessel ongoing.

MORNING EXPRESS (Panama)

London, May 26 — Following received from the Korean National Maritime Police Agency, timed 1020, UTC: Product tanker *Morning Express* (56285 gt, built 2000) and bulk *Pos Bravery* (110593 gt, built 1992) were in collision in lat 34 39 15N, long 127 57 00E, at 0440, local time today. *Morning Express* sustained damage on port side. Damage to *Pos Bravery* is currently under investigation.

London, May 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A 110,000-ton cargo vessel (*Pos Bravery*) carrying iron ore and a 56,000-ton oil tanker (*Morning Express*) collided in the sea off South Korea's southern coast early this morning, maritime police said. The collision triggered some oil leakage in the sea, about one mile south of Namhae, South Gyeongsang Province. No casualties were reported in the accident, the police said.

Busan, May 27 — At approximately 0430, May 26, while product tanker *Morning Express*, laden with some 80,000 tonnes of naphtha was lying idle at pilot station awaiting for a pilot at approximately lat 34 38N, long 127 57E, some one mile South of Dae-do, off Yosu, the vessel was struck by bulk *Pos Bravery*, laden with 190,000 tons of iron ore, which was at the time reportedly approaching the pilot station to pick a pilot up. As a result of this collision *Morning Express* reportedly sustained damage to port side shell plate in way

of No.4 ballast tank and No.6 cargo tank with holes, causing some 1,200 tons of naphtha to leak out into the sea polluting the site. No crew injury was reported. *Pos Bravery* reportedly sustained minor damage to the bow but exact extent of damage was unknown up to this time. Understand *Morning Express* is at present lying afloat at the site for inspection and *Pos Bravery* is at present under cargo operation at Gwangyang. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MYSTRAS (Cayman Islands)

London, May 26 — Understand bulk *Mystras* (27581 gt, built 2001) contacted berth May 23 while manoeuvring to berth at Apapa port, Lagos, under pilot command with tugs *Gusau* and *Sea Jagua* (? tug *Sea Jaguar I*) assisting. Consequently the vessel sustained damage at the starboard side of the bow. There was no damage to the berth nor injuries. (Note — *Mystras* sailed Santos May 8 for Apapa-Lagos.)

NEPTUNUS (Sweden)

Kiel, May 21 — Non specific tanker *Neptunus* (4609 gt, built 1991), en route from Liepaja to Flushing, with a cargo of heating oil, had a fire in the engine-room during Kiel Canal transit at Kiel Canal km 12, close to Kudensee siding early today. Understand that the crew had left the ship, however two immediately attending Bugsier tugs from Brunsbuttel with further assistance from two Kiel Canal ferries managed to extinguish the fire in the engine-room. The crew returned back on board the vessel which has meanwhile been towed to Brunsbuttel and is now alongside Sudkai for further investigation. — Lloyd's Agents.

Kiel, May 24 — Non specific tanker *Neptunus* left Brunsbuttel on May 22 in tow of tugs *Bugsier 12*, *Bugsier 14* and *Bugsier 15*. *Bugsier 14* only assisted until Kiel whereas *Bugsier 12* and *Bugsier 15* performed sea towage from Kiel to Fredericia. Understand that the vessel will discharge her cargo upon arrival at Fredericia, thence undergo repairs in Fredericia shipyard. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 25 — Non specific tanker *Neptunus* arrived at Fredericia on May 24.

NORWAY (Bahamas)

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Almost one year after a deadly boiler explosion in the bowels of the passenger *Norway*, federal investigators are still trying to pinpoint what caused the highest loss of life in a decade onboard a US-based ocean liner. The National Transportation Safety Board isn't expected to finish its preliminary report of the May 25, 2003, accident at the Port of Miami-Dade until later this year. Meanwhile, the storied Norwegian Cruise Line vessel is still laid up in a German shipyard. A charity fund for the *Norway* victims has still not paid out any of the \$350,000 collected from cruise employees and other donors. But the legal clash over multimillion-dollar death and injury claims has escalated into an ugly grudge match between Norwegian and

a Miami lawyer representing (relatives of) most of the eight seamen killed and some of the 17 injured in the boiler blast. Norwegian's lawyers wrote in a federal court motion to have maritime attorney William Huggett held in criminal contempt, fined and disqualified from representing his 10 clients, all crew members from the Philippines. Miami-based Norwegian claims Huggett should be sanctioned for telling the media that the company made a confidential settlement offer of \$11 million to his 10 Filipino clients. They rejected the offer, believing they could win millions more before a Miami jury — if they ever get their day in court. Norwegian lawyers also accuse Huggett of ignoring US District Judge Patricia Seitz's order last October that the death and injury claims be resolved through arbitration in the Philippines. She ruled the 10 Filipino crew members and their survivors must go that route because their contracts with the cruise line required it. Huggett, who declined to comment for this story, has appealed the decision — setting up a test case that could affect thousands of Filipino seamen and potentially countless other foreign seafarers with such employment contracts. Huggett, represented by former federal judge Tom Scott, denied in court papers that he ever disobeyed Seitz's order. (See issue of May 12.)

London, May 24 — NCL's passenger *Norway*, which was damaged from a boiler explosion in the port of Miami, has been moored since July 2003 at Lloyd Werft, Bremerhaven. According to yard chief Werner L,ken, there is no decision yet on the future of the vessel. "There is a whole queue of interested parties who all have no money," he added.

NOTA A. (Malta)

London, May 24 — Bulk *Nota A.* arrived at Cape Town on May 21.

PARTNER

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, May 25 — Understood general cargo *Partner* (1395 gt, built 1971) had main engine breakdown and was towed to Bolnes shipyard around Feb 23.

Maassluis, May 27 — According to the agents general cargo *Partner* is under repair and no date for completion is yet known to them. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

PAUL GILMORE (Cayman Islands)

Buenos Aires, May 20 — Product tanker *Paul Gilmore* (10937 gt, built 1984) was towed to Buenos Aires due to a leakage of oil through the propeller. Vessel arrived 1430, May 16. They are currently awaiting the arrival of the necessary spare parts to perform vessels' repairs. Finalisation is estimated by Monday May 24. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Paul Gilmore* sailed Valparaiso Apr 23 for Buenos Aires.)

PETER PAN (Sweden)

London, May 26 — A press report, dated May 18, states: Ro/ro *Peter Pan* (36468 gt, built 2001) was in Dock 11, of Blohm & Voss, Hamburg, yesterday

with port "rudder propeller" problems. It is not known how long the vessel will stay in the dock. (Note — *Peter Pan* arrived Hamburg 1440, May 17, sailed 0910, May 20 and subsequently passed Brunsbuttel 1124 same day for Trellborg.)

PORNVAREE 45 (Thailand)

London, May 21 — An unidentified tanker has collided with fishing *Pornvaree 45* off the coast of Chonburi Province in the Gulf of Thailand, with six fisherman reported dead and 18-19 others missing. During a patch of bad weather, the fishing vessel was trawling near Juang Island when the tanker rammed it amidships, causing the fishing vessel to keel over immediately. A passing trawler picked up 11 fishermen from the sea. The survivors told Marine Police that the tanker did not stop to rescue them and they could not see its name as it was night and the sea was rough. Police said they would search vessels docked at Sattahip Deep Sea Port nearby to try to find the vessel that had smashed the trawler. The Royal Thai Navy has deployed a craft to search for the missing crew members.

PORTUGAL SENATOR (Germany)

London, May 26 — *C.c. Portugal Senator* arrived at Singapore at 0010, May 25.

POS BRAVERY (Panama)

See *Morning Express*.

POSEIDON (DIS)

Bordeaux, May 24 — General cargo *Poseidon* is still under repair at Bordeaux. — Lloyd's Agents.

PRIDE OF AMERICA (U.S.A.)

London, May 24 — Lloyd Werft is expecting to close the contracts over the final completion of the troubled passenger *Pride of America* with owner Norwegian Cruise Line within the next two weeks, yard chief Werner L,ken has said. "We have agreed on the technical details of the completion and now we are finalising the legal aspects," he said. The vessel was built on the basis of an unfinished hull which was towed over from the US for completion in Bremerhaven. It sank at the fitting-out quay of Lloyd Werft in January. At present the yard is doing "damage limitation works", as Mr L,ken called it. That means all equipment that was under water will be removed. "This work is paid for by the insurers." Mr L,ken added that negotiations with the 63 insurers involved are continuing. He was hoping for an agreement with them over the next few weeks. There are market estimates that the insurers have set aside between \$180m and \$200m for the claim, which have not been confirmed by the leading insurer, Basler-Securitas in Bremen. The new delivery date for the *Pride of America* could be May 2005, the yard manager said. After the delivery, Lloyd Werft could close insolvency proceedings and return to normal business, he added. The yard had to file for insolvency as a consequence of the accident, as the owner did not pay any more

instalments for the vessel and the yard had to fear high penalties due to the delay.

PULUPAKI

Wellington, May 26 — At least 1500 people are stranded on a Tongan beach after ferry *Pulupaki* ran on to a coral reef while entering Pangai in the Ha'apai Group early this morning. A New Zealand passenger, John Ross from Manukau City, told Newstalk ZB radio there was a grinding and shuddering as the vessel came to a halt. He believes the ferry was travelling at about 12 knots. "The other ferry, the *Olovaha*, has just arrived so we're going to all try to get on that. Most everybody here wants to go to Vava'u." Mr Ross says the two ferries are the only transport between the islands of Tonga, after the collapse of Royal Tongan Airlines. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Travel to Tonga's outer island groups was in disarray yesterday after the grounding of ferry *Pulupaki*. The ferry ran on to a reef as it was turning into the entrance of Pangai, in the Ha'apai group, about midnight, New Zealand time on Tuesday (May 25). The New Zealand High Commissioner to Tonga, Warwick Hawker, said none of the 480 passengers was injured. The ferry had not been damaged and was waiting to be refuelled before carrying on to Vava'u further north. "They had had to take the fuel off so they could get the weight off to float it." Mr Hawker understood the incident would mean delays but no stranding of visitors to the island groups. Uata Shipping Line said the *Pulupaki* was still in working order and was due to carry on to Vava'u last night to pick up travellers there. The accident comes after the closure about a week ago of the Royal Tongan Airlines domestic service when funds could not be found to maintain the remaining aircraft in operation.

QUOC TU GIAM (Vietnam)

Moji, May 21 — General cargo *Quoc Tu Giam* (5512 gt, built 1985), Ube for Subic, with 6,300 tonnes of fertiliser in bulk, and bulk *Lil* (10421 gt, built 1995), Saiki for Dalian, with 16,500 tonnes of cement clinker in bulk, were in collision in the Inland Sea off Moji at about 1755, May 19. *Quoc Tu Giam* sustained bow plating damage in way of forepeak tank and forecastle store. The vessel berthed at Moji May 20 to carry out necessary temporary repairs and undergo an inquiry by the authorities. *Lil* sustained heavy damage to the starboard side shell plating in way of No 3 hold, which began flooding. The vessel is presently anchored off Moji and Nippon Salvage have been employed to carry out watertightening work on the punctured shell plating. No crew injury or oil pollution was reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

Moji, May 26 — Temporary repairs to general cargo *Quoc Tu Giam* were completed May 25 but investigation of the crew members is not completed yet. Therefore, vessel is staying at Moji until completion of investigation and

summary court decision. Temporary repairs to bulk *Lil* are still in progress and expected to be completed May 30, after which some damaged cargo may be offloaded. — Lloyd's Agents.

RASA (Georgia)

See "Ikonio Area, Keratsini, Greece" under "Pollution."

RETS TIMBER (Isle of Man)

Gibraltar, May 21 — Part c.c. *Rets Timber* passed Gibraltar westwards at 2239, May 20, bound for Bilbao.

London, May 25 — Part c.c. *Rets Timber* arrived at Bilbao on May 24.

RIVER EMPRESS (Switzerland)

London, May 25 — Understood passenger *River Empress* sustained damage estimated at several millions of euros in its collision with a Bulgarian commercial vessel near Passau May 12. The commercial vessel was transporting 180 brand new cars but nothing was damaged. It sustained minor damage, estimated at around 10,000 euros.

SAMOS FLYING DOLPHIN IV (Greece)

London, May 25 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Hydrofoil *Samos Flying Dolphin IV* (142 gt, built 1978) was prohibited by the port authority of Argosaronikos, as according to the Master's log book entry, the vessel was not able to put into operation the reversing gears of the starboard main engine this morning.

SEAGULL I (Finland)

London, May 27 — Following received from Turku MRCC, timed 0900, UTC: "Following received from Gdynia MRCC, timed 2140, UTC, May 25: Four persons rescued in good condition from sunk fishing *Seagull I*, OI8736, by fishing *Helle Christine*, OI9329, in lat 55 13N, long 17 09E." *Seagull I* is 156 gt, built 1966, length 29.8 metres, owned by Paul Eriksson, Overby, Aaland. Investigator from Accident Investigation Board has already travelled to Denmark to investigate.

SOZIDANIE (Vanuatu)

London, May 23 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1750, UTC: Fish factory *Sozidanie* (7805 gt, built 1992), 83 crew, had fire on board in lat 27 37N, long 15 18W at 0110, UTC, today. Crew abandoned into lifeboats. Tug *Boluda Mistral* and anchor-handling tug/supply *Punta Salinas* tasked. General cargo *Inger* proceeded to scene and confirmed all crew safely on board at 0325, UTC. *Inger* arrived Las Palmas at 0630, UTC. Fire still burning in accommodation and aft part. Tugs and firefighting vessels on scene trying to extinguish fire.

London, May 24 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 0535, UTC: Fish factory *Sozidanie* remains on fire about 20 miles south-east of Canary Islands. A tug is in vicinity of the vessel attempting to extinguish the fire.

London, May 24 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1135, UTC: Fish factory *Sozidanie* is still burning, with two tugs alongside spraying it

with water to attempt to extinguish the blaze. Some environmental contamination has been reported.

London, May 25 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 0940, UTC: The fire on board fish factory *Sozidanie* has been successfully controlled and there is now only a very minor fire on board. A tug is alongside trying to put a towline on board with the intention of towing the vessel to Las Palmas.

London, May 26 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1000, UTC: Fish factory *Sozidanie* has been towed to a position 10 miles off Las Palmas for the authorities to carry out an inspection on board. The fire has been extinguished, although as of three hours ago there was still smoke observed coming from the vessel.

London, May 27 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 0920, UTC: Fish factory *Sozidanie* was in lat 23 45N, long 02 45W, at 0855, UTC. Vessel is currently under tow for Las Palmas at a speed of 3.5 knots.

SPRING PEACOCK (Panama)

Santos, May 20 — Bulk *Spring Peacock*: No oil pollution has been found so far. Repairs are in progress which might be completed May 24. The 7,000 tonnes of cargo transhipped to *Natasha-C*. will be loaded back to *Spring Peacock*. This operation may start today. — Lloyd's Agents.

Santos, May 21 — Bulk *Spring Peacock*: Repair and cargo transfer in progress, ETC May 24. — Lloyd's Agents.

Santos, May 24 — Bulk *Spring Peacock*: Repair and cargo transfer still in progress. — Lloyd's Agents.

STENA NAUTICA (Sweden)

London, May 26 — As at May 21, passenger ro/ro *Stena Nautica* was still in port at Gdansk.

SUN (Malta)

See *Da Peng Hai*.

SUNG KYUNG 201 (South Korea)

London, May 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A second leak of ammoniac gas was reported early yesterday in the fishing *Sung Kyung 201*, now anchoring at the port of Montevideo. Uruguayan firemen confirmed that the leak was minor, but two private security guards were sent to hospital. At around 0200, local time, the fire department received a phone call complaining of a leak of ammoniac gas at the port. Ten South Korean vessels were inspected by the authorities. The leak was detected in a collateral tank, which caused a blast of ammoniac gas that wounded dozens of people on May 10. About 80 people were injured in the blast. More than 50 people were hospitalised, and 21 of them were Chinese. Eleven Chinese have recovered. A Chinese and a Vietnamese were reported missing. Investigation into the explosion on the vessel is continuing.

TENAGA LIMA (Malaysia)

Yokohama, May 26 — Lng *Tenaga Lima* is still at Yokohama and the local

agents inform us that repairs are still in progress. — Lloyd's Agents.

TEXAS (U.S.A.)

London, May 27 — Following received from Coast Guard Atlantic City, NJ, dated May 25 — Coast Guard rescue teams and a Navy ship responded to fishing *Texas* (159 gt, built 1945) taking on water this afternoon approximately 60-miles northeast of Atlantic City. *Texas*, homeported in New Bedford Mass, was transitting to Hati when they began to experience flooding. *Texas* began to flood at around 1100 hrs and was not able to bring the flooding under control prompting a call for help from the Coast Guard. Coast Guard Group-Air Station Atlantic City launched a rescue helicopter and dispatched the Coast Guard cutter *Ibis* to assist *Texas*. USS *Carney* on its way to Fleet Week in New York City also arrived to assist *Texas*. Once on scene the crew of the rescue helicopter lowered two dewatering pumps to the crew of *Texas* who were then able to control the flooding. *Ibis* is escorting *Texas* into Atlantic City.

London, May 27 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1140, UTC: Fishing *Texas*, official No. 247286, is now moored in the Atlantic City area.

THOR KIS (Isle of Man)

Las Palmas, May 21 — Understand general cargo *Thor Kis* required towage due to a breakdown in the gearbox. — Lloyd's Agents.

TOR III (North Korea)

Mersin, May 26 — General cargo *Tor III*: According to Kemer Port Management there is no change in position of the vessel, it is still aground waiting for salvage. The owner of the vessel is still out of reach. Kemer port has approached the related official bodies of Turkish Government and USA Embassy in order to contact the owner. Kemer Port has applied to Turkish State Duties of Marine Undersecretary for obtaining an authorisation according to the marine laws and rules of Turkish Government to salvage the vessel. They are waiting reply. Kemer Port Management says that in case of taking authorisation they can salvage the vessel in three days. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRICOLOR (NIS)

London, May 25 — Clearing the wreck of the vehicle *Tricolor* from the middle of the English Channel is proving to be one of the most costly and complex salvage operations ever attempted. But the consortium responsible for removing the sunken car carrier and the hundreds of luxury vehicles still on the seabed will not make any money from the huge undertaking. Under the terms of the their contract, salvors will be paid euro45m, but the final bill is expected to be much higher because of the length of time taken. By the time the mangled remains of the *Tricolor* and 2,800 cars it was carrying are finally removed, it will be almost two years since the accident - assuming salvage

work this summer goes according to plan. The *Tricolor* was involved in a collision in December 2002, and capsized within about 30 minutes. The vessel also created a navigational nightmare as the hull was hit by two other vessels in the days following the initial impact. Because the vessel was on its side in the middle of some of the world's busiest shipping lanes, the French authorities ordered its removal.

TUCANA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 26 — General cargo *Tucana* sailed from Hamburg at 0955, May 24, destination Stavanger, arriving the following day.

URVAAG

Trondheim, May 27 — The insurance company representing fishing *Urvaag* informed today that the vessel was refloated on May 6 and is now lying alongside yard's quay at Avey. The vessel will probably be repaired. — Lloyd's Agents.

VAN DYCK (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, May 26 — Bulk *Van Dyck* was reported sailing from Visakhapatnam on May 25, destination Chennai.

VIARSA I (Panama)

See under "Miscellaneous."

YARD NO.1122 STX (New Hull)

Busan, May 22 — Our investigation today reveals product tanker *Yard No.1122 STX* sustained only minor damage as a result of the explosion. The only requirement was cleaning and painting of the tank, which was properly carried out without any delay to the vessel's delivery schedule on Aug 17. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.



INDONESIA

London, May 23 — A press report, dated May 21, states: An Aframax tanker of 100,000 tons deadweight capacity waiting in waters near Indonesia's Balongan refinery in West Java was attacked by pirates May 19, representatives of tanker-owner lobby group the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners, or Intertanko, said today. John Fawcett-Ellis, Asia Pacific manger for Intertanko, said at a press briefing that the loaded Singapore-flagged vessel belonging to a member of Intertanko was waiting to discharge when it was attacked. The crew onboard the unidentified tanker, a relatively difficult vessel to board because of its size and height, was attacked by men with knives, said Fawcett-Ellis and his colleague, Peter Swift, Intertanko's managing director. The pirates took with them auxiliary engine spare parts on the vessel, a move that isn't consistent with petty robbers, who

usually go for cash and mobile phones, the Intertanko representatives said. Intertanko officials said the incident raises concerns at a time when terrorist attacks are on the rise, and in this particular case, is even more distressing, as the men boarded a tanker in waters near an Indonesian naval base. The incident again raises speculation of possible 'collusion' between pirates and authorised individuals, said Swift of allegations reported in the past.

LAMMA ISLAND, HONG KONG

London, May 25 — Hong Kong police are still investigating who attempted to board general cargo *Chung Ho Lin*, 91 gt, on Sunday (May 23) night, forcing seven of the ten crew to jump overboard. Believed to have been a rare piracy incident in the waters of the Special Administrative Region, the assailants were disappointed with the cargo - namely 4,000 chicken feet. The police arrived on the scene, near Lamma Island, shortly after the Hong Kong flagged vessel, 20.6 m in length, sent a distress signal at 2015 hrs and the gang fled on a high speed speedboat without taking anything, having checked out the contents of the vessel which was heading from Chai Wan to Cheng Chau. Seven of the ten crew, aged between 27 and 70, jumped overboard as the speedboat approached with six being picked up immediately by a nearby sampan. The one outstanding crew member was picked up two hours later, after a helicopter and government launches were sent into action. The three men who remained on the vessel described the assailants as being five or six in number, and probably mainland Chinese.



INDIA

Kandla, May 26 — General cargo *Karam P.* (2710 gt, built 1968) which arrived at Kandla on May 13, has been detained by MMD (Port State Control). — Lloyd's Agents.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, May 21 — General cargo *Hope 1* was released from detention on May 20, when the vessel was shifted to No.111 berth of Constantza, South Agigea, to load a shipment of steel. — Lloyd's Agents.



AIDA LUZ (Ecuador)

Santo Domingo, May 24 — General cargo *Aida Luz*: According to Astilleros

Benitez the vessel remains held in their shipyard, presently under repairs, ETC unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

AL QAWIYYU (Panama)

Aden, May 25 — Bulk *Al Qawiyyu* (22450 gt, built 1984) is currently under arrest at Aden for an as yet unspecified amount against alleged condensation rust damage to steel rebars. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Al Qawiyyu* sailed from Ilichevsk on Apr 20 and passed Suez Apr 26, bound for Yemen.)

CAPE GOOD HOPE (Malta)

Maassluis, May 24 — Bulk *Cape Good Hope* is no longer under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

CATUMBELA RIVER (Madeira)

London, May 24 — Ro/ro *Catumbela River* (5173 gt, built 1974) arrived at Harwich on May 20 and was arrested the same day on behalf of Banco bai Europa S.A. due mortgage reasons.

ELKE (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 24 — General cargo *Elke* sailed from Rotterdam at 0040, May 22, destination Emden.

EUROPEAN STARS (Italy)

See "Festival Cruises Inc."

FESTIVAL CRUISES INC

London, May 24 — Shareholders of the Festival Cruises group's main Italian operating company have finally pronounced themselves ready to call off their four-and-a-half-month battle to keep the company in business. Barring an 11th hour surprise over the weekend, the company will file for bankruptcy in Genoa this morning. Despite having put off a decision several times to allow the banks time to come up with a long promised but never presented rescue plan, shareholders accepted at a four-hour meeting that there would almost certainly not be one. "It is the end," admitted external relations manager Laura Gilli after having maintained since mid-January the company's official line that a solution to its financial problems, which would enable it to resume trading, was close to realisation. "The fact was that the banks did not come up with any written or definitive solution, so the shareholders and directors decided to go into bankruptcy." She said that the court concerned would appoint an administrator who would have the task of dismissing its 200 or so employees and dealing with creditors. "The company's employees, who have not been paid since the end of January, were particularly bitter that they were given no assurances regarding their outstanding salaries." They occupied the company's premises for a time on Thursday (May 20). Ms Gilli said one of the banks proposed paying salaries in the form of personal loans but this was "absolutely rejected" by employees, who saw it as manoeuvre by the bank to obtain privileged creditor status alongside them. But there are fears, too, for the wider economic consequences of Festival's decision to go into bankruptcy, which is expected to

provoke further company failures among its many suppliers and subcontractors in the Genoa region. Banca Carige, which said last month that it and other Italian banks had outstanding debts totalling E170m (\$202m) with Festival, has been the principal force behind recent efforts to save Festival Cruises since the company's vessels were arrested in mid-January. - One creditor, Ligabue Catering Services, which is owed E6.5m by Festival, has applied to a court in Naples for the right to repossess furnishings on board the former *European Vision*, which has since become the *MSC Harmonia* after being acquired by MSC Cruises last month. MSC Cruises said on Friday, however, that it was confident that Ligabue's application would be rejected. It expected that the vessel, which is now being refitted in Naples, would be in Venice in time to start its inaugural cruise under MSC colours on May 30.

Barcelona, May 24 — Passenger *European Stars* still has an embargo at present but there is no news of the vessel having been put up for sale yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 25 — The collapse of Festival Cruises has dragged competitor Mediterranean Shipping Cruises into its wake as the result of an attempt by a Festival creditor to take possession of televisions, furnishings and spare parts on board the cruiseship *MSC Armonia*. Venice-based Ligabue claims ownership of paintings, television sets and spare parts worth E6.5m (\$7.8m) on board the *MSC Armonia*, formerly the Festival flagship *European Vision*. Ligabue said it provided Festival with the material but has not been paid. Festival management has given up all hope of rescuing the cruise company, which has not traded since January. Ligabue claimed it had arrested the vessel, yesterday at berth in Naples port, pending formal recognition of the company's ownership of the furnishings, though the arrest was reported to have been lifted yesterday afternoon. "We have nothing against MSC and we are sorry this has happened but these items belong to us and we have to take the necessary measures to protect the company's patrimony," said a company spokesman, who asked not to be named. MSC denied both the arrest of the vessel and the claim of ownership over the furnishings. The company said in a statement that *MSC Armonia* would leave Naples as scheduled today for Venice, where from the beginning of next month it will begin its summer cruising season. MSC, part of the Aponte shipping empire, bought what is now the *MSC Armonia* at auction last month in Barbados. The second of three "premium" Festival vessels, the "Mistral", is due to be auctioned on Jun 10.

London, May 26 — Genoa's Banca Carige yesterday sought to reassure savers as the port town braced for new fallout from the collapse of cruise line Festival. The Italian bank, one of Festival's largest creditors, admitted for the first time to 80 million Euros

(\$96.8m) Festival exposure but said it would survive the bankruptcy of one of the town's best known brands. "We have called a press conference to calm the nerves of savers," said bank spokesman Gianluca Calandra. Milan-based Unicredito has refused to reveal its share of banking sector exposure thought to reach at least 200 million Euros in Italy alone. Other creditors include Pireaus Bank of Greece. Genoa's port authority has called an emergency meeting of public authorities, unions and industry representatives for tomorrow to look at ways of minimising the impact of the collapse on the town's employment. "As the head of the port community, we thought it wise to act," port authority chairman Giovanni Novi said. "There are now 150 Festival employees without jobs." Around 50 Festival employees are thought to have left the company of their own accord since the fleet was arrested in January. The situation of agency group Medov, employer of around 50 and previously controlled by Festival chairman George Poulides, was said to look "a bit better." Sources said agency group Scerni and Genoa's Cambiaso & Risso had both expressed an interest in acquiring Medov. Italian state insurance schemes guarantee three months' salary of up to 950 Euros per month plus redundancy payments of one month per year of service per employee, said the port authority president. "Some of these people have worked for years in shipping and we believe they could be placed quite easily," he said. "But the situation of the suppliers is the sad thing as they have not been paid for material they provided Festival. We are going to ask the banks to help them, perhaps by giving them credit lines at low interest rates." Up to 250 local suppliers have lost money in the Festival collapse. "The whole of Genoa is trembling," said Maurizio Mattarelli of Venezia-based supplier Ligabue, which claims to have Festival debts of 6.5 million Euros. "The impact will be very negative," said Filippo Gallo, president of the Genoa-based agents association. Festival Crociera chairman Umberto Ferraro said yesterday that that damages would be sought against the owners of the company's vessels. He estimated that Festival sustained losses of 200 million Euros as a result of the seizure of the company's vessels on Jan 18 and Jan 21. He said that this sum included down payments representing 10% of the purchase price of the 2001-built *European Vision* and 2002-built *European Stars* and four and a half years of lease payments on the 1998-built *Mistral*. (See issue of May 26.)

London, May 27 — Former chairman George Poulides of the company he created, Festival, yesterday finally applied for voluntary bankruptcy. Initial estimates suggest the Festival bankruptcy could leave unsecured debts of at least \$363 million.

FILIPPUS (Paraguay)

Rio Grande, May 21 — C.c. *Filippus* is still under arrest at Porto Alegre. — Lloyd's Agents.

FISHING VESSELS SEIZED BY AUSTRALIA

Fremantle, May 24 — Fishing *Volga* is still in Jervoise Bay. — Lloyd's Agents.

GLUECKSBURG (Liberia)

See under "Marine."

LAEMTHONG GLORY (Thailand)

Aden, May 25 — General cargo *Laemthong Glory* remains under arrest at Aden for alleged wrong delivery of a consignment of bagged refined white sugar. Claim of US\$3.1 million. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAYA V (Uruguay)

Fremantle, May 24 — Fishing *Maya V* is still located at HMAS Stirling Naval Base in Fremantle Outer Harbour. — Lloyd's Agents.

PANCIU (Tonga)

Freetown, May 27 — General cargo *Panciu* (10046 gt, built 1980) which arrived at Freetown on Oct 28, remains at the port under arrest. The Sierra Leone High Court has ruled against the vessel. A fine of US\$5,000.00 has been levied in favour of Banjul Ports before the vessel will be released. — Lloyd's Agents.

PEGY (North Korea)

Limassol, May 21 — Vessel *Pegy* was released today. It remains at Limassol breakwater. — Lloyd's Agents.

REINE (Panama)

Freeport, Bahamas, May 21 — Ro-ro *Reine* was purchased in recent weeks by Jordanian interests and has a repair/mobilisation crew on board from a local company ALBA. The vessel will be proceeding to dry-dock in the Dominican Republic, either under its own power or under tow, where it will be overhauled, reflagged, probably Bolivia, and returned to service. — Lloyd's Agents.

REMBRANDT (Bahamas)

Freeport, Bahamas, May 21 — Passenger *Rembrandt*, to be renamed *Rotterdam* and now owned by the city of Rotterdam, is still at Freeport with a skeleton crew from its builders on board. Understand that they are still awaiting favourable quotes for a tow to Rotterdam where the vessel is to be converted into a convention centre. — Lloyd's Agents.

ROMANA I (Panama)

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The Director of a local shipping company and owner of ro/ro *Romana I* (3659 gt, built 1969), which has been impounded in Haiti for the past five years, is giving Prime Minister Patrick Manning and the State, approximately 14 days to help him release his vessel or he will take the matter to court. Steve Thomas, Director of Pyramid Shipping Consultants, now Director of BaySix Lines Ltd, said Government failed to honour a memorandum of understanding which promised to support him in getting his vessel out of Haiti. Thomas once chartered the

Romana I as a cargo vessel carrying goods and hardware material between Trinidad and Tobago in the late 1990s. His desire is to see the vessel resume servicing the seabridge between Trinidad and Tobago, but this will not be possible until the *Romana I* is brought back to its homebase. Following a dispute with the vessel's owner in November, 1999, the master and crew of the vessel headed for international waters. The vessel reportedly left TT's territorial waters without clearing with the Immigration and Customs authorities contrary to the laws of the country and later docked at Port-au-Prince, illegally. Upon arrival in Haiti, the crew members and James Hackett, an employee of Pyramid Shipping Company Limited, a national of TT, were detained and goods valued at approximately \$3 million on board that pirates had commenced discharging were reportedly seized. Pyramid Shipping eventually took the vessel owners to court, both in Miami and Haiti. The owners chose not to pay the fine and the vessel was subsequently advertised by the Haitian court and put up for sale. Thomas, together with the help of a business partner, was able to secure the vessel, which is now under the ownership of BaySix Lines Limited of which he is currently a director. Despite a few meetings with Manning and the Attorney General to help him get back the vessel, the vessel still remains a captive in Haitian waters nearly five years later. Thomas claims that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, under the former UNC government, signed a memorandum of understanding, which indicated a promise to help ensure that the vessel is brought back to Trinidad in article three of the memorandum. Article three states: "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago (MFATT) undertakes to ensure that its designated representative shall provide to the vessel *Romana I*, all which is required for return to Trinidad and Tobago." He was also asked by the former Cabinet the cost of getting back the vessel, which he said would have been approximately US\$41,000. The matter was deferred but was never brought up again by either the UNC or PNM government. Currently, the US marines are helping him upkeep the standard of the vessel while in Haiti and Thomas said colleagues living there, keep him up-to-date on the *Romana I*. "I feel that instead of government spending TT\$100m to purchase a new vessel, it can spend TT\$1.8m and bring the *Romana I* back home," he said. An official from the Office of the Attorney General assured that the matter is before the AG, John Jeremie, and is receiving attention.

SANTA GIULIETTA (Liberia)

Valparaiso, May 21 — C.c. *Santa Giulietta* arrived Valparaiso May 21. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEMELI (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Ferrol, May 25 — Ship's agent for general cargo *Semeli* informs that he is

still waiting to receive money. Vessel remains at Shipyard. — Lloyd's Agents.

SENTINEL (Comoros)

Genoa, May 25 — General cargo *Sentinel* remains at Genoa. Understand that there are no prospects of release for the time being. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRUBCHEVSK (Russia)

Busan, May 24 — Ref *Trubchevsk* (648 gt, built 1980) has been arrested by local courts and is now under court action at Busan, where arrived Feb 12, 2003. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

VOLGA (Russia)

See "Fishing Vessels Seized by Australia."

**Pipeline Accidents****KIRKUK AREA, IRAQ**

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

MAKHACHKALA AREA, DAGESTAN

London, May 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Preliminary reports suggest that the breakdown of the Mozdok-Gazimagomed gas pipeline near the Dagestani capital of Makhachkala early today was caused by an outside impact, chief engineer of Kaspri-Gazprom company Murad Abakarov reported from the site this morning. "The marks on the upper side of the fractured pipe lead to the conclusion that some outside force affected the pipe since the ends of the fracture are turned up inside the pipe," he told journalists. An operation to restore the pipeline was launched at dawn involving three excavators and several trucks. Abakarov said repairs would take about 24 hours. Gas deliveries to northern Azerbaijan were suspended for today. Dagestan will receive the remaining gas in the undamaged part of the pipeline. The accident occurred at 0050 hrs five kilometres south of Makhachkala, the Emergency Situations Ministry told Interfax. Seven metres of a 1,200 millimeter pipe were damaged. An increasing roaring and rattling sound was heard in Makhachkala at the time of the accident, an Interfax correspondent reported.

MARS TENSION LEG PLATFORM, GULF OF MEXICO, UNITED STATES

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Shell Exploration & Production Co. confirmed that its Mars Tension Leg Platform, located in Mississippi Canyon 807 in the Gulf of Mexico, is currently shut-in while repairs are being made to the oil pipeline. A leak was detected in the oil export line at the Mars TLP on Saturday, May 22. At that point, the platform was shut-in. It is estimated that approximately three gallons of oil were released. The oil pipeline from the

Mars TLP will remain shut-in until repairs can be made. A team of experts is onsite to identify repair options and expected shut-in time, which we expect to confirm shortly. Prior to shutting in, the Mars TLP was producing 150,000 barrels of oil per day and 170 million cubic feet of gas per day.

RENTON, SEATTLE, UNITED STATES

London, May 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A small section of the Olympic Pipe Line located in a wetlands area caught fire today, but no one was hurt and there were no evacuations required. The fire began on Olympic Pipe Line Co. property at about 0800 hrs after a small test line coming off the pipeline started leaking gasoline, said Renton Fire Capt. Bob Deines. About 50 firefighters responded and the flames were extinguished by 1100 hrs, but the pipeline continued leaking into the afternoon. The cause of the leak was not known, nor was it clear how many gallons had spilled. Representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency and the state Department of Energy were testing locations outside the effected area.

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The operator of a 400-mile fuel pipeline system that was shut down after an explosion plans to complete necessary repairs and restart the line late today. The repair and restart plan has been approved by coordinators for both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state Ecology Department, Olympic Pipe Line Co. spokesman Michael Abendhoff said yesterday night. Earlier yesterday, officials had asked airlines not to refuel their planes at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport because the explosion had shut down the pipeline that delivers the airport's jet fuel. The cause of the explosion was under investigation. Between 3,300 and 10,000 gallons of fuel leaked from the line, with much of it burning, Olympic President Bobby Talley said Monday. Officials found a pin-sized hole in the test line. Damage was confined to the test line, a single valve on a 20-inch-diameter main pipeline and a small section of electrical conduit, all in the area where the test line meets the main pipeline, Olympic spokeswoman Lee Keller said yesterday night. Environmental damage was minimal and contained to the immediate area around the fire, Olympic said.

London, May 27 — A press report, dated May 26, states: Olympic Pipe Line Co. officials restarted Western Washington's main fuel pipeline system yesterday evening. Operations returned to normal as of 1855 hrs, said Olympic spokeswoman Lee Keller. Olympic earlier completed repairs to the damaged half-inch-diameter stainless steel test line. Between 3,300 and 10,000 gallons of fuel leaked from the test line but much of the leaked fuel burned.

SUI AREA, PAKISTAN

See "Pakistan" under "Political & Civil Unrest"

THARI MIRWAH, QUETTA, PAKISTAN

London, May 26 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A powerful blast ripped open a gas pipeline in southern Pakistan today, disrupting gas supplies, police said. No injuries were reported. It wasn't clear what caused the blast and no one claimed responsibility. Police official Ameer Ali said they were still investigating the explosion at the village of Thari Mirwah, about 400 kilometres northeast of Karachi. He said the experts of state-owned gas pipeline company Sui Southern Gas Pipelines Ltd had reached the site to assess the damage and repair the pipeline. "It could have been a bomb blast, it could be the result of some technical fault," Mr Ali said. A spokesman for the company, Inayat Ullah, also refused to say what caused the blast.

Karachi, May 26 — Fifteen people died in a methane gas explosion in a coal-mine in Sinjidi area, some 45 kilometres from Quetta, yesterday, Chief Mines Inspector Maqbool Ahmed said. "Three bodies were recovered from the mine," he said, adding that the explosion in the coal-mine of United Minerals took place in the afternoon. "In such an explosion the chances of survival usually remained remote," he said from the site. Soon after the incident rescue teams rushed to the site. According to reports 15 miners were working in the mine at a depth of 2,500 feet when the explosion took place. The bodies of the three miners were recovered till 0100 hrs. — Lloyd's Agents.



IKONIO AREA, KERATSINI, GREECE

London, May 25 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: The Central Port of Piraeus today fined the Chief Engineer of general cargo *Rasa* (1465 gt, built 1971) the amount of 20,000 euro for not taking the required measures and as a result causing a pollution of 800 square metres in the sea area of Ikonio, Keratsini on May 19.

PILLAR POINT HARBOUR, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, May 27 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Pillar Point Harbour remained closed late last night after 700 gallons of gasoline leaked from a fuel line into the harbour, according to officials with the Half Moon Bay Fire Protection District. Half Moon Bay Fire Division Chief Gareth Harris confirmed the water in the harbour was still extremely flammable and that fire and safety crews were monitoring the situation closely. "Our concern is that a fire would light up a number of boats," Harris said from the scene. Pillar Point Harbour is contained

by breakwaters — as Harris pointed out, a potential fire does not have anywhere else to go. By 2200 hrs, fire and safety crews were waiting for the gasoline to evaporate; the substance is lighter than water and floats on the surface. Harris guessed the water would clear up within 24 hours. The fuel spill was reported by the Pillar Point Harbormaster at 1811 hrs. A San Mateo County hazardous materials team and U.S. Coast Guard pollution prevention officers responded, according to a Coast Guard spokeswoman. Harris said the spill was caused by a leak in the line that runs between the floating fuel dock and the main cement dock.

ST. CLAIR RIVER, ONTARIO, CANADA

London, May 27 — A press report, dated May 25, states: A spill early Sunday morning (May 23) from a Canadian oil refinery on the St. Clair River travelled nearly 15 miles, from Sarnia to Sombra, by late Sunday afternoon. The spill originated at containment basins at Sunoco Oil and Imperial Oil in Sarnia, said Patricia Spitzley, spokeswoman for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. It began at Imperial Oil, also known as Esso, said Canadian Coast Guard spokesman Lawrence Swift. Heavy rainfall caused the basins to overflow, leaving a sheen on the water. Swift did not have an estimate of the number of gallons that had been discharged, but he said it was serious enough to warrant monitoring by the Ontario Ministry of Environment and a visit from Environment Canada, the Canadian equivalent of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The oil, as of Sunday afternoon, was contained on the Canadian side of the river. DEQ workers were also monitoring the oil sheen on the river Sunday, Spitzley said. Oil booms were set out on the Canadian side of the river to collect oil Sunday, Swift said. Projected heavy rainfall Sunday night could hamper cleanup efforts, he noted, by pushing oil collected on the shoreline back into the river.

Weather & Navigation



CYCLONE IN BAY OF BENGAL

Chittagong, May 26 — Cyclone storm has crossed, as such cautionary signal number three has been withdrawn at 1745, May 21, as advised by local meteorological office. — Lloyd's Agents.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

London, May 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: At least 43 people have died in the Dominican Republic amid heavy flooding due to torrential rains, officials say. Some 450 homes were flooded across the nation, National Emergency Commission (NEC) chief Radhames Lora Salcedo was quoted as saying by AP news agency. North-western areas of the Caribbean

country have been most badly hit by the rains, which cut off some roads and led to power cuts in at least 14 towns. The rain eased early today, but forecasters said more was expected. At least 40 people died yesterday when a river flooded the western town of Jimani near the Haitian border, NEC spokesman Jose Luis German said. The other deaths happened overnight in the northern town of San Francisco de Marocis, officials said. Thousands who fled the bursting rivers were staying with friends and relatives or at shelters set up in churches.

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: About 100 people died when floods unleashed by torrential rain swept through a small farming town in the Dominican Republic, officials said. National emergency commission director Radhames Lora Salcedo said at least 150 people are still missing. Rains drenched the town of Jimani, forcing the Solie River to burst its banks.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC / HAITI

London, May 26 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 500 people have been killed and hundreds are missing in the neighbouring Caribbean nations of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, after heavy rains caused flooding and mud slides. Officials say at least 358 people were killed in Haiti, while another 144 people died in the Dominican Republic. Rescue teams are searching for survivors, but they are mostly finding bodies in the mud and there is little alternative but to place them in mass graves. Most of the victims were swept away in floodwaters or died after mudslides destroyed houses. Dominican authorities say more than 13,000 people had been left homeless after swollen rivers turned into torrents. The official hurricane season does not begin until next week.

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: There has been a dramatic increase in the death toll from recent devastating floods and landslides in the Caribbean, with the discovery of more than 1,000 bodies. The combined death toll in Haiti and neighbouring Dominican Republic now stands at about 1,950. More than 1,000 bodies were discovered in a town in south-eastern Haiti where communications are poor, bringing the toll in Haiti to over 1,600. About 300 have killed in the Dominican Republic and hundreds of other people are still missing in both countries. As the clean-up begins, the destruction is so great that authorities are being forced to quickly bury the victims. Unclaimed bodies are being put in mass graves, or buried where they are found. There have been complaints that the burials are disrespectful, but the head of the Dominican Republic Emergency Commission has defended the policy, saying he is try to stop an outbreak of disease.

THAILAND

London, May 22 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Floods caused by a violent storm yesterday morning,

claimed the lives of six people and seven others were still missing in northwestern Thailand, the local press reported today. A flash-flood hit the border town Mae Ramat in Tat province, which lies some 426 kilometres north-west to Bangkok and neighbours Myanmar to the west. The flood which started at 0700 hrs and hit more than 1,000 houses and swept 10 wooden homes away. Many residents were trapped in their homes and electricity was cut off after many power poles went down. The flood also triggered landslides that blocked traffic on two highways. The authorities have ordered two-day close for schools and are still looking for the seven people missing in the disaster.

TYPHOON "NIDA"

London, May 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Nida" that threatened to approach the Japanese archipelago has started to weaken and is unlikely to reach and encompass the main island of Honshu with its storm zone, the Japan Meteorological Agency said this morning. "Nida", the season's second, was about 140 kilometres south-east of Hachijo Island, south of Tokyo, this morning, heading north-east at about 65 kilometres-per-hour, it said. The typhoon is expected to weaken into an extratropical atmospheric depression around 1500, today, in seas east of Japan.

London, May 21 — A press report, dated today, states: The Department of Agriculture said today that damage to agricultural crops caused by typhoon "Nida" was placed at P123 million. Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo said the Bicol region lost P95 million and Eastern Visayas, P28 million. "In the Bicol region—particularly in Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, and Sorsogon—hectares of abaca and banana plantations were destroyed by the typhoon," Lorenzo said. On Wednesday (May 19), rescuers said 31 people were either dead or missing after the typhoon hit the Philippines. At least 20 bodies have been recovered, including nine from a ferry that capsized Tuesday off the town of Camotes Island located between Cebu and Leyte, the civil defence office said. Authorities said they received reports yesterday that seven people were killed in the Bicol region and four in Central Luzon.

UNITED STATES

London, May 21 — A press report, dated May 20, states: Storms in south-eastern Ohio caused a creek to overflow its banks and forced hundreds of people from their homes, including some who had to be evacuated by boats and fire truck, officials said. The National Weather Service reported one to 2.4 inches of rain fell over 24 hours in the area. There were no reports of injuries. Many streets in Corning, a town about 55 miles south-east of Columbus in Perry County, had about three feet of water on Tuesday night (May 18), chief Douglas Gill said. As about 700 evacuated residents began returning home when the water receded

yesterday, people had to leave their homes downstream along Sunday Creek in the Athens County towns of Glouster and Trimble. About 50 homes in the Glouster area and 25 in the Trimble area were evacuated, said Jill Harris, director of the Athens County Emergency Management Agency. Governor Bob Taft yesterday declared a state of emergency for Perry and Athens counties, clearing the way for the state to help. State crews were sent to help remove debris or repair roads, place sandbags and clean up, said Rob Glenn, spokesman for the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. He said more counties could be added to the disaster declaration. "We expect this weather pattern to park right over us for the next five to seven days," Glenn said. "The problem is the water doesn't have anywhere to go." Flooding was also reported in Kansas. The weather service said five to six inches of rain was common in Jackson County, which includes Kansas City. Emergency crews rescued a number of people from vehicles Tuesday night and yesterday.

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A tornado cut a path through north-western Iowa last night, causing heavy damage in two small towns. A state officials said 15 people were injured. Rolfe, population 721, and Bradgate, population 124, sustained some of the worst damage from storms that unleashed rain, lighting, high wind and hail across the Midwest. Flooding was blamed for at least one traffic death in Ohio, and three people died when trees crashed onto cars in Michigan. In Iowa, Pocahontas County sheriff's officers said the tornado moved through the golf course and cemetery areas in Rolfe before ripping through Bradgate in neighbouring Humboldt County. Ellen Gordman, state director of homeland security, estimated that 90 percent of the 50 or so homes in Bradgate were destroyed or suffered major damage. About 15 people were injured in the two towns, and thousands of people across the state lost power, Gordman said. Tornado Alley, a swath running from west Texas through Oklahoma and Kansas to Iowa, is ripe for stormy conditions because of colliding air masses that occur each spring. Destructive straight-line winds hit parts of Michigan. Gusts of 95 mph hit the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and 99 mph gusts hit in Berrien County, Mich, the National Weather Service and police said. In western Michigan, lightning struck transformers, setting buildings on fire. Up to 3 inches of rain fell in a 45-minute period — the equivalent of about 3 feet of snow — while gusting wind snapped trees and power lines. About 220,000 Michigan customers lost power. In Wisconsin, downpours, high winds and hail were reported throughout the state, and thousands of people lost power temporarily. A thunderstorm packing wind of up to 70 mph raced across northern Indiana, knocking down trees and power lines and blowing over two tractor-trailers on Interstate 80. More than 30,000

electricity customers lost power in the storm, which also produced one-inch hail in Fort Wayne. Flights in and out of Chicago's O'Hare and Midway airports were delayed as long as 2 hours and at least 20 flights were cancelled, according to the Department of Aviation. In West Virginia, wind gusts up to 80 mph toppled trees and utility poles and damaged or destroyed at least 17 homes. About 63,500 customers lost power, and tornadoes were reported in some areas.

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The recent flooding will cost government agencies in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana, at least \$3.1 million, according to an early assessment made yesterday in an effort to get federal disaster assistance for the area. The figure includes washed-out roads and bridges, damaged drainage systems and overtime for emergency workers, said Bill Vincent, emergency management director for the parish. High water kept damage assessment crews out of flood-stricken communities in Lafayette Parish, where workers are attempting to gauge the extent of flood damage in homes.

London, May 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Houses lay crumpled to their foundations and hundreds of thousands of people were without power today after storms tore through the Midwest, including a tornado that leveled the town of Bradgate. "Sixty seconds of horror and weeks and months of rehabilitation and rebuilding," said Gov. Tom Vilsack, who took a walking tour of Bradgate, population 100, in north-western Iowa. The tornado rendered 30 of Bradgate's 40 homes uninhabitable, he said. While Iowa was hardest hit, severe weather Friday and yesterday knocked out power through parts of West Virginia, Nebraska, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Michigan authorities blamed three deaths on the storm — all due to trees falling on cars Friday. Hundreds of thousands of customers lost power after the storms, and many were not expected to get it back until tomorrow. About 265,000 customers in Michigan were still without electricity this evening; 73,000 in Ohio; 44,000 in West Virginia; and 5,000 in Pennsylvania. Several homes were destroyed in Nebraska, which was pummeled by multiple tornadoes, heavy rain and hail. In southeastern Nebraska, the Saline County sheriff's office reported that a tornado destroyed 10 homes in Swanton and Wilbur. Seven homes also were destroyed in Clay County. As many as four tornadoes were reported today in the area between Saginaw and Flint, Mich, but the National Weather Service could not immediately confirm the reports. Winds of up to 80 mph hit south-west of Saginaw, and flooding was reported around Flint and north of Port Huron.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The US Coast Guard says more than 100 boats docked at local marinas broke free in the intense storms yesterday morning, causing millions of dollars in damage. In the Rocky River, docks were

destroyed and dozens of boats are missing or wrecked, according to local boater Amanda DiBenedetto. There is a safety zone in effect around the Cuyahoga River as crews try to stabilise the debris. Other marinas hit hard were the Emerald Necklace and the Cleveland Yacht Club.

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Scores of homes were ravaged by storms in Iowa, which was lashed by a string of 19 tornadoes, hail, high wind and heavy rain during the weekend (May 22-23). On Monday night, Iowa was drenched by yet another wave of powerful thunderstorms, even as residents of this eastern town of 6,000 people waited for Malone Creek to recede. As that wave of storms swept eastward early today, one person was killed when a mobile home was destroyed at Winchester, Ill., authorities said. Illinois also had high wind that damaged several homes and businesses near Jacksonville, and State Police said a twister damaged a home south of Springfield. Today's storms followed more severe weather on Monday, when tornadoes touched down in Oklahoma, Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas. The storms that moved across Iowa on Friday, Saturday and Sunday dumped as much as 9 inches near Ames. Monday night's downpours brought more than 3 inches to some areas. No more rain is forecast in Iowa until Friday evening and possibly the weekend, said Brad Fillbach, a National Weather Service technician. Gov. Tom Vilsack asked for a federal disaster declaration covering 24 counties, including Humboldt County, where nearly every building in the small town of Bradgate was damaged by a tornado Friday. Elsewhere, four tornadoes were reported Monday evening in or near Chillicothe, Mo. Saturday's storms in Nebraska killed one woman, injured 37 others, destroyed 158 homes and damaged at least 57 others in Lancaster, Saline, Gage and Cass counties. A tornado all but leveled Hallam, Neb., on Saturday. Residents were still going through surviving personal property and deciding whether to rebuild their homes in the town of 276. In the northern Illinois community of Gurnee, the Des Plaines River was expected to crest this afternoon at a record 12.5 feet, 5.5 feet over flood stage. The rising water had closed schools for more than 2,000 youngsters and 18 families had evacuated homes near the river, officials said. Downstream at the Chicago suburb of Des Plaines, the river is expected to crest at 11.4 feet Thursday evening, a record 6.4 feet over the flood stage, the weather service said. Residents of both Illinois towns said they fear the flooding could be worse than a 1986 inundation that caused more than \$100 million in damage. In central Iowa, the Raccoon River had reached 19.2 feet at Des Moines today, 7.2 feet above flood stage, and continued to rise. The flood closed the main road to the city's airport, although other routes were available, authorities said. The airport was closed for about an hour Monday during tornado warnings.

Earthquakes



AUSTRALIA

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake today hit South Australia's famed wine region, the Barossa Valley. The earthquake, which occurred about 0400, CST, measured 3.2 on the Richter scale. But emergency services said it did not cause any serious damage or injuries. "At a magnitude of 3.2, it was likely to be felt up to a distance of 35km away and it woke most people who were very close to the epicentre," a Primary Industries and Resources SA spokesman said. The quake's epicentre was about 15 km north-east of Nuriootpa, the spokesman said. It was the first earthquake of such magnitude in the Barossa Valley since 1999, he said.

AUSTRIA

London, May 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A minor earthquake shook the alpine province of Tyrol today, the Austrian Earthquake Institute said. There were no reports of damage or injuries. The lunchtime quake had a preliminary magnitude of 3.4 and was centred near the town of Schwaz. It was followed by two smaller aftershocks.

BOSNIA

London, May 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale jolted a border region between Croatia and Bosnia today, with only minor damage reported by authorities in Zagreb, the Croatian state seismological service here said. The quake struck at 1719 hrs, centred just 20 kilometres inside Bosnia, near the Croatian town of Imotski, the Croatian service said. The Strasbourg-based earth sciences observatory earlier reported a magnitude of 5.0 and said the epicentre was north-west of the Croatian city of Dubrovnik. Bosnian television said the quake caused no casualties.

GREECE

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A small earthquake measuring 4.4 points on the Richter scale shook south-western Greece early today but caused neither casualties nor damage, the institute of earth sciences in Athens said. The epicentre of the quake was 135 km from the capital at the western end of the Corinth canal, where a 2,252-metre suspension bridge is being built and is due to open in September.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Greece's showcase Rio-Antirio suspension bridge, being built in time for the Athens Olympic Games in August, survived yet another earthquake today. The tremor measured 4.4 points on the Richter scale. The

institute of earth sciences said the epicentre of the quake was 135 km from Athens, near the Rio-Antirio strait, where the last section of roadway of the 2 252-metre bridge was due to be put in place today.

INDIA

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake of slight intensity measuring 4.6 on the Richter scale hit Arunachal Pradesh this morning. The epicentre of the tremor lay at lat 27 7N, long 96 8E, at the Arunachal Pradesh - Myanmar border region, India Meteorological Department said in a release here. There were no reports of any loss of life or damage to the property in the state.

INDONESIA

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A minor earthquake shook Indonesia's tourist island of Lombok and neighboring Sumbawa early yesterday, officials said. There were no reports of injuries or damage. The quake measuring 4.5 on the Richter scale struck about 0332 yesterday, said a worker at the meteorology and geophysics bureau in Jakarta. She said the quake was felt in Mataram, the West Nusa Tenggara provincial capital on Lombok island. Police there said they were unaware of any damage. The epicentre was about 16 kilometres west of Dompu regency on Sumbawa. A government worker in Dompu said she was unaware of damage there.

IRAN

London, May 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A moderate earthquake measuring 4.6 degrees on the Richter scale hit Iran's western province of Kermanshah early today, but there were no reports of casualties or property damage, the state IRNA news agency said. Tehran University seismological unit registered the tremor at 0445 hrs, with its epicentre in Hamil district some 80 kilometres west of the provincial capital of Kermanshah.

JAPAN

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 4.7 hit eastern parts of Hokkaido yesterday evening, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The quake registered 4 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in Kiyosato and 3 in Shari and Nakashibetsu, the agency said.

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake registering an estimated magnitude of 3.9 on the Richter scale hit Miyagi Prefecture early this morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the 0506 hrs quake. The temblor measured 3 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in the town of Naruse, 2 in the town of Matsushima, and cities of Ishinomaki and Natori.

PHILIPPINES

London, May 20 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake that

shook parts of Central Visayas this morning damaged a new Pesos 49-million (\$493,666) market in Tubigon, Bohol, as well as its municipal hall and some houses. Lives and property were spared in Cebu, where the quake registered four on the Richter scale. Hardest hit was Tubigon town in Bohol, where the epicentre of the 0528 hrs quake was located. ABS-CBN Cebu reported that the quake, which lasted for five to seven seconds, affected Tubigon's seven barangays. TV footage showed destroyed ceilings of the town hall and the collapsed or cracked walls of some houses.

London, May 21 — A press report, dated today, states: An Intensity 6 tectonic earthquake hit Tubigon town in Bohol at about 0528 yesterday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, Phivolcs, said. The earthquake, which registered a magnitude of 4.9 on the Richter scale, was triggered by the movement of an offshore fault north of Clarin, Bohol. Its epicentre was located at 33 km south of Cebu City. Phivolcs said the temblor was also felt at Intensity 5 in Loboc, Bohol; Intensity 4 in Corrella, Bohol and Cebu City; and Intensity 3 in Tagbilaran City, Bohol and Lapu-Lapu City and Argao, both in Cebu. Phivolcs said the earthquake caused slight damage to structures in Tubigon. No details though were immediately available.

TAIWAN

London, May 21 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 4.7 on the Richter scale jolted an island off Taiwan today. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties, officials said. The tremor struck at 0933 hrs, 0133, GMT, with an epicentre around 26 km north-west of the island of Lanyu in southern Taiwan, said the Seismology Centre. Its focus was more than 16 km below sea level.

London, May 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Moderate earthquakes shook southern Taiwan today, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, the government said. The first quake, registering a magnitude of 4.4, was centred in the Chiayi region, about 200 km south-west of Taipei, the Central Weather Bureau said. A 4.7-magnitude quake struck later under the Pacific Ocean, about 25 km north-west of Orchid Island off the south-east coast, the weather bureau said.



COLOMBIA

London, May 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A grenade exploded in a small plaza in Medellin yesterday night, killing at least four people and wounding 15, police said. The attack occurred in the San Ignacio plaza near the University of Antioquia in Medellin,

155 miles north-west of the capital Bogota. It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the attack.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A bomb has exploded in a crowded disco in north-west Colombia, killing seven people and wounding 82. The attack was thought to have been carried out by rebels as part of a spate of action to mark the 40th anniversary of Colombia's main rebel group. Another bomb blew up earlier at a pool hall in the Caribbean port city of Cartagena, killing one person and wounding three. At least 14 people have been killed and more than 100 injured in other incidents since the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, began a wave of attacks last Thursday (May 20), apparently to mark the 40th anniversary of its founding this week. A four-year-old girl was among those killed when the bomb, packed in a small suitcase and planted in a bathroom, exploded in the discotheque. The attack occurred in Apartado, 450 kilometres northwest of Bogota, in Antioquia state. Antioquia state Lieutenant Governor Jorge Mejia said it bore the hallmarks of the FARC. Authorities arrested a suspect shortly after the bombing with a hand grenade in his possession, Mr Mejia said. Twenty-five of the injured were in serious or critical condition today and had been flown to hospitals in Medellin.

INDIA-PAKISTAN

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A bomb struck a bus carrying vacationing soldiers and their families today, killing 33 people and wounding 10 in Indian-controlled Kashmir, officials said, just a day after the new Indian prime minister was sworn in. The attack by suspected Islamic separatists, one of the worst in recent history, was a bloody initiation for newly installed Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who has pledged to make the Kashmir crisis and relations with rival Pakistan main priorities of his minority government. Singh condemned the attack. It wasn't clear whether the bombing was timed to coincide with his announcement of his Cabinet lineup, expected later today. The powerful explosion on the road connecting Srinagar and Jammu in India's Jammu-Kashmir state occurred when a Border Security Force convoy was passing by, said Neeraj Sharma, a spokesman for the paramilitary force. The victims included border forces and their family members, about 40 people were on the bus. Several of the wounded died in hospitals, and by this evening, the fatalities included 18 soldiers, six women, five male relatives and four children as authorities revised the death toll. The remote-controlled bomb was planted under a small bridge near the village of Lower Munda, 55 miles south of Srinagar. As the bomb went off, the fuel tank of the bus caught fire. K. Srinivasan, the deputy inspector-general of the BSF in the region, blamed the attack on separatist Islamic guerrillas. A police officer said a civilian vehicle also was hit by the blast and

three people travelling in it were wounded. Military helicopters rushed to the area to evacuate the victims and traffic was halted on the Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only road that links Kashmir with the rest of the country. The Hezb-ul Mujahedeen militant group claimed responsibility for the attack in telephone calls to some Indian media outlets, but the unidentified caller did not give any reason for the attack. The group is the largest among more than a dozen Islamic groups which have been fighting security forces in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir for the region's independence or its merger with mostly Muslim Pakistan. The guerrillas have vowed to continue their attacks, despite the resumption of talks between India and Pakistan to resolve their differences over Kashmir - the Himalayan region both claim in its entirety.

Lowermunda, May 23 — At least 28 people were killed in disputed Kashmir today when a bus packed with Indian soldiers and their families ran over a land mine planted by separatist guerrillas, officials said. The attack, which came one day after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh took office, was the deadliest in Kashmir since India and Pakistan began a peace process late last year to resolve the dispute over the territory. Torn limbs, blood-stained shoes and clothes lay strewn on the highway at Lowermunda, 60 miles south of Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital. The bus was part of a convoy going from Srinagar to Jammu, the state's winter capital. A senior police official, K. Srinivasan, said 19 Border Security Force troopers, three children and six women were killed in the blast. Singh, who took office yesterday, said his government remained committed to a peaceful resolution of all disputes. He has vowed to carry forward the nascent peace process begun last year by former Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf. Musharraf and Singh spoke for the first time today and affirmed a desire for peace, Pakistan's official media said. — Reuters.

IRAQ

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion destroyed a car near an entrance to the headquarters of the U.S.-led coalition in central Baghdad at around 1400 hrs, today. The U.S. military said four people died, and an Iraqi policeman said they were foreigners. About an hour later, at least two explosions were heard in central Baghdad, and smoke rose from the vicinity of the Green Zone, which houses the coalition headquarters. A coalition spokeswoman said that she heard the blasts, but had no information on the cause. On Saturday (May 22), a suicide car bomber in Baghdad killed four people and slightly wounded a deputy interior minister in Baghdad.

London, May 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Saboteurs this evening bombed and damaged a

pipeline that takes crude from the northern Kirkuk oilfields to Turkey, a security official of Iraq's Northern Oil Company said. "At 1900, local time, an explosive device detonated on a pipeline," Jumaa Ahmed said. He said the attack was carried out on a pipeline linking the Kirkuk oilfields to the Dibis pumping installations, 50 km further north. "Pumping had to be stopped in order to battle the fire," he said. Issam Mohammed, another security official for Northern Oil, said the fire was later put out but the damage would take 12 days to repair. Northern Iraq's pipeline, which leads to Turkish's Mediterranean terminal of Ceyhan, has not been in regular use ever since August because of a series of sabotage operations blamed on anti-US guerrillas.

Baghdad, May 25 — A suspected car bomb exploded today outside a Baghdad hotel used by foreigners and close to the Australian embassy, wounding at least two people, witnesses and police said. Witnesses said a stationary car exploded outside the Karma hotel. The hotel was not severely damaged in the blast, although several windows were blown out. In a separate incident, one U.S. soldier was killed and four others were wounded in a rocket attack on a base northwest of Baghdad, the U.S. military said in a statement today. The attack happened yesterday afternoon and involved soldiers from Task Force Baghdad, a unit responsible for security in the capital, the statement said. In the past 14 months of occupation, 580 U.S. soldiers have been killed in action in Iraq. In a speech yesterday night, U.S. President George Bush pledged to persevere in Iraq despite the violence and despite signs it could get much worse before it gets better. — Reuters.

Kirkuk, May 25 — A senior politician representing Iraq's minority Turkmen population was assassinated by gunmen late yesterday in Kirkuk, police said. Ahmed Najm al-Din, one of the leaders of the Turkmen Union Party, was shot dead in a targeted drive-by shooting as he was leaving his party's headquarters after dark, police said. — Reuters.

Najaf, May 25 — The Imam Ali shrine in Najaf, the holiest Shi'ite site in Iraq, was damaged today by rockets or mortars, witnesses said — a development likely to spark outrage among Iraq's Shi'ite majority. One of the entrances to the shrine was damaged in the attack. It was not clear who fired the missiles. Ahmad Shebani, Sadr's representative at the shrine, said five or six missiles had hit the building. Witnesses said three people had been wounded in the attack, none seriously. — Reuters.

ISRAEL

Rafah, May 20 — Defying international fury and a rare US rebuke, Israel has expanded its bloodiest Gaza Strip raid in years after killing 41 Palestinians in three days of fighting in the Rafah refugee camp. Tensions rose further today after a Tel Aviv court convicted Palestinian uprising leader Marwan Barghouti of

murder, drawing vows of defiance from a firebrand widely seen among Palestinians as a possible successor to President Yasser Arafat. "So long as occupation continues, the Intifada will not stop," Barghouti said after the verdict in a case Palestinians condemned as a show trial. The UN Security Council urged an end to violence after Israeli forces killed 10 Palestinians at a peaceful protest yesterday. The Council convened at the behest of Arabs incensed at what they branded a "war crime". Reflecting its displeasure, the United States, Israel's chief ally, allowed adoption of the UN resolution by abstaining rather than using its veto. President George W. Bush urged restraint from the Jewish state. Senior US officials kept up pressure by making phone calls to their Israeli counterparts urging them to wrap up the three-day-old raid as quickly as possible, an Israeli political source said. However, the army, which stormed the Rafah camp after losing 13 soldiers in Gaza ambushes last week, forged ahead today. Troops pushed into Rafah districts on the border with Egypt, where the army says it is searching for tunnels used to smuggle weapons for a Palestinian revolt since 2000. The army killed eight Palestinians yesterday, several of them militants. International outrage reached a new pitch after Israeli tanks and helicopters fired toward protesters marching to demand humanitarian aid. The youngest of the dead was nine years old. Medics said more than 50 people were wounded. Troops said they did not aim to hit the rally. Several hundred Israeli peace activists demonstrated outside the Defence Ministry to protest against the Rafah operation, holding signs calling for an immediate withdrawal from Gaza and a stop to the killing. Violence in Gaza has risen since Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon proposed evacuating troops and Jewish settlers in a plan backed by most Israelis and the United States, but rejected by his right-wing Likud party in a referendum this month. Militants want to claim as a victory any Israeli pullout from Gaza, but the army is determined to smash them first. In the West Bank, Israeli troops killed a senior Hamas militant in an exchange of fire in the town of Qalqilya. A Tel Aviv court found Barghouti, second in popularity only to Arafat among Palestinians, guilty of masterminding the killings of five people but it cleared him of involvement in attacks in which more than 20 other people were killed. Prosecutors asked for five life sentences for Barghouti, a West Bank leader who had maintained his innocence since his 2002 arrest but expressed pride in resistance to Israeli occupation. The court reconvenes for sentencing on Jun 6. — Reuters.

Gaza, May 24 — Israeli troops pulled out of a key neighbourhood of Gaza's Rafah refugee camp today after killing 42 Palestinians in a six-day siege that was roundly condemned by the international community. Residents of Rafah's Tel Sultan district ventured

onto the streets as Israeli tanks pulled out of the area. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon pledged to put a revised plan to evacuate Jewish settlements in Gaza to a cabinet vote by next week. Egypt's Intelligence Chief Omar Suleiman was due to hold talks with Palestinians later today about Sharon's plan. An Israeli military source said the pullout was part of a "new deployment" to "ease conditions" and allow residents to leave their homes to stock up on food, water and medicine. But Israeli troops remained in at least one other Rafah stronghold, known as the Brazil camp, where besieged residents reported a severe water shortage. — Reuters.

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Rafah Mayor Said Zaareb today estimated damage from a six-day Israeli military operation in the southern Gaza city at \$15 million to \$20 million. Zaareb told a news conference initial surveys indicated that more than 100 Palestinian houses were demolished in the Tal al-Sultan and Brazil neighbourhoods where the large scale military operations were conducted in search of secret tunnels used by Palestinian militants to smuggle arms from Egypt. He said heavy damage was inflicted on the infrastructure including roads, water and electricity networks. At least 40 Palestinians were killed and dozens injured in the operation, which ran from last Tuesday (May 18) through to Sunday (May 23).

MEXICO

Mexico City, May 23 — Explosions rocked three banks in central Mexico today and police said a previously unknown rebel group appeared to be responsible for the blasts. "There were property damages to branches of Bancomer, Banamex and Santander Serfin," Benito Leyva, a spokesman for the attorney general's office, told Reuters. There were no casualties reported from the blasts, which occurred early today. Media said the explosions were caused by bombs but authorities declined to confirm this. "A communique appeared from a (guerrilla) group, but we have no more precise information," he added. The explosions occurred in the town of Jiutepec, in the state of Morelos, which borders Mexico City, the spokesman said. Radio reports in Mexico City said the communique, found at the banks, was signed by a group calling itself the "Comando Jaramillista Morelense 23 de Mayo" and which claimed to be protesting against the government of Mexican President Vicente Fox, as well as the local state government. El Universal, a local newspaper, said in a story on its Internet site that the group accuses Fox of not having fulfilled his campaign promises, including one to create a million jobs a year. The group also accused the local governor of protecting drug traffickers. — Reuters.

PAKISTAN

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected tribal

attackers fired 16 rockets at a state-run natural gas facility in southwestern Pakistan, rupturing a main gas pipeline and disrupting supplies to domestic and commercial consumers, a government official said today. Paramilitary troops deployed to guard the pipeline returned fire at the attackers when they struck late yesterday at Sui, 350 kilometres east of Quetta, capital of the province of Baluchistan, said Khaliq Kiyani, a government official. The attackers escaped without apparent injury and government forces were hunting them Saturday, Kiyani said. No security forces were injured in the clash. Technicians were trying to restore gas supplies today.

Karachi, May 24 — Pakistan state owned gas utility company -Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) said that the small portion of the damaged SSGC's 20" IRB CE Pipeline in Sui area near PPL's Purification Plant was effectively repaired through SSGC's engineer's. The pipeline section was earlier ruptured as a result of exchange of fire between rival groups of unidentified miscreants last week. SSGC reported in a statement that the pipeline damage occurred at 2200, May 21, close to the plant where section of pipeline is overhead. SSGC's in-charge Sui Headquarter on detection of leak in the pipeline, immediately shut off the valves at both ends through the remote system thus preventing any major loss. SSGC's response team along with X-Ray welders was immediately dispatched from Shikarpur and damaged portion was repaired at 2330, May 22. The Gas Supply was restored after testing and purging at 0330, May 23. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PERU

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Protesters have clashed with police in a Peruvian town where a mob hanged the mayor last month. Officials said about 10 people were injured in the unrest in Ilave near Lake Titicaca when local people tried to block a bridge into the town. A state of emergency is being considered by the Peruvian interior ministry in an attempt to end the unrest. A doctor in the town hospital said the injured were being treated for gunshot wounds and the effects of tear gas grenades after hundreds of indigenous people clashed with police. Further north in Peru, hundreds of coca farmers have been blocking roads and burning cars in the central jungle region, protesting the forced eradication of their crops which is the raw material for cocaine.

RUSSIA

London, May 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A clash between Russian servicemen and police from Chechnya's Moscow-backed government left five people dead, an official said today, describing a shootout that underlined the chaos and mistrust pervading the war-ravaged region. The clash broke out after Chechen police accompanying an oil

truck ignored an order from the soldiers to stop, and the servicemen opened fire, the official in the Moscow-backed government said on condition of anonymity. He said three servicemen and two police were killed. One Russian serviceman and one Chechen policeman were wounded in the firefight, which took place yesterday near the town of Achkhei-Martan, south-west of the Chechen capital, Grozny, according to the official. In other fighting over the past day, four Russian servicemen were killed and 10 others wounded in rebel attacks on federal positions in Chechnya, the official said. He said two rebels were killed and two servicemen were wounded in a shootout in Grozny. A spokesman for Russian forces in Chechnya, Ilya Shabalkin, said three rebels were killed on the outskirts of Grozny, including two he said were involved in organising the bombing that killed Chechnya's Moscow-backed president this month, Russian news agencies reported. The rebels were killed after they refused orders from Russian forces to surrender, Interfax and ITAR-Tass quoted Shabalkin as saying.

SUDAN

Nyala, May 23 — Arab militiamen killed at least 56 people in a raid in western Sudan, villagers said today, just days after the government declared the troubled region was stable. The militiamen, known as janjaweed, raided Abga Rajil village 30 miles south of Nyala town yesterday, witnesses said. — Reuters.

TURKEY

Istanbul, May 20 — An explosion apparently caused by a car bomb wrecked two vehicles outside a McDonald's restaurant in Istanbul today, but nobody was hurt. Television showed two cars gutted by the blast, which occurred in the Acibadem district on the Asian side of Istanbul at 1815 hrs (1515, UTC). Police swiftly cordoned off the area. The state Anatolian news agency quoted the head of the local administration, Yuksel Peker, as saying a bomb had probably exploded in the trunk of one of the two cars or underneath it. CNN Turk said police had received an anonymous phone call warning 15 minutes before the blast, giving police time to evacuate the area. — Reuters.

UGANDA

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Rebels forces in northern Uganda have carried out their second major attack in less than a week, killing more than 40 civilians. Survivors say the attack took place when members of the Lords Resistance Army descended on a northern village and killed 42 people with machetes and clubs. After the attack, thousands of civilians left the area for the relative safety of the nearest town, Gulu. Before the latest attacks, the Ugandan Army said it had significantly weakened the rebel force.

Labour Disputes

**FRANCE**

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Aer Lingus has cancelled one of its flights to Nice in southern France today due to a strike by French baggage handlers. The workers walked out this morning as part of a dispute over summer staffing levels. Passengers who were due to fly to Nice with Aer Lingus this afternoon have been reassigned seats on other flights tomorrow.

ITALY

London, May 26 — A press report, dated May 25, states: Thousands of trials and court hearings have been cancelled in Italy, at the start of a strike by magistrates. The National Magistrates Association says close to 90% of members had heeded the strike call. The planned three-day action is in protest at proposed government reforms which magistrates say will undermine their independence. The government says the changes are needed to speed up a sluggish judicial system and ensure defendants' rights. Courtrooms around Italy were all but deserted as both judges and public prosecutors stopped work. If the bill passes, magistrates will have to choose definitively between a career as a public prosecutor and as a judge. Public prosecutors will hand over some of their powers to chief prosecutors, and the justice minister will be able to modify the criminal charges laid against a defendant. The government says the measures will ensure fairer trials and limit allegedly politicised elements in the judiciary. The justice minister accused the magistrates' association of telling lies and said that time had run out for dialogue.

LEBANON

Beirut, May 26 — The Lebanese Labour Union has called for a second general strike on May 27, including schools, universities, port labours, and common transport, in protest at the Government's decision to increase the price of gasoline. — Lloyd's Agents.

Beirut, May 26 — The Lebanese labour union has called for a second general strike tomorrow, including schools, universities, port labours, and general transport, in protest at the Government's decision to increase the price of gasoline to LL.25,000/- for 20 litres. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Soldiers opened fire on anti-government demonstrators today, killing at least one person and wounding at least seven, officials said. The protesters were blocking traffic with burning tyres in Hay al-Souloom, a densely populated, low-income district south of the Lebanese capital Beirut. Three soldiers were wounded when

protesters threw stones at them, the officials said, speaking on customary condition of anonymity. The General Confederation of Labour and Trade Unions had called a strike to demand that the government reduce petrol prices. The labour action closed schools and universities today and paralysed Beirut airport for three hours. Some 2,500 trade unionists, students and members of opposition parties staged a sit-in near the Council of Ministers building.

NORWAY

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Almost 3,000 journalists in Norway are back at work after an 11-day strike over pensions and the treatment of temporary workers. The labour action ended yesterday, after union representatives agreed to a new contract that ensures the pension system will not be changed for the next two years. It also improves salaries and working conditions for temporary workers. The strike affected 84 media companies in the country and stopped most of its newspapers from publishing.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire Service bosses say they have new proposals for unions in an attempt to resolve a dispute that has seen unofficial action across the UK. But the union covering Greater Manchester firefighters gave bosses a deadline of 1600 BST tomorrow to meet their demands or a ballot will be held. In an ultimatum published today, Fire Brigades Union leaders called for the withdrawal of new working practices and equipment until a national agreement was reached. The union will ballot the 2,000 members in Manchester if bosses do not respond by tomorrow afternoon. The chairwoman of the employers' side, Christina Jebb, said the proposals addressed union concerns over stand down time. Bosses want firefighters to carry out training, inspections and other duties at night rather than sleep for part of their shift. She said the two sides should meet as soon as possible, and once agreement had been reached the remaining 3.5% pay rise backdated to November 2003 will be implemented. Sir Jeremy Beecham, chairman of the Local Government Association, warned that unofficial action was putting in jeopardy a pay deal which ended a bitter pay dispute last year. He said the third phase of the pay deal - a 4.2% rise from July - was at risk. Protests spread from Wales to fire stations across England, parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland today. However, tonight, the Northern Ireland Fire Service called off industrial action, returning to normal working practices. In Salford, 36 firefighters were suspended on Tuesday (May 18), followed by staff in Broughton today being sent home without pay for not agreeing to use new decontamination equipment. Greater Manchester County fire officer Barry Dixon has written to FBU general secretary Andy Gilchrist demanding he repudiate the current

industrial action. He also threatened to begin legal proceedings and seek damages against the union. But Mr Dixon said he was in favour of the plan to ballot members for industrial action because this would make any strikes legal. He claims it would also allow the brigade to make alternative arrangements to ensure the safety of residents. Meanwhile, in a separate dispute, railway workers have voted to strike in a dispute over pay and pensions. About 7,000 maintenance and signal workers belonging to the RMT union backed action against Network Rail. The union did not name strike dates immediately. There are fears it could coincide with a separate strike on the London Underground. Network Rail said a strike could be "deeply damaging" and would jeopardise recent performance improvements which had seen punctuality at a four-year high. Turnout for the ballot was 68% with 2,947 union members voting in favour of a strike and 2,246 against. Announcing the ballot result at the union's London head office, RMT general secretary Bob Crow said the union would be consulting local and regional representatives over the next four or five days. He said they would discuss possible dates for industrial action and what form it would take. "If the company want to reopen negotiations by then we are prepared to talk," he added. He promised there would be no disruption during the May bank holiday weekend or to coincide with events to mark the 60th anniversary of D-Day. Mr Crow said the workers' action was "to defend their pension rights, to end two-tier working conditions and for justice on pay". And he launched a fresh attack on a decision to stop new staff entering the final salary pension scheme. Network Rail warned every 24-hour strike would cause losses of between £12m and £15m.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Key talks to try to end the dispute between firefighters and their employers have begun in London. The row, over the implementation of a pay deal, has led to unofficial industrial action in several parts of the country. It began in Greater Manchester where 130 firefighters were suspended after refusing to operate new equipment. They are refusing to cooperate until they receive the extra money they believe they were due in November 2003. The talks come after a Welsh firefighter died in a blaze yesterday. Richard Jenkins, 29, married with two children, died when a disused bingo hall in Cardiff exploded as he went inside to tackle a fire. Meanwhile union sources say they believe employers wish to park vehicles in lay-bys overnight and plan to close fire stations overnight. A spokesman for the employers said it was the first time such concerns had been raised, but said it would seek to give assurances at today's meeting. Meanwhile more firefighters have been suspended without pay. The Fire Brigade's Union (FBU) said 120 members in Greater Manchester had now been sent home

for refusing to use new equipment. Firefighters in Scotland and in Manchester have opted to hold a strike ballot. General secretary Andy Gilchrist said employers seemed intent on reneging on the agreement struck last year. The chairwoman of the employers' side, Christina Jebb, said she was "hopeful" about today's meeting and "very pleased that the union has accepted the invitation to meet". Once agreement had been reached the stalled pay rise would be paid and backdated to November 2003, she said.

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: An end to the firefighters dispute looked likely last night after union leaders recommended members accept a new pay deal. The breakthrough came when the Fire Brigades Union leadership said it was happy with a proposal to resolve the dispute put forward by local authority employers. Rank and file firefighters will now be consulted and the leadership will meet again to decide whether to end the dispute. The FBU general secretary Andy Gilchrist said the union executive was recommending new wording concerning nightshift duties, which could settle the dispute.

UNITED STATES

Washington, May 21 — The union representing 100,000 SBC Communications Inc. workers in 13 states launched a four-day strike today, picketing dozens of SBC offices across the United States. SBC, the No. 2 U.S. local phone company, said the strike by roughly 60 percent of its work force had not affected its network, and that it had called in 40,000 managers, retirees and contractors as replacements. The Communications Workers of America, which has not called a strike against SBC since 1983, said the two sides would resume talks at four regional meetings today, after national talks over health care, job security, wages and pensions ground to a halt earlier this week. SBC says the talks must produce some cost cuts that will help it fight new competitors. The union said it was limiting its strike to four days to minimise the financial damage to SBC while leaving open the possibility of further action, such as calling for SBC customers to switch service to AT&T Corp. SBC said it would withdraw its current offers if the union did not accept them by midnight Monday (May 24). The union members who walked off the job on today ranged from construction workers to technicians to customer service operators. SBC said it had no problems with its network, which is mostly computer-controlled, but some calls to directory assistance in Chicago did not get through or were cut off with busy signals. The SBC talks are the latest in a string of negotiations between unions and companies that have been soured by rising health-care costs. SBC has sought ways to cap health-care costs it says have risen more than 10 percent a year since 1999, hitting \$3 billion last year. It has proposed an increase in co-payments it estimates would average about \$35 a month, as well as increased costs for

retirees. And it contends union workers currently contribute less than 10 percent of their health-care costs, well below the U.S. average. The union says SBC's offer would escalate the average monthly cost to \$70 over the life of the contract, and could cost retirees far more. It also contends its members should not have to shoulder a much larger share of costs, especially for health insurance, in light of SBC's \$8.5 billion profit last year. Job security has been another major fault line in the talks. SBC has shed thousands of jobs in recent years as it lost customers to wireless phones. The CWA contends it lost 29,000 jobs over the past three years and wants SBC to guarantee its workers access to employment in parts of the company that are still growing, such as its high-speed Internet service. SBC's last proposal on wages included a four percent lump-sum payment in the first year, with base wage increases of more than two percent in the following four years. — Reuters.

Awards & Settlements



CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 21 — A press report, dated May 19, states: An out-of-court settlement was agreed yesterday in a £3.5 million damages claim by a woman who suffered carbon monoxide poisoning because of a faulty heating system. Hazel Brown, 23, was left with severe brain damage after the poison gas accident in a local authority flat which claimed the life of her boyfriend. Lawyers for Ms Brown, of Inverkeillor Gardens, Glenrothes, Fife, were to have pursued an action against Fife Council at the Court of Session in Edinburgh, but negotiations led to a £1 million-plus agreement. Following the tragedy five years ago in Abbotsford Drive, Glenrothes, the council spent £500,000 replacing the warm-air central heating in 11 blocks of flats. The council later admitted a failure to carry out a proper service of the system in the flat, and was fined £5,000. Ms Brown, then 18, and Mark Taggerty, 19, moved into the flat in late August, 1998, and soon began to suffer flu-like symptoms. On Nov 8 that year, they had felt dizzy and nauseous. The following day, Mr Taggerty's father, Peter, found the couple in bed. Mark was dead and Ms Brown barely alive. She had three heart attacks and was taken to hospital for hyperbaric oxygen treatment. Fife Council ordered safety checks on the 15-year-old heating systems in blocks in the area, and found a number of carbon monoxide leaks. It carried out wholesale replacement of radiator systems. In 2000, the council was prosecuted at Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court over the death and the permanent physical and intellectual impairment suffered by Ms

Brown. It admitted failing to ensure gas fittings were maintained in a safe condition in the couple's flat, and in a further 15 of its properties. Ms Brown's family yesterday revealed that the woman had been awarded a settlement "just over £1 million".

CLASS-ACTION SETTLEMENT, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES

London, May 26 — A press report, dated May 26, states: A tentative \$65 million settlement has been reached in a lawsuit over a May 2000 train derailment in Eunice, Louisiana, that forced the evacuation of roughly 3,500 residents when rail cars carrying hazardous chemicals jumped the track. Attorneys in the case announced the settlement yesterday in a class-action lawsuit against the Union Pacific Railroad Company. The settlement still must be approved by a federal judge. A total of 33 cars derailed in the accident, which happened about two miles from downtown Eunice. Thirteen of the cars contained hazardous chemicals. Some caught fire and exploded, forcing the evacuation of some businesses and residents for up to a week. Environmental crews continue to monitor water and soil in the area. Federal transportation officials who investigated the derailment criticized Union Pacific for inadequate track inspections and for not following up on problems noted in inspections. So far, about 10,000 residents have filed claims in the lawsuit, said Terry Hoychick, a spokesman for the large group of attorneys representing plaintiffs in the case. Hoychick said no serious, long-term health problems have been attributed to the chemicals leaked during the derailment, although several residents initially complained of headaches, rashes, breathing trouble and irritated eyes. The settlement funds are to compensate for monetary losses and for physical and emotional problems related to the derailment and evacuation, according to a joint statement released by Union Pacific and the plaintiff's attorneys. A court-appointed "special master" will oversee distribution of settlement money and determine what amount each person receives. Union Pacific spokesman Mark Davis said the company has already compensated residents for lost wages, business interruption and crop losses, although he did not have a figure for how much was paid. The money paid out so far is not part of the \$65 million settlement, he said. Davis said the company continues to monitor water in the area and is now working with the state Department of Environmental Quality to finalize a plan for cleaning the soil directly below the tracks at the derailment site. A hearing to determine if the settlement is fair is planned for late summer or early fall. The proposed settlement includes attorney fees, which are generally about one-third of a class-action settlement. The judge will also set the amount of the settlement to go toward attorneys fees.

**ILLEGAL BUSINESS PRACTICE,
UNITED STATES**

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: GlaxoSmithKline Corp. has agreed to pay a \$75 million settlement over a lawsuit that alleged that the company used illegal tactics to maintain its patent on the anti-inflammatory drug, Relafen. The agreement will create a \$25 million pool which would reimburse individuals for overcharges, and a \$50 million pool for third-party payors, such as health insurers. The settlement, which must be approved by the U.S. District Court Judge William G. Young in Boston, is over a lawsuit brought last year by the consumer group Prescription Access Litigation. PAL project director Alex Sugarman-Brozan called the settlement “a significant victory for consumers.” GlaxoSmithKline doesn’t admit wrongdoing in the proposed settlement. PAL, a nationwide coalition of 93 consumer groups in 34 states, sued GlaxoSmithKline over Relafen on behalf of two individuals and two other consumer organizations, Health Care For All and Wisconsin Citizen Action. The PAL lawsuit alleged that GlaxoSmithKline illegally kept a cheaper generic version of Relafen off the market by fraudulently obtaining the drug’s patent for the drug by intentionally failing to disclose an earlier publication that identified the compound used in Relafen. The lawsuit also alleged that GlaxoSmithKline filed sham patent infringement suits against three generic drug manufacturers who had filed applications to bring a generic version of Relafen to market. The PAL suit claimed that consumers have paid top prices for Relafen rather than a reduced price for an equivalent generic drug.

**IMPROPER FUNDS TRADING,
UNITED STATES**

London, May 21 — A press report, dated May 20, states: Strong Financial Corp founder and Chief Executive Richard S. Strong agreed to pay \$60 million in fines and restitution and accept a lifetime ban from the mutual-fund industry to settle allegations with regulators related to the improper trading of his firm’s mutual funds, according to people familiar with the matter. Strong Financial, based in Menominee Falls, Wisconsin, will pay \$80 million in fines and restitution as part of the settlement. The firm was among the first fund companies to be tarred last fall, when New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer said it and others allegedly allowed hedge fund Canary Capital Partners LLC to trade rapidly in and out of its mutual funds, harming long-term investors. Then came the revelation that Mr. Strong, who also served as board chairman for Strong’s 61 stock and bond funds, had personally traded rapidly in and out of the funds.

**MEDICAL MALPRACTICE,
UNITED KINGDOM**

London, May 26 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The mother of a seven-year-old boy left severely brain

damaged by mistakes during his birth has been awarded money to pay for his lifetime care. Ellis Goldsmith has needed round-the-clock care since he was born at South Cleveland Hospital, in Middlesbrough, in June 1996. South Tees Hospital Trust admitted there were failures in their care. There will be an initial payment of £615,000 but the total amount could run into millions of pounds. Ellis has spastic diplegic cerebral palsy, epilepsy, severe learning difficulties and profound deafness. His mother Andrea Goldsmith, received special medical care leading up to and during the birth because her pregnancy was complicated with maternal gestational diabetes. Ellis was born at South Cleveland Hospital in June 1996. The delivery was to be by elective Caesarean but the condition of the unborn child deteriorated in the few days before the date for surgery. Ellis was born in a poor condition and suffered irreversible brain damage as a result of the hospital’s admitted delay in delivery. Mrs Goldsmith said: “Ellis is a lovely boy but his injuries mean he needs special expert care 24 hours a day and equipment that helps him learn and assists with everyday needs. “The hospital trust has been extremely helpful because they did not fight our case. “Instead they admitted very early on that they had made mistakes and have agreed to fund all of Ellis’ needs. Admitted responsibility “It is a relief to know that we’ll be able to provide the best for our special boy.” A statement from South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust said: “Ellis was born on 1 June 1996 at South Cleveland Hospital. “We admitted we were responsible for the delay in his delivery. Ellis has been left with complex health problems including cerebral palsy. “The Royal Courts of Justice has today approved a lump sum plus periodical payments with the NHS litigation authority which handles medical negligence claims for NHS organisations. “This settlement will mean Ellis’s family will receive payments to help give him the care he needs for the rest of his life. “We are very sorry for what happened to Ellis and we’re pleased this is now settled so that Ellis’s family can make him as comfortable as possible in future.” Caitlin Delaney, from law firm Irwin Mitchell, which represented Mrs Goldsmith, said the compensation package was a “bottom-up structured settlement” where the trust will meet the ongoing costs of Ellis’ care and needs for as long as he lives.

**MEDICAL MALPRACTICE,
UNITED STATES**

London, May 27 — A press report, dated May 26, states: A jury awarded a South Portland man \$3 million today, concluding a complicated malpractice claim against Mercy Hospital and the doctor accused of damaging the man’s back during a diagnostic exam six years ago. A jury in Cumberland County Superior Court found that Dr. Kenneth Blazier, an anesthesiologist and director of Mercy’s Pain Center, punctured Neil Maietta’s bowel with a needle and infected his spine with E. coli bacteria.

The jury also found the hospital liable because Blazier was acting as its agent. A charge of negligence against the hospital was dismissed by Justice Thomas Humphrey before trial. The verdict was unusually large for Maine, where awards of more than a million dollars are rare. It was particularly surprising in this case because a medical malpractice review panel had unanimously found that the doctor and hospital were not at fault for Maietta’s injury. The panel’s finding was disclosed to the jury, but it found for Maietta anyway. Maietta, who worked for his family-owned Maietta Construction Inc. of South Portland, visited Blazier at Mercy on July 14, 1998, complaining of back pain. Blazier conducted a procedure called a discogram, which involved putting a needle in Maietta’s back. Subsequently, Maietta’s discs became infected and deteriorated. He faces \$1.6 million in future medical bills and cannot work, Maietta’s lawyer, Daniel J. Lilley said. Lilley said Blazier caused the infection by puncturing Maietta’s bowel during the procedure. Blazier disputes that, and presented expert witnesses who said that pre-existing conditions made Maietta susceptible to the kind of infections he suffered. “There is overwhelming evidence that Mr. Maietta’s bowel was not punctured,” said Karen Frink Wolf, who represented Blazier. The trial lasted 13 days, and involved complicated testimony from medical experts hired by both sides. The eight-member jury deliberated for six hours before returning a 7-1 verdict for Maietta.

PRICE FIXING, UNITED STATES

Chicago, May 19 — Cargill Inc today won federal court approval for an agreement to settle for \$24 million a class-action lawsuit that accused the largest private US company of conspiring to fix prices of a food sweetener and sought billions of dollars in damages, a lawyer said. The verbal order was issued by Judge Michael Mihm of the US District Court in Peoria, Illinois. St. Paul, Minnesota-based Cargill was accused of teaming up with Archer Daniels Midland Co and A.E. Staley Manufacturing, a unit of British-based Tate & Lyle Plc, to fix the price of high-fructose corn syrup, a substitute for sugar. The original suit seeking billions of dollars in damages was filed in 1995 by 18 companies that manufacture soft drinks, canned and baked goods and confectionary or dairy products, including Coca-Cola Co and PepsiCo Inc. Laddie Montague, lawyer for the plaintiffs, said Judge Mihm verbally approved the order today after there was no objection to the settlement. Mihm had given preliminary approval in March. A final written order will follow, Montague added. He said the final written approval was not issued today because the judge wanted some technical amendments to the order. “I will submit the amendments tomorrow,” he said, declining to disclose details. A Cargill spokesman could not immediately be reached for comment, but the company

in March denied claims made in the lawsuit and said the settlement amount was roughly what it would have incurred in legal costs to defend itself and a subsidiary in a trial set for Sep 7 in Illinois. The lead attorney for the plaintiffs had previously said he would seek combined damages of \$1.4 billion from the three companies, an amount that could be tripled to \$4.2 billion under federal antitrust laws, for an alleged conspiracy that the plaintiffs said began in the late 1980s and ended in the mid-1990s. Montague, from the Philadelphia-based law firm of Berger and Montague, said his clients would continue to seek \$1.4 billion in damages from top US food processing company ADM and corn processor A.E. Staley. "We will pursue it with vigor," he said. He also said Cargill had already paid the \$24 million settlement. Another lawyer for the plaintiffs, Michael Freed, had said in March that a mediator was working with ADM, A.E. Staley and the plaintiffs to reach a settlement. The lawsuit grew out of a federal probe into Decatur, IL-based ADM's involvement in a price-fixing scandal. ADM pleaded guilty to tampering with the prices of lysine, a protein used in animal feed, and citric acid in 1996. Three former ADM executives, Michael Andreas, Terry Wilson and Mark Whitacre, received prison sentences in 1999 as part of the scandal. The US Justice Department investigated but never brought charges against ADM for activities involving high-fructose corn syrup. A federal judge in Illinois dismissed the 1995 lawsuit in 2001, but a US appeals court based in Chicago reinstated the lawsuit in 2002, clearing the way for the case to go to trial. — Reuters.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Ford Motor Co. has paid \$37.5 million stemming from the deadly 1995 crash of a 15-passenger van. That is nearly double the original award. The additional amount was created by interest and delayed damage penalties on the \$20 million verdict issued by a Scott County jury in 1999. The Kentucky Supreme Court last month declined to hear an appeal brought by Ford. That decision let stand a 2003 state appeals court ruling that upheld the original verdict. The wreck happened on Interstate 75 in August 1995 as 15 adults and children in a Ford van were headed to the U.S. Pony Clubs festival at the Kentucky Horse Park. A car sideswiped the van near the park, and the van slid off the highway and rolled three times. Three died in the wreck: Allan Hession, a coach, 46, of Australia; Frances Pitts, 15, of Monkton, Md.; and Paul Coulson, 16, also of Australia. Families for Coulson, Pitts and a girl who lost her left arm sued Ford, the Pony Clubs and Ralph Keaton, the driver of the car that hit the van. Keaton and the Pony Clubs settled out of court. One family settled with Ford out of court. The plaintiffs argued that the van had design flaws that made it prone to rolling over. Ford first successfully appealed the 1999

verdict. In 2001, the appeals court ordered a new trial after agreeing with Ford that plaintiffs were allowed to strike too many jurors during selection. But the state Supreme Court reversed that appellate decision and sent the case back to the Court of Appeals to be heard again. Last year, on the second time through, the appellate court disagreed with Ford and upheld the jury verdict. On Apr 15, the state Supreme Court declined to hear Ford's appeal. On Apr 30, Ford made two payments of approximately \$12.5 million each to the estates of Pitts and Coulson. The company paid about \$11.3 million to Tracy Godden, the girl who lost her arm, and about \$1 million to Margaret Schultz, the van's driver.



Railway Accidents

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

London, May 22 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Sixteen people were injured today when a passenger train collided with an empty train outside Amsterdam central station, rail operator Prorail said. Spokesman Nico Feller said that two people were seriously injured and one was in critical condition, but denied a national news service report that there were deaths in the crash about 300 yards outside the 19th century railway station. The engine of a double-decker train collided with an intercity passenger train, burrowing under the rear car which was pushed high into the air. Police closed off the area after the accident in the early evening rush hour, and traffic to and from the station was halted.

ARGONIA, KANSAS, UNITED STATES

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A Burlington Northern Santa Fe train jumped the tracks yesterday afternoon in Argonia, forcing the evacuation of some nearby neighbourhoods because of a chemical leak. No injuries have been reported. Steve Forsberg, a railroad spokesman, said seven cars in a train headed from Chicago to Los Angeles derailed at 1350 hrs on tracks just south of Argonia, a town of about 530 people in Sumner County, about 40 miles south-west of Wichita. Forsberg said there were 35 cars in the intermodal train, which carries truck trailers and containers. He said the seventh and 14th cars jumped the tracks but remained upright, while five others were in a pile. The cars were part of an intermodal train that carries truck trailers and containers. The cars are about three times longer than normal rail cars, he said. Two of the cars contained hazardous materials. Residents who were evacuated went to the community centre and a church. Forsberg said the cause of the derailment was unknown, and he didn't have an estimated time for the re-opening of the track.

GUNTER AREA, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, May 21 — A press report, dated May 20, states: Transportation officials were today working to determine why two freight trains collided head-on, killing an engineer and injuring four other crew members in a wreck that left cars scattered across the tracks. A major rail line north of Dallas remained closed. US Department of Transportation officials were on the scene early today along with National Transportation Safety Board investigators, and railroad officials were also en route to the rural crash site about 50 miles north of Dallas. More than 20 rail cars lay in accordion fashion on the tracks after the trains collided at about 1800 yesterday. At least one of the locomotives burned and flames spread to grass and other nearby vegetation. The engineer who died, who was on the southbound train, was found about 50 feet from the wreckage. One of the injured men suffered severe burns and was taken by medical helicopter to a Dallas hospital, said Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Rebecca Uresti. The other three injured crew members were in stable condition at Wilson N. Jones Medical Centre in Sherman, said hospital spokeswoman Karis Schirmer. Joe Faust, a spokesman for Fort Worth-based Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp., said both trains belonged to the company. Rail cars on one of the trains were empty, while the other train was hauling rocks, the Grayson County sheriff's department said. No one was evacuated, but a hazardous materials crew was called to clean up spilled diesel fuel.

MACON, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES

London, May 21 — A press report, dated May 20, states: Two Georgia Central train engines were slightly derailed this morning from a set of tracks near the back entrance to Central City Park, about a half-mile from the city of Macon's Public Works Department. The accident happened at about 0900. The engines were not hauling anything and no one was hurt, said Mike Cobb, train master for Georgia Central. "Someone apparently tampered with the track switch, so one train was supposed to head onto the tracks going right and the other was going the other way, but they bumped slightly and were pulled off track," Cobb said. Although part of the tracks was torn from the ground, Cobb said they should be repaired by 1600, today. Cobb said officials don't know who might have tampered with the switch.

TICONDEROGA AREA, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Crews are continuing to clean up after a train derailment spilled thousands of gallons of canola oil along the shore of Lake Champlain. The car containing the oil was part of a Canadian Pacific Railroad freight train that derailed just outside the village of Ticonderoga yesterday.

The New York Department of Environmental Conservation and the US Coast Guard are working to contain some 25,000 gallons of canola oil from harming any waterfowl or wildlife along the lake shore. An independent company is pumping the oil off the ground and out of the water. The detrainment disrupted Amtrak passenger service. Amtrak officials say nearly 150 passengers had to be taken by bus from Montreal to Albany.

ZAMORA AREA, SPAIN

Madrid, May 21 — Two trains crashed in central Spain today, injuring 20 people and disrupting rail services between Madrid and the north-western region of Galicia, officials said. Several carriages were derailed and six of the injured were taken to hospital in a serious condition, Spain's 112 emergency service said. Railways officials said one train was in a station when the other hit it head-on. State railway company Renfe was investigating the cause of the collision, which took place in the province of Zamora, north-west of Madrid. Firemen tackled flames from two carriages and the engine of one train, emergency services said. Some 200 passengers were evacuated by road while trains from Madrid to Galicia were rerouted to avoid the scene. — Reuters.

routine check, officials said. A protective cover of plastic had been forced open to take the rock, which was the size of a raisin. The rock was picked up in a lunar valley named Taurus-Littrow during the Apollo 17 mission in 1972, the last of the Apollo moon-landing missions. It was one of many moon samples given to nations of the world by the United States. The exact value of the rock wasn't known but a similarly sized moon rock in Honduras, from the same Apollo mission, is worth about \$5 million. That rock was stolen sometime between 1990 and 1994 and was recovered in 1998 after a sting operation.

PAINTING, PARIS, FRANCE

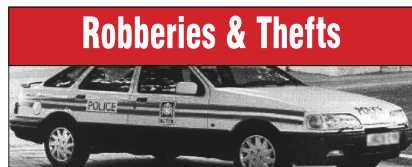
London, May 20 — A painting by Pablo Picasso, worth about Euro2.5-million is missing from a restoration workshop in the Pompidou Centre in Paris, French police said today. Police believe that the small still life, "Nature morte a la charlotte" painted in 1924, may have been stolen. The picture was last seen on Jan 12 and was discovered to be missing last Friday (May 14). "The picture has been reproduced many times and is unsaleable," said a spokesperson for the museum, Jean-Pierre Biron. The blue-grey cubist painting featuring a charlotte pudding on a white cloth had been lent to the Nancy gallery of beautiful art (Musee des Beaux-Arts). It was due to be handed over to a museum in Roubaix, near Lille, after its restoration.

flood-hit mine but the water level in the mine still remains around 70 metres deep. Investigation into the cause of the accident is still underway.

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescue workers are racing against time to pump out the water from a flooded coal mine in Shandan county, Zhangye city of north-west China's Gansu province, where 17 miners who have been trapped since Sunday (May 23) beneath the shaft because of the flooding. "The faster we pump out the water, the more lives we will rescue," said Liu Jie, one of the leaders in charge of the rescue operations, who said six pumps were used to pump out the flooded waters. According to Liu, eight other pumps of larger horsepower have been also transferred from Lanzhou, the provincial capital, to the site of the accident to expedite the water pumping. Around 530 people, along with materials worth some 1 million yuan (about US\$120,500), have been mobilized to participate in the rescue operations. Investigation into the cause of the accident is still underway.

VIARSA I (Panama)

Fremantle, May 25 — Fishing *Viarsa I* is still at Jervoise Bay. — Lloyd's Agents.



GOODS FROM WHOLESALE STORE, BELFAST, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: More than £1m worth of goods have been stolen in an armed robbery at a wholesale store on the outskirts of Belfast. Police blamed a "professional gang" for the raid at the huge Makro cash-and-carry premises at Kingsway, Dunmurry yesterday. Staff were tied up and locked in a room by seven masked men, two of whom were armed with handguns. The raiders used a 40-foot lorry to transport their haul of tobacco, alcohol and expensive electrical goods. It happened between 2100 and 2200, BST, as the workers were arriving for a night shift. The staff members were freed almost four hours later by firefighters, who were responding to an alarm that had been set off in the premises. They were badly shaken, but no-one was injured during the raid. Police Superintendent Gerry Murray said the robbery was well-planned.

MOON ROCK, MDINA, MALTA

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A tiny moon rock believed to be worth about \$5 million was stolen from a museum in Malta, 30 years after President Richard Nixon donated it to the Mediterranean island nation. The theft from the Museum of Natural History in Mdina was discovered Tuesday (May 18) during a



COLLAPSE OF BUILDING, JAKARTA, INDONESIA

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: In Indonesia, eight workers have been killed and 13 injured after the building they were constructing in the capital, Jakarta, collapsed. A fire department official says the three-storey building, due to house a furniture store, collapsed yesterday, trapping workers beneath the rubble. The building collapsed while workers were pouring concrete on the top floor.

FLOODED COAL MINE, GANSU PROVINCE, CHINA

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The 17 workers who were trapped in a coal mine hit by flooding yesterday afternoon in western China's Gansu Province were still missing this morning, according to the local authority. Twenty-nine miners were working in the privately-run Wutao Coal Mine in Shandan County when the accident happened at 1330, yesterday, and 12 were rescued. A group of officials and experts headed by Gansu Deputy Governor Yang Zhiming rushed to the site for rescue operations this morning. The rescuers now are draining water via six pumps from the



ATTRACTIONS, PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL, LANCASHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 21 — A press report, dated today, states: One of Blackpool Pleasure Beach's most popular and historic rides will have to be repaired after a major fire. No-one was injured but the wooden-framed Grand National, which opened in 1935, was one of three rides damaged in the fire. Fifty firefighters took two and a half hours to control the fire which broke out at about 2130, BST, yesterday. An investigation started today but the site is open to the public. It is believed the fire started in the queuing station for the Grand National ride. Tracks and ride cars were destroyed near the ticket station. The Alice in Wonderland and Trauma Towers rides were also damaged. Security staff patrolling the 42-acre amusement park, which was closed for the day, raised the alarm at 2120, BST. Fire investigators say they are keeping an open mind on the cause of the fire although at this stage there are no suspicious circumstances.

BAKERS, DURHAM, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Production is starting again at a bakery a month after its factory was destroyed by fire. The Peters Cathedral Bakers factory, on the Dragonville Industrial Estate, in Durham City, was badly damaged by

the fire on Apr 25. Managers kept on all the company's 650 workers, saying it hoped to start up production again within weeks, and has now moved into a new factory. They have refurbished a bakery in the former Hibernia Foods factory, in Peterlee, and production is starting today with its shops due to reopen tomorrow.

COAL MINE, SAJIBI, PAKISTAN

London, May 26 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion in a coal mine today killed at least three miners in south-western Pakistan, a government official said. The official Maqbool Ahmad said the blast ripped through a mine at Sajibi, a main coal mine area about 50 kilometres east of Quetta, the capital of Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan province, where 15 people were working at the time. He said rescue teams had found three bodies. Ahmad gave no other details, and only said "we do not think other miners would be alive".

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from the gas explosion in a coal mine in southwestern Pakistan is now 15, a government official said today. The official, Maqbool Ahmad, said the blast occurred yesterday at a depth of about 550 metres. All 15 men who were working in the mine at the time have died, he said. Mr Ahmed said it was a gas explosion, but officials did not know exactly what ignited it.

DEPOT, EALING, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 22 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire which swept through a depot destroying 18 vehicles and causing more than £1.5 million worth of damage could have been started deliberately. More than 20 firefighters tackled the blaze at the Greenford Depot on Greenford Road, which houses refuse vehicles for Cardinal, which is the waste contractors for Ealing Council. The fire started at about 0440 Thursday. Eighteen waste vehicles were destroyed during the blaze and police are treating the fire as suspicious at this stage. A spokesman for Ealing Police said: "We are treating this fire as serious and suspicious. The cause of the fire is unknown at this stage but an investigation has begun."

FOREST, ALBERTA, CANADA

London, May 25 — A press report, dated May 20, states: Alberta firefighters are battling their first major forest blaze of the season southwest of Swan Hills. The fire started yesterday and has grown to nearly 10 square kilometres. It is considered to be out of control, but is burning away from the town. The fire came right to the gate of Pengrowth Energy Trust's Judy Creek gas plant last night. But Bob Hodgins, chief financial officer, said it burned around the installation and didn't damage it.

FOREST, VIETNAM

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire swept over

jungles in the Long Xuyen, Kien Giang Quadrangles last Thursday (May 20), destroying 80 hectares of young trees on a plantation in the Kien Luong District, official said. The blaze, which was aided by strong winds, scorched a large field of dry grass before burning through trees planted by local people, said Vo Van Truong, deputy director of the Kien Giang Forest Rangers Department. Although fire prevention forces and police were immediately sent to extinguish the fire, the dry climate and a thick layer of peat fuelled the fire for almost three days, Truong said.

HISTORIC BUILDING, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE, LANCASHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Ninety firefighters have been tackling a huge blaze at an historic building in Greater Manchester. Crews were called to the grade two listed market hall in Ashton-under-Lyne at 0300 BST today. The Victorian building was already well alight and flames were coming through the roof when firefighters arrived at the scene. There are no reports of injuries but the building is thought to have been extensively damaged. Twelve fire engines and three aerial appliances along with police were still at the scene more than four hours after the fire broke out. More than 100 businesses are based in the market, which is the biggest in Tameside.

London, May 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Sniffer dogs are being brought in to try to establish the cause of a fire that destroyed a Grade II listed indoor market in Greater Manchester. Tameside Council has warned it could be months before the market in Ashton-under-Lyne reopens at a new site. Fire investigators have begun an inquiry into the cause of the blaze, which broke out at about 0300, BST, yesterday morning. More than 100 businesses were based in the market, which was built in 1881. Firefighters spent yesterday night at the site damping down.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, LEYTON, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 25 — A press report, dated May 24, states: About 500 people have been asked to leave their homes in east London because of a huge fire on an industrial estate. Fifty firefighters are at Argall Avenue, Leyton, where the fire has spread through factory units over an area the size of a football pitch. They were called at 0340 BST and say there are still gas cylinders inside the warehouse which could explode. Fire crews from across London were called to the scene.

London, May 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Millions of pounds worth of works by some of Britain's top contemporary artists are feared destroyed in a massive warehouse blaze. The fire began on Monday (May 24) at a large premises on an industrial estate in Leyton, east London, and is still not fully extinguished. The building is owned by international art storage and transportation firm Momart. Several of the works believed

to have been destroyed include pieces by Tracey Emin and Sarah Lucas which were owned by leading collector Charles Saatchi. He is said to be "devastated" at their loss. They were stored at the warehouse when not on display at Saatchi's South Bank gallery. Other works reported to have been lost in the fire include Hell, by Jake and Dinos Chapman, and Emin's tent, Everyone I Have Ever Slept With. Carole Hastings, director of Momart, whose client list includes the National Gallery, Tate Modern and Britain and Buckingham Palace, said she believed no works will have survived.

London, May 27 — Lloyd's and London company insurers face a large bill as a result of the blaze that destroyed valuable works of contemporary British art at a warehouse in east London run by storage and transport company Momart. Cover is widely spread around the market for the 100 works by Tracey Emin, Damien Hirst and others of the Britart generation which are feared ruined. Collector Charles Saatchi was among the losers. Immediately after the fire, the insurance market had only sketchy information, as access was restricted to the site, but were told that the likelihood of any works being salvaged was low. A leading fine art underwriter, Annabel Fell-Clark of Ascot syndicate 1414, said: "I would expect this to be a substantial loss to the fine art insurance market, although in terms of Lloyd's as a whole much less so." Underwriters hope the disaster will halt any downward pressure on premium rates. Robert Read, fine art underwriter at Hiscox syndicate 33, said the loss could be significant, but doubted whether it might have a dramatic effect on the overall fine art market. He said the claims should be straightforward to settle if they were on an agreed value basis and were for total losses rather than restorable damage. Sources said it was impossible to predict the financial impact at this stage, but it could be considerably less than in the last comparable London incident, the James Bourlet warehouse fire of 1991, which cost around £40m.

MOUNTAINSIDE, GWENT VALLEYS, WALES, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: South Wales Fire Service say they believe fires on a mountainside in the Gwent Valleys were started deliberately. Up to 70 firefighters spent the night battling a large grass fire over two square miles on the Blorenge mountain near Blaenavon. Around 50 firefighters are still at the scene and they say the blaze is not under control. Gwent Police closed a road on Sunday night after the outbreak. The A4042 between Llanover and the Pottery pub at Blaenavon was shut for more than eight hours. The road was reopened at 0710, BST, today but there were three further outbreaks of fire at approximately 0830, BST.

OIL TERMINAL, LAKE MARACAIBO, VENEZUELA

London, May 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A pipeline exploded

at an oil tanker terminal in western Venezuela today, injuring one oil worker and two firefighters, an official said. The Las Salinas loading terminal in Lake Maracaibo was evacuated while firefighters battled the blaze, said Herman Bracho, civil defence chief for Zulia state. Bracho said a pipeline exploded, forcing a tanker to stop loading. The extent of the victims' injuries wasn't immediately known, he said. Las Salinas is one of two main export terminals in the Maracaibo area, about 500 kilometres west of Caracas. Officials at the state oil company, Petroleos de Venezuela, said they didn't know how long the terminal would be closed.

London, May 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Two vessels were evacuated from their berths after a fire broke out at La Salina Terminal's shore ballast pool yesterday morning. The blaze started at about 0830 hrs, yesterday and efforts to put it out were still under way last night. According to unofficial sources, a Propane sphere exploded for reasons not yet established. In response to the fire, the PDVSA contingency plan was immediately implemented. Personnel evacuation was ordered and two vessels docked at berths 6 & 7 halted operations and proceeded to the anchorage for safety reasons.

London, May 27 — A press report, dated May 26, states: An investigation into the fire at La Salina port yesterday has found that the blaze may have started from a small pump which overheated, according to unofficial sources. Contrary to earlier reports, a propane sphere did not explode. The situation at the port is now under control.

OIL WELL, NIGERIA

London, May 27 — A press report, dated May 25, states: Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) last week deployed four oil well control experts from Boots & Coots International to the scene of the fire at its Afam Well 16 as part of efforts to bring it under control. In a statement released last week, Mr. Don Boham, the company's general manager in-charge of external relations, disclosed that the mobilisation of Boots and Coots followed the intensity and complexity of the fire, which the SPDC-led fire fighting team has been trying to put out. Fire fighting equipment deployed to the scene of the incident include fire trucks, perforated high volume water hoses with longer reach and high capacity discharge pumps. Two water boreholes have also been drilled in readiness for the next phase of the fire fighting, as well as ensuring steady cooling for further well control operations. Afam Well-16 caught fire May 16, after suspected crude oil thieves, damaged the wellhead. Appropriate government and regulatory authorities have been notified of the incident. The report of the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) comprising SPDC, Rivers State Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Ministry of Environment, Directorate of Petroleum

Resources and members of Afam Community, which began on Tuesday will be available on the conclusion of the exercise. It was disclosed that the authorities are in the process of removing the three bodies sighted in the vicinity. Indications are that the casualties were in the process of stealing oil from the site at the time of the accident. A burning tanker was also sighted at the scene of the fire. Afam Well -16, a disused and non-producing well, is located in the Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State. The company also pointed out that there is no danger to the Obeakpu, Afam-Nta, and Afam-Ukwu communities, which are at a safe distance from the site. The company explained that the mobilisation of Boots and Coots followed the intensity and complexity of the fire, which the SPDC fire fighting team, supported by teams from Total and the Port Harcourt Refinery had tried to put out. However, efforts to control the fire are continuing.

PACKAGING PLANT, SALINAS, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, May 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire continued to burn today at a packaging plant just outside Salinas. A spokesman with the Salinas Rural Fire Department said firefighters have contained the fire at the Robert Mann Packaging Co., but it's expected to burn for at least another 12 hours. About 100 firefighters from about 20 agencies throughout Monterey County were at the scene. Since it broke out yesterday night, the fire has consumed approximately six acres of a cardboard and pallet storage area next to the Firestone Business Park. The park contains a number of small business, and is only a few hundred feet from the fire. The blaze began on pallets of flattened boxes used to ship produce and spread fast.

PREMISES, AMESBURY, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A seven-alarm blaze ripped through a century-old building in central Amesbury overnight, destroying the structure but leaving residents unharmed. Firefighters do not yet know how the fire started, but they believe it began in the rear of the Main Street building, which housed the Greenery Designs florist shop, other two businesses and eight apartments. The block had just been renovated. The blaze began just after 2240 hrs, yesterday and spread quickly. Eight residents all escaped safely. Fire crews from both Massachusetts and New Hampshire responded as the fire roared inside the three-story building, making it difficult to get at. Crews had to attack from the outside and three firefighters were treated at the scene for injuries. "We've gone to a defensive attack with multiple deck guns and ladder pipes due to the building's integrity. The interior collapsed early, so now we're just doing a defensive attack and hopefully try to contain the fire to the building of origin," said Amesbury Fire

Chief William Shute. Fire officials said the roof is buckling and the structure is unstable and will have to be torn down. The block was part of a central renaissance project partly funded by the state.

PREMISES, BALING, PEKAN PULAI, MALAYSIA

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Five shops belonging to the Baling district council in Pekan Pulai were destroyed in a fire early today. Baling Fire and Rescue Station Officer-in-Charge Aziz Shamsuddin said three sundry shops, a motorcycle workshop and an eatery were reduced to ashes in the 0330 hrs blaze. He said 11 firefighters, who rushed to the scene upon receiving a distress call, took about 10 minutes to bring the fire under control. The cause of the fire has yet to be ascertained. Sundry shop owner, Jamil Awang, 32, put his losses at RM50,000 as he was unable to save anything from his shop. Baling District Officer Datuk Abdul Wahab Bakar said the damaged shops would be rebuilt for the owners to continue their business.

PREMISES, COLUMBIANA, ALABAMA, UNITED STATES

London, May 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Several firefighters were treated for smoke inhalation and heat exhaustion from battling a fire that destroyed an outdoor furniture plant in Columbiana. The yesterday morning blaze at Summer Classics caused no injuries. The nearly 130,000-square-foot building housed three different operations. "Fire was already coming through the roof when we arrived about 0800 hrs," said Columbiana Volunteer Fire Department Chief Johnny Howard. Nearly a dozen Shelby County fire departments took about five hours to bring the fire under control. The plant was full of a lot of cardboard boxes and more than 2,000 tyres caught fire at the rear of the building. Summer Classics owner Bew White said the building contained a sewing factory for Summer Classics patio furniture, a warehouse for sister company Winter Classics that makes fireplace tools and screens, and a warehouse for an unrelated tyre company. "We have millions of dollars of orders waiting on cushions," White said. The state fire marshal's office began an investigation into the cause of the blaze, about two blocks south of the Columbiana Court House.

PREMISES, CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, May 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire burned through a restaurant and furniture gallery early this morning in Coral Gables, forcing the evacuation of the surrounding neighbourhood. The fire started at Moroccan Nights Restaurant and spread to the Modernism Gallery. The fire destroyed the gallery and the purported million-dollar collection within. It took 30 firefighters several hours to douse the flames. Fire inspectors are now looking inside the restaurant for the cause of the fire.

SCHOOL, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 25 — A press report, dated May 24, states: A school maths block in Gloucestershire has been destroyed in a fire. Crews were called to the building, at Brockworth school near Gloucester, at 2100, BST, on Saturday (May 22). Four fire engines — two from Gloucester and two from Cheltenham — were sent to tackle the blaze. It took several hours to bring the fire under control, and crews were detained throughout the night in an effort to make the block safe. Damage is estimated to be in excess of £1 million.

TEXTILE MILLS, KARACHI, PAKISTAN

Karachi, May 22 — According to Karachi Central Fire Brigade station, a huge fire broke out in a privately owned textile mills in Landhi Industrial area, at Karachi, on May 21. The fire erupted in Younis Textile Mills at plot No.H23/1, at about 1000 hrs, and engulfed the whole factory building. The fire was extinguished in four hours by 12 fire engines, of different stations of Karachi, but heavy loss was sustained by the factory. Large quantities of unstitched cloth and plastics packing machinery were burnt, as well as some portion of the building. The total losses and cause of the fire are yet to be investigated. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

WAREHOUSE, CONYERS, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A huge fire broke out in a chemical warehouse this morning, setting off multiple explosions and prompting police to evacuate residents threatened by a vast cloud of potentially toxic smoke. The fire in the warehouse owned by Biolab, which makes chemicals for pools and cleaning products, was reported about 0430 hrs. Multiple explosions could be seen and heard as flames spread through the warehouse. Plumes of grey, green and white smoke prompted evacuations of homes and businesses within a 1.5-mile radius in Conyers, a suburb of about 10,000 some 20 miles east of downtown Atlanta. By late morning, more than 100 people were at two schools that were set up as temporary shelters. Hospitals reported treating at least nine people who had trouble breathing or suffering because of irritation from the chemicals. People still in the area were advised to close windows and turn off air conditioning. State officials predicted the fire could burn into the evening, but firefighters said the blaze had been contained to the warehouse. It was not immediately clear how it started or what chemicals were burning, although authorities said chlorine was one of the chemicals involved, and its strong smell hung in the air. Several roads around the BioLab plant were closed for at least two hours. Interstate 20, a main thoroughfare into Atlanta, was also closed during rush hour as the smoke cut visibility. The Covington Municipal Airport, about 10 miles from Conyers, also was evacuated.

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators can begin looking for the cause of a multimillion-dollar fire at a chemical warehouse after officials declared an end to an emergency that forced thousands of people from their homes and businesses. Late yesterday, firefighters doused hot spots and began rolling up their hoses at the BioLab Inc. warehouse, and Rockdale County Sheriff Jeff Wigington said the emergency situation was "all but over." Officials allowed Conyers residents to return to their homes about 36 hours after the fire started at the company, which packages chlorine for swimming pools and handles an assortment of chemicals. A few roads around the smoldering warehouse remained closed. As many as 150 firefighters, officers, medical technicians, public health workers and environmental officials were deployed at the fire's peak, according to the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. Rockdale County Commission Chairman Norman Wheeler estimated firefighters pumped as much as 10 million gallons of water. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division and Rockdale County warned the public to stay out of nearby Almand Creek and a tributary because of elevated levels of chlorine washed in by fire hoses. More than 2,000 fish, crabs, frogs, worms and other aquatic life, including a 40-pound carp, were killed by the chlorine that drained into a small lake near the warehouse, EPD spokesman Kevin Chambers said. No drinking water supplies were threatened, he said. A BioLab news release said \$14 million worth of product was destroyed in the fire, including 8 million pounds of chlorine-based swimming pool sanitizers and about 7 million pounds of other sanitizers and assorted pool maintenance products. The building was valued at about \$7 million.

WILDFIRES, RUSSIA

London, May 21 — A press report, dated May 20, states: As many as 300 fires are raging in Russian forests, according to the Emergency Situations Ministry. The total area of the fires has increased by 1,000 hectares to exceed 24,500 hectares, the ministry information department said today. The situation "has fully normalised" in the Kurgan region. Fires in the Krasny Oktyabr (Red October) and Stary Prosvet settlements have been extinguished and localised in other areas. Fire fighting crews can not cope with flames in the Sverdlovsk region, where the fires engulfed a total over 14,000 hectares of woodland. Large fire spots at an area exceeding 3,000 hectares have been also registered in the woods of the Tyumen region. On fire are also forests in Siberia, in the Omsk, Novosibirsk, Kemerovo, Tomsk, Irkutsk and Chita regions, as well as in the Altai and Krasnoyarsk territories, the Altai, Tuva and Khakasia republics. A total over 140 fire spots have been registered in Siberian forests, their total area nearing 6,000 hectares. Situation is the worst in the

Novosibirsk region, where over 3,000 hectares of forest areas are engulfed in flames. The local dry and hot weather promotes fires. The Emergency Situations Ministry said local "populated localities and industrial facilities are not in fire jeopardy."

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews who were pulled off a wildfire that burned more than 1,500 acres and a ranch house resumed work early today, hoping to beat a rush of 45-mph wind. The fire, the state's first large one of the wildfire season, was reported yesterday morning in the Cibola National Forest near Corona. By early afternoon, the wind pushed the flames from tree to tree. Fire crews were pulled off the fire late yesterday because windy conditions and darkness created dangerous firefighting conditions. Winds were around 18 mph early today but were expected to increase. The National Weather Service in Albuquerque issued a wind advisory from noon until Saturday evening for much of eastern New Mexico, including the burn area. A home on the Sanchez Ranch about 10 miles from Corona was burned as the fire moved through there. The fire also burned through an area where television, communication and microwave towers were located.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters battled a blaze that charred a ranch home and nearly 4,000 acres in central New Mexico, but afternoon wind made the fight more difficult Saturday. The state's first big wildfire of the season was reported Friday morning in the Cibola National Forest near Corona, about 85 miles south-east of Albuquerque. By early afternoon, the wind pushed the flames from tree to tree. About 240 firefighters on the ground had help early Saturday from four single-engine air tankers, but the planes were grounded in the afternoon because of strong winds, fire information officer Karen Takia said. "The wind is pretty horrific gusts up to 65 mph," fire information officer Rebecca Stoneman said. "The dust is unbelievable." The erratic nature of the flames made it too dangerous to attack head-on, Takia said. Instead, she said, crews attacked the fire from the flanks and from the rear. A home on the Sanchez Ranch about 10 miles from Corona was burned as the fire moved through there, fire information officer Mark Chavez said. The ranch was evacuated earlier Friday. A mountain cabin was also feared lost, but firefighters could not get close enough for a confirmation. The fire also burned through an area where television, communication and microwave towers were located. Officials are investigating the cause. Officials said there were no reports of lightning in the area.

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A forest fire in south-central New Mexico's Capitan Mountains had grown to 9,500 acres today as firefighters worked to protect homes in the area. Gov. Bill Richardson had already declared a state of

emergency because of the fire in Lincoln County. Some two dozen homes, only seven of them occupied, were ordered evacuated Sunday (May 23) when the fire more than tripled in size. The fire was started May 15 by lightning. Firefighters bulldozed lines around homes in the area and fire engines were stationed near them as a precaution. Fire information officer Beth Wilson said no injuries were reported. At least one structure may have been lost in the Pine Lodge area. The governor's emergency declaration made yesterday allows the National Guard to assist with the firefighting, including two helicopters, and frees up \$750,000 in state assistance. The fire was burning in mixed coniferous forest. Much of the standing timber had already been killed by bark beetles and was tinder-dry, Wilson said. Other fires in the state included one that had charred 4,750 acres about 50 miles away in the Cibola National Forest. It was 60 percent contained.

London, May 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A fast-moving wildfire fueled by dry forest land grew to more than 23,000 acres today, forcing the evacuation of dozens of homes, officials said. No injuries were reported in the fire in the Lincoln National Forest in south-central New Mexico, said fire information officer Beth Wilson. As firefighters worked to contain the blaze, Federal Emergency Management Agency officials announced they would cover up to 75 percent of the cost of fighting the wildfire. Gov. Bill Richardson renewed his call for the federal government to rescind an order grounding all heavy air tankers used to drop fire retardant on wildfires. The aircrafts were grounded because of safety concerns after two broke up in flight during the 2002 fire season. Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee that oversees the U.S. Forest Service, said agency officials assured him they will make available smaller military C-130 air tankers - available with other firefighting equipment. However, officials with the regional Forest Service office and the Southwest Coordination Centre in Albuquerque said they were unaware of the Forest Service preparing C-130s for work in New Mexico.



AIRCRAFT COLLAPSE AT LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A Boeing 747 aircraft collapsed at London Heathrow Airport yesterday while engineers were carrying out maintenance work. No one was injured when the nose of the Boeing 747 crashed to the ground as landing gear folded. British Airways is investigating why safety pins, which

should have secured the landing gear, apparently failed. The aircraft, belonging to EVA Air of Taiwan, had been due to leave the west London airport on Saturday (May 22), but was delayed by hydraulics problems. Passengers were sent to a nearby hotel while BA engineers checked the hydraulics systems.

AIRCRAFT DIVERTED TO INDIANAPOLIS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A regional commercial jet flying from St. Louis to Newark, N.J., was diverted to Indianapolis International Airport yesterday because smoke was spotted in the cockpit and cabin of the aircraft, an airport spokesman said. The aircraft landed safely shortly before 1800, EST, and the 44 passengers and crew on board were evacuated, spokesman Dennis Rosebrough said. No one was injured, and passengers were booked on other flights to Newark. There was no evidence of fire on the aircraft, which was operated by Chautauqua Airlines flying for American Airlines, Rosebrough said. Rosebrough said an electrical short circuit could have caused the smoke. The mid-sized jet, an Embraer, remained last night in Indianapolis, where Chautauqua has a maintenance hanger, he said.

AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO ABERDEEN AIRPORT, SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Air officials today said no further action would be taken over an aircraft incident at Aberdeen Airport. A full-scale alert was launched after the pilot of a Jetstream 32 with 12 people on board reported undercarriage problems. The drama started around 1230, May 14, just 13 minutes after the Eastern Airways operated aircraft took off from Aberdeen. Fire and ambulance crews were on standby at the airport following the pilot's report. The Newcastle-bound aircraft turned back for Aberdeen Airport and circled the airport for over an hour before being cleared to land. Throughout the drama the pilot was talking with air traffic control. The Jetstream, carrying nine passengers and three crew, landed safely at 1346 hrs. No one was injured. Today a spokesperson for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said the incident had been recorded but the Air Accident Investigation Branch had not been involved. A report by the CAA Safety Regulation Group said the aircraft had a hydraulic problem. The report said: "On lowering the landing gear the nosewheel was 90 degrees out of alignment. After fly past inspection, the aircraft landed slowly and the nosewheel was corrected."

AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO BATU BERENDAM AIRPORT, MALACCA, MALAYSIA

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A Fokker 27 of the

Merpati Nusantara Airways of Indonesia returned five minutes after take off from Batu Berendam Airport, when the pilot detected a mechanical fault in the engine. The aircraft carrying 33 passengers, including the crew, took off from Batu Berendam at 1115 hrs for Batam, Indonesia. "The captain felt there was a fault on the right engine and decided to return to the airport," said a spokesman of the Department of Civil Aviation. According to the spokesman, all passengers were safe and the Fokker 27 aircraft was now undergoing an inspection.

C-GFGV

London, May 20 — On May 18, privately owned Cessna 170, C-GFGV, took off from Valleyview, Alberta on a return flight to Killam, Alberta, with three persons on board. During the initial climb the aircraft encountered a downdraught and stalled. The pilot increased power and attempted to fly out of the winds, however, struck trees and came to rest upright in a slough at the end of the runway. The pilot and one passenger received minor injuries, the other passenger was more seriously hurt. The aircraft was substantially damaged.

C-GQHT

London, May 20 — De Havilland DHC-2 Mk.1 Beaver, C-GQHT, departed the operator's water base at Sioux Lookout, Ontario, on May 18, en route to an outpost camp at Fawcett Lake. The aircraft was overdue and a communications search was unsuccessful. The aircraft was observed several hours later, overturned in Fawcett Lake. The occupants were not located. TSB investigators and an OPP dive team are enroute.

CC-CWP

London, May 26 — Cessna 172M CC-CWP, was substantially damaged after crashing following an encounter with inclement weather while in cruise flight near Curico, Chile, at 1400, EDT, May 10. The pilot and one passenger were seriously injured and another passenger was fatally injured. The aircraft was owned and operated by the surviving passenger.

COLLAPSE OF TERMINAL, PARIS AIRPORT, FRANCE

London, May 23 — The BBC reported today: At least five people have been killed and three hurt after a roof collapsed at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport. The reason for the collapse in terminal 2E, a newly-constructed part of the international airport, was not immediately clear. The accident took place at 0700, local time (0500, UTC). The area has been evacuated and 300 fire-fighters are at the scene. Reports said sections of a roof fell onto a boarding footway. The passage, in turn, collapsed onto airport service vehicles parked underneath. Several tonnes of concrete and glass have collapsed, Laurent Vibert, a spokesman for the fire service said. Rubble was strewn over an area of around 30 metres. Three police officers are reported to be among

the dead. Emergency workers are trying to reach people who may still be trapped beneath the wreckage. Terminal 2E cost 750m euros to build and was opened in 2003. It is used by Air France and the Sky Team alliance.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Construction workers have heard the sound of cracks in the roof of a Paris airport terminal where part of the ceiling collapsed a day earlier, an airport spokesman said. He said the workers were evacuated as a precaution. The terminal 2E at Charles de Gaulle airport has been closed since yesterday's accident killed four people, but workers are there clearing the rubble and trying to ensure the building is safe.

Paris, May 25 — New cracks appeared at a Paris airport terminal yesterday, a day after part of the roof collapsed, and the airport's head vowed to tear the terminal down if an investigation finds it is unsafe. Terminal 2E at Charles de Gaulle airport has been closed to passengers since Sunday's (May 23) accident killed four people, but workers spotted the cracks as they cleared the rubble. "A certain number of cracks were observed in a second zone that is identical in design to the area where the roof collapsed," Rene Brun, director of operations at the airport, told reporters. "Given our concerns about what happened on Sunday and for precautionary reasons, we decided to evacuate it." Concrete, metal and glass crashed down onto a waiting area in terminal 2E on Sunday morning, bringing down a large section of the long tube-like building at Paris' biggest airport — minutes after passengers saw and heard cracks in the roof. Permanent closure of the showcase building would be a big blow to the finances and image of operator Aeroports de Paris (ADP) as it prepares for partial privatisation, but ADP chairman Pierre Graff said safety was the top priority. "If all the (structural) rings which make up this terminal are beyond repair, we will raze everything to the ground," he told Le Parisien newspaper in an interview. "We will take no risk in terms of safety." Firemen said they had retrieved four bodies from the rubble, revising the death toll down from five. The search could last days and it was not clear if there were more bodies under the rubble, a fire brigade spokesman said. The futuristic terminal, used mainly by national carrier Air France, opened only 11 months ago and is intended eventually to handle 10 million passengers. Covered by a domed roof perforated with small windows that bathe it in light, the terminal cost 750 million euros, and was hailed as a triumph of engineering and design. Its about 60 daily flights are being diverted to other terminals at the airport in Roissy, on the northeastern outskirts of Paris. The collapse has raised questions about the design and construction, and whether the terminal was built too fast. Hubert Fontanel, who oversaw construction of the terminal for ADP, declined to speculate on the reasons for the roof's collapse until a judicial

investigation is complete. He said that during construction, ADP had found cracks in some supporting pillars but they had been reinforced with carbon fibres. He denied construction had been rushed or that ADP opted for a futuristic cylindrical design without regard for safety. "The design is avant garde but the building was conceived with the strictest technical requirements and is made of classic materials like cement," he said. Architect Paul Andreu flew back from China where he is working on an opera house. "I can't explain what happened. I just don't understand it," he told L'Humanite newspaper. Andreu and ADP said they adhered to all required security checks. They said the terminal's opening last year was delayed by just over a week because of problems such as electricity installations, which had nothing to do with the bigger structure. Even so, shares in French construction firm Vinci, which helped build the terminal, ended down 1.9 per cent on Monday. Analysts said the accident dented ADP's image and could delay plans to partially privatise it in 2005. — Reuters.

CRASH INTO LAKE BARTON, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, May 27 — A press report, dated May 26, states: Investigators are trying to determine what caused a small aircraft to crash into a lake just east of Orlando Executive Airport. The aircraft was left completely submerged. The Cessna 172 remains at the bottom of Lake Barton, under about 30 feet of water. Emergency crews say it could take more than a day pull it out. Federal Aviation Administration agents say the plane was registered to Grady and Francis Inc. of Orlando. Orlando emergency crews say a 60-year-old student pilot was behind the controls of the Cessna. "There were no injuries. He walked away from it," says Orlando Fire Spokesman Chip Netzer. When they begin the recovery, divers will swim under the aircraft and attach straps. Those straps will be attached to a helicopter, which will lift the aircraft out.

CRASH, FAWCETT LAKE, ONTARIO, CANADA

See C-GQHT.

CRASH, MOUNT QOMOLANGMA AREA, NEPAL

Kathmandu, May 25 — A small cargo plane carrying three crew members went missing in Nepal's Mount Everest region today, airport officials said. They said the Twin Otter aircraft owned by private firm Yeti Airlines was flying from the capital Kathmandu to Lukla in east Nepal. "A search for the plane has already begun but it has not been traced so far," an official at Kathmandu airport told Reuters. The plane left the Nepali capital at 1330 hrs (0745, UTC) for Lukla but lost contact with air traffic controllers soon after taking off, another airport official said. — Reuters.

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A twin otter cargo

aircraft with three persons on board crashed this afternoon in the Mount Qomolangma area in north-eastern Nepal, a Nepali official confirmed this evening. An aircraft of Yeti airlines, a private airlines, was found crashed by a rescue team sent to trace the missing aircraft at Lamajura area of Solokhumbu district, some 200 km north-east of Kathmandu, an official of the Nepali Department of Civil Aviation said. However, the condition of pilot Prakash Sriwastav, co-pilot Rabi Gurung and flight attendant Nawang Sherpa on board the aircraft is not known, he said. A helicopter of the Royal Nepal Army and another of a private airlines spotted the aircraft crashed in the area. The aircraft carrying cargo from Nepal's capital Kathmandu to Lukla, near Mount Qomolangma base camp, had been missing since 1330, local time. The last communications contact with the aircraft from the area called Lamajura was disconnected after about half-an-hour the aircraft set off. Rescue is continuing, and the reason of the accident is not known, he added.

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers returned to Kathmandu yesterday with the bodies of three people who died when a small cargo aircraft went down amid bad weather near Mount Everest, airport officials said. The Twin Otter light aircraft owned by private Yeti Airlines crashed Tuesday (May 25) at Lamjura, situated at 3,536 metres on the trail to Mount Everest in northeastern Nepal. Officials identified the victims as pilot Prakash Srivastav, co-pilot Ravi Gurung and attendant Nima Sherpa. Nepal's aviation ministry has launched a probe into the cause of the crash.

CRASH, MWINGI DISTRICT, KENYA

London, May 23 — A press report, dated May 24, states: Two pilots navigating a cargo aircraft destined for Somalia were burnt to death yesterday morning when the aircraft crashed in a remote part of Mwingi District and blew up. The pilots whose identity is being withheld until the next of kin are informed were burnt beyond recognition after the aircraft caught fire and plunged into a forest in Kalandini village, Mbuvu location Mwingi District at about 0730 hrs. The charred remains were later airlifted to Nairobi in a police helicopter that flew to the region with investigators. The Blue Bird Aviation Let 410 cargo aircraft was travelling from Wilson Airport to Mogadishu when it developed mechanical problems. It caught fire and plunged into the dense baobab forest, about 30 kilometres South of Mwingi town. The aircraft was transporting 55 bags of miraa (khat) weighing 1,500 kilogrammes to Somalia. According to an eyewitness, the aircraft's engine emitted smoke and later fire before it plunged into the forest. "I heard the engine of the aircraft change then saw smoke and later fire billowing out of one of the engines. The aircraft then plunged into the forest and exploded. We could not save any of them because

it was deep in the forest and accessibility was difficult," he said. Blue Bird Aviation Operations manager, Captain Hussein Mohammed who flew to the accident scene yesterday afternoon with aviation inspectors and police officers said that the cause of the accident was not yet ascertained but that investigations had been launched. He said the two were experienced and seasoned pilots in the largest company operating from Wilson Airport. "It is an unfortunate incident and we have lost two of the most experienced pilots. We do not know what happened but the investigators will definitely find out," Mohammed said. Aviation accident inspectors earlier went to the scene but came back to Nairobi for more equipment. An officer from the Eastern Provincial Criminal Investigations office, Pius Barasa said police had secured the area and would begin investigations into the cause of the accident immediately. Police spokesman, Jasper Ombati who confirmed the accident said the aircraft crashed in Ukase area in Mwingi District at about 0730 hrs. A police statement revealed that the aircraft developed mechanical problems before it caught fire and nose-dived killing the two pilots aboard. "The pilots, a foreigner and a Kenyan were burnt beyond recognition and the aircraft was extensively damaged." The aircraft had departed from Wilson airport at 0630 hrs destined for Mogadishu, Somalia.

CRASH, PALMDALE AREA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, May 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A helicopter carrying a crew filming promos for the upcoming Olympic Games crashed near Palmdale today, but no one was seriously hurt, according to accounts from the scene. Paramedics were sent to an area two miles north of Palmdale Boulevard on 70th Street East about 1310, said county fire Capt. Mark Savage. A photographer in the helicopter suffered "moderate" injuries to a wrist and his ribs, but the pilot was not hurt and a second passenger did not require hospitalisation. The most severely injured patient reportedly was taken by air ambulance to the trauma centre at Providence-Holy Cross Hospital in Mission Hills. The crew was filming promotional items for the Olympics. The pilot said he heard a pop and the helicopter lost power about 200 feet off the ground, according to the report. The pilot was able to avoid a highway below, but the aircraft hit the ground hard and flipped over a couple of times. The Bell 206 helicopter sustained severe damage, Savage said, and there was a fuel leak but no fire. The cause of the malfunction was being investigated by federal authorities. "The aircraft was totally destroyed," said Allen Kenitzer, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

CRASH, PARE BUGIS, INDONESIA

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A single-engine plane belonging to a private foundation

with five passengers and a pilot on board crash landed this afternoon just outside the village of Pare Bugis, Arang Linbung District, Pontianak Regency, about seven kilometers short of Supadio Airport. The plane, which was on a flight from Sintang Regency to the airport, crashed at 1615 hrs, in a forested area adjacent to the Ahmad Yani II highway. The plane ended up nose first about a half a meter deep in the soil. Antara reported that all of passengers together with American pilot, identified only as Michael, reportedly survived with minor injuries and were taken to a hospital for treatment. Head of the Operational Division of Pontianak's PT Angkasa Pura, which manages the airport, Kosasih Munir, said he did not know the exact cause of the crash, but the incident happened during a heavy rain storm in and around Pontianak. Local authorities were still trying to recover the plane.

EMERGENCY LANDING AT LEHIGH VALLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

London, May 26 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The pilot of a Vacation Express jet made an emergency landing Saturday (May 22) morning at the Lehigh Valley International Airport near Allentown after an engine overheated and was shut down in flight. The flight, which originated from Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport, and was bound for Myrtle Beach, S.C., landed safely using its remaining working engine. Jim Gallagher, president of Aviation Technologies, which operates the local Vacation Express flights, said it appears an oil leak caused a high temperature on the No. 1 engine of the Boeing 737 jet. The airline sent a different aircraft to fly the passengers to their destination. The delay lasted six hours and all 81 passengers boarded the replacement jet, Gallagher said.

EMERGENCY LANDING AT WILMINGTON AIRPORT, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, May 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: More than 300 Scottish tourists feared for their lives after their transatlantic aircraft caught fire. The My Travel flight from Florida to Glasgow was forced to make an emergency landing at an airport in North Carolina after dumping thousands of tonnes of fuel into the sea. Passengers had seen smoke and sparks coming from the cockpit just after the aircraft took off from Orlando. Fire engines and ambulances rushed to meet the aircraft at Wilmington Airport but none of the passengers was hurt. A spokeswoman for Glasgow Airport said yesterday: "A My Travel flight from Orlando was due to arrive at Glasgow International Airport at 0355 Friday. Unfortunately, due to an incident on board the plane, it had to be diverted. Passengers finally arrived in Glasgow today at 0728 hrs." Because Wilmington Airport did not have the equipment to off-load a Boeing 767, passengers had to fly home without their luggage.

Investigators are examining the aircraft to try to determine the cause of the fire.

EMERGENCY LANDING, KARACHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PAKISTAN

Karachi, May 21 — Pakistan International Airlines said today that one of its aircraft, bound for Quetta in Balochistan Province from Karachi International Airport, was grounded at Karachi International Airport this morning following a detection of a technical fault. A spokesman for the airline said flight number PK 310 with 200 passengers on board took-off from Karachi airport at 0730 hrs for Quetta and during 30 minutes flight, the pilot found some technical problems and requested permission to return. The passengers were transferred to a lounge while the airbus was being repaired at Karachi. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

EMERGENCY LANDING, KUWAIT

London, May 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An Iranian passenger aircraft, bound for the central city of Isfahan, made an emergency landing shortly after takeoff from an airport in Kuwait. Mohammad Soltani, the head of the flag carrier Iran Air office in Kuwait, said the aircraft was forced to turn around 15 minutes after takeoff when the pilot noticed a technical problem in one of its engines. The aircraft landed with no incident, he said, adding no one was either injured. The passengers were helped to safely get off through emergency exits, before being flown on another flight to Isfahan, Soltani said. The aircraft also flew to Iran for further checks after the technical failure was removed.

EMERGENCY LANDING, WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, May 21 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Around 1530 this afternoon, Wilmington Airport officials got a call that a charter Boeing 767 flight out of Florida, heading for Scotland, would have to make an emergency landing. Smoke and sparks were coming from the cockpit. The landing was safe, but rough. The aircraft will remain parked until investigators can figure out what went wrong, and a new aircraft can be flown in to take its place. All of the passengers were put up at the Wilmington Inn for the night.

EMERGENCY LANDING, YEKATERINBURG, RUSSIA

London, May 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A TU-154 transport aircraft carrying 97 passengers was forced to land in Yekaterinburg. "The plane made an emergency landing at 0534, Moscow time. No one was hurt," head of the Emergency Situations Ministry's information department Viktor Beltsov told Interfax. He said that the aircraft was flying the Krasnodar-Yekaterinburg route. There was a failure in the front landing gear after the plane took off from Yekaterinburg. The aircraft then had to circle above the

airport until it could be cleared for landing. Apart from the 97 passengers and the crew, the aircraft was carrying approximately nine tonnes of baggage and cargo.

INCIDENT AT NELSON AIRPORT, NEW ZEALAND

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Air New Zealand is using a replacement aircraft to ease the load after an aircraft carrying 32 passengers rolled off the runway at Nelson Airport last night. This morning's flights are running as usual but two are cancelled this afternoon, and passengers have been rebooked. Although there is no visible damage to the aircraft, safety checks are being carried out to ensure it is OK to fly.

N2019F

London, May 22 — Bell 206L-3 (LongRanger III), N2019F, operated by Twinair Capital LLC, while on a flight from Van Nuys, California, to Palmdale, California, with four persons on board, and while filming in vicinity of 70th Street and Palmdale Boulevard, lost engine power and crashed in a field 3.5 miles south-east of Palmdale Airport, at 2005, UTC, May 20. The aircraft was destroyed and all four persons on board suffered minor injuries.

N206AF

London, May 25 — Bell 206B, N206AF, operated by Global Helicopter LLC, crashed on landing in a field under unknown circumstances at Auburn, Washington, at 2115, local time, May 23. The aircraft was substantially damaged.

N216HP

London, May 22 — Eurocopter AS 350 B3, N216HP, operated by California Highway Patrol, while on a flight from Sacramento Airport to Livermore, California, with two persons on board, while hover taxiing to parking at Livermore Airport, struck a fence with the tail rotor, at 0100, UTC, May 20. The helicopter sustained substantial damage, but no reported injuries.

N231DL

London, May 27 — Mooney M20K, N231DL, operated by Lashley Auto Sales Inc., is missing and presumed crashed in the Jackson Hole area, Wyoming, about 1730, May 23. The two persons on board are assumed fatal. The search continues.

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft (N231DL) missing for three days was found yesterday near the state's tallest mountain in west-central Wyoming. All three passengers were dead, authorities said. Ground crews found the aircraft's wreckage in a rocky area about a mile east of the 13,780-foot Gannett Peak, Fremont County sheriff's Capt. David Good said. Investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board were en route, he said. Bad weather was expected to delay body recovery until early next week. The aircraft was carrying Rod and Char Lashley, and Leslie Hofmeister, all of Scottsbluff,

Neb. They were the parents and girlfriend of University of Arizona golfer Nate Lashley, who was not on the aircraft. Aerial and ground crews had been hampered by heavy snow and high wind yesterday as they combed a rocky area dotted with glaciers in the Wind River Range. The aircraft disappeared from radar Sunday (May 23) south of Dubois. Rod Lashley was apparently trying to reach Riverton, 68 miles to the south, to sit out the bad weather, Good said. A search began Monday by the Civil Air Patrol and deputies from Fremont and Sublette counties. Aerial crews suspended search efforts after dark Tuesday, but six mountaineers spent the night in the area and resumed their search early yesterday. Rod Lashley, a used car dealer and pilot for several years, had been returning to Scottsbluff from Sun River, Ore.

London, May 27 — A press report, dated May 26, states: A small plane missing for three days was found today near the state's tallest mountain in west-central Wyoming. All three passengers were dead, authorities said. Ground crews found debris at 1030 hrs and found the plane's wreckage shortly thereafter in a rocky area about a mile east of the 13,780-foot Gannett Peak, Fremont County sheriff's Capt. David Good said. Investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board were en route, he said. Bad weather was expected to delay recovery of the bodies until early next week. The Mooney M20K was carrying Rod and Char Lashley, and Leslie Hofmeister, all of Scottsbluff, Neb. The plane disappeared from radar south of Dubois on Sunday (May 23). Rod Lashley was apparently trying to reach Riverton, about 68 miles to the south, to sit out a spell of bad weather, Good said. A search by the Civil Air Patrol and deputies from Fremont and Sublette counties began Monday (May 24). Aerial crews suspended search efforts after dark yesterday, but six mountaineers spent the night in the area and resumed their search early today. Rod Lashley, a used-car dealer and pilot for several years, had been returning to Scottsbluff, Neb., from Sunriver, Ore., where his son had been in a regional golf tournament.

N4319Z

London, May 24 — A press report, dated May 23, states: One person died and another was injured in a plane crash near Cold Bay over the weekend. Coast Guard air crews and local volunteers reached the wreckage early yesterday morning and freed the pilot, Rex Maurer, 57, who was flown to Seattle for medical treatment at Harborview Medical Center, Alaska state troopers said. A hospital spokeswoman said last night Maurer was listed in serious condition, but she would not comment on the nature of his injuries. A passenger, Gary Hudson, 60, of Portland, died in the crash, troopers said. Maurer, who has addresses in Issaquah and Kenai, Alaska, was flying a Piper PA-18 on floats, troopers said. The Coast Guard said its Command Center in Juneau received an

emergency satellite signal about 2100 hrs Friday (May 21) reporting a possible distress in the Cold Bay area. Kenai flight services also reported an overdue plane at that time. A Coast Guard C-130 airplane spotted an inverted airplane about 0230 hrs, yesterday. The Cold Bay airport manager arranged a ground party to investigate the crash site a few miles away near Blinn Lake.

London, May 25 — Piper PA-18-150 (Super Cub), N4319Z, crashed on landing and became inverted at Blinn Lake, Cold Bay, Alaska, at 2321, local time, May 21. Two persons were on board, one was fatally injured, the second sustained unspecified injuries. The aircraft was substantially damaged.

N5361R

London, May 22 — Piper PA-34-200T (Seneca II), N5361R, operated by Primavera Aviation LLC, with two persons on board, lost control after landing on runway 25L, Livermore Airport, at 1755 UTC, May 20, and went on the left side of the runway into the dirt. The aircraft was substantially damaged, but no injuries reported.

N5763W

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: One person died after a small airplane crashed into a residential area near Oxford Airport in rain and fog yesterday night, the Oxford Fire Department said. Severe weather, including strong thunderstorms and one reported tornado near Cromwell, blanketed Connecticut yesterday night. It was not clear if weather played a role in the crash. The pilot's name was not immediately released. There were no passengers. The plane landed on Jacks Hill Road shortly after 2100 hrs and crashed into trees in some front yards, a fire department official said. No one on the ground was injured. Federal authorities were to be called in to investigate.

London, May 25 — Mooney M20J, N5763W, operated by Koalair LLC, on approach to runway 36, crashed half-a-mile from the airport at Oxford, Connecticut, at 2110, local time, May 23. The one person on board was fatally injured. The aircraft was destroyed.

N61611

London, May 21 — Cessna A185F, N61611, crashed in a wooded area under unknown circumstances 33 nautical miles east of Salem, Oregon, at 0200, local time, May 19. The one person on board was fatally injured. The aircraft sustained substantial damage.

N7460Y

London, May 25 — A press report, dated May 24, states: Investigators today were probing the cause of a small-plane crash near Evanston that killed two people and a dog, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The Piper PA-30 crashed yesterday night on its final approach to the Evanston-Uinta County Burns Field, FAA spokesman Allen Kenitzer said. "It apparently crashed

during unknown circumstances," he said. Everyone on board, including a dog, was pronounced dead. Identities were being withheld pending notification of family, although an FAA Web site listed the plane's registered owner as an Evanston man. According to the FAA, the 40-year-old, multiengine plane was flying from Heber City, Utah, to Evanston - about an 80-mile journey.

London, May 25 — Piper PA30, (Twin Comanche), N7460Y, crashed under unknown circumstances, 150 yards east of the approach end on runway 23 at Evanston, Wyoming, at 0315, local time, May 24. The two persons on board were fatally injured, one canine was also fatally injured.

OP-1751-P

London, May 26 — Aero Continente Boeing 737, OB-1751-P, experienced a port engine problems shortly after take-off from Coronel Fap Francisco Secada Vignetta airport, Iquitos, Peru, at approximately 1945, UTC, May 19. The flightcrew shut down the engine and returned to the airport without further incident. There were no injuries.



MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLD-WIDE

London, May 21 — A press report, dated May 20, states: Japanese auto firm Mitsubishi Fuso has announced its second recall of defective trucks in as many weeks. The company said it had

detected four new faults in its vehicles, including a clutch defect which may have caused a fatal accident two years ago. The firm made 170,000 models of the truck with the faulty clutch, but it did not say how many it would recall. On 6 May, Mitsubishi Fuso recalled 112,000 trucks with a wheel design flaw also thought to have caused a death. Seven executives have been arrested as part of a police investigation into whether the truck maker covered up the wheel defect. That flaw is thought to have caused a wheel to break off a moving truck in Yokohama in January 2002, killing a passing pedestrian. The clutch defect has been linked to a separate accident in October 2002, when the driver of a Mitsubishi truck died in Yamaguchi province, western Japan, after apparently losing control of his vehicle. Mitsubishi Fuso, 65% owned by US-German car giant DaimlerChrysler, issued an apology for the latest flaw. "We apologise for the quality problems and the company's serious wrongdoings in the past," said chief executive Wilfried Porth.



BANGLADESH

London, May 23 — A press report, dated May 21, states: Default by importers in releasing their containers in due time has created a severe cargo-jam at the country's principal sea port of Chittagong. In order to ease container-clogging, the Chittagong Port

Authority (CPA) has decided to impose extra penal rent on the stranded containers with effect from June 1. Sources at the Chittagong port authority said that at present different types of containers — Full Container Load (FCL), Loose Container Load (LCL), Containers for Inland Container Depot (ICD), empty container and ex-load container — have filled up all available space at the yard and the sheds. The container-jam is likely to worsen when five other vessels laden with 2315 Twenty Equivalent Units (TEUs) of containers are scheduled to berth by tonight, a top CPA official said. Sources said that 15 thousand containers and nine TEUs remained stranded in the port yard till last night against the yard capacity for 13,200 containers and 78 TEUs at any given time. The congestion was further aggravated as a portion of the container terminal was made over to the under-construction New Mooring Container Terminal. CPA on Wednesday (May 19) issued a notice to the importers, shipping agents and the Main Lines Operators (MLOs) to release their goods from the port by May 31 failing which the penal rent, effective June 1, would have to be paid.

ITALY

Genoa, May 25 — Port situation May 25: Genoa: Two vessels awaiting berth. Average delay 12-24 hours. Savona: No vessels awaiting berths. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

SYRIA

Lattakia, May 15 — Waiting time is presently one day at Lattakia and four days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	26-May-2004	Coal: 1 vessel loading, 1 anchored; 5 vessels due by 2/6; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Dalrymple Bay	26-May-2004	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 2 anchored; 58 vessels due by 23/7; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability; depending on type of cargo required, delays of up to 14 days can be expected.
Hay Point	26-May-2004	Coal: 2 vessels loading, 6 anchored; 8 vessels due by 10/6; up to 6 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion.
Gladstone	26-May-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 3 vessels berthed, 12 anchored; 25 vessels due by 16/6; up to 8 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed, 1 anchored; 4 vessels due by 20/6; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Barney Point will be shut down from approx. 27/5 for 8 days to undertake beam replacement work.
Newcastle	26-May-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels loading, 14 waiting; 12 vessels due by 31/5; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels loading, 6 waiting; 5 vessels due by 2/6; 6-10 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal and heavy shipping schedule. Grain: 4 vessels due by 18/6, all to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay at present due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Kembla	26-May-2004	Coal: 9 vessels due by 25/6; CB1: 5 vessels due by 3/7; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain: 4 vessels due by 8/6, all to load wheat; up to 9 days delay at present due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Hedland	26-May-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 5 vessels due by 31/5; 1-2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 6 anchored; 6 vessels due by 5/6; 1-5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island): 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1

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Port Conditions

		anchored; 3 vessels due by 28/5; 1-3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 2 vessels due by 3/6; berth will be closed for repairs for 5 days from ca. 28/5; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Due to heavy demand for product, acute cargo shortages are being experienced at wharf stockpiles. Vessels will continue to berth as product becomes available.
Dampier	26-May-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 11 vessels due by 7/6; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; cargo shortages are evident, long delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 11 vessels due by 8/6; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; cargo shortages are evident, delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn.
Port Walcott	26-May-2004	Iron ore: force majeure is still in effect; 2 vessels berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 18 vessels due by 18/6; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Melbourne	26-May-2004	5 vessels due by 6/6, 4 to load wheat, 1 wheat/barley; up to 5 days delay at present due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Geelong	26-May-2004	Grain: 4 vessels due by 8/6, 3 to load barley, 1 wheat; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Portland	26-May-2004	Grain: 6 vessels due by 27/6, 1 to load canola, 1 wheat, 3 barley, 1 wood-chips; up to 8 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Adelaide	26-May-2004	Grain: No. 27 berth: 14 vessels due by 30/6, 11 to load wheat, 1 barley, 1 canola, 1 unknown cargo; up to 9 days delay expected due to berth congestion.
Port Giles	26-May-2004	Grain: 3 vessels due by 20/6, 2 to load barley, 1 wheat; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion.
Wallaroo	26-May-2004	Grain: 2 vessels due by 28/5, both to load wheat; 2-3 days delay expected due to berth congestion.
Port Pirie	26-May-2004	Grain: No. 2 berth: no vessels scheduled. Berth will be closed to shipping from 1/7 to 9/8 for electrical upgrade in silo control room.
Port Lincoln	26-May-2004	Grain: 5 vessels due by 9/6, 2 to load barley, 3 wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion.
Geraldton	26-May-2004	Iron ore: 3 vessels due by 30/5; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain: 9 vessels due by 18/6, 6 to load wheat, 1 lupins., 1 feed, 1 barley; 1-8 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Kwinana	26-May-2004	Grain: 16 vessels due by 19/6, all to load wheat; 1-6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Albany	26-May-2004	Grain: 6 vessels due by 4/6, 2 to load barley, 4 wheat; 1-9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Esperance	26-May-2004	Iron ore: 2 vessels due by 12/6; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain: 3 vessels due by 12/6, 1 to load barley, 2 wheat; up to 4 days delay expected due to cargo availability and berth congestion.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	25-May-2004	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 3 coils, 1 scrap, 1 sunflower seeds, 1 metals, 1 gasoil), 1 discharging billets; 6 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 5 empty, 1 steel sheet; 13 vessels due of which 5 to load (1 steel sheets, 2 containers, 1 coils, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate), 8 to discharge (3 containers, 1 coal, 1 iron ore, 3 zinc concentrate).
Egypt		
Alexandria	24-May-2004	Thirty-seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 29 general cargo, 3 bulkers, 2 containers, 1 reefer, 2 tankers; 3 vessels at inner anchorage, 12 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	24-May-2004	Nineteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 11 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 5 containers; 5 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Suez Canal	24-May-2004	Twenty-three vessels transiting Northbound, 30 Southbound.
Pakistan		
Karachi	24-May-2004	One MOL vessel loading at berth, 4 vessels discharging at berth (1 jute, 1 DAP, 2 HSD), 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 containers, 1 MOL), 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 2 general cargo, 1 coils, 1 chemicals); no vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 3 awaiting orders; 5 vessels due (1 containers, 1 DAP, 1 MOL, 2 chemicals), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	24-May-2004	Two vessels discharging at berth (1 coal, 1 paraxylene), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at QICT berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 carbon oil, 1 MEG, 1 canola seeds).
Panama		
Panama Canal	24-May-2004	Gatun locks lane outage: From 00:01 on 31/5 until 10/6 (11 days), the West lane will be out of service; relay operation on the East lane. Tentative dates for lock/lane outages are scheduled as follows: Miraflores lock: 31/5-10/6 (11 days); Pedro Miguel lock: 5-15/7 (11 days); Gatun lock: 5-15/7 (11 days), 9-19/8 (11 days), 13-23/9 (11 days), 18-28/10 (11 days).

Port Conditions

Russia

Novorossiysk	24-May-2004	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading (1 HBI, 1 bulk cement, 2 bulk NPK, 1 vehicles, 1 scrap, 1 tin plates/vehicles, 1 aluminium 1 bulk urea, 1 diesel oil), 1 discharging bulk sugar, 1 discharging/loading containers; 9 vessels waiting in roads, of which 6 to discharge (4 bulk sugar, 1 oranges, 1 bananas), 3 to load (1 scrap, 1 steel/steel sheet/coils/vehicles, 1 paper); 62 vessels due of which 59 to load (3 scrap, 2 HBI, 2 DRI, 1 zinc, 1 coils/steel sheets/vehicles, 7 aluminium, 6 copper, 2 pipes, 1 equipment, 5 pig-iron, 9 coils, 1 steel billets, 2 slabs, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate/bulk NPK, 2 bulk urea, 1 bulk NPK, 3 steel sheets, 1 cement, 2 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 coils/slabs, 1 steel, 1 bulk fertiliser, 1 barley, 1 steel billets, 1 diesel oil, 1 UAN solution), 1 to discharge bulk sugar, 2 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: 2 tankers berthed, both loading crude oil; 2 tankers in roads, both to load crude oil; 7 tankers due, all to load, crude oil.
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Ukraine

Odessa	24-May-2004	Thirteen vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (6 metal, 2 scrap, 1 pig-iron), 2 discharging (1 ore, 1 general cargo), 2 loading/discharging containers; 3 vessels in roads, of which 1 to load sugar, 2 to discharge/load containers; 60 vessels due, of which 41 to load (35 metal, 1 metal/wood, 1 wood, 1 general cargo/wood, 1 general cargo, 2 barley), 19 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	24-May-2004	Ten vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 4 steel, 1 coal, 2 fire-clay, 2 sulphur, 1 sunflower beans; 6 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 4 steel, 1 coal, 1 coke; 44 vessels due, of which 41 to load (23 steel, 14 coal, 2 fire-clay, 1 fire clay/kaolin, 1 sulphur), 2 to discharge equipment, 1 to discharge/load containers.
Ilichevsk	24-May-2004	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading steel products, 2 loading/discharging containers; 5 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 3 steel products, 1 equipment, 1 oil; 16 vessels due, of which 14 to load (12 steel products, 1 fuel oil, 1 sulphur), 2 to discharge ore.

United States

Houston	25-May-2004	Cargill terminal: 1 day's delay expected.
New Orleans	25-May-2004	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: no delays; Cargill-Westwego: no delays; ADM/Ama: 3-4 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: no delays; ADM/Destrehan: 3-4 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 3-4 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected; Peavey/Paulina: 4 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: no delays; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 1 day's delay expected; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 4-5 days delay expected.
Beaumont	25-May-2004	Louis Dreyfus terminal: 1-2 days delay expected.
Tacoma, WA	25-May-2004	Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Kalama, WA	25-May-2004	Kalama export terminal: 4 days delay expected.
Portland, OR	25-May-2004	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay expected.

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