

Intertanko fights Massachusetts oil spill

INTERTANKO and American Waterways Operators, the US national tugboat and barge trade group, will oppose a Massachusetts state move to tighten navigational and financial constraints on oil carriers in designated "sensitive areas".

The challenge is being spearheaded by Jonathan Benner, the Washington attorney who in 2000 secured a landmark US Supreme Court victory for Intertanko against the state of Washington, which lost the battle to impose state level regulations in the aftermath of the Exxon Valdez incident.

Massachusetts legislators are seeking to introduce an oil spill bill following an incident in April last year in Buzzards Bay involving a Bouchard Transportation barge, which is said to have spilt 55,000 tonnes of fuel oil, killed 461 birds and temporarily closed 100,000 acres of shellfish beds.

Settlement

Bouchard has agreed to pay a \$10m fine under a US federal settlement. But the pressure to "show the population that we are doing something" is still a key factor influencing state politicians' thinking, cynics have said.

The proposal is at present before the joint committee on natural resources and agriculture, comprising members of the state house and senate.

It is expected to leave the committee next Wednesday and be voted upon in both chambers separately before they begin their recess at the end of July.

Mr Benner, whose law firm Troutman Sanders represents both Intertanko and AWO, said the two associations "earnestly hoped that the joint committee would change the bill as it currently stands" to make it more practical as well as constitutional.

Mr Benner refused to spell out what the next step might be if the bill is passed in its present shape but hinted strongly that a courtroom challenge might ensue.

Proposed

Nevertheless, he admitted that the proposed Massachusetts law was "subtler" than Washington's failed effort to impose a new blanket tanker regime and that some provisions of the Massachusetts law were in fact constitutional.

One of the trade associations' main objections, Mr Benner said, was the proposal to change the pilotage law.

The new regime would require US-flag ships sailing in designated sensitive areas to have state pilots.

Other "alarming" provisions include tug escort rules, drug and alcohol testing of crew, new design and navigational requirements and the

establishment of a Vessel Traffic System apparently independent of the US Coast Guard's authority.

The proposed bill also seeks substantially to increase financial liability provisions.

Mr Benner admitted that the last item was constitutional.

"But if we consider that the new law has specifically been inspired by the Bouchard incident, there is no indication that the existing federal compensation regime was inadequate to address such an incident," he added.

The received wisdom on these provisions was that they conflicted with federal law, had the potential to confuse mariners and did not properly take into account the Coast Guard's authority.

Mr Benner said his office was still hopeful of working with the legislators to come up with an acceptable version.

"The danger otherwise is that you have a law that is not only unconstitutional but also useless," he said.

"Our approach [to the legislators] is not that we oppose you, but that we know these issues and hope to share some of our knowledge with you."

Rajesh Joshi
Lloyd's List Correspondent

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>ALMUDAINA</i>	crude oil tanker	PMD	LR	77,477	131,391	1993	Fire swept through tanker at Keppel Shipyard, Singapore, May 29 while carrying out repairs. Reported fire started at starboard side. Fire extinguished. Inquiry under way.
<i>ATMORO I</i>	general	—	—	—	—	—	Capsized near Moyo Island, off Sumbawa, West Nusa Tenggara Province, Jun 1 after being struck by strong waves. Fourteen of the 19 crew rescued. Cargo: Vehicles.
<i>BALTIC FJORD</i>	general	NOR	BV	2,062	1,560	1976	Had serious engine problems outside Floro May 9. Towed to Fosen Mekaniske Verksteder AS shipyard, Rissa, May 18. ETC for repairs mid to late Jun.
<i>CELTIC COMMANDER</i>	general	GBR	LR	3,840	5,833	1993	Had engine breakdown 29 May 2004 while transiting Dardanelles and anchored off Gelibolu. Sailed May 30.
<i>CHARLES ALFRED</i>	tug	USA	—	83	—	1956	Sank in the Intercoastal Waterway, near Corpus Christi, May 27. The three persons on board were rescued.
<i>ELENA X.</i>	product tanker	GRC	—	993	1,450	1943	Grounded in lat 38 57.5N, long 20 46E, Jun 2, Refloated with tug assistance Jun 3. Discharged cargo. Arrived Preveza Jun 4, awaiting seaworthiness certificate.
<i>EQUULEUS</i>	general	COK	—	173	244	1956	Reported May 31 broken down about 183 NM north-east of Bermuda, in lat 34 05.4N, long 61 35.2 W, with hydraulic pump problem. Fishing vessel on scene. Technician proceeding with required part.
<i>JEAN COLLETT</i>	fishing	—	—	—	—	—	Taking on water about 200 miles north of Twillingate, NF, May 30. Escorted to Catalina, NF.
<i>LAURNIC</i>	fishing	GBR	—	—	—	—	Had water ingress off Barra, Outer Hebrides, May 28. Ingress controlled by pumps. Towed into Mallaig.
<i>LINDOS</i>	bulker	MLT	NV	31,643	52,540	1990	Reported May 31 grounded in port at Otaru. Salvors on scene and tugs mobilised. Divers survey to be carried out. First refloating attempt unsuccessful. Part cargo being discharged as of Jun 4. Refloated Jun 6.
<i>MIGHTY CONFIDENCE</i>	bulker	CYP	LR	17,630	29,089	1995	Lost propeller off Recife and towed by tug <i>Champion Z</i> to Santos, where arrived May 25 Discharging full cargo. Sailed Jun 2, in tow, for Rio de Janeiro for repairs.
<i>SHINWA MARU NO. 8</i>	product tanker	JPN	—	498	1,198	1994	In collision with mv <i>Thailine 6</i> off Ibaraki Prefecture May 30 and subsequently sank.
<i>VILCO 18</i>	fishing	USA	—	85	—	1979	Sank after fire on board 11 miles off Stump Pass, Florida, May 29. Crew rescued.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AHMET AKGUL 1 (Turkey)

London, May 28 — General cargo *Ahmet Akgul 1* arrived Ashdod May 24.

ALMUDAINA (Madeira)

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven people have been killed after fire swept through crude oil tanker *Almudaina* (77477 gt, built 1993) undergoing repair at Singapore's Keppel shipyard, a company spokeswoman said. Keppel spokeswoman Grace Chia said the bodies of seven sub-contract workers from the Wah Soon Marine carrying out work on the vessel had been recovered. They were all foreigners but their identities could not be immediately released as their bodies were being identified, the company said. "The fire broke out shortly after 1300, local time. We are still investigating. We believe that the fire started at the starboard side of the vessel," she said. She said the tanker was not carrying any oil at the time of the fire as it was undergoing repair. Nelson Yeo, executive director of the shipyard, said "presently, we are working with the authorities to establish the cause of the fire." A member of a civil defence search and rescue team was injured.

London, May 30 — A press report, dated May 29, states: The search and rescue operations have now stopped after the blaze on board crude oil tanker *Almudaina* was extinguished by firefighters. The fire, which broke out around 1325, local time, killed five Indian nationals and two Malaysian Chinese while they were carrying out welding work in a compartment of the vessel, according to local press reports. The fire is believed to have started in the No 3 starboard tank. Shortly after the accident 60 people, supported by three ambulances, two fire engines and four support vehicles, began to conduct rescue operations. Hot temperatures where the accident took place and the oily and sticky floor have caused difficulties for the rescuers. The police have started investigating the cause.

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Sabotage was ruled out yesterday as the cause of a flash fire that killed five Indians and two Malaysians on Portugal-registered crude oil tanker *Almudaina*, according to officials investigating the vessel's blackened interior. Without warning a fireball exploded from a manhole on the deck of *Almudaina* which was under repair at Keppel Shipyard on Saturday (May 29). The workers in the 50 metre by 10 metre by 25 metre tank died in the raging fire that caused no noticeable damage to the rest of the vessel, said a Keppel Corp. spokeswoman. Keppel Corp. has ruled out sabotage, a spokeswoman said. The vessel is owned by Madrid-based Empresa Naviera

Elcano Sa and had docked in Singapore on May 22 for repairs. Police were investigating the cause together with the Singapore Civil Defence Force and the Manpower Ministry. Keppel said it would be conducting its own inquiry. All of the seven dead were contract workers with Wah Soon Marine. Their families have been told about their deaths. The men were cutting away rusted parts of the tank and welding in new steel plates. Those close to the investigation said the type of flash fire that killed them usually occurs when there is inflammable gas present and a flame is lit. Nelson Yeo, the shipyard's executive director, said personnel usually make two checks for inflammable gas, once before the workers go in, and again before work starts. There were some 215 other men working on board the tanker.

ALPINA (Belize)

London, May 29 — C.c. *Alpina* arrived Riga May 26 from Newport.

AMBROSE A. (U.S.A.)

London, May 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Tug *Ambrose A.* (121 gt, built 1967) sank Wednesday (May 26) night in the Ohio River in Northern Kentucky and leaked diesel fuel into the waterway, according to the U.S. Coast Guard office in Louisville. The Coast Guard said 6,000 gallons of fuel were on board. Divers were working yesterday to seal off the fuel system and stop the leak, said Nick Lonnemann, a spokesman for Bray Marine Inc., which owns the boat. Lonnemann said an emergency spill response team is "containing the area with booms and whatever else is necessary." He did not know how long the cleanup and boat recovery would take because heavy rain had caused the river to rise. The Florence-based company may be able to determine what caused the sinking once the wreckage is recovered, Lonnemann said. The tug had been working with coal barges at a power station operated by Kentucky Utilities Co. when it went down, he said. River traffic was not affected by the cleanup efforts. "Right now we don't know how much fuel has been released, but we doubt it's significant," Wilson said, adding that the amount did not appear to threaten fish and wildlife. The Coast Guard said it would investigate whether to fine the company. The release of oil into a navigable waterway carries a maximum civil penalty of \$27,500.

London, Jun 2 — Following received from Coast Guard Louisville, Kentucky, timed 2010, UTC: Tug *Ambrose A.* is still submerged in the Ohio River. The river is presently too high and the seven-miles-per-hour current is too fast to attempt to lift the vessel. Present conditions are expected to last until about Jun 7. Of the 6,000 gallons of fuel on board, a wide estimate of between 500 to 3,000 gallons are believed to have escaped.

AN LU JIANG (China)

Chittagong, May 31 — The master of general cargo *An Lu Jiang* has officially

declared the vessel as abandoned and withdrawn all the crew. Understand that the vessel has sunk. Chittagong port berthing sheet also reports that the vessel is sunk and lying abandoned. Reportedly Mercantile Marine Department, apparently receiver of the wreck, have interrogated the master and some others in connection with grounding incident. — Lloyd's Agents.

ASPERITY (U.K.)

London, May 29 — Product tanker *Asperity* arrived Fawley May 27 from Poole.

ASTRIDA (Latvia)

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated May 31, states: A Latvian specialists' expedition at the wreck of Latvian fishing *Astrida* concluded yesterday evening in the Baltic Sea. During the last inspection of the vessel, divers found a fragment of a ship that had apparently collided with *Astrida*, sinking the vessel. A metre long and ten centimeters wide piece of zinc alloy from another ship was found, Naval Forces press secretary Iveta Skurstene said. It has traces of paint from *Astrida* on it. According to Skurstene, the discovery will help identify the ship that sank *Astrida*. Latvian Navy ship *Virsaitis* and the Latvian Maritime Administration ship *Kristian Dalf* left the site at 1952, local time, yesterday, Skurstene said. As reported, Latvian experts have retrieved three clocks from the sunken *Astrida*, two belonged to the vessel's master. They had stopped at 0150 and 0149, the third was from the ship's cabin, it had stopped at 0147. This is the time of *Astrida's* shipwreck, and it strongly suggests that the vessel sank after colliding with a Cypriot ship. The ship sailing under the Cypriot flag cannot be inspected presently as it is en route to America. It will be checked as soon as it enters a port there. *Astrida's* logbook was also found during the expedition. The last record, made by the ship's captain, says that *Astrida* was last trawling at 1800, on May 8, a few miles from where the vessel went down. The divers have also retrieved seamen's personal belongings, a rescue raft, *Astrida's* flag, global positioning system and others. Two missing seamen's bodies were not found in the wreck. Meanwhile, Polish border guards pulled a dead body from the sea, that possibly could be one of the two missing crew members from the sunken vessel. The body was tangled in a net marked with *Astrida's* ensignia. The corpse was brought to the Gdansk Medical Academy, and Interpol experts have been asked to help identify it. From the description of the dead man's features, the ship's owner Uldis Bruzis said that it could be either one of the two missing men, mechanic Viktors Boilovics or Captain Janis Zakalovskis.

ATMORO I

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A rescue team was searching yesterday for at least five people still missing after cargo ship *Atmoro I*, operated by PT Surya Timur Sejahtera, capsized in the waters off the

eastern island of Sumbawa in West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) province. Fourteen victims survived the accident that occurred on Friday (May 28) in bad weather, rescuers in the NTB capital of Mataram said yesterday. *Atmoro I* capsized at about 2000 hrs near Moyo island while sailing from Surabaya to Wangaiipu, East Nusa Tenggara. It left Surabaya at about 1000 Thursday carrying cargo that included two cars and a truck, and a range of merchandise. The ship was manned by at least 19 crew members, including the master, who was among the survivors, said Mataram Search and Rescue Agency head Ida Bagus Gde Budisma. Officials at the Surabaya port said that in addition to the 19 crew members, the ship was also carrying 30 passengers when it left the port. However, this was denied by Budisma. He quoted the master identified as Anthon, as saying the ship capsized after being struck by strong waves in waters off Sumbawa. Budisma said five of the survivors were rescued by another cargo ship travelling from Waingapu to Surabaya. The survivors were taken to a hospital in Surabaya for treatment. Eight other survivors picked up by the rescue team were later transferred to Surabaya by car, in coordination with the operator of *Atmoro I*. Another survivor, identified as Petrus Nongo from Sumba, was found by fishermen in the waters near Belanting village north of Lombok island, after spending three days and nights in the sea. He is currently receiving medical treatment at the Selong General Hospital in East Lombok. Budisma could not say why information on the accident was only received on Sunday. It may have been because the ship's radio was not working. He said the search was continuing for the five missing crew members four days after the accident.

AURA (Cambodia)

Bucharest, May 28 — General cargo *Aura* arrived Ambarli May 22 from Galatz. — Lloyd's Agents.

BALTIC FJORD (Norway)

Trondheim, May 28 — General cargo *Baltic Fjord* (2062 gt, built 1976) arrived Fosen Mekaniske Verksteder AS shipyard, Rissa, May 18, under tow from Ulsteinvik following main engine breakdown. Repairs estimated to take three to four weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 1 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: General cargo *Baltic Fjord* experienced serious engine problems outside Floro May 9. Vessel was moored Fosen Mek, Rissa, for repairs, ETC about Jun 19. General cargo *Baltic Star* and general cargo *Terningen II* are replacing the vessel.

BANGA BIRAJ (Bangladesh)

Chittagong, May 31 — C.c. *Banga Biraj* and c.c. *Eagle Strength* are still lying in the same position at Chittagong. — Lloyd's Agents.

BARONESSA (Norway)

London, May 28 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today,

states: Ferry *Baronessa* is still at Oma Baatbyggeri, undergoing repairs.

BERGE NICE (French Southern Territories)

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated May 14, states: Three crewmembers injured and a five nautical miles fuel spill has been reported following the collision between Lpg *Berge Nice* and anchor handling tug/supply *Seacor Laredo* in the narrowest part of the Magellan strait early Wednesday morning (May 12). The collision took place five miles east of Punta Delgada, at 0310 hrs involving *Berge Nice* transporting 33,500 tons of liquid propane gas from Bahla Blanca to Quintero, and *Seacor Laredo* a vessel responsible for the logistic support of several oil rigs in the area. The three injured that are hospitalized in Punta Arenas Magallanes Clinic belonged to the tug. According to the first reports from the Chilean Navy that rapidly responded to the emergency with support vessels and a helicopter, it's too soon to establish responsibilities in the collision and it will only be known when the investigation is concluded. However Rear Admiral Arturo Ojeda responsible for the III Naval Zone in Punta Arenas said the accident occurred under good meteorological conditions, with 20 knot winds and in an area where the Magellan Strait narrows to just two miles. *Berge Nice* which was carrying a contracted pilot experienced a two metres long gash in its port side just above the water line where one of the vessel's 1,200 tons fuel tanks is located. Even when fuel was pumped to the starboard tank, some finished in the sea causing the five miles long spill. *Seacor Laredo* sustained serious damage in the bow and could not operate its anchor system. However, both vessels are now in Punta Arenas where they arrived by their own means after undergoing inspections by Chilean Navy divers. Dispersal elements and anti-contaminating barriers have been spread in the spill area and experts from Valparaíso were expected late yesterday in Punta Arenas to take over cleaning tasks. The Magallanes branch of the Chilean Council for Defence of the State, responsible for keeping watch of government assets, described the situation caused by "mobile offenders" as a "serious environmental damage", and said it was coordinating actions with the Chilean III Naval Zone.

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A hundred and forty people with beach equipment and a ferry are working to clear the Punta Arenas coastline and adjoining waters from an oil spill following the recent collision of a tanker and a local tug in the Magellan Strait. Ricardo Pivcevic manager of Servicios Maritimos Litoral the company contracted to clean the area affected by the oil spill estimates that by the end of the month "the job will have concluded; we've faced no major setbacks and we're keeping to the original timetable". However Mr. Pivcevic admitted that the certification of the conclusion of activities will not be easy since "several Chilean government

Departments are involved in the recovery operation". "Obviously these agencies will be very demanding and lately some of the finished areas have been again spoilt by the backlash of the spill". The company has deployed in the area two retro-excavators, several trucks, motorcycles, a ferry and the logistic infrastructure needed for the task. "We have 120 people working along the coastline while the rest are involved in collecting the residues from the "big bags" cordoning the spill, which help filter and collect the oil from the sea", explained Mr. Pivcevic. So far 308 drums and 15,141 bags of oily residues have been collected. "They will be eventually transported in containers to Concepcion to be incinerated", added Mr. Pivcevic who expects to finish the job in another three/four weeks.

BRITISH TRADER (Isle of Man)

Durban, May 30 — Lng *British Trader* effected repairs outside Durban port limits and proceeded to her next destination last week. Repairs were effected by technicians from the builders' yard. — Lloyd's Agents.

CAPE AFRICA (Taiwan)

Rotterdam, May 28 — Bulk *Cape Africa* remains at anchor in False Bay and SMIT salvage personnel are awaiting optimal weather and swell conditions to fit a massive steel habitat, measuring some 26m x 11m x 1.5m, adjacent to the area of structural damage. The structure is ready for fitment and is on board barge *Njord*, berthed in the Simon's Town dockyard, until such time as swell and weather conditions are favourable. The swell being experienced today is between one and two metres and increasing. The Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism's oil pollution patrol and abatement vessel *Kuswag IV* remains on the scene and undertakes regular patrols in the vicinity of the casualty, for the purpose of oil pollution patrol as well as the monitoring of adherence to anti-pollution and garbage disposal measures. Oil pollution patrol aircraft *Kuswag VIII* continues to patrol False Bay on a regular basis. Salvage tug *Smit Amandla* remains in the vicinity of *Cape Africa* and the *S.A. Agulhas* continues to be used as a base for salvage personnel. — SMIT Salvage BV.

Rotterdam, May 31 — The fitment of the steel cofferdam to bulk *Cape Africa* was delayed by unsuitable swell conditions in False Bay over the weekend (May 29-30). Salvage personnel are confident that weather conditions will improve during the course of the week to enable this procedure to begin, prior to temporary repairs being conducted. Yesterday barge *Njord* with the steel cofferdam measuring some 26 m by 11 m by 1.5m in size on board — was towed out to the vicinity of *Cape Africa* and is alongside salvage tug *Smit Amandla* until such time as conditions for its fitment become suitable. As a result of these delays, the departure of the vessel from False Bay may now be delayed until the end of June. Ship surveyors have detected sympathetic damage to *Cape*

Africa as a result of the extensive damage in No 3 hold. Further inspection has revealed tripped frames and indented side plating in No 4 hold (port side) and a revised temporary repair and salvage plan has been devised to take this into account. A second cofferdam is being constructed for fitment to No 4 hold so that temporary repairs can be undertaken in this area. This additional temporary repair will not delay the departure of *Cape Africa* from False Bay. Of paramount importance during the vessel's time at anchor in False Bay, considered by the South African Maritime Safety Authority to be a place of refuge for the damaged vessel and not a location in which to conduct permanent repairs, is the protection of the marine environment. To this end, both proactive and reactive environmental protection measures are in place. The Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism's oil pollution patrol and abatement vessel *Kuswag IV* remains on the scene and undertakes regular patrols in the vicinity of the casualty — for the purpose of oil pollution patrol as well as the monitoring of adherence to anti-pollution and garbage disposal measures. To this end, the salvage team have strict anti-littering and garbage disposal control measures in place, including the regular removal of this waste in an enclosed waste skip by launch vessel to Simon's Town. The oil pollution patrol aircraft *Kuswag VIII* continues to patrol False Bay on a regular basis. As part of the precautionary measures put in place prior to the entry of *Cape Africa* into False Bay, contingency plans remain in place for all river estuaries and for Seal Island and the Boulders Penguin Colony. A SMIT Salvage team completed the removal of approximately 1,800 tonnes of bunker fuel from the vessel on May 14, which was one of the requirements that had to be fulfilled prior to her entry into False Bay. Members of the public are kindly requested to stay a minimum of 1.5 km away from the casualty for their own safety during the phase of the operation entailing the fitment of the habitat, which weighs some 65 tonnes. The presence of wires, cables and vessels being used in the salvage operation could pose a threat to the safety of innocent bystanders not acquainted with this kind of operation. In addition, salvage divers request members of the public to stay away as the presence of boat propellers threatens their safety. — SMIT Salvage BV.

Rotterdam, Jun 2 — Efforts yesterday to secure a cofferdam over the area of damage in No 3 hold of bulk *Cape Africa* were unsuccessful. The steel cofferdam, measuring some 26 metres by 11 metres by 1.5 metres and weighing 65 tonnes, was transferred from barge *Njord* and held in place adjacent to the area of damage during the course of the afternoon; however, with the strong surge of water moving in and out of No 3 hold, as well as the effect of an increasing swell condition, it became apparent that in order to preserve the

structural integrity of the vessel the cofferdam would have to be released. The structure was cut loose in the early hours of this morning in a water depth of 39 metres. As a result of the action of the cofferdam against the hull, the No 2 double bottom tank was breached and flooded. Divers have located the hole, measuring some 20 cm by 20 cm, and it is in the process of being repaired. Once repaired, No 2 double bottom tank will be pumped dry. Salvors are now evaluating alternatives to the cofferdam. These are being developed in consultation with the South African Maritime Safety Authority and the Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism and a revised salvage plan will be agreed to before the end of the week. All will be kept advised as to progress in this regard. Early this morning, a dive team located the cofferdam on the sandy bottom and salvors will determine the most appropriate method by which to recover it in due course. — SMIT Salvage BV.

CATHERINE DESGAGNES (Canada)

London, May 31 — General cargo *Catherine Desgagnes* (5691 gt, built 1962) was struck on the poop deck by the vessel arrester boom in lock No 8, Welland Canal, May 29 while downbound. The vessel sustained minor damage.

CELTIC COMMANDER (U.K.)

Istanbul, May 31 — General cargo *Celtic Commander* (3840 gt, built 1993), Piraeus for Poti, had engine breakdown while transitting Dardanelles at 2015, local time, May 29, and anchored off Gelibolu. — Lloyd's Agents.

Istanbul, Jun 2 — General cargo *Celtic Commander* completed repairs by own means and, upon inspection/formalities, sailed from Canakkale May 30. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Jun 2.)

London, Jun 2 — General cargo *Celtic Commander* passed Istanbul May 30, bound Poti.

CHARLES ALFRED (U.S.A.)

London, May 28 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1200, UTC: Tug *Charles Alfred* (83 gt, built 1956), official No.561255, sank in the Intracoastal Waterway, near Corpus Christi, yesterday evening. The three persons on board were rescued safely. A Coast Guard aircraft is currently carry out an overflight of the area.

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated May 28, states: A fuel spill in San Antonio Bay was contained today before it could harm or seriously threaten nearby wetlands and a wildlife refuge for whooping cranes, officials said. The estimated 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel leaked from Houston-based tug *Charles Alfred*, as it began sinking late yesterday while pulling two barges. The undamaged barges kept the tug from sinking entirely, officials said. Three tug crewmembers from the Rockport area were rescued by a Coast Guard boat crew after they reported trouble at 2125 hrs. Vessels from Port O'Connor and a helicopter crew from Corpus Christi responded to the distress call. At

daybreak today, cleanup efforts began with crews from the Coast Guard marine safety office in Port Lavaca, the Texas General Land Office and an environmental contractor. A containment boom set up around the tug corralled a large amount of the diesel, which at times spread half a mile on the water's surface. By late this afternoon, the captured fuel had almost evaporated, leaving a slight sheen that was not expected to make landfall, although it will be monitored today, officials said. The barges, one empty and one carrying 9,700 barrels of cyclohexane, were undamaged in the incident about three miles from the bay's northeastern shore. No threat was posed to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the bay's southwest side, where whooping cranes spend part of the year, or to the Welder Flats Coastal Reserve, Land Office spokesman Jim Suydam said.

CLUPEA (U.K.)

London, Jun 3 — Research *Clupea* arrived Lerwick Apr 19 and sailed Apr 20.

CORCOVADO (Chile)

Santiago, Jun 2 — General cargo *Corcovado* (3986 gt, built 1985), having left Punta Arenas for San Antonio, struck an iceberg, causing minor damage. The accident happened at 0545, May 31, close to White Point, in wide channel some 57 miles south of Port Eden. Damage sustained is in the bow area, approximately 33 by 64 centimetres. Inspection will be in New Year Bay, by naval inspector sent from Punta Arenas. No spillage has been detected. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Corcovado* sailed Punta Arenas May 30.)

DA PENG HAI (China)

London, May 29 — Bulk *Da Peng Hai*, Conakry for Dneprobugskiy, passed Istanbul May 27.

DELTA 1

Kandla, Jun 2 — Non specific tanker *DELTA 1* was salvaged and was towed to Sachanna Scrap yard, where we understand it was subsequently scrapped. — Lloyd's Agents.

DIAMOND PRINCESS (Liberia)

London, May 28 — The renamed *Sapphire Princess* ex passenger *Diamond Princess* was delivered to its owners yesterday, 19 months after fire destroyed 70% of it - just in time for the all-important summer season. Peter Ratcliff, chief executive of Princess Cruises, and Kazuo Tsukuda, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries' president, were on hand at the Mukojima pier of MHI's premier facility, its Nagasaki yard, for the ceremony. Following some slovenly welding around the engine-room which caused a fire that ripped through much of the interior of the near-complete vessel in October 2002, the 113,000 gt vessel's name and delivery time were swapped with those of its sister. The latter was delivered in February this year, christened *Diamond Princess*. This swap, mixed with a

hugely restructured building schedule with many more man hours, has resulted in the pair being completed just three months apart - an impressive achievement by Japan's biggest builder, which suffered red ink last year due to the fire which cost as much as \$250m in damage. The vessels have 1,339 cabins each and can take a maximum of 3,078 passengers. The order for the pair, placed in 2000, has been MHI's first and last cruise foray for years. The vessels are the first Asian built cruise vessels delivered to a European owner. Part of the reason that MHI was able to get back on track so quickly was the close relationship it had with the client, P&O Princess - now known as Princess Cruises - which could have walked away after the accident but remained and is reported to be delighted with the end products, fuelling speculation of a second order.

DONA ELVIRA (Panama)

Abidjan, May 27 — Ro/ro *Dona Elvira* is still alongside at Abidjan for repairs. On completion of same, vessel will sail to Monrovia for discharge of refugees' belongings. The 362 refugees will be flown home. — Lloyd's Agents.

EAGLE STRENGTH (Panama)

See *Banga Biraj*.

EAGLE TAMPA (Singapore)

London, Jun 2 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1340, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Eagle Tampa* (58166 gt, built 2003) and bulk/oil *Pasir 1* (44887 gt, built 1982), both bound New Orleans, were in collision 175 nautical miles south-west of Southwest Pass, River Mississippi, at 2234, local time, May 30. Both vessels were due to undergo inspections on arrival in port. (Note — *Pasir 1* subsequently arrived Texas City 1200, May 31, from Reserve.)

London, Jun 2 — Understood crude oil tanker *Eagle Tampa* is currently at Galveston Anchorage.

ELENA X. (Greece)

London, Jun 1 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Product tanker *Elena X*. (993 gt, built 1943) Eleusis for Preveza, with 1,270 tons of asphalt, and five Greek crew members who are in good health, was not under command due to engine damage 1.2 nautical miles west of the Rio-Antirio bridge during the evening of May 31. Vessel was towed safely to the anchorage of Patras by tug *Patreus* where departure was prohibited pending survey and investigation by the marine inspectorate.

London, Jun 3 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0545, UTC: Product tanker *Elena X*. (993 gt, built 1943) grounded in lat 38 57.5N, long 20 46E, probably due to heavy rain and fog in the area, at about 1930, local time, yesterday. Vessel remains aground with tugs ready to attempt refloating today. All persons on board are safe.

ELM (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Jun 1 — General cargo *Elm* (1913 gt, built 1978), Antwerp for

Grand Turk, is broken down about 50 miles south of the Lizard. Vessel is to be towed into Plymouth Jun 2 by tug *Kingston*, which is proceeding. (Note — *Elm* sailed Antwerp 1252, May 29 for Grand Turk.)

London, Jun 3 — Following received from Plymouth Port Office: General cargo *Elm* arrived Victoria Wharf, Plymouth, at 1708, yesterday, in tow of tug *Kingston*.

EN AVANT 18 (Netherlands)

London, Jun 1 — After tug *En Avant 18* capsized on the Oude Maas at Zwijndrecht on May 14, a search was started for the missing crewman, 24 year old Robert van Wensen from Dordrecht, who was acting as captain, but with no result. His body was found, in reeds, on May 29 by persons on board a motor yacht, eight kilometres from the place of the accident off the Heinenoordtunnel.

ENSCO 7500 (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: An offshore oil rig (drill platform *EnSCO 7500*, 14060 gt, built 2000) broke loose from its mooring on the west bank of the Pascagoula River yesterday morning amid high winds and ploughed into a wharf on the opposite bank. Winds clocked at 69 mph pushed the platform, which was several storeys high, across the river with 39 men aboard. It destroyed up to 120 feet of concrete-and-steel reinforced dock, folding 20-foot slabs of concrete like they were cards, before coming to a halt. It narrowly missed a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration research ship. "We were dead in the water with no power, no steering, no lights. We were going where the wind took us," said Wayne Griffith, an employee of Texas-based ENSCO Offshore Co., which owns the rig. The rig was undergoing repairs at Signal International marine and fabrication company. "The wind direction was just right, we missed the railroad bridge, the jack-up rig next to us, two ships in the river, two beside us and two across the river," said Griffith. The storm blew through with driving rain and lightning along with gusts of high winds. The semi-submersible had been moored with ropes and anchor line but broke free, dragging an anchor, Signal officials said. By midday the rig was back at the Signal International dock with the help of more than a half-dozen tugs from Colle Towing, the U.S. Coast Guard, Pascagoula bar pilots, the Port of Pascagoula and Signal and ENSCO personnel, Signal officials said. Tugs held it to the dock while it was secured. The wharf the rig hit belongs to the Port of Pascagoula. The harbourmaster had no estimate of damage yesterday. The Coast Guard Marine Safety Office in Mobile is investigating.

EQUULEUS (Cook Islands)

London, May 31 — Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1315, UTC: General cargo *Equuleus* (173 gt, built 1956), Martha's Vineyard for Suriname, in ballast, is broken down with hydraulic pump fuel problem about 183

nautical miles north-east of Bermuda, in lat 34 05.4N, long 61 35.2W. A local fishing vessel is on scene and a technician is proceeding with the required part.

London, Jun 1 — Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1455, UTC: General cargo *Equuleus*: Our most recent information received indicated that vessel was still disabled and adrift, attempting to effect repairs. (See issue of Jun 2.)

EVERLAST (Canada)

See *Norman McLeod*

FLYING DOLPHIN XXIII (Greece)

London, Jun 1 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Hydrofoil *Flying Dolphin XXIII* (142 gt, built 1980) sustained engine damage while making manoeuvres to berth at Skiathos port during the afternoon of May 29. At the time vessel was performing the schedule Volos-Trikeri-Skiathos- Glossa Skopelos-Skopelos-Alonissos with 131 passengers on board who are good in health. The port authority of Skiathos did not permit continuation of scheduling and therefore vessel departed for Volos without passengers in order to carry out repairs. The passengers were forwarded to their destinations on another vessel. Following completion of repairs at Volos, vessel was permitted to return to service on May 30.

GODEWIND (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jun 1 — Following received from the managers of c.c. *Godewind*, dated today: *Godewind* is still in repair yard at Husum.

HEBRON SEA (Canada)

London, Jun 2 — Anchor handling tug/supply *Hebron Sea* (1963 gt, built 1975), with 11 persons on board, reportedly struck the Venture Offshore Gas Platform, in lat 44 02N, long 59 34.54W, in the Sable Island Gas Fields, at 1113, UTC, May 4. No damage to *Hebron Sea* and minor damage to the platform reported.

HEKIRYU MARU (Japan)

See *Sunny Linden*.

HERNES (Cyprus)

Reykjavik, May 27 — Bulk *Hernes* is presently lying alongside in Hafnarfjordur harbour. Vessels port side above and below the bilge keel are indented with holes and cracks. Bilge keel starboard side is bent. Propeller blades have minor deformations. Rudder reported to move only towards port, but gets stuck at five degs starboard. Discharging of the cargo commenced at noon to enable further inspection. — Lloyd's Agents.

HUMBER ARM (Bermuda)

Lisbon, May 28 — Sub-agents, Setubal, report: General cargo *Humber Arm* (7587 gt, built 1976) entered the port in tow of tug *Montalvo* due engine trouble. She is presently at Lisnave shipyard awaiting repairs to start. Vessel is loaded with paper pulp. Owner tried to tow the vessel to port of loading

to discharge it and to return to the shipyard but this operation was not authorized by the port authorities. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Humber Arm* sailed Stephenville May 5 and subsequently arrived Setubal May 16.)

HYUNDAI NO.105 (Panama)

London, Jun 2 — An Indonesian government official has repeated that the wreck of sunken vehicle *Hyundai No.105* will have to be removed as it is a danger to navigation. "They have to (remove the wreck) because that's a dangerous position," Liesye Wuntu, head of public relations and foreign co-operation in the Indonesian Directorate-General of Sea Communication, Legal Division, said when asked about a wreck removal. *Hyundai No 105*, operated by Eukor, sank in Indonesian waters in the Singapore Strait on May 23 after it collided with crude oil tanker *Kaminesan* owned by Mitsui OSK Lines. "Even though it is not in the sea lane it is dangerous for shipping and the environment," she explained. The wreck lies just two cables from the eastbound lane of the traffic separation scheme in the Singapore Strait and while it is understood to have a clearance of between 13 and 16 metres it could still be hit by a large vessel that strayed out of lane. Ferdi Stolzenberg, representing Eukor, said that there had been no official word on a wreck removal and that the priority was to protect the environment by the removal of bunkers from the ship. "We do not know the navigational risk until the surveys have been done, and we will not start the surveys until the bunkers have been removed," he said. Switzer Wijsmuller started removing 830 tons of bunkers from the wreck on Monday. Meanwhile, the other vessel involved in the collision, *Kaminesan*, remains at a Singapore anchorage.

IONIAN SEA (Cyprus)

Port Said Jun 1 — Bulk *Ionian Sea* arrived Port Said May 21 from Odessa. — Lloyd's Agents.

ISLAND PRINCESS (Bermuda)

See "Outbreak of Virus on Bermuda Flagged Passenger Vessel" under "Miscellaneous."

JEAN COLLETT

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated May 30, states: Fishing *Jean Collett*, length 22 metres, which started taking on water today had been stabilised and was being guided back to a Newfoundland port in the evening. The vessel, with four crew members on board, started having trouble when it was about 200 kilometres north of Twillingate, Newfoundland. A Navy spokeswoman said the vessel had a cracked seam that was letting water rush into the vessel at a rate of 90 litres a minute. The vessel was also encountering heavy fog and six-metre seas. The vessel's radio beacon signalled the Navy's rescue centre in Halifax and two military helicopters were dispatched to the scene. A Cormorant helicopter was dispatched from

Canadian Forces Base Gander and a Hercules was sent from CFB Greenwood in Nova Scotia. The Cormorant reached the vessel early this evening and was able to give it several pumps. The vessel had also made its way to a Coast Guard auxiliary vessel, which supplied additional pumps as well. "The pumps are keeping the water out," said rescue co-ordinator Wes Pretty. "Initially it was critical, because they didn't have enough pumps there." With the situation stable, the vessel was being escorted towards the nearest port in Catalina, Newfoundland, by the Coast Guard auxiliary vessel. The vessels were expected to arrive tomorrow afternoon or evening.

JOHN E.RIGBY (Canada)

London, Jun 2 — Ferry *John E.Rigby* (232 gt, built 1976), with 12 persons on board, reportedly ran aground in lat 45 01.24N, long 66 56.18W, south of Deer Island terminal, New Brunswick, at 1445, UTC, Jun 1. The vessel sheared off one of its drive units. Minor pollution reported. The vessel subsequently refloated on the next high tide.

KAMINESAN (Panama)

See *Hyundai No.105*

KAPITAN KIRICHENKO (Russia)

Yokohama, May 31 — Ref *Kapitan Kirichenko* (6998 gt, built 1990) grounded upon leaving Kesennuma, Miyagi Prefecture, 1,800 metres, 322 deg from Zyodan Lighthouse at 1620, May 26. Vessel was refloated by tug and berthed in the port at 2030 same day. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Kapitan Kirichenko* subsequently arrived Kawasaki May 28 and sailed May 29 for Osaka.)

KEUM YOUNG (South Korea)

See *New Eminence*.

London, Jun 1 — General cargo *Keum Young* sailed Mizushima May 19 for Incheon, where arrived May 21.

LA PAIMPOLAISE (French Southern Territories)

Guadeloupe, Jun 2 — Ro/ro *La Paimpolaise* arrived Pointe a Pitre May 12 from Port au Prince and sailed May 13 for La Rochelle. — Lloyd's Agents.

LADOGA 11 (Russia)

London, Jun 2 — General cargo *Ladoga 11* arrived Rochester May 31 from Muuga.

LAINÉ (Panama)

London, Jun 2 — Understand salvage services are being rendered to ro/ro *Laine* (15893 gt, built 1985) by Tsavlis Salvage Co under Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract. Vessel, loaded with 13,000 tonnes of cargo, is aground at Km 151, River Parana, since May 31. Two tugs have been dispatched and a salvage master is due on scene today. (Note — *Laine* sailed Santos May 24 for Buenos Aires.)

Buenos Aires, Jun 2 — Ro/ro *Laine*, Buenos Aires for San Nicolas, then Rio de Janeiro, loaded with project cargo, grounded approximately 0830, May 31.

The vessel is not obstructing navigation and is now being assisted by tugs *Ultramar X* and *Ona Temple*. The maximum draught is approximately 8.50 metres. — Lloyd's Agents.

LAKE EXPRESS (U.S.A.)

London, May 31 — A press report, dated May 30, states: Ferry *Lake Express* received final approval today from the US Coast Guard and will start operating between Milwaukee and Muskegon, Mich, on Tuesday (Jun 1), the company said. The "Final Certificate of Inspection" came after extensive testing of the vessel's safety systems and an evaluation of the capability of the *Lake Express* crew, according to the Lake Express LLC. The new \$18 million ferry sustained damage earlier this month on its voyage from Alabama, where it was built. Reduced pressure in the hydraulic line to a gearbox resulted in one of its four engines being shut down, Jeff Fleming, a spokesman for Lake Express LLC, had said. Also, a door to the car deck came loose in the Gulf of Mexico and its stabiliser was damaged. All problems had been fixed, the company said. The 192-ft-long aluminum catamaran is the first of its kind to go into service on the Great Lakes and the first to connect two ports within the continental United States, according to the Lake Express.

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated Jun 1, states: Ferry *Lake Express* left for its maiden voyage from Milwaukee to Muskegon today after completion of repairs and trials.

LANGOYSUND (Norway)

London, Jun 1 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Ferry *Langoyssund* (135 gt, built 1954) grounded on Ymerbukta near Svalbard Island May 31. Vessel took water and two helicopters were required to pick up the 40 passengers. The situation was not as serious as first believed, and the vessel used its own pumps, and proceeded to Longyearbyen, assisted by rescue vessel *Nordsyssel*, from Longyearbyen. No injuries to the passengers or crew. Vessel is now undergoing repairs in Longyearbyen.

LAURNIC (U.K.)

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated May 31, states: A Suffolk fishing vessel off the Outer Hebrides broadcast a mayday on Friday (May 28) after its engine-room and fish hold flooded. The Lowestoft-registered fishing *Laurnic* was off Barra when water started pouring in and eventually reached the height of the engine-room plates. *Laurnic's* skipper and two crew were forced to bail out water by hand to prevent the boat sinking beneath them as their own pumps were not working. Stornoway Coastguard co-ordinated the rescue and a salvage pump was airlifted and transferred on board. Barra lifeboat was launched and the fishery protection vessel *Mina* steamed towards the stricken fishing boat, which was four miles north-west of the island of Canna in the Little Minch, to offer help. The Calmac ferry, *Lord of the Isles*, also chipped in on the radio with an offer of

help. The Coastguard had advised *Laurnic's* skipper that he and his crew should don lifejackets and be ready to jump into their liferaft if need be. But they were not forced to abandon ship. One fisherman, who listened to the drama unfolding on his radio, said: "The boat's pumps were not working because the engine-room was flooded, so the three men were having to bail water out with buckets. "It must have been a massive and energy-consuming task. "The boat was bucking and heaving about as it drifted helplessly with the engine stopped." The Coastguard helicopter arrived overhead and lowered a winchman and salvage pump on to the wave-swept rolling deck. And *Mina* used its own rescue boat to put an engineer aboard *Laurnic* to make sure the pump was working properly. Soon *Laurnic's* engine-room and fish hold were pumped out, and the Barra lifeboat set off, towing *Laurnic* towards the mainland. The Mallaig lifeboat later took over the tow and took the vessel alongside at Mallaig.

LIGHTING SUN (Pakistan)

London, May 30 — A press report, dated May 25, states: Rescuers found eight more bodies today from ferry *Lighting Sun* in south-eastern Bangladesh, raising the death toll to 68 with 90 people still missing, officials and witnesses said. Seven bodies were found washed ashore today on sand banks in the Meghna River, while one body was recovered from the wreckage. Forty-five bodies were recovered yesterday and fifteen bodies were found on Sunday (May 23). A government salvage vessel pulled out the ferry's wreckage and towed it ashore late yesterday before calling off the official rescue operation. There were no more bodies inside the wreckage, rescue official Mohammad Amir Hossain said today. However, volunteers and relatives of those still missing were still searching the river and nearby sand banks for bodies which may have been washed downstream, witnesses said. About 95 people were still listed as missing, officials said. Nearly 80 people swam to shore safely or were picked up by passing boats, while seven injured passengers were rescued from inside the vessel.

LIL (Panama)

See *Quoc Tu Giam*

LIMBURG (French Southern Territories)

London, May 31 — A press report, dated May 29, states: Fourteen militants allegedly involved in an attack on crude oil tanker *Limburg*, including a man sought by the United States, refused to enter pleas today as their trial began under tight security. The 14, some of whom are believed to be linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network, said they had not had a chance to hire lawyers and would only offer pleas in the presence of a defence team. Key among the defendants is Fawaz al-Rabeiee, a Yemeni sought by the FBI. A 15th suspect was being tried in absentia. The court heard the

prosecutor's list of charges that included the planning and carrying out of the Oct 6, 2002, suicide attack on the *Limburg* tanker. The attack killed one Bulgarian crew member and caused 90,000 barrels of oil to spill into the Gulf of Aden. The group was also charged with carrying out the November 2002 attack on a helicopter carrying employees of the US oil company Hunt Corp, the attempted assassination of US ambassador Edmund Hull and the killing of a Yemeni security officer. The prosecution blamed the attacks on the *Limburg* and the American helicopter on al-Qaida. The defendants cried "Allah Akbar," or God is great, upon hearing the prosecutor's charges. Although refusing to plead, one of the men, Mohammed Saeed al-Amari, told the judge that there was "just talk" between him and others about a possible attack on Hull in retaliation for the CIA-operated assassination of Sinan al-Harethi, al-Qaida's chief agent in Yemen, in November 2002. Another defendant, Qassim al-Rimi, acknowledged that he was assigned to monitor the US embassy in San'a. The defendants, who were dressed in blue prison uniforms and were handcuffed behind bars, complained of mistreatment and said they were locked underground at the intelligence headquarters. Officials from the US Embassy attended the hearing, which was held under tight security, with police surrounding the court and all the streets leading to it. Five bulletproof cars were seeing guarding the vehicle that transported the suspects. The court adjourned until Tuesday (Jun 1). If convicted, the men face from five years in prison up to the death penalty.

LINDOS (Malta)

Rotterdam, May 31 — Owners of bulk *Lindos* (31643 gt, built 1990) grounded in laden condition in the port of Otaru, have awarded Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract to the Nippon Salvage Company with SMIT Salvage as co-contractors. Salvage experts of both companies arrived on scene shortly after the grounding and two tugs, including 8200-bhp tug *Seiha Maru No.2*, were already mobilised. A dive survey will be conducted shortly in order to complete the salvage plan that will be presented to the relevant authorities. — SMIT Salvage BV.

Yokohama, May 31 — Bulk *Lindos* grounded in the port of Otaru, Hokkaido, at 0730, May 29. Tug and patrol vessel were unsuccessful in their initial attempt to refloat vessel and another attempt will be made. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAJOR HUBAL (Malta)

New Orleans, May 27 — Bulk *Major Hubal* is berthed alongside City Dock 32, Houston, with shippers' stevedores carrying out discharge operations to offload steel slabs. When lifting a slab of about 29 tonnes a chain broke and the slab fell back into the hold, punching through the tank top and penetrating the outer hull about five feet. Damage to the tank top measures

about 15 feet in length and five feet in width. Bludworth Marine was appointed to do repairs and assist in removing the slab in the process. This is to be carried out about 1130-1200 today with a temporary box to be applied to the outer hull to prevent water entry. It is their intention to do permanent repairs to the tank top and related frames and attempt permanent repairs to the outer hull. The vessel may require drydocking to complete permanent repairs to the hull. — Lloyd's Agents.

MANILA HARMONY (Philippines)

Busan, May 28 — General cargo *New Ace* is still at Pyeongtaek under arrest without any repairs up to this time. The permanent repairs to general cargo *Manila Harmony* commenced May 19 and are expect to be completed by May 31. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Busan, May 29 — General cargo *New Ace* was released from arrest at about 1100, local time, today and will sail from Pyeongtaek at about 1500, local time, bound for Qinhuangdao, for permanent repairs. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Busan, Jun 3 — Permanent repairs to general cargo *Manila Harmony* were completed on May 31. The vessel sailed from Mokpo at 2100, local time, same day, bound for Mizushima. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MIGHTY CONFIDENCE (Cyprus)

Santos, May 28 — According to the local agents of bulk *Mighty Confidence* (17630 gt, built 1995) the vessel lost its propeller, off Recife, and was towed to Santos by tug *Champion Z*. Vessel is now berthed alongside pier No.1 of Fertilizer Terminal, Santos docks, for discharge of total cargo of 24,625 tonnes of fertilizer. Vessel is forecast to leave tomorrow (in tow) for Rio de Janeiro for necessary repairs. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Mighty Confidence* arrived Santos May 25 from Vancouver.)

MONTE VENTOSO (Spain)

St. Vincent, CVI, June 1 — Fishing *Monte Ventoso* is still aground. — Lloyd's Agents.

NEPTUNUS (Sweden)

Aarhus, May 28 — Non specific tanker *Neptunus* arrived Fredericia May 24, and fire damage repairs commenced May 25. Repairs are expected to last four to five weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

NEW ACE (Belize)

See *Manila Harmony*.

NEW EMINENCE (Panama)

Yokohama, May 31 — Bulk *New Eminence* (25943 gt, built 1994), while anchoring off Mizushima, came into contact with general cargo *Keum Young* (1807 gt, built 1990), 1,930 metres, 300 deg from Muguchi light-beacon, Okayama Prefecture, at 1747, May 16. *New Eminence* grounded in the shallows at 1850 hrs and refloated itself at 2015 same day. Handrails of both vessels were broken. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *New Eminence* subsequently sailed Mizushima May 22 and arrived Kanda same day.)

NORMAN MCLEOD (Canada)

London, Jun 1 — At 1954, EDST, May 31, tug *Everlast* (1361 gt, built 1977) reported cargo leaking from the No.2 port tank into the duct keel of pushed tank barge *Norman Mcleod* (6809 gt, built 2002), while in lat 47 37.21N, long 70 08.26W, Saint-Laurent, Quebec.

O BAHIA (Spain)

London, June 3 — A press report, dated today states: Rescue services have found the bodies of five crew members from fishing *O Bahia* which sank off northwest Spain. The Galician boat *O Bahia*, with a crew of 10, went down in rough seas near the Sisargas Islands last night. Rescuers spent the night searching the area and have found bits of the boat, including life-jackets, say reports. The search for the rest of the crew continues. The boat sent an emergency message yesterday evening before losing contact a few miles from the islands at about 2015, local time, (1915, UTC). Reports say the sea conditions were not the worst but there were strong winds and heavy seas. *O Bahia* was returning from the Basque region, where it had been fishing for anchovy, to the port of Cesantes, in Redondela. The crew are all from the area.

London, June 3 — Following received from madrid MRCC, timed 1015, UTC: Fishing *O Bahia*, EA4024, is 44.8 gt, length 18 metres. Of the 10 persons that were on board the vessel five bodies have been recovered.

ODYSSEAS II (Greece)

London, Jun 1 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Ro/ro *Odysseas II* (1284 gt, built 1970), while sailing from Aegina to Piraeus, sustained damage to the starboard main engine during the afternoon of May 31. Vessel arrived safely at Piraeus with 301 passengers on board where departure was prohibited pending inspection of the repairs. Following inspection by the marine inspectorate vessel was permitted to continue normal scheduling today.

PALAU (Italy)

London, May 28 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 0840, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Palau* (8893 gt, built 1969), bound Genoa with around 80 passengers, had fire in starboard engine in lat 41 36N, long 09 21.6E, at 2140, UTC, May 27. Fire was extinguished by 0240, UTC, today and vessel arrived safely in Olbia around 0800, UTC.

Genoa, May 28 — Passenger ro/ro *Palau* reported fire in engine-room, understand starboard engine involved, at about 2300, May 27. Understand none of the 88 passengers and 44 crew members on board sustained any injuries. Damage to vessel being ascertained and probably repaired in two-to-three days at Olbia, where it is presently safely moored. — Lloyd's Agents.

Genoa, May 31 — Passenger ro/ro *Palau* (8893 gt, built 1969) was authorised by classification society to sail without load and passengers on board and eventually left Olbia at 2100,

May 28, bound Genoa. — Lloyd's Agents.

PASIR 1 (Singapore)

See *Eagle Tampa*.

PAUL GILMORE (Cayman Islands)

Buenos Aires, May 28 — Repairs to product tanker *Paul Gilmore* have not yet been completed, expected to be finalised between May 31 and Jun 1. — Lloyd's Agents.

Buenos Aires, Jun 2 — Repairs on product tanker *Paul Gilmore* were finalised on Jun 2. The vessel sailed at midday, to San Lorenzo in order to start loading operations. — Lloyd's Agents.

PING YANG NO.8 (Belize)

See *Taisei Maru No.1*.

POLAR STAR (Barbados)

Falmouth, May 28 — Icebreaker *Polar Star* completed repairs and sailed Falmouth at 1325, May 25, for Dundee. — Lloyd's Agents.

PONTOMEDON (Cyprus)

Fremantle, May 31 — Bulk *Pontomedon* sailed Port Hedland May 19 for Kaohsiung. — Lloyd's Agents.

POSEIDON (DIS)

London, Jun 1 — General cargo *Poseidon* arrived Amsterdam May 30 from Bordeaux and sailed same day for Vesteras.

PRESTIGE (Bahamas)

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated May 31, states: Poor weather will delay the pumping-out of the remaining 13,000 tonnes of oil in crude oil tanker *Prestige*, government officials said. The fuel is eventually to be brought out with the aid of aluminium balloons which will help lift it to the surface from the wreck. "Several technical tests have been carried out. The perforation of the prow and putting the valves in place is under way and should be completed this week, which will allow us to move into the final phase, the actual pumping," a government official said. However, Purificacion Morandera, the government commissioner overseeing the operation, later said bad weather would force "a small delay" until the middle of June. Spanish-Argentine oil company Repsol-YPF has been charged with extracting the remaining fuel via rigid balloons each 70 centimetres in diameter which will be passed through the remainder of the vessel's hull. The balloons will be brought to within 40 metres of the surface and emptied through a flexible hose linked to a ship. Some 10 percent of the remaining fuel is to be degraded with the aid of special bacteria. The government has put the cost of the operation at 99.3 million euros.

PRIMROSE (Cyprus)

London, Jun 2 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 2154, UTC: At 1906, UTC Kent Fire Brigade reported that they were attending a fire on board passenger ro/ro *Primrose* (12046 gt, built 1975), alongside at Ramsgate harbour. Vessel

has now been secured and moved to a spare berth to allow the port to reopen. Fire Brigade have left the scene. Funnel fire hotspots being left to vessel's crew.

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Up to 40 firefighters were sent to tackle a blaze on board cross-Channel passenger ro/ro *Primrose* in Ramsgate Harbour. The ferry was moored alongside Ramsgate's New Port when the fire started at 1900, BST, yesterday. Firefighters from six fire engines boarded the ferry and extinguished the flames in a seventh-floor workshop. It took about two hours to tackle the blaze and thermal imaging cameras were used to make sure the fire had been put out completely. Senior divisional officer John Davin, from Kent Fire and Rescue Service, said: "The heat was intense and the most damage has come from heat in the affected area. "It could have been a serious situation but the on-board firefighters from the ship's crew did really well to subdue the fire assisted by our crew." He said the damage had been contained to about 10 square metres of the ship.

QUOC TU GIAM (Vietnam)

Moji, Jun 3 — Temporary repairs to general cargo *Quoc Tu Giam* were completed on Jun 1. A summary court decision was made on Jun 3, and the vessel sailed for Subic the same day. Watertightening work to bulk *Lil* was completed on May 30 and discharge of the damaged cargo in No.3 hold commenced on Jun 3. — Lloyd's Agents.

RIVERDANCE (Bahamas)

London, May 30 — A press report, dated May 28, states: Ro/ro *Riverdance* (6041 gt, built 1977) had a fire on board while moored in Heysham harbour today. The vessel was moored at the No 1 berth at the harbour. The blaze started when a tractor on board caught fire. Three fire engines, a major incident support unit and an incident support unit attended the scene at 1954 hrs. The Coastguard also attended but it is believed there were no casualties. A Coastguard spokesman said: "A tractor unit that was pulling a unit from the vessel set on fire as it was coming off the vessel." Sub Officer Steve Palmer, of Lancaster Fire Station, said: "The fire itself was very small. The hydraulic oil in the tractor overheated. There was the potential to be a large incident but luckily it wasn't. The only people on board were a few crew and the tractor workers. Nobody was evacuated."

ROYAL DAFFODIL (U.K.)

London, Jun 1 — Ferry *Royal Daffodil*, which had been out of action since the Easter weekend after engine problems, was towed May 17 by tugs *Svitzer Bootle* and *Ashgarth* from A&P Birkenhead to Seacombe Landing Stage on completion of necessary repairs. It was secure at Seacombe Stage south berth at 1023 same day. On May 19 it was back in action on the River Mersey running engine trials.

SALAMAT 2 (Panama)

Singapore, May 27 — Asphalt tanker *Salamat 2* arrived Singapore May 26. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAND HARRIER (U.K)

Falmouth, May 28 — Sand suction dredger *Sand Harrier* is still in No. 3 Drydock at Falmouth repairing. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEACOR LAREDO (Chile)

See *Berge Nice*.

SHINWA MARU NO.8 (Japan)

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Product tanker *Shinwa Maru No.8* (498 gt, built 1994) sank in waters off Ibaraki Prefecture early this morning after a collision with general cargo *Thailine 6* (7633 gt, built 1994). One of the four crew members from the *Shinwa Maru No.8* was killed and two others are missing, Japan Coast Guard officials said.

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: One Japanese seaman was killed and two others were missing today after product tanker *Shinwa Maru No.8* sank following an early morning collision with general cargo *Thailine 6*, the Coast Guard said. The vessels collided at 0601, local time, some 150 kilometres north-east of Tokyo in cloudy conditions with visibility down to about 100 metres, the Coast Guard said. The *Shinwa Maru No.8* sank and crew member Eisaku Miyahara, 57, was found dead, the Coast Guard said. Captain Takeshi Hirata, 57, was also rescued with light injuries. Two others from the Japanese vessel were still missing. None of the 19 crew from the *Thailine 6* was injured, the Coast Guard said.

Yokohama, May 31 — Product tanker *Shinwa Maru No.8*, Sendai for Osaka, was in collision with general cargo *Thailine 6* 18.8 miles, 112 deg from Isezaki Lighthouse, Ibaraki Prefecture, at 0610, May 30. *Shinwa Maru No.8* sank after the collision. The master was rescued; however, one crewman was killed and two others are missing. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOZIDANIE (Vanuatu)

London, May 28 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1030, UTC: Fish factory *Sozidanie* is currently manoeuvring alongside berth at Las Palmas after being safely towed in. A very small amount of smoke has been observed coming from the forepeak. The vessel is to be inspected shortly to determine whether there is still some fire burning in the hold but this is considered to be unlikely.

SPRING PEACOCK (Panama)

Santos, May 28 — Lloyd's Sub-agents Itajai advise: The cargo transhipment from bulk *Spring Peacock* was completed May 26. Provisory repairs completed and approved by Classification Society and Brazilian Navy same day. Vessel sailed 1100, local time, May 27, bound for Japan, where the cargo will be discharged and permanent repairs carried out. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUNNY LINDEN (South Korea)

Yokohama, May 31 — C.c. *Sunny Linden* (3996 gt, built 1995), while approaching Fukuyama, was in collision with general cargo *Hekiryu Maru* (5196 gt, built 1992), which manoeuvring in the port of Fukuyama, at 0157, May 31. *Hekiryu Maru* sustained denting damage to starboard, while *Sunny Linden* sustained damage to port bow. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUPERFERRY II (Greece)

London, Jun 2 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 1235 hrs, today, while making berthing manoeuvres at the old port of Mykonos, passenger ro/ro *Superferry II* (4986 gt, built 1974), collided with the quay. As a result, the vessel sustained minor hull damages, but there were no injuries to any of the 64 passengers. At the time of the incident, the vessel was performing the schedule Rafina-Andros-Tinos-Mykonos. At 1430 hrs, *Superferry II* was permitted to continue normal scheduling after a survey by the marine inspectorate.

TAISEI MARU NO.1 (Japan)

Yokohama, May 31 — General cargo *Taisei Maru No.1* (386 gt, built 1993), Mizushima for Ube, was in collision with general cargo *Ping Yang No.8* (1424 gt, built 1987), China for Kure, 8.2 miles, 182 deg from Suonoshima Lighthouse, Yamaguchi Prefecture, at 1005, May 30. Denting damage to both vessels. — Lloyd's Agents.

THAILINE 6 (Malaysia)

See *Shinwa Maru No.8*.

THOR KIS (Isle of Man)

Las Palmas, May 27 — General cargo *Thor Kis* is still in port and she has not completed repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

TIGER (DIS)

Chittagong, May 31 — General cargo *Tiger* (1042 gt, built 1984): While entering Chittagong inner harbour from outer anchorage, loaded with general cargo, vessel came in contact with Bangladesh Navy vessel between 1800 and 1830 yesterday. Vessel is now berthed at Chittagong Port Authority Berth No 9. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Chittagong Port Authorities (CPA) seized general cargo *Tiger* after it hit a Bangladesh navy vessel in the port channel yesterday. *Tiger*, loaded with defence cargo, collided with navy vessel BNS *Dhanshiri* at about 1830 following an engine failure when it was entering the port channel, port officials said yesterday. The naval vessel sustained a little damage in the accident while the Danish vessel, which came from Mumbai the same day, was unharmed, they added. A CPA tug-boat towed the 65-metre-long vessel to jetty No. 9 following the accident. The CPA, shipping ministry and naval authorities formed separate committees to probe the accident. They are expected to submit their reports within three days, said Quamrul Hossain, member (operation) of Chittagong Port. *Tiger*

was scheduled for sailing out for Port Klang today after unloading at Chittagong Port, said port sources and local agent of the vessel.

Chittagong, Jun 3 — General cargo *Tiger* is still lying at CPA Jetty No.9. Understood the cause of collision with naval vessel *BNS Dhanshiri* was due to *Tiger* experiencing engine trouble. Reportedly the Bangladesh Navy has notified the Collector of Custom (Sea) to cancel *Tiger's* port clearance until completion of the inquiry and payment of compensation. — Lloyd's Agents.

VILCO 18 (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Every US Coast Guard vessel on the west coast of Florida headed toward Stump Pass on Saturday evening (May 29) on an emergency call that turned out to be much different than originally reported. The Coast Guard was contacted at about 2000 Saturday about a fire and possible explosion on a vessel thought to be a casino boat, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Robert Suddarth. A few minutes later the Coast Guard received an emergency radio beacon signal from a vessel in the same vicinity, approximately 11 miles off Stump Pass. The signal identified the boat as 70-foot commercial shrimping vessel *Vilco 18* (85 gt, built 1979), out of Fort Myers. *Vilco 24*, a sister boat, called in a few minutes later to report a fire on board *Vilco 18*. The Coast Guard called off the mass response and proceeded with one rescue boat and a helicopter. All three crew members on *Vilco 18* made it off the boat to a raft and were picked up by *Vilco 24*. One crew member had a minor cut on his face. There were no other injuries, Suddarth said. Emergency crews secured the area around the burning vessel and decided to let it burn. "The fire was so far along there was basically nothing that could be done," Suddarth said. The vessel burned into the early hours of Sunday and eventually sank. Most of the approximately 3,000 gallons of diesel fuel on board burned off in the fire, Suddarth said. The Coast Guard marine safety unit is investigating the fire. No cause had been determined Monday. *Vilco 18* and *Vilco 24* are two of 14 boats belonging to Villers' Seafood in Fort Myers.

WHITE BALU (Russia)

Vladivostok, Jun 3 — Product tanker *White Balu* completed repair work and sailed Nakhodka Apr 27. — Lloyd's Agents.



AGHIOS CHARALAMBOS (Panama)

Maassluis, Jun 2 — Bulk/oil *Aghios Charalambos* (65819 gt, built 1979) is currently under detention at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Aghios Charalambos* arrived Rotterdam 1510, May 25.)

AGIOS SPYRIDON K. (Greece)

London, Jun 1 — A report in the May 28 issue of "Newsfront" states: Ro/ro *Agios Spyridon K.*, seized in the second-half of December by a private creditor in pursuit of a E150,618.52 claim in an action against the registered owners, Ioniki Naftiki Eteria Alkinoos, has once again been listed for hammering down, this time Jun 2. Lying in Salamina, the vessel is carrying a start-up price of E250,000.

AL QAWIYYU (Panama)

Aden, Jun 1 — Bulk *Al Qawiyyu* sailed Aden May 31 for Jebel Ali, after being released by Commercial Court after placement of bank guarantee for US\$2.4 million against claim for alleged rust damage to consignment of steel rebars by local receiver. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARAYA (Malta)

San Lorenzo, Arg, Jun 1 — Bulk *Araya* arrived Rosario May 18 from Nigeria. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ARDEAL (Romania)

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

BOW SATURN (NIS)

Maassluis, Jun 2 — Chem.tank *Bow Saturn* (17561 gt, built 1976) is currently under detention at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Bow Saturn* arrived Rotterdam 1645, May 31.)

DUIVELAND (Netherlands)

Maassluis, Jun 2 — General cargo *Duiveland* is still under arrest in the Rotterdam area. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ENDEAVOR II (Greece)

Karachi, May 28 — Karachi Port Trust (KPT) report crude oil tanker *Endeavor II*, is still under arrest at Karachi. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

LAVERNA (Bahamas)

Piraeus, May 27 — General cargo *Alkman*, ex *Laverna*, is still under arrest at Thessaloniki. — Lloyd's Agents.

LIAN CHI SHENG

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated May 26, states: The Fisheries Ministry will begin selling fish seized from fishing *Lian Chi Sheng* that was caught by the Naval vessel *Kikau* last week. Lieutenant Bradley Bower of the Fiji Navy said they handed over the ship to the ministry and that it was up to them what was done with it. "Right now all we will do is ensure that the ship does not leave the wharf until investigations are over," he said. Lieutenant Bower said some interested people turned up to see the catch which was still frozen. "Tomorrow the ministry will begin to sell the catch, which was found on board the ship," he said. Lt Bower said they caught the ship in Lau Waters and boarded it after they suspected the crew were fishing illegally. *Lian Chi Sheng* was found without a valid licence and was suspected of hunting for shark fins.

He said the ship was the first one caught fishing illegally in open waters in Fiji this year. He said their ship boarded for investigations and managed to apprehend the vessel and took it under escort to Suva for further investigations by the Fisheries Department. The vessel was observed moving throughout Fiji's internal waters from Kadavu, Lomaiviti and Lau up until Thursday when it was boarded east of Fulaga Island. The vessel spent 13 days inside Fiji's archipelagic waters. "The targeted vessel has been under the Maritime Surveillance Centre observation since March for similar suspicious activities but had left Fiji's waters to unload its catch in Port Villa and Vanuatu." It was after a request from the Fiji centre to the Vanuatu centre revealed that the vessel targeted sharks, which it was not licenced to catch in Fiji waters. He said the vessel was then flagged and followed closely until Friday.

NEW ACE (Belize)

See *Manila Harmony* under "Marine."

OSTWIND (Antigua & Barbuda)

Maassluis, Jun 2 — General cargo *Ostwind* is still under arrest at Vlaardingen. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

PERSENK (Malta)

Rio Grande, May 27 — Bulk *Persenk* arrived Rio Grande May 19 from Kpeme and sailed May 22 for San Lorenzo, Arg. — Lloyd's Agents.

RIHAM-I (Sao Tome and Principe)

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Five sailors who have been reduced to living in squalor on board rotting ship *Riham-I* (? ex hopper dredger *Al Mosul*, 1145 gt, built 1958) berthed in Dubai for the past 31 months see an end to their plight in sight. A final decision on their case is likely to be pronounced next week at the Dubai Court. According to the sailors on-board the Sao Tome-flagged *Riham-I*, which has been at Al Hamriya Port since October 2001, they filed a case to recover their wages with the Dubai Court of First Instance and were also able to prevent the ship from sailing. Mohammed Ansar Shah, one of the two Indian sailors on board, said the court and port authorities have ordered the vessel to remain in port until the issue of their wages is settled. The Mission for Seafarers in Dubai is fighting the sailors' case and has hired a lawyer. The ship was detained by local authorities when it entered the port on October 20, 2001, following a dispute between two former owners of the vessel. It was auctioned off on Oct 25, 2003. Three Dubai-based Indian partners bought it. Shah said the new owners received a letter from the attorney general that the ship can leave the port, but port authorities prevented it from sailing until the issue of wages is settled. Abbas Ali, one of the Indian owners, said yesterday that they have received a

letter from the court saying the vessel remains detained. He also said they have been removed as a party from the case. "We have paid for the vessel, but its possession has not been given to us since the auction last year. How does the court remove us as a party since we were the ones who bought the vessel at the auction?" he asked. Ali said they received a no-objection letter from the general authority for the vessel to sail, but the port and immigration did not allow it to leave because of the court case over the wages. "We are not obliged under international maritime law to pay the sailors as the vessel has not been delivered to us," Ali said. "We would have been obliged to do so if the possession of the ship was given to us, and from the date of possession." He also urged the authorities to either return the auction money or deliver the vessel under international law. According to sources, the former owner who sought Interpol's help has been trying to collect the auction money with the help of a lawyer. Stephen Miller of the Mission for Seafarers said their lawyer prevented the auction money collection. The former Iraqi owner, who had his Al Maraas Shipping Company office at the port, lost the case, and closed his office. The stranded sailors' wages for the last 31 months totals more than \$100,000. The vessel originally had a crew of nine, but four signed off after learning about the dispute, while the remaining five were asked by the port authority to stay on board in accordance with international maritime law that says a vessel cannot be left unattended at any port. The crew has been struggling to survive on the rotting ship, which has no basic amenities or adequate sanitation. A Syrian and a Romanian owned the 67.3 metre *Riham-I*, built in Holland in 1957. In 2000, the Syrian allegedly sold the ship to an Iraqi without the knowledge of his partner. The Romanian sought Interpol's help to recover his share. Dubai port authorities detained the ship on Interpol's instructions. Three Indians bought the ship after it was auctioned last year. A final court judgment is likely on Sunday to settle the sailors' wages.

SIMWER (Netherlands)

Maassluis, Jun 2 — General cargo *Simwer* is still under arrest in the Rotterdam area. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

STRILBAS (Norway)

Maassluis, Jun 2 — Standby safety vessel *Strilbas* is still under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

TIGER (DIS)

See under "Marine."

VOYAGER (Netherlands Antilles)

Maassluis, Jun 2 — General cargo *Voyager* is still under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Pipeline Accidents



LUZHOU, CHINA

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: At least five people were killed and about 39 injured when a gas pipe exploded in south-west China's Luzhou city, an official said today. The explosion occurred at 1945, local time, yesterday while workers were repairing a road near a residential area in Luzhou, Sichuan Province. A municipal government official said: "Five people died and around 39 were injured. All the injured are in hospital now." He said those killed and injured were all members of the team working on the road.

Pollution



HUANGPU RIVER, CHINA

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A large slick of waste oil was spotted floating near a local ferry dock on the Huangpu River yesterday, according to today's Shanghai Daily. While authorities cleaned up all of the waste by yesterday afternoon, they still don't know which vessel illegally poured the oil into the river. Work to clean up the slick began around 1330 yesterday and finished about three hours later, officials said. The incident didn't influence normal operations at the Ningguo Road Ferry Dock along the Huangpu River in Yangpu District. About 30 workers from a professional oil cleaning service company were sent to clear the water and polluted banks with special oil-absorbing paper. Officials from the local maritime safety administration said it's very probable the oil leaked from a vessel by accident. "The waste oil will not cause considerable pollution to nearby waters," said Tang Yuecai, director of the Lanzhou Road Division of the administration, which looked after the incident. Scattered oil stains floated within a 200-metre-long strip alongside the ferry bank yesterday afternoon and were contained by a floating bridge. Officials said the leak was too small to be harmful, as it didn't form any thick or large stains and was not detected anywhere else on nearby waters. Ferry workers discovered the floating oils around 0800 and alerted authorities. Maritime agents soon cruised the river and investigated a nearby port that stores oil. No leaks were detected from the oil port, though. Officials said the waste diesel oil might have been mistakenly let out from a small cargo vessel, judging from the situation. The vessel owner could sell the waste oil to an oil recycling station. As pouring it

into the river could lead to tough fines, few operators in the city are willing to run the risk of violating the rules. The vessel might have poured the wastes during the previous evening, officials said.

PUGET SOUND, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, May 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Cleanup of an oil spill on the waterfront of this suburb north of Seattle has concluded, but a beach remains closed to swimming and shellfish gathering, officials said. Practically all the 4,637 gallons of fuel oil that escaped from a Chevron terminal that can be easily removed is gone, said Dale Jensen, a state Ecology Department spill manager. "There is almost no visible sign of oil," Jensen said yesterday. Much of the cleanup was concentrated at the Suquamish Tribe's Doe-Keg-Wats marsh across Puget Sound on the Kitsap Peninsula. "We feel pretty good, because a lot of oil isn't visible anymore," tribal spokesman Leonard Forsman said. "We still have some concerns on what affect this will have on the ecosystem and the tribal members who go out there." The beach remains closed to swimming pending further tests by the tribe and to clamming pending tests over the next several weeks by the state Health Department. Ecology Department and Coast Guard investigators are still investigating the spill, which occurred Dec. 30 when a Foss Maritime barge was overfilled at a fueling station at Point Wells. Cleanup costs, which have not been released, are being covered by Foss. Findings have not been formally released, but in March the Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported that government records indicated at an overtightened valve, faulty or inaudible overflow alarms and two emergency response boats that failed to start were to blame.

PUNTA ARENAS, CHILE

See *Berge Nice* under "Marine."

SAN ANTONIO BAY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

See *Charles Alfred* under "Marine."

Weather & Navigation



BRAZIL

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Heavy rains in the north-east Brazilian state of Alagoas have killed 20 people and left 2,100 homeless, mainly from mudslides in hilly slums around the state capital, Maceio, an official said today. Heavy rains pounded the state Monday night and yesterday, turning many streets into muddy, brown streams, Civil Defense spokesman Feliciano de Almeida said by telephone from Maceio, a seaside resort city of 700,000 people, some 1,200 miles north of Sao Paulo. The rain tapered off by today, with clear

skies forecast for the rest of the week. Most of the homeless were in low-lying working class districts, he said, adding that they were being cared for in public school buildings. Of the 20 dead, 18 were killed in mudslides and two by drowning.

CHINA

London, May 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A dam in central China has been burst by flash floods and at least 18 people swept away, the official Xinhua news agency has reported. Twelve of the missing are children, whose school minibus was engulfed as they headed home yesterday. So far only one body has been found, that of a three-year-old child, about one kilometre downstream. The accident happened in Hubei province near the town of Enshi, where a reservoir dam is being constructed. Xinhua said local government officials had mobilised more than 5,000 people, including 500 soldiers and armed police, to search downstream along the Qingjiang river, a tributary of the Yangtze River. It said the Dalongtan reservoir was still under construction when rainstorms on Wednesday (May 26) and yesterday brought torrents of water down into the reservoir and broke the cofferdam, a temporary structure designed to hold water back while construction goes on.

CYCLONE IN BAY OF BENGAL

Geneva, May 28 — A cyclone last week killed at least 140 people in Myanmar and left 18,000 homeless, the United Nations said today in the first report on a disaster. The storm, which caused tidal surges and flooding in four towns in southwestern Rakhine State near the border with Bangladesh, was the worst to hit the area since 1968, according to a U.N. statement issued in Geneva. "More than 140 people are reported dead or missing due to the cyclone," the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) said, adding that most casualties were in the town of Myebon. The storm damaged or destroyed schools, telephone and electricity lines and killed livestock. Food and clean water shortages have been reported throughout affected areas, it said. Authorities in Myanmar have asked U.N. officials in the capital Yangon to supply 200 tons of food, material for temporary shelters, medicines and clothing, according to a statement by the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The storm, which formed in the Bay of Bengal, killed at least one man when it hit a Bangladeshi coral island in the bay.

THAILAND

London, May 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A cyclone that swept through western Myanmar last week left more than 140 people dead or missing, and about 18,000 people homeless, a U.N. agency said today. UNICEF said in a statement issued by its Geneva headquarters that the May 19 storm, with winds of up to 105 miles per hour, was the worst to hit the area since 1968. It added that it "can not

currently confirm how many people have been affected by this disaster," which hit Myanmar's Rakhine State, several hundred miles northwest of the capital, Yangon. Hardest hit were the coastal townships of Pauktaw, Myebon, Sittway and Kyaukpyu, it said. Myanmar's state-controlled media has not reported on the disaster. The military government often downplays bad news. Tun Lwin, director of the state meteorological department, confirmed details of the storm, but declined to talk about casualties or damages, which he said were the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Resettlement.

UNITED STATES

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A tornado that touched down late yesterday on the main street of the village of Roscoe destroyed the fire station and damaged a St. Clair County Sheriff's Department patrol car, authorities said. No one was injured. Power lines and trees were also downed by the twister, which hit at 2236 hrs. The sheriff's office reported that officials saw property damage along the town's main street. A more exact assessment was not yet available, as the department was preparing for a new storm system coming from the west. A tornado also touched down in Linn County, Kan., about 2115 hrs, damaging some houses east of U.S. 69 between Pleasanton and Prescott, the Linn County Sheriff's Department said. Joy Moser, a spokeswoman for the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, said two people who were in one of the homes that was struck by a tornado suffered minor injuries. It was not clear exactly how many houses were damaged by that tornado, she said, but it was on the ground for about seven miles in a rural area. Power was out to about half the county late last night, but was expected to be restored early this morning, she said.

London, May 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Road and bridge damage in Macomb County, where flooding was most severe, will cost at least \$9 million to repair, county officials said yesterday. That number is expected to go higher, since officials still are assessing damage, said Lou Mioduszewski, director of the county's Emergency Management and Communications Department. Wayne and Livingston have no estimates of road damage yet. Oakland did not report any damage to roads or bridges. Divers are continuing to check support columns of bridges in Macomb County to find out if strong flood currents washed away the base of even more bridges, Mioduszewski said. Reports of the damage will be sent to the state and then forwarded to the Federal Emergency Management Administration, which will determine whether to make low-interest federal loans available to homeowners and business owners, Mioduszewski said. About 2,000 homes and businesses in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Livingston counties were damaged by the floods. Wayne County had the most

damage to homes, with more than 1,000. Macomb had 102 homes that suffered serious damage when the fast-moving floodwaters poured into homes. Another 391 homes in Macomb suffered minor damage, and 21 businesses reported flood losses. About 150 homes in Livingston County were flooded when Ore Lake rose 2 feet above flood stages. Several roads were also washed out. Waterford Township in Oakland County was by far the hardest hit by the floods. The county's emergency response department said 369 homes sustained water damage, with about 231 of those in Waterford Township.

London, May 29 — A press report, dated May 28, states: Gov. Joe Kernan declared a disaster emergency today for parts of Indiana hard-hit by destructive wind and torrential rain that swamped rivers and left some residents stranded. The governors of Kentucky and West Virginia also declared emergencies in the wake of flooding and storm damage. This week's storms were blamed for at least four deaths; three in Kentucky and one in West Virginia. A woman in Kentucky remained missing after a truck in which she had been riding was swept away. In Indiana, severe storms yesterday destroyed at least 19 homes and heavily damaged 31 others. A dam that holds back a lake south of Salem, about 100 miles south of Indianapolis, also was damaged. The National Weather Service sent a crew to survey the area, but had not determined by late this afternoon whether there had been any actual touchdowns, said Robert Szappanos, a meteorologist with the weather service in Louisville, Ky. Heavy flooding on Indiana's Blue River also stranded more than a dozen people in their homes, and they had to be rescued by sheriff's deputies in longboats and airboats. An apparent tornado damaged about 50 homes in Martinsburg. Some homes were then hit by floodwaters, including a poultry farm, authorities said. A truck hauled away hundreds of dead chickens. Washington County Sheriff's Deputy Larry Motsinger said about 27 residents were trapped yesterday and today in Fredericksburg and needed to be rescued by boat. About 2,463 power customers of CinergyPSI Energy remained without electricity Friday evening. In neighbouring Kentucky, storms that swept through the northern part of the state and dumped heavy rain caused flooding and killed three men, state police said. The weather service were trying to determine if tornadoes had moved through the area. In Henry County, Ky., officials reported a tornado and 70 mph winds that destroyed 23 homes and damaged 86 others. About 3,300 homes were without electric power. Gov. Ernie Fletcher declared a state of emergency. Eminence, Ky., Fire Chief Gary Lucas said the storm damaged at least three-quarters of the homes in town. "There's not a street in town that does not have trees down, homes damaged, lines down," he said. West Virginia Gov. Bob Wise today also declared a state of emergency in seven counties as residents worked to mop up after a

series of thunderstorms. One person was killed. "We are getting some reports of significant damage," Wise said. American Electric Power and Allegheny Power both reported widespread outages.

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Severe storms cut through central and southern Indiana yesterday, killing at least one person and injuring several others as strong winds destroyed homes and businesses. One person died in his mobile home in the town of Marengo, about 35 miles north-west of Louisville, Ky, said Indiana State Police Sgt Todd Ringle. The storms hit just three days after a wave of storms damaged property and caused flooding in central and southern Indiana. Gov Joe Kernan planned to survey storm damage today with emergency management officials, as he did after the storms last week. The National Weather Service in Indianapolis said it saw evidence of a tornado touchdown on the south-west side of the city, close to its office. Ralph Seacat, director of emergency management for Crawford County, said the storm that struck Marengo caused widespread damage, with homes damaged or destroyed in the town of about 800 people. "It's pretty well devastated, throughout the town there's extensive damage. Roofs off of houses and trees down everywhere," Seacat said. Severe storms also raked Jeffersonville, across the Ohio River from Louisville. Mayor Rob Waiz said numerous homes sustained minor damage. Storms moved through Monroe County in south-central Indiana, damaging homes and barns north of Ellettsville. Television footage showed at least three homes with roof damage, a destroyed barn and tracts of forest land reduced to broken timbers. The National Weather Service issued a tornado warning for many counties in central and southern Indiana yesterday afternoon and last night.

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from a chain of Memorial Day holiday thunderstorms and tornadoes stood at 10 as residents of the South and Midwest struggled with power outages, debris and water-logged streets. Storms produced heavy rain, high winds and dozens of tornados along an arc from Louisiana to New England. More thunderstorms moved across parts of the Great Lakes states today. Gov. Joe Kernan surveyed the damage from a helicopter today, a day after the storms that destroyed dozens of homes, and said the town of Marengo "just got clobbered." The National Weather Service estimated winds up to 170 mph blew through the town. Two Indiana National Guard units were expected to arrive tomorrow in Marengo, about 35 miles northwest of Louisville, Ky., to move heavy debris to help reopen roads. Kernan has extended a disaster emergency he issued last week for the entire state. He said he expected Federal Emergency Management Agency officials to arrive tomorrow to begin reviewing whether areas would be eligible for disaster aid. Nearly 100

homes and farm buildings were destroyed or damaged in Tennessee's Giles County, about 80 miles south of Nashville. A total of 22 people were injured in Hardin County - most at a campground where wind knocked over trees, destroying some 25 camper trailers. The National Weather Service said it believed winds of more than 60 mph were to blame for the damage, although forecasters did not rule out a tornado. Gov. Bob Wise declared a state of emergency in Wyoming county and two others today, after declaring emergencies in seven other counties Friday. In Kentucky, the weather service said it confirmed that a tornado damaged buildings in one Louisville-area subdivision on May 30, and another in Barnsley, Ky., destroyed a home and blew off businesses' roofs along a six-mile-long path. No injuries were reported from either tornado. I

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated today, states: West Virginia plans to seek a federal disaster declaration for six counties after recent floods ravaged hundreds of homes and businesses and caused about \$3 million in damages to roads, state officials said yesterday. State emergency officials are working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to document the damage so they can apply for federal help for Braxton, Jackson, Kanawha, Logan, Mingo and Wyoming counties, Gov. Bob Wise said. Several storms moved through southern West Virginia late Sunday (May 30) and early Monday killing one person. More than four inches of rain fell in some areas. Another line of storms packing winds up to 70 mph hit the state today, killing one trucker, knocking down trees and power lines and leaving 103,000 customers without electricity. A fast-moving thunderstorm coupled with wind gusts approaching 60 miles per hour was blamed for a head-on collision of two tractor-trailers in Morgan County near Ridge. Most of American Electric Power's 81,000 outages, which could last until the weekend, were reported in Cabell, Boone, Kanawha, Mason, Putnam and Wayne counties, said AEP spokesman Phil Moyer. Some outages remained for flooded residents in Logan and Mingo counties from previous storms, Moyer said. Allegheny Power, which serves most of northern West Virginia, had 22,000 customers without power soon after the storms hit, many in Lewis, Upshur and Wood counties. About 8,000 had been restored by early today, said spokesman Guy Fletcher. Ray Young, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Charleston, said winds ranged from 40 mph to 70 mph. About 250 homes and businesses in Wyoming County were damaged when rising streams and water running off mountains caused flooding, said county Emergency Services Director Dean Meadows. Hundreds of homes suffered damage in Logan County, Wise said. Several businesses, including some car dealerships, were damaged or "wiped out" in the low-lying areas, county Fire Chief James Porter said. Some scattered showers and thunderstorms

were expected throughout the state today, the National Weather Service said.

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated Jun 1, states: Indianapolis City officials nearly doubled their damage estimate from this week's tornadoes to more than \$19 million as federal emergency teams began touring the state to survey the damage today. Utility workers, meanwhile, restored power to more residences, reducing the number of customers without electricity to about 780. At the height of the storm, about 25,000 homes in metropolitan Indianapolis were without power. The National Weather Service now reports that there were at least 17 confirmed tornadoes statewide on Sunday (May 30), including 11 in Central Indiana. Representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency arrived in Indiana today, meeting with State Emergency Management Agency officials to lay out a plan for assessing damage caused by Sunday's storms.

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of Texans remained without power yesterday, victims of severe storms packing hail and high wind that rolled north into Oklahoma, where they downed power lines and delayed airline flights. Three people were killed in storm-related incidents, authorities said. About 280,000 homes and businesses across the Dallas-Fort Worth area remained without electricity, and it could be several days before power is fully restored, said TXU Electric Delivery spokeswoman Carol Peters. The storms also left about 100,000 Oklahomans without power. Two people died in Texas; one while driving on a rain-slick road, the other killed when a tree fell on his mobile home. One woman was killed in a weather-related accident in Oklahoma City. In Kansas, high wind derailed an empty train. Damage in the Dallas-Fort Worth area was tentatively estimated at about \$100 million by the Southwestern Insurance Information Service, an industry group. Most of the damage was due to wind, spokeswoman Sandra Ray said. As Dallas-Fort Worth assessed the damage, travellers were told to stay away from windows at the Tulsa International Airport in Oklahoma as winds up to 80 mph raked the area, said Ken Miller, the airport's deputy director. Flights were delayed until the storm passed. Airport Director Brent Kitchen said a 50-foot by 75-foot strip of insulation was torn off a concourse's concrete roof. Utility companies reported about 100,000 without power in Oklahoma. In Tulsa, windows were shattered and roofs damaged. At the 15-story WilTel Co. building in downtown Tulsa, dozens of windows were broken, forcing about 1,300 employees to be evacuated, said company spokeswoman Cheena Pazzo. Glass covered a street in front of the building and the Federal Aviation Administration closed the airspace above to prevent vibrations from media helicopters from sending more windows crashing to the street below. Police closed streets surrounding the building. Outside Wright, Kan., high winds

derailed 68 empty grain cars, officials said. The cars were empty and no one was injured. The Burlington Northern-Santa Fe train, bound for St. Joseph, Mo., was returning from El Paso, Texas, said company spokesman Steve Forsberg. A quarter-mile away, winds also blew over a tractor-trailer, Smith said. No injuries were reported. On Tuesday (Jun 1), thunderstorms pounded parts of Texas with hail as big as tennis balls and wind blasting to more than 80 mph, halting flights at two airports and blacking out more than a half-million customers. Some of the areas of northern and central Texas got two inches of rain late Tuesday, flooding streets in Arlington more than a foot deep. By yesterday morning, the storms had blown east and north. More than a half-million customers lost power at the height of the storms. Also yesterday, Indiana Gov. Joe Kernan asked President Bush to declare parts of Indiana a federal disaster area after 17 tornados ripped through the state Sunday, destroying or damaging hundreds of homes. State officials estimate that residents in five counties may be eligible for federal aid.

Earthquakes



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake today shook the Dominican border town of Jimani. There was no immediate word on damage or injuries, but it was impossible to reach the town by phone. A quake measuring 4.4 on the Richter scale lasted for four seconds, said Jose Luis German, spokesman for the National Emergency Commission. The epicenter was on the Haitian side of the border, German said.

GREECE

London, May 31 — A press report, dated May 30, states: An earthquake measuring 4.8 on the Richter scale occurred under the Ionian Sea to the west of Greece but there were no reports of casualties or damage, the Athens seismological observatory said. The quake occurred at 0700, UTC, yesterday with its epicentre some 225 kilometers south-west of Athens, the observatory said.

HAITI/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Port au Prince, Jun 1 — A small earthquake rattled the southern border of Haiti and the Dominican Republic over the weekend (May 29/30) but there were no reports of further deaths or destruction in an area where devastating floods and mudslides killed about 2,000 people. The quake, with a magnitude of 4.4, was felt in the hard-hit Dominican border town of Jimani, where more than 350 people were killed in the flooding, the Dominican emergency operations centre said. It

did not report any damage. The epicentre of the quake was on the Haitian side of the border at a depth of 20 miles, the Dominican centre said. — Reuters.

IRAN

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful earthquake rocked northern Iran yesterday, killing at least 20 people and damaging scores of villages, officials said. The US Geological Survey said the tremor had a magnitude of 6.2, powerful enough to bring down many buildings. The earthquake shook the capital Tehran, about 60 miles south of the epicentre, but Iran's vice-president, Mohammad Ali Abtahi, said the Islamic Republic was not steeling itself for a big death toll. A government official in Tehran put the overall toll at 20 dead and 150 people injured. But reports from northern provinces suggested at least 28 had died.

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Yesterday's relatively strong quake which hit a large part of Iran left 81 people injured in Karaj, a city 35 km west of Tehran, Head of the Natural Disasters Headquarters Ali Jahanbakhshi said here today. Jahanbakhshi told IRNA that 29 out of the injured have been hospitalized and the rest received outpatient treatment. He said the quake also left no casualty in Tehran. The official said 12 residential units were also damaged in villages of Asara, Oshan, Fasahm and Meygoon. He said that based on information available the quake damaged seven houses in Tehran. Another IRNA report says that at least 21 people were killed and 250 others injured in the Caspian province of Mazandaran as a result of the earthquake. An official has said the death toll is likely to rise. According to the governor of Kalardasht, two people were killed this morning after being hit by falling rocks at the Kalleh-No village. Deputy head for civil affairs of the governor general's office in Mazandaran, Naseeraddin Shahrokhi, said many cars are still buried on the Kandovan road. There were also three deaths and 20 injuries in the north-western Qazvin province, officials said. According to Shahrokhi, the quake destroyed part of the Kandovan road, cutting off 40 villages in the cities of Noshahr and Chalous. Seismological bases of Tehran University have recorded more than 65 aftershocks, ranging in magnitude between less than 5.5 and 1.6 degrees on the Richter scale, since the first quake hit.

London, May 30 — A press report, dated May 29, states: Giant boulders and crushed cars littered a mountain road today, a day after landslides were unleashed by a strong earthquake in northern and central Iran that killed at least 35 people and injured 250 others. The quake was felt in eight provinces in central and northern Iran, damaging more than 80 villages. Many of those killed were smashed by falling boulders or buried in their cars along the mountainous road that connects Tehran

with the city of Chalous, about 55 miles north of the capital. Large cracks riddled the road, which was covered by rocks, giant boulders and damaged cars. Trucks were being used to haul away the cars. The landslides cut off road access to about a dozen villages, and army helicopters were ferrying rescue teams to assess the situation in those villages. The Iranian Red Crescent Society dispatched rescue teams with search dogs, as well as medical teams, tents and lanterns to the stricken areas. The official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted officials as saying about 50 villages were shaken. Twenty aftershocks were reported after yesterday's quake, including one 4.6-magnitude temblor this morning in Bam that state-run Tehran television said caused "some damage but no casualties." A weak tremor that lasted about five seconds was felt around midday today in Tehran, which has a population of about 10 million people. Friday's quake had cracked or shattered windows in the extreme north of the capital, more than 60 miles from the hardest-hit villages. Bijan Dastari, a senior Red Crescent Society official, said 35 people had been killed and 250 injured in the earthquake, measured at magnitude-6.2 by the US Geological Survey. Tehran's University's seismological centre measured the quake at 5.5 magnitude.

London, May 31 — A press report, dated May 30, states: Iran is observing three days of mourning for victims of earthquake Friday (May 28) that killed at least 45 people in the northern part of the country. Iranian President Mohammad Khatami today expressed condolences to families of the dead, which include the governor of quake-stricken Qazvin Province, killed along with eight others when their helicopter crashed during a survey of a disaster site. The strong tremor shook Iran late Friday, causing hundreds of injuries and extensive damage to more than 80 villages over a wide region north of the capital. The quake severed transportation and communication links to the area. Helicopters are being used to transport rescuers and supplies because many roads are impassable from landslides. The quake also shook buildings in Tehran, shattering windows and sending panicked residents into the streets.

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Two earthquakes measuring 4.4 and 3.3 degrees on the Richter scale hit the city of Masjed Soleiman in the south-western oil-rich province of Khuzestan today. The seismological base of Geophysics Institute of Tehran University registered the first quake at 0418, local time, 2348, GMT, yesterday, and another one at 1507, local time, 1037, GMT. There were no immediate reports of any casualties or damage caused by quakes.

JAMAICA

London, May 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A light earthquake

with a magnitude of 4.3 on the Richter scale was felt across sections of the island about 1445, yesterday. The Earthquake Unit at the University of the West Indies (UWI) said the epicentre of the quake was Yallahs in Western, St Thomas. The quake, felt mainly in the eastern end of the island, was described as "extensive" by Raffia Ahead of the Geology Department at the UWI. "We received calls from as far as Mandeville, so though the epicentre was in Western St Thomas, the quake was extensive".

JAPAN

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake registering an estimated magnitude of 5.9 on the Richter scale hit Iwate, Miyagi and other nearby prefectures in north-eastern and eastern Japan at 1247 this afternoon, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The temblor measured 3 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in the city of Rikuzen Takata, Iwate Prefecture, the town of Zao, Miyagi Prefecture, the cities of Fukushima and Iwaki in Fukushima Prefecture, and Kanai in the city of Hitachi Ota, Ibaraki Prefecture.

RUSSIA

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated May 31, states: A series of earthquakes measuring up to six on the Richter scale has hit the island of Sakhalin in Russia's far east. Local emergency officials says the first earthquake rocked the Tatarsky Bay west of Sakhalin and was felt in several towns including the region's centre, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. About 46 houses were damaged, but no casualties were reported. Smaller tremors were also registered.

SOUTH KOREA

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.9 shook South Korea today, but there was no immediate report of damage or casualty, reported South Korean Yonhap News Agency. The quake occurred at 1920, local time, today in the sea off Uljin of North Gyeongsang Province, about 330 kilometres south-east of Seoul, the news agency said. It caused minor tremors across the country. But it was not known whether the earthquake caused damage or casualty, the report said.

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale was registered today off the eastern coast of South Korea, seismological authorities said. The Korea Meteorological Administration said the epicentre of the quake, which struck at 1014, GMT, was some 80 km east of the south-eastern port of Uljin. It was felt across the south-eastern province of South Gyeongsang where buildings were noticeably shaken. "As the epicentre was far off the coast, there seems to be no casualties," an agency official said. There were no immediate reports of damage.



AFGHANISTAN

Kandahar, May 25 — At least 20 suspected Taliban were killed in U.S. air strikes in southern Afghanistan today, Afghan officials said. The U.S. military in Kabul could not confirm the attacks. If confirmed, the losses would be among the largest suffered in a single battle by the Taliban. Khan Mohammad, a corps commander in the southern city of Kandahar, said Afghan forces had been engaged in fierce clashes with suspected Taliban near the town of Spin Boldak, which lies on the Pakistani border. "There has been fighting going on between Afghan forces and the Taliban," he said. "They called in U.S. (air) support." He said 20 Taliban had been killed and that fighting continued. A second Kandahar official, who asked not to be named, said at least 28 Taliban had died. A spokeswoman for the 20,000-strong American-led force in Afghanistan hunting remnants of the Taliban militia ousted by a U.S. invasion in 2001 said she had no comment on the report. "For security reasons, we can't disclose any details," she said. — Reuters.

Kabul, May 30 — Four US soldiers were killed in action in southern Afghanistan yesterday, the latest sign of a growing militant insurgency that threatens to disrupt landmark elections due in September. In one of the worst losses for American forces since the fall of the Taliban late in 2001, four service members assigned to a special forces unit were killed in the southern province of Zabul, scene of regular guerrilla attacks in recent months. "Four US service members assigned to the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force, Afghanistan were killed in action today here in southern Afghanistan," said a brief statement from the US military, received early today. In what has been a bloody week for Afghanistan, seven Afghan soldiers and four suspected Taliban fighters died in clashes in the southern province of Helmand yesterday and two American soldiers were wounded near the Pakistani border on Thursday (May 27). — Reuters.

Jalalabad, Jun 1 — Haji Ajab Shah, a senior police official was killed in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad today when a bomb attached to his office chair exploded, doctors said. Jalalabad, which is 81 miles east of Kabul, has been hit by a series of blasts targeting government offices and Western aid agencies, but few have caused serious casualties. — Reuters.

Kandahar, Jun 2 — Afghan forces said today they had foiled a major attack by remnants of the ousted Taliban regime in the restive southern province of Zabul. At least three Taliban fighters and three government soldiers were killed in the two pronged assault by

militants on the headquarters of Shah Joy district overnight, one official said. "This was a very heavy Taliban assault," Zabul's Police Chief, Mohammad Ayoub, said. "They stormed from two directions, but government forces bravely managed to defeat them and forced them to flee." He said the fighting lasted for several hours, but he could not say how many attackers took part in it. Nimatullah Tokhi, a senior government commander in Zabul, said some 100 Taliban fighters were involved in the attack and quoted locals who reported seven Taliban killed. Tor, a commander in Shah Joy, said the district's headquarters and its bazaar were damaged during the fighting. — Reuters.

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The medical aid charity Medecins Sans Frontieres has confirmed that five of its aid workers have been killed in an ambush in north-west Afghanistan. It has identified the victims as a Belgian woman, a Dutchman, and a Norwegian man, who was a doctor. Two Afghans, a driver and a translator, also died in the attack. Afghan officials say the team's vehicle was attacked by unknown gunman while on a road in Baghdis Province. Foreign aid workers are regularly targeted in the south and east of the country, but until now not in the north. The Belgian government has condemned the attack as repugnant, and vowed to continue its involvement in Afghanistan's reconstruction.

ALGERIA

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Islamic rebels in Algeria have killed 10 soldiers and wounded 16 in what state radio said was the most deadly attack on security forces this year. The soldiers were in a military convoy that was ambushed on a highway near the port city of Bejaia in the Berber region. A hardline movement linked to Al Qaeda is based in the region and often stages attacks there. It is fighting for a Taliban-style Islamic state.

BANGLADESH

Dhaka, May 27 — An opposition strike shut schools, transport and businesses in northeastern Bangladesh today in a protest against the bombing of a Muslim shrine in which the British ambassador was injured. Three people were killed and 60 injured when the bomb exploded last week at the Hazrat Shahjalal shrine in the town of Sylhet. The Awami League, which called the strike, accused the government of failing to provide adequate security for the ambassador: Anwar Choudhury and hundreds of devotees attending the prayers. Police said the strike was peaceful. It covered Sylhet and the neighbouring districts of Moulvibazar, Habiganj and Sunamganj — Choudhury's ancestral home. Police have detained 17 suspects in last week's bombing. — Reuters.

BOLIVIA

La Paz, Jun 1 — One soldier and a protesting farmer were shot dead today,

the government said. Another seven soldiers and five policemen were shot and wounded in the jungle ambush after they broke up a road blockade by farmers demanding that President Carlos Mesa bring power to their isolated Amazon region. "This was an ambush by criminal elements," Defense Minister Gonzalo Arredondo told reporters. It was not clear if the protesters represented indigenous groups. Indian leaders have organized most of the recent protests across this Andean nation demanding that Mesa live up to promises to help the country's poor indigenous majority. Indian groups have opposed government plans to export natural gas and cut spending, reflecting a growing perception among Bolivia's eight million people that a decade of free-market reforms and foreign investment has only benefited the rich. — Reuters.

BURUNDI

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A 5,000-strong United Nations force is taking over peacekeeping operations in Burundi to support the peace process. African Union troops already deployed in Burundi will put on the UN blue helmets in a handover ceremony. The mission starts as South African mediators are struggling to reach an agreement on when to hold elections. They are due in October to mark the end of a transitional authority. The government wants them postponed, despite opposition from former rebels. The talks between the Burundi government and six former rebel groups in South Africa have been extended in a bid to find an agreement. "We are ready for elections as scheduled. We do not want any delay," said Pierre Nkurunziza, the leader of the Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD). The FDD, which used to be the largest rebel group, pulled out of the transitional government earlier this month, saying it had not been given the jobs agreed in a peace deal. But President Domitien Ndayizeye last week said a postponement was necessary to guarantee the polls would take place "in full security". "Former armed groups will be turned into political parties and will go to the polls," he said. "So before going to the elections, the population, militia groups and what we call 'militant combatants' must all be disarmed". Some 2,700 troops from South Africa, Mozambique and Ethiopia are already in Burundi. The Pretoria talks come ahead of a regional summit on Burundi due to kick off in Dar es Salaam on Saturday (Jun 5). The summit should assess the progress made since a transitional authority was set up in 2001.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, May 28 — A press report, dated May 27, states: Rival factions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo army have clashed in the eastern town of Bukavu, leaving several people dead. The hostilities involve troops loyal to the regional commander of the

Congolese army and those loyal to Colonel Mutebusi - a former commander of the Rally for Congolese Democracy, a former rebel group which joined a power-sharing government last year. The sound of mortars and rocket propelled grenades could be heard across the city during hours of heavy fighting and sporadic exchanges have continued throughout the day. Hostilities broke out yesterday evening - when elements loyal to former RCD commander Colonel Mutebusi clashed with other units of the Congolese army. There are contradictory reports over which side started the fighting. Peacekeepers of the UN mission in Congo - Monuc - are patrolling the town in armoured vehicles - with UN attack helicopters deployed as air support. Monuc spokesman in Bukavu Sebastien Lapierre said UN reinforcements had started to arrive from other parts of eastern Congo - with further contingents expected tomorrow. He said Monuc troops will shortly begin deploying between the belligerents in an effort to stem the fighting. Mr Lapierre said Monuc had also been in contact with both Colonel Mutebusi and the regional commander of the Congolese army - General Mbudja Mabe - to try and broker a ceasefire between them. Details of fatalities are still emerging, but initial reports say at least two soldiers have been killed. Monuc has also received reports of three civilians killed - two of them children - with an unconfirmed number of civilian casualties. Isolated incidents of looting have also been reported.

Cyangugu, May 31 — Fresh fighting broke out in Congo's lawless east yesterday as regular army units battled a column of about 1,000 unidentified armed men north of the border town of Bukavu, UN officials said. The latest clashes came as top government officials arrived in the region to hold talks with rival army factions after days of violence that killed at least 13 people — including seven civilians and a UN peacekeeper — and drove thousands into neighbouring Rwanda. "There was an hour or two of fighting near Kavumu airport earlier this evening between Congolese forces and an advancing column of about 1,000 men. The fighting involved small arms and mortar fire," said Sebastien Lapierre, a spokesman for the UN mission in Congo. He said a big UN force had deployed at the airport, some 22 miles from Bukavu, but had not engaged in fighting. The clashes appeared to have subsided late yesterday, he said. UN officials had reported movements north of Bukavu earlier in the day by the armed column, which is not part of the government's 10th Military Region command. UN military sources said the troops were believed to be renegade soldiers from RCD-Goma. That was the biggest rebel group, backed by Rwanda, during Congo's sprawling five-year war. Local radio reports said the armed men were on their way to reinforce another dissident group of soldiers which fought with the army in Bukavu for three days last week. Bukavu itself was calm yesterday after UN troops established a

front line down its main street and shepherded rebel fighters towards barracks and UN-controlled sites. — Reuters.

Bukavu, Jun 1 — Renegade soldiers and government troops fighting in eastern Congo have both accepted a cease-fire, a U.N. spokesman said today, but an officer with the dissident fighters immediately cast doubt on the truce. Days of clashes between the renegade fighters — former rebels during Congo's five-year war who are now supposed to be integrated into a new army — and government forces have raised fears that the country's fragile peace process may fall apart. U.N. spokesman Sebastien Lapierre said Gen. Mbuza Mabe, the army commander for the South Kivu province, had "received instructions" to accept the cease-fire today, a day after the renegade troops declared their intention to stop fighting. He said U.N. peacekeeping troops would deploy between the belligerents to prevent any truce violations. The two sides clashed again this morning, and the renegade soldiers moved to within nine miles north of Bukavu, a town in a rugged, mountainous region bordering Rwanda, vowing to wrest it from government control. "A cease-fire has been established between Mabe's forces and (Gen. Laurent) Nkunda's forces. Nkunda had declared his willingness to accept the cease-fire yesterday and today Mabe has received instructions to also accept the cease-fire," Lapierre said in Bukavu. However, one of Nkunda's officers — part of a 1,000-strong column of former rebel fighters — denied his forces had agreed a new truce and blamed the army for today's fighting. "After we agreed a cease-fire (yesterday), they attacked us" Col. Frank Mitima told Reuters. Some Bukavu residents say the fighting — in which at least 45 people have been killed — simply boils down to a turf war with former rebels used to laying down the law in their fiefdoms and reluctant to join a new national army. — Reuters.

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Dissident soldiers are advancing through the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo town of Bukavu, after a week of fighting and there are growing indications it may be about to fall to rebel forces. Renegade Col Jules Mutebusi already claims to be in control of the town, saying the army commander has fled. The latest fighting came just hours after United Nations peacekeepers said a rebel ceasefire declared on Monday (May 31) appeared to be holding in the area. Exchanges of light arms and mortar fire erupted at 0400, UTC, in Bukavu town centre but no gunfire has been heard in the past few hours. A number of Congolese army soldiers are reported to have deserted and looting has been taking place. The UN remains in control of Bukavu airport, but UN peacekeepers are not opposing the rebels' advance through the town. A week of clashes left at least 27 people dead and thousands of ethnic Tutsi Banyamulenge have fled into neighbouring Rwanda. Congolese Foreign Minister Antoine Ghonda denied there was an ethnic aspect to the

violence. Instead, he blamed it on indiscipline within the army. "We are in control of the whole of Bukavu and (government loyalist Brig Gen Mbuza) Mabe has fled the city," Col Mutebusi told AP news agency. "Many of his troops have joined us, others have shed their uniforms and are staying at their homes and a few have fled with Mabe," he said. Brig Gen Laurent Nkunda, has reportedly led some 1,000 fighters into Bukavu. "We have liberated the town," he told AFP news agency. It is reported that peacekeepers were intervening to stop looting. A senior government delegation was expected in Bukavu later today, led by former RCD-Goma commander Vice-President Azarias Ruberwa.

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated Jun 2, states: The Democratic Republic of Congo has accused Rwanda of sending troops to support rebel soldiers who have seized the eastern Congolese town of Bukavu. DR Congo President Joseph Kabila said Bukavu was "under the control of Rwandan occupants", and said it was "a situation of war". Rwanda has denied any involvement in the conflict in eastern Congo. Today dissident fighters captured Bukavu after a week of clashes with regular troops. United Nations peacekeepers were sent to Bukavu last week, to quell fighting between the dissidents and regular troops, but the UN troops did not oppose the advancing rebel fighters. Latest reports from the town speak of looting and rape, despite efforts by UN peacekeepers to maintain order. Demonstrators accused the peacekeepers of failing to stop the rebel advance, and threw stones at UN vehicles, setting one on fire.

IRAQ

Najaf, May 27 — Rebel Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr began pulling his fighters from Najaf today after offering a deal to end a stand-off with U.S. forces that has left hundreds dead. Squad commanders from Sadr's Mehdi Army militia said they had orders to quit their positions by noon after the first night in some time that was free of major clashes. Iraq's national security adviser and a senior aide to Sadr said they expected U.S. commanders to agree to a deal after Sadr asked them to pull their troops off the streets. Iraqi national security adviser Mowaffaq al-Rubaie, quoting a statement signed by Sadr, told Reuters the cleric was willing to pull members of his Mehdi Army militia who are not normally resident in Najaf out of the city and had demanded in return that a murder case for which he is wanted be suspended. There was no immediate response from the U.S. authorities in Iraq, who have dismissed previous truce offers and said Sadr must face the Iraqi murder charge and disband his forces. U.S. troops seized a relative and senior lieutenant to Sadr early yesterday, who was also wanted over the same murder. However, violence remains widespread across Iraq. The U.S. military said three Marines were killed in western Iraq yesterday. Meanwhile, U.S. plans for a handover to an Iraqi government came

under renewed fire, with China insisting on a deadline for an American troop pullout amid more confusion over chains of command. France, Russia, Germany and Spain have made similar objections. Paris and Moscow say they will seek amendments to strengthen Iraqi sovereignty. The existing draft asks for an effectively open-ended mandate for the U.S.-led force, renewable in a year. — Reuters.

Kufa, May 28 — U.S. troops clashed with Iraqi fighters from Moqtada al-Sadr's Mehdi Army militia today near Najaf, a day after the radical Shi'ite cleric offered a truce that U.S. forces agreed to respect. A Reuters correspondent heard sporadic gunfire around Sadr's home mosque at Kufa, just outside Najaf, and U.S. tanks cordoned off the area. Witnesses heard explosions earlier. In Najaf, however, guns were silent overnight for the first time in several weeks. — Reuters.

Mahmudiya, May 28 — Two Japanese freelance journalists were killed in a rocket-propelled grenade attack on their vehicle south of Baghdad, their Iraqi driver told the hospital where the incinerated bodies were taken today. Hospital director Imad al-Maliki told Reuters the bodies were completely unrecognizable after the attack yesterday afternoon, but the driver of the vehicle had told him they were the bodies of two Japanese freelance journalists. Japan's foreign ministry, which confirmed the attack but said it did not know the fate of the Japanese, said the two involved were Shinsuke Hashida, a well-known 61-year-old freelance journalist, and his nephew, 33-year-old Kotaro Ogawa. The journalists were returning from Japan's military base in the southern town of Samawa when they were attacked near the town of Mahmudiya, about 30 kms south of Baghdad, a spokesman for Japanese forces in Iraq told Reuters. The journalists were travelling with a driver and translator, but it was not immediately clear what happened to the translator. — Reuters.

Najaf, May 28 — Five Iraqis were killed and 14 wounded in clashes between U.S. troops and Shi'ite militiamen in Najaf and in nearby Kufa today, hospital sources said. An official at the hospital in Kufa said three people had died in gunfire and mortar shelling in the town, while eight were wounded. In Najaf two were killed and six were hurt, hospital staff said. There was no immediate word on casualties from the U.S. military. — Reuters.

Baghdad, May 30 — Three US Marines were killed in action in the volatile al-Anbar province west of Baghdad yesterday, while a US Army soldier was killed in a separate mortar attack several days earlier, the US military said. A US military statement issued today said the soldier was killed in a mortar attack on May 25 south of Baghdad, which also wounded nine soldiers. There was no more information on the circumstances of the deaths. The al-Anbar province where the Marines were killed includes the flashpoint cities of Falluja and Ramadi. The US military also said it was investigating the death

of a soldier from a unit based in the northern town of Mosul on Friday (May 28), which had not been caused by hostile fire. — Reuters.

Kufa, Iraq, May 31 — Two US soldiers and more than a dozen Iraqi militiamen were killed in skirmishes overnight around the Shi'ite holy city of Najaf, the fourth day of clashes since militia leader Moqtada al-Sadr offered a truce. In Baghdad, US officials and Iraqi leaders put off further talks over the choice of a president to succeed Saddam Hussein when the US occupation authority is wound up a month from now. With the top post of prime minister filled by Iyad Allawi on Friday (May 28) and key ministerial jobs also broadly agreed on, talks deadlocked when Iraq's US-appointed Governing Council rallied behind one candidate for president in defiance of US pressure. Council member Mahmoud Othman said: "The Americans have asked for the meeting to be delayed until tomorrow." An aide to Allawi said negotiations would resume tomorrow. US military spokesmen said that two soldiers were killed by Shi'ite militia at Kufa, just outside Najaf, late yesterday and that US troops killed close to 20 guerrillas in response. A bomb blew up in a van as a Dutch patrol approached it in Samawa today but there were no casualties, Dutch troops at the scene said. Japanese forces are also in the area. In the northern Kurdish city of Arbil, the offices of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan political party came under mortar attack this morning. Police said there were no casualties. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jun 1 — A car bomb tore through the headquarters of one of Iraq's main Kurdish parties in Baghdad today, killing and wounding dozens shortly before the Iraq's new government was announced. Iraqi policeman Sattar Jabar said he had seen at least 25 bodies but Lieutenant Colonel Robert Campbell, a U.S. officer at the scene, said only three people were confirmed dead and 20 wounded. He said the blast was caused by a car bomb. The blast was at the offices of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, close to Iraq's Foreign Ministry and an entrance to the "Green Zone" compound where the U.S.-led administration in Iraq is based. Shooting rang out after the explosion. A huge crater was blown into the ground at the entrance to the building. Officials said an anniversary party had been going on in the building and that it was packed with people when the bomb exploded. — Reuters.

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated Jun 1, states: Two Polish civilian contractors were kidnapped in Baghdad today by unidentified men who called at the apartment where they were lodging. One of the Poles managed to escape unharmed after he had been bundled into a waiting car. A spokesman for the Polish military contingent said a search was under way for the second contractor. Three Kurdish security guards and two locally-hired female employees were also abducted, a spokesman for the construction company they were working for said. Andrzej Polackiewicz told Polish TV

that the kidnappers burst into company offices, adding that the attack was well prepared.

Baghdad, Jun 2 — A car blew up in a busy northern Baghdad neighbourhood today killing at least four people and wounding about 20, police at the scene said. A Reuters cameraman saw the burned-out shell of a car on the street in the Aadamiya district, a predominantly Sunni neighborhood, and pools of blood on the tarmac. It was not immediately clear if the car had been used as a bomb itself or if a roadside bomb had exploded next to it. The blast occurred in a busy street packed with pedestrians and workers, police officer Ali al-Raiby told reporters. Meanwhile, Iraq's new president Ghazi al-Yawar was quoted as saying today he was pressured by foreign parties not to run for the post, partly because he had no links to the U.S. administration in Iraq. The United States had dismissed suggestions yesterday that it was unhappy with Yawar's nomination as president, which came after several days of tense political wrangling in Baghdad. Washington is believed to have preferred Adnan Pachachi, an 81-year-old former foreign minister, for the post. "There was pressure and offers of other positions in return for my stepping down as presidential nominee and I did not accept any of them," Yawar, a 46-year-old civil engineer and a powerful tribal figure, told the pan-Arab Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper. "The reason for the three-day delay in announcing the name of the president is the pressure on me to give up my right for nomination as president." Iraqi leaders forced Washington and the United Nations to back down yesterday on their choice of president in favor of Yawar, a businessman educated in Saudi Arabia who has been critical of Washington's policies in Iraq. Yawar will now be the figurehead of the interim government that will take back sovereignty from the U.S. occupiers on Jun 30 and lead the country until elections are held in January 2005. — Reuters.

ISRAEL

London, May 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A failed suicide attack on a bus in the southern Gaza Strip killed a Palestinian militant and wounded two soldiers. A jeep blew up today as it tried to ram the bus carrying some 40 Israelis to work at the Rafah border crossing with Egypt. A spokesman for the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) said the attack was carried out by a member of the PRC's armed wing, from Rafah. Spokesman Abu Abir said the PRC, the Islamic Jihad's Al-Qods Brigades and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an offshoot of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, all had a hand in the attack.

Gaza, May 30 — Two missiles fired by an Israeli helicopter killed a high-profile Hamas militant commander on his motorcycle and two comrades in Gaza City early today, Palestinian witnesses said. Hamas sources

identified the commander as Wael Nassar and said he and one of the other slain militants masterminded a May 11 ambush in which six Israeli soldiers were blown up when their troop carrier rolled over a mine during a raid into Gaza City. Palestinian medics said seven civilians, including a woman and two children, were wounded in the missile strike into Gaza City's Zeitoun district, an Islamist militant hotbed and target of the recent army incursion. An Israeli army spokesman confirmed the missile strike, saying it had eliminated two senior militants responsible for planning suicide bombings and other attacks that had killed numerous Israeli soldiers and civilians. Witnesses said Nassar and a Hamas military-wing comrade riding with him on his motorcycle were killed by the first missile. The second missile crashed close by moments later, killing another Hamas man in the street. In southern Gaza, Israeli armoured forces pushed a short way into Rafah refugee camp and razed three houses, residents said. The army often raids Rafah in operations to root out tunnels used by militants to smuggle in arms from nearby Egypt. — Reuters.

NEPAL

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Most vehicles stayed off the roads in Nepal today in response to a transport strike called by the country's Maoist rebels. The All Nepal Trade Union Federation, which is backed by the Maoists, organised the strike to protest against what it said was the ongoing exploitation of workers.

NIGERIA

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Militias in Nigeria's oil-rich Delta region have agreed to stop fighting. The agreement between the Itsekiri and Ijaw ethnic groups is supposed to end seven years of warring, which has badly disrupted oil production in the area. The deal reached in Warri came shortly after local authorities sent the army into the region's swamps and creeks to arrest the militiamen. Fighting in the oil-rich region flared in March forcing several multi-national oil companies to halt operations. Chiefs from both the Ijaw and Itsekiri tribes met face to face for the first time in Warri to declare the ceasefire and begin peace talks. Correspondents say that past attempts to achieve peace have failed because they were brokered by local politicians and ethnic leaders who in practice had very little influence over the militia on the ground. They also say that the new willingness to put violence aside now is due in no small part to pressure from the Nigerian army, which moved into the area following the April attacks on oil workers. They moved in, razing shanty towns and arresting suspected guerrilla leaders. There was a strong army presence at the ceasefire meeting, with gunboats patrolling the muddy waters of the surrounding river and swamp areas. The military has welcomed the ceasefire pledge, but has

warned that their mission is still not done, and will continue until the delta region is secure.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, May 25 — A bomb exploded at the gate No 17 of Karachi Port Trust (KPT) at Karachi in Sindh Province of Pakistan at 1945 this evening, according to Pakistan's port authority. As result, four truck drivers are feared critically injured. KPT's officials immediately reached at the accident site to supervise rescue operation. Adhi ambulances have taken injured persons to local civil hospital. Vice Admiral Ahmad Hayat, Chairmen KPT and General Manager Administration of KPT, Brigadier Iftikhar Arshad have revealed that the injured persons might were playing with explosive material and some how it exploded. However, the nature and quantity will be determined by the bomb disposal experts, they pointed out. Police have yet to start investigation. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, May 25 — Pakistan's gas utility, state owned organisation- Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), said this afternoon that a powerful blast damaged its 16-inch diameter Indus Right Bank Pipeline (IRBP) at 0300, local time, today. The incident took place about 38 km upstream of Nawabshah at the Veho Wah canal crossing in Sindh Province of Pakistan. According to a press statement issued by SSGC, a total of 200 feet of pipeline segment has been damaged due to the explosion caused by a powerful explosive. The explosion was so powerful that one 30 feet piece of pipeline was blown away to a distance of about 300 feet. The SSGC's spokesperson informed that the "Emergency Response System" of SSGC was immediately activated after receipt of the first report and requisite preventive measures were taken. The pipeline block valves situated upstream and downstream of the blast site were closed immediately to prevent any major loss of gas. The spokesperson of SSGC further stated that the affected pipeline was carrying gas from near by gas fields in Sindh to Nawabshah, Sukkur, Pano Aqil, Kairpur and en route towns and villages. The company has taken load management steps, and curtailed gas supply to industry in Sukkur and Rohri areas, the press statement added. SSGC is in a position to maintain gas supply to the domestic and commercial customers for about 8 to 10 hours, from the available line pack pressure, the spokesperson claimed. The spokesperson further stated that due to extensive damages and repair work thereon, the towns of Padidan, Mehrabpur, Sitarja, Ranipur, Kumb, Kotdeji, Kairpur, Pir jo Goth, Sukkur, Rohri, Pano Aqil and Lakhi will have low gas pressure in the evening. Gas supply will however, be curtailed for about 24 hours to allow pipeline repairs. The local authorities of SSGC informed the general public of the affected towns about the emergency situation and appealed them to keep their gas appliances closed to prevent

any accident. SSGC repair squads have been mobilised at the site, and repair work has been started. It is expected that the damaged section will be repaired in the next 36 hours and gas supply will be restored to the affected areas by tomorrow afternoon. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, May 31 — A senior pro-Taliban cleric in Pakistan was gunned down outside his mosque in Karachi yesterday and his death unleashed violent protests in which at least 17 people were hurt. Mufti Nizamuddin Shamzai, who had called for a "jihad," or holy war, against the United States after the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, was fatally wounded, police said. His son, another relative, a bodyguard and a driver were slightly wounded. Provincial security adviser Aftab Sheikh said it had been known Shamzai's life was under threat and the government had provided him with armed bodyguards. "It was a targeted killing and according to our information about 10 to 12 people were involved," he said. "It is a continuation of recent acts of violence and terrorism." He said a high court judge would hold an inquiry and offered two million rupees (\$34,632) for information on the assailants. The funeral of Shamzai passed relatively peacefully late yesterday despite earlier fears of further violence. The crackle of gunfire was heard as violent demonstrations broke out in several parts of Karachi. Small groups of Shamzai's followers came out on the streets, pelting vehicles with stones and burning tires. A correspondent at the scene said thousands of people, many carrying batons, had gathered near Shamzai's Islamic school, located in a central commercial area, and had set fire to two banks, several shops, a petrol station and two cinema houses. — Reuters.

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A bomb ripped through a Shiite Muslim mosque in Karachi during evening prayers yesterday, killing at least 16 people and wounding 38 others. A top Pakistani official said the blast could be revenge for the assassination of a senior Sunni cleric. Hundreds of Shiite youths rioted after the explosion at the Imam Bargah Ali Raza mosque, which came a day after unidentified gunmen killed the Nazamuddin Shamzai. The rioters burned shops and vehicles and blocked highways and the main rail line. Provincial police chief Kamal Shah said two men trying to steal an ambulance were shot and killed. Seven others were injured when police opened fire to disperse the crowd. It was not clear yet if it was the work of a suicide bomber. The blast cracked walls, destroyed an inner office and badly damaged a room where people wash up before praying at the mosque, which is located near the city centre on Karachi's main highway. It also shattered windows in a tall building opposite the mosque, leaving shards of glass on the asphalt. Karachi police chief Asad Ashraf Malik said at least 16 people were killed and 38 injured. An investigator at the scene also said there did not appear to be a

crater, which suggested a suicide bombing. A worshipper inside the mosque, Ghulam Ali, said he thought a bomb had been thrown inside from a passing car. He described hearing a thud and seeing a speeding car drive away before the blast.

PHILIPPINES

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven people have been injured in the southern Philippines after a bomb exploded outside a department store. The blast happened in the city of Pagadian, nearly 800 kilometres south of the capital Manila. The explosion came after intelligence officials said they were investigating an alleged bombing plot in Pagadian by the Muslim separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

RUSSIA

Moscow, May 26 — Separatist fighters killed five soldiers when they ambushed a column of Russian vehicles in Chechnya, Russian news agencies reported today. Interior ministry troops were returning to base from an operation against guerrillas yesterday evening when an explosion under the lead armoured car halted the column, Russia's Interfax news agency said. Fighters then strafed the column with machinegun fire, killing five soldiers and wounding six, a military command source told Interfax. In a separate incident, four servicemen were wounded late yesterday when three helicopters carrying special forces came under rifle fire as they landed, the Itar-Tass news agency said. — Reuters.

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A passenger train travelling from Moscow to a provincial capital in southern Russia was hit by an explosion early today, derailing seven cars and lightly injuring about six people, officials said. No one was killed. The train was bound for Vladikavkaz, the capital of the province of North Ossetia near Chechnya, when an explosive device detonated near the village of Elkhotovo at 0727, local time, said Alan Doyev, a spokesman for the regional police. He said the explosion happened between the third and fourth cars. The force of the blast derailed seven cars, carrying sleeping pass, said the injuries were all light and suffered by people who fell from the top bunks in the sleeping carriages. It wasn't immediately clear whether the explosive had been placed on the track or on one of the train's cars, Doyev said. Kozhemyaka added that officials were also investigating the possibility that it had been placed in a toilet, which is often separated from the rest of the sleeping carriage and could be the reason the impact didn't have more serious consequences. Doyev also said that the train's slow speed helped lessen the impact. All traffic on the line was stopped while the investigation continued. Russia's NTV television reported that authorities were also trying to defuse another explosive found on the power line above the track.

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated Jun 1, states: The first train in five

years from the Chechen capital, Grozny, to Moscow arrived at Paveletsky station today. To reassure potential passengers about the safety of the twice-weekly service, Russian Railways announced that "police agents with dogs trained to sniff out narcotics and explosives will be permanently present" on the trains travelling in both directions. Train travel between Moscow and the Chechen republic was disrupted in 1999 when the Grozny terminal was damaged and the rail track destroyed during fighting between Russian federal troops and Chechen separatist rebels. Since then direct travel between Moscow and Grozny has been limited to a coach service.

SAUDI ARABIA

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Attackers opened fire on compounds housing oil company offices in the eastern city of Khobar today, killing at least five people and taking hostages, witnesses said. Three foreigners were said to be among the dead. Five Lebanese hostages were later released from the compound where the gunmen had taken refuge after the shooting spree, Lebanon's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Ahmed Chammat, said. He said he didn't know if hostages of other nationalities were still being held. Witnesses and diplomats gave conflicting accounts of the shooting, and estimates of the number of dead ranged as high as eight. Some who saw the attack spoke of four gunmen in military-style dress attacking two oil company offices, while a western diplomat in Saudi Arabia said three compounds were attacked. Other witnesses said they saw three men with western features lying on the ground covered with newspapers. Those bodies were taken away in ambulances, they said. The nationalities of the foreigners were not known, but British officials were en route to Khobar to check rumors a British national was killed, according to the Foreign Office in London. The US Embassy in Riyadh would not say whether any Americans were hurt or killed. In today's attack, two security guards were believed to be dead, according to the western diplomat who said there were three separate attacks. Witnesses said that after a shootout with security forces, the gunmen took refuge in a compound housing Arabs and westerners in Khobar, located 250 miles northeast of the capital, Riyadh. At least 10 ambulances were seen outside the Oases compound, an upscale residential complex owned by a Saudi businessman, one witness said. He said he was told by a policeman that gunmen were apparently holding hostages. Hundreds of policemen surrounded the compound, and helicopters hovered overhead, witnesses said. They said they had heard of eight people killed at two compounds containing oil company offices. The government says it has foiled dozens of terror attacks in the kingdom. Most of the attacks were blamed on al-Qaida.

Khobar, Saudi Arabia, May 30 — Saudi commandos stormed a residential

complex today to rescue most of some 50 foreigners held hostage by suspected al-Qaeda militants who killed 16 people in an assault on Saudi Arabia's oil industry. Saudi forces arrested the leader of the militant group and other gunmen in the raid to end a more than 24-hour drama in the eastern oil city of Khobar in Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude exporter. Two militants were killed during the rescue operation, security sources said. Saudi security officials flashed victory signs as scores of residents and hostages streamed out of the compound, heading for hospitals and hotels. "Most hostages have been released. Seven have been evacuated to a hotel and others are still with security forces ahead of their evacuation," a police official said. It was not immediately clear if any hostages were killed in the standoff, which began yesterday after the militants killed the 16 people. There were unconfirmed reports in Khobar that at least one hostage may have been killed. "We have captured the leader of the group and ... other militants armed with guns," a security officer said after leaving the Oasis compound where the mainly Western hostages were held. — Reuters.

Khobar, Saudi Arabia, May 31 — Saudi forces combed the kingdom today for suspected al-Qaeda militants who took dozens of foreigners hostage in an attack on its globally vital oil industry that ended in the death of 22 civilians. Security forces set up nationwide checkpoints after three gunmen, using hostages as temporary cover, escaped Saudi commandos who stormed a building in the eastern oil city of Khobar yesterday to end a 25-hour siege. The leader of the militants, Nimr al-Baqmi, was wounded and captured during the rescue of the hostages. All hostages were believed freed or dead. Saudi and Arab leaders condemned the shock attacks, as state oil giant Saudi Aramco vowed to keep its crude supplies flowing smoothly in a bid to avert a hike in already-high world oil prices. Most energy markets will not reopen until tomorrow. Saudi Arabia's highest religious authority said the attackers were "puppets" manipulated by enemies of Saudi Arabia. — Reuters.

SOMALIA

London, May 30 — Thousands of Somalis have fled their homes in the capital, Mogadishu, following some of the heaviest fighting there for several years. About 60 people are feared dead after three days of worsening clashes between rival militia in the north of the city. The capital had been enjoying relative calm until a minor incident at a hotel earlier in May degenerated into what one resident described as civil war. The dispute has sucked in forces loyal to powerful warlords. Militia armed with automatic rifles, mortars and anti-aircraft guns exchanged intense fire throughout yesterday. Hospital officials said 38 people had been killed and many more injured over the past 24 hours alone. Some of them were civilians caught in the crossfire as the militiamen competed for control of

an airstrip and a road connecting the city to two harbours. As well as forcing thousands of people to abandon their homes in search of safety in the southern part of Mogadishu, the fighting has driven up the price of food and other basics.

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated May 31, states: Warlords whose forces have been fighting in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, have agreed a ceasefire to end three days of fighting. Gunfire can no longer be heard and the city is returning to normal. The latest fighting left some 60 people dead. Somalia's faction leaders have been meeting in neighbouring Kenya for more than 18 months in an effort to produce a new government, but there are widespread and understandable doubts in Mogadishu whether the men who have helped to destroy the country can agree to rebuild it.

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated Jun 1, states: More than 30 people have been killed and dozens wounded in clashes between ethnic groups in southern Somalia, near the border with Kenya. Fighting started yesterday night between two clans, over control of the town of Bula Hawo. The fighting also affected the Kenyan town of Mandera across the border, where seven people were injured. Kenyan radio today reported that an unidentified number of suspects had been arrested in the area. Sources report that hundreds of people had crossed the border and sought refuge in the Kenyan town of Garissa, but that no camps had been set up to accommodate them, and that people were heavily dependent on help from friends and relatives. The fighting started after some 200 fighters from a breakaway group from the Somali National Front (SNF) tried to retake the town from a rival faction. "Fifteen of the dead were attacking militia, 10 were the ones who were defending the town and six are ordinary civilians caught by straight bullets," an eyewitness, who asked not to be named, told AFP news agency. Bula Hawo is the gateway to Kenya and Ethiopia - commercial routes from Mogadishu to both countries pass through this town.

SUDAN

Khartoum, Jun 1 — A Sudanese security official said today rebels in west Sudan were repelled when they attacked a strategic town but a rebel group denied there had been an offensive, saying the town was already in their hands. The government and rebels in Darfur have both accused the other of violating a cease-fire deal reached in April. The latest reported violence comes on the day the first batch of African Union (AU) truce monitors were due to arrive in the country. Although the government has moved close to a final deal on ending a conflict in the south of the oil-producing country, violence has continued to rage in the west, creating what the United Nations says is the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The security official told Reuters rebels launched an attack this morning on Ain Sirou, a

town north of Kebkabiya which in turn sits on a major transport route running east to west through the Darfur region. "(The attack) is the last in a series of attacks that have been ongoing in the last few days...They (the rebels) were repelled by our forces and they regrouped and launched a second attack," he said. The official said fighting was continuing late this afternoon. He added he did not have casualty figures. "There have been a series of violations of the cease-fire by the rebels and we are expecting more," he said. "Ain Sirou is hugely important. It is what we consider militarily to be a strategic area. If taken, attacks could be launched from it to Al-Fashir and other important areas," he said, referring to the capital of Northern Darfur state which is about 140 kms east of Kebkabiya. But a spokesman for the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), one of the two main rebel groups which took up arms against the government in February 2003, dismissed the report. "How can we attack? It is already in our hands," the SLA's Mohammed Mursal said by telephone from Geneva, where he was due to hold talks on aid issues with U.N. and government officials. The AU said Friday (May 28) the first seven observers would go to Darfur this week. It has said it was planning to send a mission of 60 military officials and about 30 civilians to five flashpoints in Darfur to monitor cease-fire violations. Witnesses told Reuters Friday that 12 people were killed when an Antonov plane and helicopters bombed the village of Tabit, about 25 miles southwest of Al-Fashir. — Reuters.

UGANDA

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The Ugandan army has announced that at least 108 rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) were killed in northern Uganda last month. Army spokesman based in the north Lieutenant Paddy Ankunda was quoted today as saying that "we lost six soldiers and nine were injured during the same month, while at least 55 civilians were killed by the rebels in different parts of the northern region." He particularly cited the attack on Pagaka displaced persons' camp, where 23 civilians were killed on May 17, and 26 at another raid on Lokodi on May 20, all in Gulu district, although aid agencies put the death toll in Lokodi at 42. During operations in the region, 144 abductees, mainly children, were rescued, while 51 rebels, including 11 commanders, surrendered to the army. "We recovered 53 sub-machine guns and over 2,000 rounds of ammunition," the spokesman said. Meanwhile, three LRA rebels were killed and another arrested when they moved into a government army ambush in Kitgum, northern Uganda on Tuesday evening (Jun 1), the army said. The LRA rebels, based in southern Sudan, has fought the government in the last 18 years, killing tens of thousands people and displaced 1.6 million local residents in northern Uganda.

Labour Disputes

**BANGLADESH**

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

CANADA

London, May 28 — A press report, dated May 27, states: An ongoing strike by 4,300 Aliant employees in four provinces has led to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission receiving an estimated 150 complaints. A union involved in the strike by Aliant's operators, technicians and clerical staff called on the federal regulator today to start investigating the level of phone service being provided by Aliant. Ervan Cronk said service has deteriorated substantially since the walkout on Apr 23. He said it's reached the point where Aliant is no longer meeting its terms of service requirements as issued by the CRTC. The terms of service requirements lay out guidelines about service and rates that phone companies must abide by. However the CRTC will require a formal complaint about terms of service requirements to spark an investigation and an industry analyst said the chances of the CRTC getting involved in the operations of Aliant are slim at best. There has been no bargaining between the two sides since the workers walked out.

COLOMBIA

Bogota, May 27 — Most banana workers in Colombia, the world's third-largest exporter of the fruit, began an indefinite strike today after failing to clinch a new wages agreement with companies, their union said. "We were a long way apart and we couldn't reach an agreement," Oswaldo Cuadrado, president of the banana workers' union, Sintrainagro, told Reuters. Exports will stop immediately, he said. About 16,000 workers in the northwestern region of Uraba, which produces about 90 percent of Colombia's bananas, were striking, he said. The workers, who earn around \$200 a month, want a 9-percent wage increase, while management is offering the rate of inflation, which is about 6 percent. Colombia, which follows only Ecuador and Costa Rica as an exporter, shipped 55 million 20-kilo boxes of bananas in 2003, earning about \$310 million in export sales, about 2.5 percent of the country's total exports. — Reuters.

FRANCE

London, May 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Thousands of French energy workers have staged a mass strike, triggering power cuts in some areas. Unions called the 24-hour stoppage in response to government plans to transform state-owned power firms EDF and GDF into limited

companies. They see the move as a prelude to a full sell-off, despite government promises to hold on to a minimum 70% stake in the utilities. The strike has curbed energy output, causing blackouts in the Paris suburbs. Some localised power outages were also reported on the Mediterranean coast. Short-term electricity prices were sharply higher on the wholesale energy markets in anticipation of shortages. The leading CGT union claimed a protest march it organised in central Paris had attracted 80,000 people. Unions said about three quarters of the 150,000 staff at EDF and GDF were observing the strike, although management claimed the figure was closer to 45%. The strike is the latest in a series of protests against moves to liberalise France's power markets over the last two years. Unions claim privatising the power utilities would lead to large-scale job losses, and would undermine France's tradition of public service. They have argued that privatisation could lead to power cuts of the kind that paralysed the US east coast and parts of Italy last summer. CGT secretary general Frederic Imbrecht told the AFP news agency that the union was planning more strikes and protests at local level in mid-June, when the French assembly is due to debate the proposed change. Electricity provider EDF has responded with a series of full-page newspaper advertisements claiming that consumers will benefit from the planned change to limited company status.

INDIA

London, May 28 — A strike at India's Chennai Container Terminal has paralysed operations there, impacting a number of Singapore-based feeder lines and slowing cargo flows into and out of the P&O Ports terminal to a trickle.

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Operations at Chennai Port continued to remain affected as the strike by a section of non-management workers of Chennai Container Terminal Limited (CCTL), a private operator at the Port, continued for the ninth day today. However, trailer operators deferred their strike plan and began negotiations with officials of Chennai Port Trust (ChPT) and CCTL. But the possibility of the imposition of a congestion surcharge by shipping lines of up to \$50 a box from today loomed large with over 300 non-management workers at the CCTL remaining off work seeking better working conditions and reinstatement of four senior employees suspended by the CCTL. Steps are on to shift thousands of backlog containers out of the terminal to off-dock container freight stations (CFS) with a view to bringing relief to industrial units that have their imported goods and materials stuck at the terminal. In addition, around 7,000 import containers, export cargo boxes are yet to be cleared. According to a release from the Chennai Port Trust, the trailer operators, who were threatening to go on strike seeking measures to reduce the turnaround

time for vehicles, have assured the management that the containers will be moved out to enable the firms concerned to take possession of them. In accordance with an arrangement reached yesterday, import containers lying outside for around 10 days will be moved out first and the rest then taken out. Also it has been agreed to form a committee consisting of two members each from ChPT, CCTL, trailer operators union and trade and industry which would meet daily to review the situation and take up issues that require priority attention. The private operator CCTL has assured measures like induction of four new cranes and inspection at 'O' yard being discontinued. The Chennai Port Trust has agreed provide parking space for containers arriving without valid papers to avoid congestion. Though the trailer operators' decision to defer their strike plan might provide temporary relief, the trade has not only to put up with financial loss but also may eventually lose export orders if the problem is not dealt with quickly. While the ChPT, trade and port users are trying to persuade both the CCTL and workers to adopt a flexible attitude to end the deadlock, a formal reconciliation is expected to open up before the meeting of stakeholders and the conflicting parties at the Regional Labour Commissioner office tomorrow.

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated Jun 1, states: The Container Corporation of India is diverting some of its Chennai-bound cargo to Tuticorin and Cochin, by rail, after the week-long strike at the Chennai Container Terminal showed no signs of easing off. Senior Concor officials said, about 250 additional containers have been moved to Tuticorin port. As on May 30, Tuticorin has registered an inflow of 522 containers against its monthly average of less than 300, the officials said, adding numbers would be very much similar for Cochin port as well. While shippers had to bear the additional inland haulage and handling costs assessed at around Rs 10,000 a container, this option of transferring to these alternate ports would allow them meet schedules. The week-long impasse has led to an estimated build-up of 11,000 plus Customs-cleared containers at the terminal.

LEBANON

Beirut, May 28 — A local press report, dated today, states: "Five protesters were shot dead and at least 20 others wounded in Beirut's southern suburb of Hay al-Sellom yesterday, when the worker protest against the increase in gasoline prices turned into a battlefront, with the army firing live bullets into the crowd. Later in the day, 300 rioters broke into the Labour Ministry in Shiah and burned the first floor of the building after throwing computers and equipment out of the windows. The events took place amid a heavy silence from top officials who failed to denounce the shootings, but President Emile Lahoud requested that the judiciary proceed with an investigation without commenting or

denouncing the shootings. Yesterday, there was growing speculation that there might be a set-up to oust Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and his Cabinet, which is likely to have prompted Hariri to cut short his two-day trip to Damascus and head straight back to Beirut. Reports flowed yesterday that the protest and clashes were reminiscent of the May 6, 1992, nationwide protest, which resulted in the ousting of then-Prime Minister Omar Karami and which subsequently brought Hariri to power. "I do not believe the incidents were impulsive," said Beirut MP Nabil de Freij, a member of Hariri's parliamentary bloc. Freij could not comment on the events before further inquiry, but "one thing is sure, the speed at which the riots spread show that they were not innocent and that the matter is not the making of the General Labour Confederation (GLC), but rather of people who took advantage of the protest," he said. As soon as the clashes began, the GLC, which had organized the strike, called on protesters "to stop demonstrating and to remain peaceful and civil and refrain from breaking the law." Ghassan Ghosn, the GLC's head, was unavailable for comment. Meanwhile a Hizbullah-led committee, headed by Hizbullah MPs Hussein Hajj Hassan and Ali Ammar, tried to work out solutions to the clashes by calming demonstrators. "Hizbullah had nothing to do with the clashes. Its activities focused on easing the problem," said Hajj Hassan in a telephone interview with The Daily Star. Hajj Hassan, who spent the day shuttling between protesters and the army in Hay al-Sellom, said the shootings on behalf of the army were "unjustified." "Instead of calming the situation, the army shot at people for no reason," he said. "We are trying to calm the situation on both sides and I believe that we have almost succeeded. But the protesters are extremely angry. Some of their friends are dead and they are furious." The riots ended only after about 300 army troops armed with batons entered the Labour Ministry in the evening, expelling the rioters and containing the fire that had already ravaged an entire floor. An army statement said the clashes left 13 troops wounded, including three officers. Hizbullah had also issued out a statement slamming the shouting of civilians and urging the government to reconsider its economic policies. The public prosecutor's office is expected to take action against those responsible for the violence in the coming days. The hundreds of protesters in the impoverished Beirut suburb were first dispersed with water cannons and later shot at with machine guns after they had started throwing stones. The confrontation, however, was reportedly triggered when members of the Communist Party started throwing stones at the army troops who were trying to prevent them from attacking an army truck. It lasted for several hours, transforming the area into a war zone. Black clouds of smoke could be seen at the capital's entrances, most of which were shut by burning tires and

barricades. Both demonstrators and army troops were responsible for cutting off the roads on the southern side of the capital and the airport road, leaving as many as 800 travellers and Beirut International Airport employees stranded at the airport. The army has also reportedly rounded up several stone-throwers and people carrying sticks and might charge them for creating troubles. In Hay al-Sellom, the area resembled a battlefield, with wounded people soaked in blood being rushed to hospitals despite a localized curfew. Reports said that 35 army troops and officers suffered minor wounds and at least 12 army vehicles were hit. Earlier that day, about 2,000 protesters had met in front of the Cabinet in Mathaf in a peaceful protest led by the GLC and several workers' unions. The protest in Mathaf, which was spearheading a series of nationwide protests in the different qadas, was deemed a flop as it was expected to gather at least 10 times that figure. Several PSP MPs took part in the protest, but they reportedly walked out quickly after the chants against Hariri turned offensive." — Lloyd's Agents.

NEPAL

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The number of industrial disputes leading to strikes in the U.K. fell to a record low of 133 last year. Just under half a million working days were lost in 2003 compared to 1.3 million in 2002. The figures, released by the Office for National Statistics, showed some 150,000 workers were involved in strike action in 2003. The strikes were mainly in the public administration, education, transport and communications sectors. The Office for National Statistics estimated some 372,000 working days had already been lost to strike action in the first three months of 2004, with 135,000 workers involved in 40 stoppages. The most working days lost through disputes in 2003 were in Northern Ireland, London and Scotland. The least days were lost in north-east England, eastern England, the East Midlands and south-east England. The Office for National Statistics figures showed the number of working days lost through disputes has decreased through the decades, with an average of 660,000 per year in the 1990s, 7.2 million in the 1980s and 12.9 million in the 1970s.

Awards & Settlements



CLIENT THEFT, UNITED STATES

London, May 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A jury has awarded a law firm \$1.4 million in damages because several of its clients were stolen by a rookie lawyer at another firm. Rosenberg Minc, a personal injury

firm, had sued another personal injury firm, Mallilo & Grossman, and one of that firm's lawyers for carrying out the client theft scheme. Mallilo & Grossman said it will appeal the verdict. About \$450,000 of the award must be paid by the lawyer, Mason Pimsler, and the rest by Mallilo & Grossman, said Philip Vogt, lawyer for the Rosenberg Minc firm. The jurors found the firm had in effect authorized Pimsler's actions. There was no answer at Pimsler's home telephone Thursday, and he did not respond to requests for comment. His lawyer, Robert Zausmer, was unavailable for comment. Vogt said trial evidence showed Pimsler, a 1997 graduate of Touro Law School, called Rosenberg Minc's answering service every weekend between March 1998 and May 1999, pretended to be a partner in the firm and collected messages. Pimsler used the messages to contact Rosenberg Minc's potential clients, meet them and get them to sign retainer agreements for Mallilo & Grossman, Vogt said. Rosenberg Minc learned that its calls were being intercepted when a client who had spoken to Pimsler called to complain that a car service had not arrived to pick him up. Pimsler was arrested in May 1999 in a sting operation. Vogt said Pimsler denied stealing clients. The defendant claimed he never succeeded at reaching any client except the detective in the sting operation. Court papers show Pimsler pleaded guilty in Queens Criminal Court on July 30, 1999, to second-degree criminal impersonation and was sentenced by Judge Joseph Grosso to three years probation. Pimsler was disbarred in October 2001. Vogt said senior lawyers at Mallilo & Grossman should have been suspicious that Pimsler, as a first-year associate, was generating so much business.

NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION, UNITED STATES

London, May 28 — A press report, dated May 26, states: Two businessmen have won \$5.2 million in an arbitration against Citigroup Inc., which they contend failed to arrange a promised hedge against a large restricted stock position. The two men, W. Stewart Swain and L. P. Herzog, were the majority owners of Premier Associates Management Company in 1998, when they sold the company, a nursing home operator, to Integrated Health Services in exchange for restricted shares of stock, according to the arbitration claim filed with NASD, formerly the National Association of Securities Dealers. Their lawyer, Daniel MacIntyre of Shapiro Fussell Wedge Smotherman Martin & Price in Atlanta, said the men's investment bankers at Robinson Humphrey, then a unit of Citigroup, advised them that if they completed the deal, a hedge against the large Integrated Health stockholdings could be put into place. But the bankers were unable to arrange the hedge and the stock was worthless by the time Mr. Swain and Mr. Herzog were able to sell the stock. In a ruling released this

week, an NASD panel of arbitrators awarded the two men, who remain business partners, \$4.27 million in damages. The panel, which ruled that Citigroup was liable for negligent misrepresentation, also ordered it to refund its success fee from the deal of \$936,065.

ROAD ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A jury has ordered Ford Motor Co to pay at least \$US122 million to a woman paralysed in a rollover accident, the first setback in a string of lawsuits involving the Ford Explorer, the nation's best-selling sport utility vehicle. Ford has previously won 11 rollover lawsuits involving the Explorer, a company spokeswoman said. The final award could be much higher. The award issued late yesterday covered only compensatory damages. The jury began deliberations today on punitive damages. Ford, based in Dearborn, Michigan, said it will appeal. The trial involved a January 2002 accident east of San Diego. Driver Benetta Buell-Wilson swerved to avoid a metal object and lost control of her 1997 Explorer, which rolled 4 1/2 times. Buell-Wilson, a 49-year-old mother of two, was permanently paralysed from the waist down when the roof collapsed on her neck.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, May 29 — A press report, dated May 28, states: A Scott County jury has awarded more than \$28 million to a horseman and entrepreneur whose net worth declined from \$196 million to negative \$6 million after he was involved in a car crash. George Hofmeister and his wife, Kay, were awarded the verdict against Cincinnati Insurance Co., which the jury determined had acted in bad faith by delaying an insurance payment, then misrepresenting the amount of coverage that was available. The long tale began on Nov 3, 1998, when George Hofmeister was hit head-on by Eugene Clark, who had nodded off at the wheel of a Dasher Express truck. Hofmeister was severely injured and spent five months in a wheelchair, during which he could not adequately oversee dozens of businesses he operates worldwide, he claimed. Hofmeister was first prepared to take Cincinnati Insurance to trial in October 2002, when he was seeking \$1 million, the limit of the coverage his attorney, Dale Golden, was told Dasher had. Cincinnati balked about making the payment in the days before the trial was scheduled, but on the day the jury was to be selected, paid the \$1 million, averting the trial. But the Scott County jury this week decided that Cincinnati's attorney, Dan Murner of Landrum & Shouse in Lexington, misrepresented the amount of insurance that Dasher carried to the tune of another \$5 million. The jury voted 11 to 1 that "such conduct was carried out with an evil motive on the part of Cincinnati Insurance Company or with reckless indifference to the rights of George and Kay Hofmeister." Cincinnati Insurance

from the outset disputed the Hofmeisters' bad-faith claim, and is likely to appeal the verdict. The verdict ranks No. 4 in terms of dollars of all jury verdicts in Kentucky since 1998. The jury awarded the Hofmeisters \$10 million in compensatory damages and just over \$18.4 million in punitive damages.



Railway Accidents

FALMOUTH AREA, KENTUCKY, UNITED STATES

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A train derailed in a Tri-State community yesterday evening. The CSX freight train jumped the tracks at about 1800 in Pendleton County, Kentucky, south of Falmouth. Fourteen of the train's 66 cars derailed, and six of the 14 cars rolled over, railroad officials said. All of the train's cars were filled with grain headed from Cincinnati to Corbin, Kentucky. The train reportedly is blocking two main railroad lines. Railroad officials said heavy lifting equipment will be brought in today to clean up the scene.

JAMAICA, CUBA

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A train carrying boarding school students back from the countryside derailed south of Havana yesterday morning. A local hospital reported treating some of the teenagers for injuries. Reporters later saw flattened passenger seats and twisted steel inside three yellow passenger cars toppled on their sides, along with the locomotive, in a town called Jamaica, about 30 miles south of Havana. There was no immediate statement from authorities about the cause or seriousness of the derailment or the number of casualties. Officials at one nearby hospital confirmed they had treated several people injured in the derailment.

KAINAN, WAKAYAMA PREFECTURE, JAPAN

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A rapid train was derailed this morning in Kainan, Wakayama Prefecture, after running over logs scattered on the tracks, injuring 11 passengers, local rescue authorities said. The driver of the four-car train, which was travelling from Gobo to Wakayama on the Kisei line with about 500 passengers, applied the emergency brake after seeing the 20 to 30 logs, but the train still ran over them, according to West Japan Railway Co (JR West). Only the first car derailed.

PARKES AREA, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigations are continuing into the cause of a train derailment on Sunday night (May 30)

10 kilometres north-west of Parkes on the Narromine line. The derailment occurred at approximately 2110 as the train, three engines and 30 Manildra Group wagons full of wheat, was on its way to Manildra from Nyngan. The train was being driven by two Parkes men, neither was injured. It is understood the train struck a damaged railway line which split. Two of three engines, not the one in which the drivers were located, came off the track, pulling 10 of the wagons with them., The wagons buried themselves in the soft ground, and this prevented more of them rolling on their sides.

QUANG BINH PROVINCE, VIETNAM

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A train carrying rice packages from HCM City to Ha Noi derailed as it ran through the Dong Le Station in Quang Binh Province at a high speed on Saturday night (May 22). Deputy head of Quang Binh Traffic Police Department said Train 280's 10 carriages were turned upside down, causing much material loss. Though no injuries were reported, traffic between the north and south was stalled for almost five hours.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated May 31, states: A monorail train carrying passengers to a Memorial Day festival caught fire this afternoon in Seattle, Washington, and fire crews hurriedly rescued passengers from smoky cars about one storey above ground. At least five people were taken to Harborview Medical Centre where they were being evaluated, a nursing supervisor said. She said none had burns. Dozens of emergency crews were on the scene. Firefighters used ladders, including one ladder truck, to reach the smoking train. Fire Department spokeswoman Helen Fitzpatrick said it was not immediately clear what caused the fire and that an investigation has been launched. "When our crews arrived, there was black smoke coming down Fifth Avenue and there were flames coming from the roof of one of the cars," she told CNN affiliate KING-TV. Glenn Barney, general manager of the Seattle Center Monorail, said he did not know what caused the fire. The monorail travels a mile between downtown Seattle and the Seattle Center Fairgrounds where the annual Memorial Day Folklife Festival was taking place.

SHONGWENI AREA, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jun 1 — A press report, date May 30, states: Fifty-four people were injured when a run-away Spoornet locomotive rammed a Metrorail train on the line between Durban and Cato Ridge, a spokesperson said today. Isabel van der Westhuizen said all but five of the people injured in the collision about 1700 on the line between Shongweni and Delville Wood station have been discharged from hospital. She added that one of the two lines linking the

stations was still closed at noon today. It was expected to be re-opened by Monday morning. A Spornet-Metrorail team was already on site to investigate the accident and its cause. The damage to the line, locomotive and Metrorail train was still being determined.

WRIGHT AREA, KANSAS, UNITED STATES

See "United States" under "Weather & Navigation."



AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL COMPUTER FAILURE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 3 — Thousands of air passengers are facing delays after an air traffic control computer failure caused flights to be suspended across the UK. National Air Traffic Services said flights were grounded so that controllers could prioritise on planes in the air, but safety was unaffected. The national air traffic control computer system crashed at 0600, BST, and flights were being operated manually by air traffic controllers during the down time, British Airways said. The system was down for nearly an hour and although the air traffic control centre at West Drayton is now fully operational again, most flights remain on hold. Adrian Yalland, spokesman for Nats, said: "Our computer system is now fully operational and safety being our primary concern we are now working to make sure those aircraft in the air and in need of landing should be able to do so to clear the delays." He said the fault was thought to lie with the "flow of data" in the system. "The reasons why planes were grounded was because we couldn't let them into the air which would add more complications," he added. The affected computer systems were not those that handle the separation of aircraft in the air. The fault was in what is known as the host control system, a two-year-old computer system at West Drayton. The system handles flight strips which are the basic details of flights coming in and out of the UK.



INDONESIAN FISHING VESSELS DETAINED BY AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The Australian Fisheries Management Authority has charged a further six Indonesian boat masters for illegally fishing in Australian waters. More than 100 Indonesian fisherman are now under the control of fisheries

authorities in Nhulunbuy in the Northern Territory. Fifteen boats have been detained in the past two weeks with six boats captured in the past five days. A spokesman for the Federal Fisheries Minister Ian Macdonald says 17 senior fishermen have now been charged and will face court in Nhulunbuy this week. He says eight of the boats have paid a bond and can return to Indonesia.

OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON BERMUDA FLAGGED PASSENGER VESSEL

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Nearly 350 passengers and crew on board Princess Cruises passenger *Island Princess* (91627 gt, built 2003) in southeast Alaska fell ill with a virus this week, cruise line officials said. As of yesterday, 308 passengers and 40 crew members on board the vessel complained of Norwalk virus-like symptoms. Altogether, 2,018 passengers and 896 crew members were making the weeklong voyage from Vancouver to Whittier. The vessel was in Skagway yesterday and will probably continue on schedule, said Dean Brown, CEO of Princess Tours Division, which oversees Alaska operations. He said ill passengers and crews were recovering in isolated rooms. Onboard testing confirmed the presence of the norovirus - which includes Norwalk and Norwalk-like viruses. The virus can cause diarrhea, stomach pain and vomiting for 24 to 48 hours. It is spread through food and water and close contact with infected people or the items they have touched. Brown said the source of the outbreak has not been determined. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta is investigating.



BOATYARD, POOLE, DORSET, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A salvage operation is under way after a major fire destroyed a number of businesses at a boatyard. Flames spread through four buildings at Mitchells Boatyard, Poole, Dorset, yesterday lunchtime, one of which contained petrol and flares. Ten pumps attended the incident, and police were forced to close a number of roads around Turks Lane and Pearce Avenue. Vessels were redirected. No-one was hurt but damage to buildings and marine equipment was extensive. Emergency crews remained at the site throughout the night.

COAL MINE, JHARKHAND STATE, INDIA

London, May 28 — A press report, dated today, states: An abandoned coal mine collapsed in eastern India today after a group of illegal miners set off a series of explosions inside, leaving at least five workers dead and some 20

feared trapped, police said. "They were doing illegal mining this morning when a series of blasts made the mine collapse," Deepak Varma, the local superintendent of police, said by telephone. The accident took place in Jharkhand state at the Baniadih coal mine, about 200km south of Patna, the largest city in the region. Patna is the capital of neighbouring Bihar state.

COMMERCIAL PREMISES, CHAPEL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, May 28 — A press report, dated May 7, states: An early morning fire ravaged a Franklin Street clothing shop in Chapel Hill yesterday, shutting down the store and filling several surrounding businesses with smoke. The fire took 42 firefighters from Chapel Hill and four nearby departments to extinguish. Officials said yesterday that some sort of electrical problem was the most likely cause of the fire. An investigation was continuing. The fire was reported at 0327 hrs and was under control about an hour later, officials said. Firefighters used thermal infrared cameras to find the fire's origin. Nobody was in the store at the time of the fire. The fire caused at least \$1 million in damage, fire officials said. Crews from the Carrboro, North Chatham, New Hope and Parkwood departments helped the Chapel Hill Fire Department deal with the fire in the clothing store. The early-morning fire sent a thick layer of smoke into a number of surrounding businesses, but didn't appear to cause any structural damage, shop owners and fire officials said. At one of those businesses, Chapel Hill Sportswear, staff spent the day trying to salvage the store's vast collection of Carolina T-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, hats and other memorabilia. "The worst case would be a total loss on all the clothing," one employee said. "But we think that's unlikely."

FACTORY, COTTINGHAM, YORKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Staff were evacuated from a food factory as fire damaged the building late last night. Shift workers at Cranswick Country Foods in Cottingham, near Hull, were forced to leave the building after the fire took hold shortly after 2300, BST. Humberside Fire and Rescue Service says 80 firefighters, some wearing breathing apparatus, fought the flames for hours and were still on site today. A fire brigade spokesman said about 25% of the building was destroyed. At the height of the incident 10 fire appliances, turntable ladders and a command unit were at the scene. Today experts are at the site assessing the damage to the building and investigating the cause of the fire. The factory produces sausages, cooked meats and pork products.

FACTORY, QUEANBEYAN, NEW SOUTH WALES

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire investigators are

looking into a large factory blaze in Queanbeyan. It is not certain what caused the blaze which destroyed the factory in Stoneaway Road and threatened nearby houses. Inspector Chris Crouden from the New South Wales Fire Brigade says the cleanup process is now underway. "There were a numerous building materials on the site and that fuelled the fire," he said. "The building has now been almost totally destroyed by fire but has been bought under control, and fire fighters are now in the overhaul and mopping up stages of this fire."

FACTORY, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

London, May 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A juice factory and five work sheds were destroyed in two fires in a Sydney suburb overnight, which police said caused over A\$5 million in damage and were deliberately lit. About 1000 people were evacuated from a nearby cinema during one blaze. In the first of the Pagewood fires, Botany Bay police and firefighters were called to a shopping centre and residential redevelopment alight in Bunnerong Road, at about 2030, AEST. The fire began in the work sheds on the first floor of the two-storey building. Inquiries revealed it was intentionally lit, police said. No one was injured. However Sydney five portable work sheds and their contents were destroyed, with an estimated cost of A\$50,000. Police said they and firefighters were called less than two hours later, at 2215 hrs, to a juice factory in Corish Circuit, after reports of smoke and flames coming from the building. About 1,000 cinema patrons were evacuated as a precaution from the Hoyts theatre across the road in the East Gardens shopping complex, firefighters said. It took 100 firefighters four hours to contain the blaze. However, the roof collapsed and two concrete slab walls suffered structural damage, firefighters said. The damage was estimated at \$5 million, police said.

FOOTBALL STADIUM, MONACO

London, June 1 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosive device damaged the home stadium of the Monaco football club and a nearby building overnight but caused no casualties, officials said on Sunday (May 30). "It's the first time that an explosion set off by a bomb has occurred in Monaco," said Monaco government adviser Jose Badia, saying it was a proven "criminal" attack. "We were lucky because no one was injured, Badia said. The explosion occurred around 0200 hrs and was followed by a "major fire", the principality's press office said. An entrance to the Louis II Stadium housing the football club's administrative offices as well as private companies was hit, while an industrial building facing the entrance also sustained damage. The fire caused the ceiling of a ground-floor office to cave in, damaged stairways and an elevator shaft, and blew out windows on four floors of the building, officials said. Access to the area was blocked off. No one claimed responsibility for the blast

by Sunday afternoon and no motive was immediately apparent as an investigation was launched headed by the prosecutor general.

GRAIN MILL, BURLEY, IDAHO, UNITED STATES

London, May 28 — A press report, dated May 27, states: A fire claimed a prominent grain facility near downtown Burley early yesterday morning, gutting the main building and doing severe damage to the adjacent mill. Burley firefighters were dispatched at 0555 hrs, yesterday to a blaze at the Feeders Grain Supply Inc. facility at 1144 Occidental Ave. in Burley. "It was fully engulfed," Cassia Sheriff Jim Higen said, assessing the extent of damage to the main building. Alcott said it took several hours to control the fire, and firefighters were still working to extinguish hot spots yesterday afternoon. Though the cause of the fire has not been determined, Alcott said that welders had been working in the basement Tuesday (May 25) and he suspected that's where the fire started. Because of various elevators and passageways inside the facility, the fire spread quickly and was difficult to battle, Alcott said. The facility was unoccupied at the time of the fire and no injuries were reported, Alcott said.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, LEYTON, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: An investigation has begun into the east London warehouse blaze that destroyed modern artworks valued by one art insurance specialist at £50m. Fire experts and police are trying to establish the cause of the fire that wrecked the storage unit in Leyton. More than 100 pieces owned by art mogul Charles Saatchi, including works by Tracey Emin and Damien Hirst, were among those to perish. The fire appeared to have started in a separate building in the warehouse complex, some distance from the art storage unit. Investigators are now beginning the painstaking task of searching for clues to the cause of the fire. They are expected to spend up to three days at the scene, carrying out a forensic-style examination of the debris. Momart managing director Eugene Boyle said: "Our insurers are completely satisfied that we took all the necessary steps to ensure the safekeeping of the works of art in our possession." It could not provide a complete list of the artworks destroyed because of "client confidentiality", but among those confirmed were pieces by Emin, Hirst, brothers Jake and Dinos Chapman, Chris Ofili, Gavin Turk and Sarah Lucas. Works by Turner Prize-winner Rachel Whiteread, Patrick Caulfield, Gary Hume, Craigie Horsfield and 20 pieces by Martin Maloney were also destroyed. Hirst lost 16 paintings - several of his own butterfly and spin paintings and a number of others by artists such as Hume and Lucas. Emin's embroidered tent, *Everyone I Ever Slept With 1963-1995*, was also lost. Saatchi is thought to have paid £40,000 for the

controversial artwork with 102 names in it. Three years ago, Saatchi paid £500,000 for the Chapman brothers' *Hell* sculpture, which is also confirmed lost. The brothers cast and hand-painted more than 5,000 figures including skeletons, Nazi soldiers and human mutations. An exclusion zone was placed around the industrial estate. Momart's insurance company, Heath Lambert, said the fire was an instance of "exactly why the insurance market exists." One City art insurance specialist said the cost could be between £40m and £50m.

MANUFACTURING PLANT, FUJAIRAH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Karachi, May 29 — A huge fire broke out in a privately owned paper and tissue manufacturing plant, Al Mulla Converting Industries Company, at the industrial area Fujairah, in eastern United Arab Emirates yesterday at around 1300. As a result, one Indian worker Shahjahan died. The factory was completely gutted, and initial estimates put the loss at Dh26 million (about \$7 million). According to Colonel Juma Saif Al Ghashemi, Director of the Fujairah Civil Defence Department, firefighters battled the blaze for more than two hours. Engineer Naser Mohammed Al Mulla, owner of the factory, said the machinery and equipment of the factory were completely destroyed. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

MOURNE MOUNTAINS, COUNTY DOWN, NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters are tackling a huge fire in the Mourne Mountains, County Down, for the second day in a row. The blaze in the Silent Valley area has already destroyed about 160 acres, the Mourne Heritage Trust has said. The blaze began yesterday evening but an operation to damp down the flames had to be called off when it got dark, because the steep slopes made it too dangerous. By lunchtime today, the fire was still spreading. Tony Gates of The Mourne Heritage Trust said there were still problems fighting the fire. "The Fire Brigade are advising us that there are large parts of the fire which are beyond their reach. It simply wouldn't be safe to send firefighters in," he said. Firefighters and soldiers have also brought a large gorse fire under control at Ballykinlar Army base in County Down. The blaze began at about 1000, BST, yesterday at a section of the camp behind the firing range. Thirteen fire units were involved in the operation. The blaze was centred on about 400 acres of a scrubland close to a firing range.

PLASTICS FACTORY, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews are still mopping up a major fire that has destroyed a plastics factory in Sydney's west overnight. At the height of the

Redfern Street blaze in Wetherill Park, more than 100 firefighters were trying to bring it under control. Investigations will begin later today into the fire's cause. Fire Service Superintendent Ian Krimmer says it is the biggest fire in several months and it has been a tough night for those involved. "At the height of the fire we had concerns about several walls that did collapse [and] there were several explosions at the side of the structure caused by several gas bottles," he said. "It was a very difficult fire to fight. We had to adopt a defensive mode, it was much too dangerous to allow crews into the building."

STEEL MILL, GALATZ, ROMANIA

Bucharest, Jun 3 — A fire broke out at Galatz, Ispat Sidex S.A. at 2030, Jun 2 in furnace No. 5 of the steel mill. The cause was reportedly due to a deficiency to the electric installation which caused ignition of the cast iron mixed with slag. The fire was extinguished by the military and civil firemen teams. No victims resulted from the incident. — Lloyd's Agents.

TIMBER YARD, CARDIFF, WALES, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated Jun 2, states: Firefighters spent all night tackling a blaze at a timber yard in Cardiff. They were called to the incident in the Ely area at 2030, BST, yesterday and finally brought it under control 12 hours later. Four fire crews finally managed to put out the fire at the yard, at Birdy's Lane off Heol Muston, with firefighters remaining at the scene to dampen down. A South Wales Police spokesman said they would be working closely with the fire service to carry out a full investigation into the blaze. However it was thought that the fire may have been started deliberately. Station Officer Peter Jenkins of South Wales Fire Service said: "It was a very serious fire and we had 10 to 12 engines attending at different times during the night."

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A lightning-sparked wildfire in the Capitan Mountains continued to burn out of control early today. The blaze grew to 25,000 acres and has burned a dozen cabins - mostly summer homes - and several outbuildings in the rural area of south-central New Mexico. Burnout operations were planned for tomorrow, and firefighters yesterday built lines along the northern perimeter of the fire in preparation, said fire information officer Jackie Denk. Lighter winds, overcast conditions and higher humidity aided firefighters, but the rugged terrain has made it impossible to put firefighters in front of the fire, which has been burning since May 15, Denk said. Thunderstorms packing erratic winds, dry lightning and very little rain were forecast for today. About 50 miles to the north-west, a 5,280-acre fire was 90% contained last night. The fire, in the Gallinas Mountains, was reported Friday and flared from an

abandoned campfire. The blaze destroyed a ranch house, chicken coop and two unoccupied communications buildings.

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters cleared a line around a lightning-sparked blaze that has burned about 30,000 acres in rural south-central New Mexico, bringing containment to 35% yesterday. The lines appeared to be holding, despite high wind on May 30. Crews have been working to burn out fuels between the blaze in the Lincoln National Forest and the small community of Arabela. The fire, reported May 15, burned 12 cabins and several outbuildings. The cost to fight the blaze stood at nearly \$2.8 million, officials said.

Santa Fe, Jun 1 — Calm winds and controlled burns have helped firefighters gain control of a blaze ravaging the forest fire officials said today. The Peppin Fire has been burning through the mountain range in southern New Mexico, about 150 miles south of Santa Fe. Fire information officer Beth Wilson said the fire is about 40 percent contained after it had burned through about 31,500 acres. Some 640 people have been battling the blaze, and the cost of fighting the fire has been about \$3 million so far, Wilson said. — Reuters.



9XRSN

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated Jun 1, states: Twelve people aboard Antonov 32, 9XRSN, registered in Rwanda under Sun Air, sustained major injuries when it crash-landed today at Kigali International Airport, Kanombe. The Russian pilots and Congolese passengers are now under intensive care at a local hospital in Kanombe. Officials said the plane from Benin to Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo failed to retract its left tyres on its takeoff from Benin, forcing it to be redirected to land at Kanombe, where it crashed at around 0500, UTC. Director of the Rwandan airport Peter Mugenzi said the plane had technical problems after taking off. "The pilots communicated to us and we had to allow it to land here given that the Goma airport has no capacity to handle such emergency cases," he said. An aviation official at the airport who sought anonymity said the plane "landed like a stone from the air," adding that the airport facilities for crash-landing managed to halt the plane and the fire department arrived on time before the plane burst into flames.

C-FAGA

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated Jun 1, states: A commuter plane that crashed into icy Lake Erie off Pelee Island on Jan 17, killing all 10 people

on board, was more than 1,000 pounds overweight, according to a report by the Transportation Safety Board of Canada. Representatives of the TSB were in Kingsville today to provide an update on their investigation into the crash of the Cessna Caravan 208B, Georgian Express Flight 126. Seconds after take-off the aircraft listed, banked its left wing and plunged nose-down into the lake about 1.6 nautical miles off the island, said Denis Rivard, TSB investigator-in-charge. "It was not a survivable accident," Rivard said. "All occupants died upon impact." The maximum amount of weight recommended by the manufacturer for the Caravan 208B is 8,732 pounds, but Rivard said the investigation found it was carrying 9,779 pounds on take-off, between 13 and 15 per cent more than its recommended capacity. Rivard said the plane was de-iced at Windsor Airport at about 1445 hrs, almost two hours before its fateful last flight from Pelee Island. A fine icy sleet was in the air as the plane taxied down the runway at 1638 hrs. Several witnesses reported seeing ice on the wings before the plane took off, Rivard said. "But we will never be able to determine if there was ice on the plane at the point of takeoff," he said. "That information was lost when the plane hit the lake." Rivard said the investigation has not found any indications of structural or mechanical problems with the plane at the time of the crash. "We're confident there was nothing wrong with the plane," he said, adding the TSB is now concentrating on the operational side of the incident — looking at the human factors involved in the crash, including the possibility of pilot error and whether aircraft and company operational procedures were followed. He said the investigation would have been helped immeasurably had the plane been equipped with a cockpit voice and data recorder which are not required small commuter aircraft.

CRASH INTO LAKE BARTON, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

See N739SK.

CRASH, FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES

See N21072.

CRASH, GALVESTON COUNTY, UNITED STATES

London, May 29 — A press report, dated May 28, states: Four people were hurt when a helicopter crashed in a rural area of Galveston County today. Four people who were in the crash were hospitalized and were in fair condition this afternoon. Pilot Ray Murphy and passenger Mark Miller were flown by LifeFlight to Memorial Hermann Hospital. Passengers Donald Turner and Jennifer Schapper were transported to Hermann by ambulance. All four were reported in fair condition this afternoon. Two others on the helicopter, Drent Sarault and Gina Monitaita did not go to a hospital, said Texas Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Tela Mange. Mange said

the helicopter crashed about 0945 hrs in a field near the end of Maple Leaf Road, south of FM 518. The helicopter had taken off from Hobby Airport on a test flight after having some maintenance work done. The helicopter was doing a test hover about 75 feet above the ground when it crashed, he said. Federal aviation and transportation officials will investigate the cause of the crash, Mange said.

CRASH, NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated May 31, states: A Cartersville man and two other passengers survived a plane crash in South Carolina yesterday, but the pilot remained missing today. Eric Long, 25, of Cartersville and two others had no serious injuries reported. "They are shaken up, but their condition is good," North Myrtle Beach Fire Chief Tom Barstow said of the three passengers that swam to safety. Divers searched for the pilot today in the Intracoastal Waterway at North Myrtle Beach. A Cessna 310 that took off from DeKalb-Peachtree Airport in Atlanta hit the water just short of the runway at Grand Strand Airport shortly after noon yesterday, said Kathleen Bergen with the Federal Aviation Administration in Atlanta.

CRASH, NORTHERN IRAN

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A helicopter carrying a provincial governor and three of his aides from the site of an earthquake crashed in the mountains of northern Iran today, killing all aboard, official Tehran television reported. It said the governor of Qazvin province was in the helicopter with three aides and a journalist working for Iran's state-run television. The report did not identify the officials by name, but the governor of Qazvin is Masoud Emami. The report also did not say how many pilots or crew were on board.

CRASH, NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A Northern Territory cattle station owner walked 8km after being severely burned in a fatal helicopter crash. The pilot died in the accident. Graham McDermott, 52, was recovering in hospital last night. Steven Penberthy, of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, said: "How he survived the crash and walked that far badly burned is a real miracle story. Alice Springs-born pilot Kevin Norton, 54, is believed to have died instantly when his two-seater Robertson 22 crashed on Tobermorey Station, about 450km north-east of Alice Springs, yesterday. The men had been mustering. Mr McDermott walked from the crash site to a stock camp with burns to 60 per cent of his body. He was found by his daughter. Mr McDermott was flown from the station by the Mt Isa Royal Flying Doctor Service. He was last night in the burns unit at Royal Brisbane Hospital in a serious but stable condition. Mr Penberthy said the

Mt Isa RFDS received the emergency call about 1045 yesterday. After arriving at Tobermorey Station they were driven to the stock camp and treated Mr McDermott before going to the crash site about 42km south of the homestead. They found the pilot dead. Harts Range police and a forensic crew from Alice Springs went to the scene yesterday. Police Airwing flew to Tobermorey to recover the body of the pilot. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau will investigate the cause of the accident.

CRASH, PARE BUGIS, INDONESIA

London, May 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Cessna aircraft crashed into a swamp near Supadio airport, following an emergency landing due to engine problems. The pilot and all four passengers aboard the five-seater aircraft survived but suffered minor injuries in the accident, the commander of the nearby air base Col. Harsono said. Harsono said the aircraft was chartered by a Catholic mission to carry its members from Sintang regency. The pilot, he added, had realised the aircraft was experiencing engine trouble just prior to landing that afternoon. The aircraft hit a tree before crashing into the swamp, some two kilometres away from the airport.

CRASH, PEARLAND, UNITED STATES

London, May 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A helicopter carrying five people crashed this morning near Pearland, seriously injuring at least two on board. The two known injured were transported by helicopter to Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, said Tela Mange, spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Public Safety. The condition of the other three was not immediately known. The helicopter was on a maintenance flight and may have clipped a power line before going down.

CRASH, SAME AREA, MANUFAHI DISTRICT, EAST TIMOR

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Three Australians have been injured in a helicopter crash in East Timor. Two of those injured will be evacuated to Australia. The United Nations-contracted helicopter was responding to a request to take a pregnant woman to Dili for treatment. The Bell 212 crashed near Same in the Manufahi District just before 1700, ACST, yesterday. There were five Australians on board, including three crew and a military doctor and nurse. The female nurse suffered a broken jaw and will be flown to Sydney, while one of the crew members has a broken leg and will be flown to Darwin. The third injured crew member will remain in Dili. UN Mission of Support in East Timor spokesman Wilton Fonseca says there are few details about the crash. "The weather conditions in that area were not very good," he said. He says investigation into the accident is under way. "Immediately after we learned about the crash, two helicopters were

sent to the area," he said. "One of them brought the crew and the nurse and the doctor back to Dili and the other one brought the pregnant lady to Dili National Hospital."

CRASH, STANLEY AIRPORT, FALKLAND ISLANDS

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated May 31, states: At approximately 1520 on Saturday (May 29) an aircraft surveying for minerals in the Falkland Islands crash-landed at Stanley Airport in the Falkland Islands. None of the two on board were hurt in the incident, which occurred when the nose landing gear failed. This caused the aircraft's propellers to strike the runway. The Director of Civil Aviation in the Falklands, Mr. Andrew Newman, told FIBS, "Incident and investigation procedures are being carried out by Falkland Islands Civil Aviation Department in conjunction with the operating company, and Brazilian Civil Aviation."

CRASH, THORP MOUNTAIN AREA, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated Jun 1, states: A small plane crashed today about 70 miles east of Seattle, injuring both men on board. Kittitas County Undersheriff Clay Myers said the four-passenger Piper went down in the Thorp Mountain area between Lake Kachess and Lake Cle Elum, near Interstate 90. The pilot was able to call for help on his cell phone and provide rough co-ordinates for rescuers, said sheriff's Sgt. Fred Slyfield. A rescue helicopter found the wreckage through fog and rain and evacuated the two men to a Yakima hospital. The Piper had been flying from Wenatchee to Seattle's Boeing Field, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Allen Kenitzer.

CRASH, YAMAGATA AIRPORT, JAPAN

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people were seriously injured after a helicopter they were riding in crashed at Yamagata Airport this morning, police said. At around 1135, an Aerospatiale AS350B helicopter crashed as it was about to land at Yamagata Airport in Higashine, Yamagata Prefecture, and burst into flames, prefectural police said. The fire was quickly extinguished. Two crew members were injured, one seriously, and rushed to hospital. Police are investigating the cause of the accident. The helicopter took off from a heliport in Maebashi, Gunma Prefecture, earlier in the morning to take aerial photographs.

EMERGENCY LANDING, NASHVILLE AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

Dallas, May 27 — An American Airlines flight from Dallas headed to Boston made an emergency landing in Nashville today after a threatening note was found aboard the aircraft, U.S. government and airline officials said. No one was hurt in the incident. "American Airlines flight 306 requested

an emergency landing and asked for armed officers to meet the aircraft," said Homeland Security spokesman Dennis Murphy. He said the request was made after a flight attendant found a note saying there was a bomb in the plane's cargo section. "During the flight over to Boston, a note was found by a crew member. The note warned of a suspicious item on board" an American spokesman confirmed. The pilot asked that a bomb squad meet the aircraft and the flight was escorted to Nashville by fighter jets, Murphy said. "They made an emergency landing at Nashville airport and they were taken to an isolated area... passengers are being held for rescreening" and the cargo area was also being checked, he said. American Flight 306 had 129 passengers and five crew members aboard. The aircraft landed at 1535, local time and authorities are speaking with the people who were aboard. — Reuters.

N117BS

London, Jun 1 — PZL Mielec M18B (Dromader), N117BS, operated by Valley Air Applicators Inc, while on a flight from Fort Benton, Montana, to Boise, Idaho, with one person on board, crashed May 22. Wreckage located on May 30 south-east of Borah Peak, Custer County, Idaho. The pilot died.

N21072

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Aviation officials are trying to determine what caused a deadly plane crash yesterday night that claimed the lives of two people on board. A father and daughter were killed when the plane crashed in a hilly, wooded area. Residents of a nearby neighbourhood said they heard the explosion about 2130 hrs. The pilot was approaching Fitchburg Municipal Airport when the single-engine plane sheered off the tops of some trees about two miles short of the runway. Emergency crews had a difficult time getting close to the wreckage because of the intense flames. Neighbours said they felt their houses shake when the plane went down. Investigators will be sifting through the wreckage today. They did not release the names of the victims, where the flight originated or where it was heading.

London, Jun 2 — Piper PA-32-300 (Cherokee Six), N21072, operated by C.James Normandin, while on a flight from Manchester, New Hampshire, to Leominster, Massachusetts, with two persons on board, on approach to Runway 32, Leominster Airport, crashed three miles south-east of the airport, at 0133, UTC, Jun 1. The aircraft was destroyed and both persons on board died.

N275WA

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A MD-11 cargo aircraft being unloaded at Los Angeles International Airport became unbalanced and tipped onto its rear wheels today, stranding seven workers 40 ft above ground. The workers were

rescued after about an hour by firefighters using a ladder truck, fire department spokesman Bob Collis said. None of the workers was hurt. Workers may need a crane to right the aircraft, operated by World Airways, Collis said. The accident happened before dawn at the airport's cargo complex, away from regular airport traffic. "As soon as they took whatever it was out of the back of the aircraft, the weight shifted and the aircraft just went back on its tail," Collis said.

London, May 29 — McDonnell Douglas MD-11F, N275WA, operated by International Lease Finance Corp., while offloading cargo, tipped on tail at Los Angeles, California, at 0310, PDT, May 27. The aircraft sustained minor damage. No injuries.

N2948S

London, May 29 — Piper PA-34-200T, N2948S, after smelling smoke during climb, attempted to reach Cleveland, Texas, and crashed and burned one mile south of FH1725, Cleveland, Texas, at 2056, May 27. The aircraft was destroyed.

London, Jun 1 — Piper PA-34-200T (Seneca II), N2948S, operated by Michael E.Buoy, while on a flight from Pearland, Houston, Texas, to Palestine, Texas, with one person on board, crashed at 2056, UTC, May 27, one mile south of Cleveland, Texas. The aircraft burned and was destroyed.

N355CV

London, Jun 1 — Eurocopter France AS355N (Twinstar), N355CV, operated by Summit Seafood Supply Inc, while on a maintenance flight from Houston, Texas, with six persons on board, began shaking violently on descent and impacted hard at 1430, UTC, May 28, five miles south of Clover Field, Houston. The helicopter was destroyed, two persons were seriously injured and four suffered minor injuries.

N4806Q

London, May 29 — Cessna 180J, N4806Q, operated by Trekell & Co. Inc., crashed into water shortly after take-off at Port McNeill, British Columbia, Canada, at 1641, May 26.

N48579

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated May 31, states: A small plane crashed today shortly after take-off from a suburban airport, killing two people aboard the craft, authorities said. A pilot spotted the wreckage about seven miles north of Falcon Field Airport in Mesa. The victims were not immediately identified. There was no immediate word on what caused the accident, said Bruce Nelson, an operations officer for the Federal Aviation Administration. Authorities said the plane had taken off from Falcon Field.

London, Jun 1 — Boeing B75N1 (Stearman), N48579, with two persons on board, crashed, at 1605, UTC, May 31, and was destroyed by fire, seven miles north of Falcon Field, Mesa, Arizona. Both persons on board died.

N61429

London, Jun 1 — North American P-51C (Mustang), N61429, operated by American Airpower Heritage Flying Museum, while performing in an airshow, with one person on board, crashed at 1905, UTC, May 29, at Red Wing, Minnesota. The pilot died.

N623KD

London, Jun 1 — Aviat A-1 (Husky), N623KD, operated by Errol Brian Winson, with two persons on board, crashed on take-off, on May 29, 10 miles east of Luling, Texas. Both persons on board died.

N707SH

London, Jun 1 — Lancair IV-P, N707SH, operated by Steven C.Hall, while on a flight from Ypsilanti, Michigan, to Billings, Montana, with three persons on board, crashed at 1800, UTC, May 31, 20 miles south-east of Grand Rapids, Vermontville, Michigan. The aircraft was destroyed and all three persons on board died.

N739SK

London, May 29 — Cessna 172N, N739SK, operated by Grady and Francis Inc., on final approach to runway 26, crashed into Lake Barton, Orlando, Florida, at 1601, local time, May 26. (See "Crash Into Lake Barton, Florida, United States" in issue of May 28.)

N7626J

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people died when their plane crashed in California today, and a sheriff's deputy was killed as he was speeding to the scene to help them, authorities said. The small Piper aircraft registered out of Gardnerville, Nev., went down at about 1100 hrs, shortly after taking off from the Columbia airport. Witnesses say the plane sputtered and fell to the ground, bursting into flames upon impact and starting a small brush fire that was quickly extinguished. National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration officials were making their way to the plane crash in the afternoon to investigate.

London, Jun 1 — Piper PA-28-180 (Cherokee), N7626J, operated by Vernon L.Tucker, while on a flight from Columbia, California, with two persons on board, crashed on departure from Columbia Airport at 1815, UTC, May 31. The aircraft was destroyed and both persons on board died.

N81685

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A small plane crashed into the roof of a house in south-eastern Minnesota, killing all four people aboard, authorities said. Homeowner Charles DeYoung reported yesterday night that a plane had hit his house, fallen to the ground and then hit a tree. Sheriff Gary Ringhofer said all four crash victims were men. The crash site is in a rural area about a mile east of Owatonna and about nine miles from the Owatonna's Degner Regional

Airport. It was not immediately known where the plane was flying or where it came from. The Federal Aviation Administration was on the scene. The National Weather Service said it was raining at the time of the crash.

London, Jun 2 — Cessna U206F (Stationair), N81685, operated by Gordon A. Welke, while on a flight from Roseau, Minnesota, to Owatonna, Minnesota, with four persons on board, crashed into a residence, at 0140, UTC, Jun 2, at Owatonna. The aircraft was destroyed and all four persons on board died.

N9548D

London, Jun 1 — Cessna T206H, N9548D, operated by Clayton Aircraft, while on a flight from Midway International Airport, Chicago, Illinois, with one person on board, on take-off, reported engine problems and crashed into a garage, at Lockport 1933, UTC, May 28. The aircraft was destroyed and the pilot died.

N9690X

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated May 30, states: A pregnant teacher and another Michigan resident were killed when the single-engine plane they were in crashed in the Bahamas. Shannon and Brian Kronemeyer of Zeeland were on the plane for a weekend vacation when it crashed Thursday afternoon

(May 27). Killed with Shannon were the pilot, John Simpson of Grand Rapids, and 71-year-old Ronald Reiffstock of Virginia. Thirty-nine-year-old Brian Kronemeyer and passenger Patricia Fennel of Virginia survived.

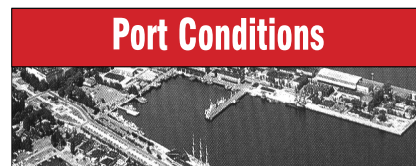
London, Jun 1 — Cessna 210B, N9690X, operated by Jon M. Simpson, with three persons on board, crashed on May 27, at Marsh Harbor, Abaco Island, Bahamas. All three persons on board died.



MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Jun 3 — The Mitsubishi Motors Corp. admitted today that it had failed for years to inform safety regulators fully about defects in vehicles manufactured over the last decade. The company said that it would recall 163,000 vehicles, mostly in Japan, to make repairs on 26 defects, including problems with engines and fuel tanks. The announcement is the latest in a series of reluctant admissions Mitsubishi has made since 2000, acknowledging that it covered up

problems to avoid the cost and embarrassment of declaring recalls. The recall covers 17 models of Mitsubishi vehicles made from 1993 to 2000; 156,000 of the vehicles were sold in Japan. The company did not say how many were sold in the United States.



PANAMA CANAL

London, Jun 2 — As a result of required repairs to locks at Gatun, which started on Monday (May 31) and are expected to be completed at 2359, Jun 10, the following delays are being experienced. For vessels with beams over 91ft, or with transit restrictions due to cargo and/or draughts, delays are currently running at approximately three days, and are expected to increase to four days by the end of this week. Delays for non-restricted vessels under 91ft beam are currently running at two, but could increase to three days by the end of this week.

INDIA

See under “Labour Disputes”.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	02-Jun-2004	Coal: 1 vessel loading; 6 vessels due by 14/6; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Dalrymple Bay	02-Jun-2004	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 5 anchored; 54 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	02-Jun-2004	Coal: 2 vessels loading, 1 anchored; 9 vessels due by 12/6; up to 2 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion.
Gladstone	02-Jun-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed, 5 anchored; 31 vessels due by 27/6; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Barney Point: 1 vessel anchored; 6 vessels due by 24/6; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Barney Point is shut down for wharf maintenance work until 4/6; coal terminal will be shut down for ship loading and train unloading operations from 06.00 hrs. 17/6 to 06.00 hrs. 24/6.
Newcastle	02-Jun-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessels loading, 11 waiting; 10 vessels due by 9/6; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels loading, 6 waiting; 7 vessels due by 10/6; 5-9 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal and heavy shipping schedule. Grain: 5 vessels due by 18/6, all to load wheat; up to 5 days delay at present due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Kembla	02-Jun-2004	Coal: 1 vessel loading; 10 vessels due by 25/6; CB1: 4 vessels due by 25/7; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain: 5 vessels due by 20/6, 4 to load wheat, 1 canola; up to 8 days delay at present due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Hedland	02-Jun-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 6 anchored; 3 vessels due by 10/6; 9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 6 anchored; 3 vessels due by 7/6; 10 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island): 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 3 vessels due by 8/6; a 48 hour maintenance shutdown is scheduled to start ca. 2/6; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel anchored; 5 vessels due by 7/6; up to 2 days delay expected due

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Port Conditions

		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	02-Jun-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 11 vessels due by 15/6; up to 4 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; 11 vessels due by 15/6; up to 8 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	02-Jun-2004	Iron ore: force majeure is still in effect; 1 vessel berthed and loading; 16 vessels due by 17/6; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Mackay	02-Jun-2004	Grain: 1 vessel due 2/6 to load sorghum; up to 1 day's delay at present due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Melbourne	02-Jun-2004	5 vessels due by 18/6, 3 to load wheat, 1 wheat/barley, 1 barley; up to 7 days delay at present due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Geelong	02-Jun-2004	Grain: 6 vessels due by 19/6, 4 to load barley, 1 wheat, 1 canola; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Portland	02-Jun-2004	Grain: 1 vessel anchored to load wheat; 5 vessels due by 9/7, 3 to load barley, 2 wood-chips; up to 13 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Adelaide	02-Jun-2004	Grain: No. 27 berth: 12 vessels due by 30/6, 2 to load canola, 8 wheat, 2 barley; 3-10 days delay expected due to berth congestion.
Port Giles	02-Jun-2004	Grain: 2 vessels due by 21/6, 1 to load barley, 1 wheat; up to 1 day's
Port Pirie	02-Jun-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	02-Jun-2004	Grain: 5 vessels due by 17/6, 3 to load barley, 2 wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion.
Geraldton	02-Jun-2004	Iron ore: 2 vessels anchored; 1-2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain: 9 vessels due by 18/6, 1 to load lupins, 6 wheat, 1 feed, 1 barley; 1-9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Kwinana	02-Jun-2004	Grain: 18 vessels due by 19/6, 17 to load wheat, 1 barley; up to 12 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Albany	02-Jun-2004	Grain: 1 vessel berthed and loading wheat; 4 vessels due by 7/6, 3 to load wheat, 1 barley; 3-8 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Esperance	02-Jun-2004	Grain: 1 vessel berthed and loading barley; 7 vessels due by 2/7, 3 to load barley, 2 wheat, 2 feed; up to 2 days delay expected due to cargo availability and berth congestion.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	31-May-2004	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 scrap, 2 coils, 1 steel billets), 3 discharging (2 zinc concentrate, 1 steel billets); 8 vessels waiting in roads, of which 7 to load (1 chemicals, 1 HSFO, 1 coils, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 3 empty), 1 to discharge crude oil; 6 vessels due of which 2 to load (1 rebars, 1 sulphur), 4 to discharge (1 iron ore, 1 magnesium, 1 coal, 1 other vessel).
Egypt		
Alexandria	31-May-2004	Twenty-three vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 17 general cargo, 1 bulker, 1 containers, 1 Ro/Ro, 2 tankers, 1 passenger vessel; 7 vessels at inner anchorage, 10 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	31-May-2004	Nineteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 12 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 4 containers; 6 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Port Said	31-May-2004	Nine vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 1 general cargo, 5 containers, 3 passenger vessels.
Suez Canal	31-May-2004	Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 24 Southbound.
Mozambique		
Maputo	28-May-2004	Twenty-four hour berthing/sailing. Some restrictions to berthing at certain badly-lit wharves. Six vessels are currently operating, of which 3 loading (1 ferro chrome, 1 scrap, 1 aluminium), 2 discharging wheat, 1 discharging/loading; 2 vessels on stand-by; 19 vessels due by 7/6 of which 8 to load (2 aluminium, 1 coal, 4 citrus, 1 general cargo), 5 to discharge (2 rice, 1 vegetable oil, 1 wheat, 1 alumina), 4 to discharge/load (3 containers, 1 containers/steel plate), 2 warships.
Pakistan		
Karachi	02-Jun-2004	Three vessels loading at berth (1 naphtha, 1 MOL, 1 rice), 4 discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 coal, 1 DAP, 1 phosphate), 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 2 general cargo); no vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 6 vessels due (3 containers, 1 DAP, 1 pipes, 1 tallow), with no berthing delays.

Aviation/Product Recalls/Port Conditions

Port Qasim	02-Jun-2004	One HSD vessel discharging at berth, 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 fuel oil, 1 phosphoric acid, 1 iron ore).
Panama		
Panama Canal	31-May-2004	Gatun locks lane outage: From 00:01 on 31/5 until 23:59 on 10/6 (11 days), the West lane will be out of service; relay operation on the East lane. Condition 2 of the Transit Reservation System will be in effect due to the lane outage.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	31-May-2004	Thirteen vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 DRI, 1 scrap, 1 pipes, 1 zinc, 1 bulk urea, 1 coils, 1 equipment, 1 aluminium), 3 discharging (2 bulk sugar, 1 bananas), 1 discharging/loading containers; 11 vessels waiting in roads, of which 3 to discharge bulk sugar, 8 to load (1 scrap, 1 steel billets/coils, 1 steel billets, 2 copper, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate/bulk NPK, 1 containers, 1 equipment); 44 vessels due of which 43 to load (2 DRI, 3 steel billets, 4 aluminium, 1 pipes, 11 coils, 4 pig-iron, 1 HBI, 4 copper, 1 bulk NPK, 2 steel sheets, 1 scrap, 1 bulk fertiliser, 2 slabs, 2 UAN solution, 1 coils/lumber, 2 diesel oil, 1 paper), 1 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: 2 tankers berthed, both loading crude oil; 4 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 12 tankers due, 10 to load, crude oil, 2 fuel oil.
Makhachkala	31-May-2004	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, 2 waiting in roads; 1 vessel due 31/5.
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	31-May-2004	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion, and vessels loading at Northern and Eastern ports of Sri Lanka are granted priority berthing. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Seventeen container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 25 vessels discharging at berth (14 containers/feeders, 2 bagged sugar, 2 bagged urea, 4 bulk cement, 1 bulk urea, 1 bagged maize, 1 bulk LPG); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 bagged fertiliser, 1 bulk cement); 1 vessel under repairs, 7 dry-docked, 1 at new tanker berth; 6 vessels due (5 container/feeders, 1 general cargo), with no delays expected.
Turkmenistan		
Turkmenbashi	31-May-2004	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed of which 1 discharging crude oil, 1 loading gasoil, 1 to load fuel oil; 2 vessels in roads, both to load heating oil; 1 vessel due 31/5 to load gasoline.
Ukraine		
Odessa	31-May-2004	Nine vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 7 metal, 1 building materials, 1 metal/coal; 3 vessels in roads, of which 2 to load metal, 1 to discharge sugar; 54 vessels due, of which 30 to load (23 metal, 1 pipes/wood, 2 sunflower oil, 2 wood, 1 ferro alloy, 1 barley), 5 to discharge (1 metal, 1 meat, 1 citrus, 1 general cargo, 1 equipment), 19 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	31-May-2004	Seven vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 1 steel, 2 coal, 1 fire-clay, 1 fire-clay/kaolin, 1 sulphur, 1 sunflower beans; 2 vessels undergoing survey (1 steel, 1 coal); 1 vessel in roads, to load fire-clay; 40 vessels due, of which 37 to load (18 steel, 12 coal, 5 fire-clay, 1 equipment, 1 fertiliser), 2 to discharge (1 equipment, 1 chrome ore), 1 to discharge/load containers.
Ilichevsk	31-May-2004	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (1 barley, 1 sulphur, 4 steel products), 4 discharging (2 ore, 1 equipment, 1 pipes), 1 loading/discharging containers; 4 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 3 steel products, 1 wheat; 11 vessels due, of which 9 to load (8 steel products, 1 equipment), 2 to load/discharge containers.
United States		
Houston, TX	01-Jun-2004	Cargill terminal: 2-3 days delay expected.
Galveston, TX	01-Jun-2004	ADM-Farmland terminal: 1-2 days delay expected.
New Orleans, LA	01-Jun-2004	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 2-3 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 1 day's delay expected; ADM/Ama: 2-3 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 1 day's delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 2-3 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 2-3 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 1 day's delay expected; Peavey/Paulina: 2 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 1 day's delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessels presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: no delays; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 4-5 days delay expected.
Seattle, WA	01-Jun-2004	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Beaumont, TX	01-Jun-2004	Louis Dreyfus terminal: 2-3 days delay expected.

Port Conditions

Corpus Christi, TX	01-Jun-2004	Interstate grain terminal: 1-2 days delay expected.
Tacoma, WA	01-Jun-2004	Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Kalama, WA	01-Jun-2004	Kalama export terminal: 4 days delay expected.
Portland, OR	01-Jun-2004	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay expected.

Yemen

Hodeidah	30-May-2004	Berth 4 is occupied; 1 bulk wheat vessel berthed, no vessels anchored; expected waiting times: general cargo/bagged cargoes/containers: no delays; bulk cargoes: up to 2 days.
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