

Singapore ready to dish out harsh penalties for flouting July 1 rules

GIVING false or misleading information on maritime security to Singapore's port authority from July 1 could land you in jail for six months.

As one of the world's busiest ports, with more than 135,000 calls by vessels over 75 gt last year, Singapore is taking a tough line on security. Amendments to the Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore Regulations that come into force on July 1 for the enforcement of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code contain strict penalties for non-compliance with the code or giving false information on security.

Inaccurate

The harshest penalties are reserved for those who give false, misleading or inaccurate information on security arrangements under Sections 63A to 63D of the Port Amendment Regulations, the ISPS Code or the Safety of Life at Sea convention's Chapter XI-2, to the port master.

Any person found guilty and convicted faces a jail term of up to six months or a fine of up to S\$20,000 (\$11,658), or both.

In a circular to the shipping community the MPA said that ships entering the Port of Singapore may be asked for the following information:

- that the ship has a valid International Ship Security Certificate and the issuing authority;
- the security level at which the ship is operating;
- the security level at which the ship operated in any of the last 10 ports it called at;
- any special or additional security measures taken at the last 10 ports of call;
- that appropriate ship security measures were maintained at its last 10 ports of call;
- other practical security information, excluding details of the ship security plan.

Simply calling at the Port of Singapore with ships that are non-compliant with the ISPS Code could land the shipowner in hot water as well.

Not only could non-compliant ships be detained or thrown out of the port the

shipowner, agent or master could also face fines.

The circular warned that if there were clear grounds for believing a ship was non-compliant with Solas Chapter XI-2 or the ISPS Code it could be subject to inspection, delay, detention, restriction of operations, or be expelled from the port or denied entry in the first place. Local shipping industry executives say they have been warned by the MPA that it will detain or turn away non-compliant ships after July 1.

The owner, agent or master of a ship that does not comply with the requirements Part A of the ISPS Code or Solas Chapter XI-2 is guilty of an offence under the Port Amendment Regulations and if convicted faces a fine of up to S\$10,000.

Monitoring by the MPA over the past has shown only 25%-30% of the ships calling at the port have had the necessary documentation.

Owners and operators of port facilities also face up to a S\$10,000 fine if convicted of failing to comply with Solas Chapter XI-2 or Part A of the ISPS Code.

Marcus Hand
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>AL FAHAD</i>	passenger	SAU	—	6,889	909	1966	Requires major engine repairs and anchored towards Shoaiba, 35 kilometres south of Jeddah, prev Jun 10.
<i>CONGER</i>	bulker	CYP	BV	43,651	70,583	1981	Reported engine trouble & towed to Ferrol Jun 4. Sailed Jun 8. Had further engine trouble in lat 43 38.2N, long 08 22.7W, Jun 9. Towed by tug <i>Alonso de Chaves</i> & anchored at Ria de Ares, Jun 9. Towed to Ferrol Jun 10. Still in port Jun 11. Voyage: Itacoatiara (BRA) to Rotterdam (NLD). Cargo: Soya.
<i>DOMIAT</i>	bulker	EGY	LR	24,105	38,391	1985	Reported Jun 7 aground in lat 55 30.96N, long 12 44.32E. Salvage plan awaited. Vessel will need to discharge a large amount of cargo. Inspection found impression over vessel's entire bottom. Still aground Jun 13.
<i>ELEFThERIA</i>	bulker	PAN	NV	36,828	63,718	1983	In collision with bulk <i>Hakki Deval</i> in lat 36 48N, long 01 23E, Jun 6. Sustained damage "topside". Fracture in starboard side wing & No.1 hold and as a result, ingress of water. Under tug escort to Ancona, ETA Jun 11. General Average signed.
<i>FAIR MARE</i>	crude	LBR	NK	32,641	60,962	1978	Had fire in engine-room departing the Strait of Hormuz in lat 26 18.1N, long 56 53.2E, Jun 9. Fire extinguished. Towed to Fujairah. Three crew members missing.
<i>HAKKI DEVAL</i>	bulker	TUR	AB	9,721	15,775	1979	In collision with bulk <i>Eleftheria</i> in lat 36 48N, long 01 23E, Jun 6. Contined voyage.
<i>HIBIKI MARU</i>	tanker	JPN	—	99	—	1989	In collision with c.c. <i>Xiang Xiu</i> in Kanmon Strait Jun 3. Engine stopped & could not be started. Towed to shipyard in Shimonoseki for repairs. Heavy damage to main engine reduction gear, propeller, tailshaft & rudder. Renewal required. Voyage: Kokura (JPN) to Shimonoseki (JPN).
<i>POWHATAN</i>	bulker	LBR	AB	36,615	70,153	1995	Reported adrift in lat 37 29N, long 144 43E, Jun 8, due to trouble with main engine No 6 piston. Effecting repairs by own means Jun 9. No assistance required. Completed repairs Jun 9.
<i>SEA TRUST</i>	vehicle carrier	LBN	GL	981	1,626	1983	Fire broke out on vehicle on board vessel at Berth 405, Antwerp, Jun 2. Water created by sprinkler systems caused her to list to starboard. Fire out. Salvage under way Jun 9. Refloated Jun 11.
<i>VANGUARD</i>	general	ATG	GL	3,806	4,766	1994	Experienced engine trouble in lat 51 48N, long 02 30E, Jun 9. Corrected problem by own means but experienced further trouble & returning to Rotterdam under own power. At Europoort Jun 10. Problem was in turbo-charger. Repairs took about 32 hours.
<i>VIRGIN EXPRESS</i>	general	PAN	—	959	1,511	1975	Reported disabled and adrift 25 nautical miles south-west of the Dominican Republic in lat 17 27N, long 71 56W, Jun 7. Arrived safely at Pedernales, Dominican Republic, Jun 8.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ABALONE (Belize)

London, Jun 4 — Understand from the harbour-master that general cargo *Abalone* arrived at Tampico on May 21. Up to date, the vessel is still in Tampico at ARMAMEX ship yard and according to the manager the instruction is for shipbreaking. — Lloyd's Agents.

AEOLUS EXPRESS II (Greece)

Piraeus, Jun 10 — Passenger ro/ro *Aeolus Express II* sailed Perama port on Jun 9 to Perama roads, where still remains. — Lloyd's Agents.

AGIOS NIKOLAOS (Greece)

Piraeus, Jun 10 — General cargo *Agios Nikolaos* remains in Perama port, Piraeus, under repair. ETD unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

AKHTIAR (Ukraine)

See *Algosound*.

AL FAHAD (Saudi Arabia)

Jeddah, Jun 10 — Understand from the owners of passenger ro/ro *Al Fahad* (6889 gt, built 1966) that the vessel is anchored towards Shoaiba, 35 kms south of Jeddah. The vessel requires major repairs, the nature of which are so far unreported. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALADIN (Cyprus)

London, Jun 10 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1135, UTC: General cargo *Aladin* (1499 gt, built 1982) with rope around propeller picked up yesterday afternoon approximately 40 miles north-west of Vigo, is being towed to Ferrol, with ETA in six to seven hours from now, by tug *Ibaizabal Tres*. (Note — *Aladin*, Annaba for Flushing, passed Cape Finisterre 1519, Jun 9.)

ALAMO (Chile)

Santiago, Jun 8 — Bulk *Alamo* (15274 gt, built 1982), Bahia Blanca for Puerto Montt, grounded on a small island in the vicinity of Punta Seguel lighthouse in Adalberto, 50 miles north-east of Port Eden, on Jun 2. The vessel reportedly refloated by its own means, and arrived in Tribune Bay at 0630 yesterday to await an inspection. No leakage has been detected. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALGOSOUND (Canada)

London, Jun 3 — At 2240, EDST, Jun 3 (? Jun 2), firefighting tug *Akhtiar* (1178 gt, built 1989) reported the loss of towed bulk *Algosound* (17564 gt, built 1965), at M-171 Longue Pointe, port of Montreal, in lat 45 35.09N, long 73 29.58W. *Algosound* then grounded near buoy M-167, in the port of Montreal.

Montreal, Jun 8 — Bulk *Algosound* was being towed from Montreal to India for scrapping. Shortly after departure, the vessel broke tow and lightly grounded. It was refloated with the

assistance of a local tug. There was no known damage. Its departure was delayed until the assisting tug received payment of \$50,000.00 for their "salvage". Tow departed Jun 7. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALMUDAINA (Madeira)

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A three-men team has been appointed by the Manpower Ministry to investigate what caused the flash fire on crude oil tanker *Almudaina* last Saturday. The team made a visit to the oil tanker this afternoon and will submit their findings in two months. The three panel members have been brought to *Almudaina*, into the compartment where the flash fire actually took place. They were guided by Occupational Safety Officers from the Manpower Ministry, who had already been on the tanker before to do some preliminary investigation. The team, which has maritime and industrial safety experience, spent close to an hour at the site. "I saw a lot of brackets, some signs and evidence of work being carried out some time back. We were shown the positions where the deceased workers were, as they were found," said Low Wong Fook, chairman of the investigative panel. "One of the challenges of course is that we don't have any key witness who saw the accident happening inside the tank. So we have to rely on evidence that is there to try to establish and reconstruct scene of accident," said Mr Wong, who is also the principal of Singapore Polytechnic and chairman of the MOM's Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health for Metalworking Industry. Their main task is to pin down the source of the fuel leak and the point of ignition that led to the flash fire. They will also study the shipyard's safety management systems and make recommendations to prevent future accidents. Keppel is conducting its own separate inquiry. Until the Manpower Ministry gives the go ahead, there will be no repair work done on the tanker.

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0035, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Almudaina* is still at Keppel Hitachi Dock No 2, Singapore.

ANTARES I (Panama)

London, Jun 7 — Understood chem.tank *Antares* (16820 gt, built 1984) not product tanker *Antares I* was the vessel involved in the collision with product tanker *Libertador San Martin* at Km 249 of the Parana River on Jun 4. (See *Antares I* in issue of Jun 8.)

Buenos Aires, Jun 7 — The collision between chem tank *Antares* and product tanker *Libertador San Martin* occurred at 0925, Jun 4, while *Antares* was sailing upriver and *Libertador San Martin* downriver. Both vessels were in ballast condition and gas-free. *Antares* sustained the following damages: Starboard shipside plating in way of tanks 1, 2 & 3 buckled, set in and holed over approximately 40 m length x six m (below main deck) affecting two main

deck strakes and part of vessel's gunwale. Damages to *Libertador San Martin*: Starboard forecastle and bulbous bow plating variously set in/indented affecting hawspipe, anchor chain and railing in way. Furthermore, damages to the forecastle store-room as a consequence of fire were noted. Both vessels were authorised by the Coastguard to perform navigation for repairs. Today *Antares* sailed bound for Tsakos Floating Dry-dock in Montevideo, Uruguay. On Jun 5, *Libertador San Martin* sailed towards Tandano Dry-dock in Buenos Aires. — Lloyd's Agents.

Buenos Aires, Jun 4 — Product tanker *Libertador San Martin* (8494 gt, built 1979) and product tanker *Antares I* (5332 gt, built 1981) collided at approximately 0925, today, at Km 249 of the Parana River. They are currently anchored at San Pedro Roads awaiting Coast Guard Inspection. — Lloyd's Agents.

ASTRIDA (Latvia)

Gothenburg, Jun 3 — According to a report from the Latvian authorities, fishing *Astrida* sank less than one minute after the collision with a still unknown vessel. According to tests and preliminary calculations the other vessel is apparently around 28,000 dwt. It is also possible that the larger vessel did not notice when it ran over *Astrida*. The Latvian investigation stated that it was hit on its port side and ended up underneath the larger vessel and almost cut into two pieces. According to the divers' report, the vessel sustained serious damage to its hull and all equipment at bridge was seriously damaged. Fragments of the other vessel were found. — Westax Marine Services AB.

ATTILIO IEVOLI (Italy)

London, Jun 3 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1745, UTC: At 1540 UTC, it was reported that chem.tank *Attilio Ievoli* (4450 gt, built 1995), with 511 tonnes of tulene, plus other cargoes, after leaving the Esso terminal, was aground in lat 50 43.5N, long 01 30.7W. The grounding had occurred about half an hour before. At present the master is investigating the holds for damage. (Note — *Attilio Ievoli* sailed Fawley 1516, Jun 3 for Barcelona.)

London, Jun 3 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1828, UTC: At 1500 hrs, this afternoon, it was reported to Solent Coastguard that chem.tank *Attilio Ievoli* was aground off the entrance to Lymington Harbour. It is reported that the hull of the vessel remains intact. The vessel was safely refloated at 1900 hours, this evening, with the rising tide, without assistance of tugs, and is being escorted to safe anchorage to await inspection by Maritime and Coastguard Agency surveyors. The owners are arranging for a diving team to inspect the hull integrity before any onward travel. *Attilio Ievoli* was en route from Fawley to Barcelona, with 16 crew on board.

London, Jun 3 — Following received from Coastguard Solent, MRSC, timed 1859, UTC: Chem.tank *Attilio Ievoli* currently at anchor in lat 50 43.4N,

long 01 27.3W, halfway between Hampstead Ledge and Yarmouth. Hull integrity not compromised. No assistance currently required. Vessel to remain at anchor, awaiting instructions.

London, Jun 4 — Divers are due to carry out an emergency survey of the hull of chem.tank *Attilio Ievoli* after the vessel ran aground off Southampton. A coastguard spokeswoman could not say what chemicals the tanker was carrying, but added: "There is no sign of any pollution problems at all at the moment but for precautionary reasons it will be thoroughly inspected." She said the vessel's owners were arranging for a diving team to inspect the hull today and that the master of the vessel had said it was intact. The tanker was refloated with the rising tide and taken to safe anchorage. The divers will have to give the vessel the all clear to continue its journey to Barcelona. — Reuters.

London, Jun 4 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1410, UTC: The diver survey of chem.tank *Attilio Ievoli* has been suspended for the moment due to the tide.

London, Jun 4 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1731, UTC: Chem.tank *Attilio Ievoli* is presently still at anchor and divers are now checking the outside hull integrity, which will be filmed and sent to the Maritime Coastguard surveyor, at the marine office in Southampton. Once the video has been examined, it will then be decided if the vessel is able to continue with its passage to Spain.

London, Jun 5 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 0616, UTC: Chem.tank *Attilio Ievoli*: After completion of inspections and examination of video evidence proved satisfactory vessel was given clearance to sail. Vessel underway at 0530, UTC.

London, Jun 9 — Chem.tank *Attilio Ievoli* passed Cape Finisterre Jun 7.

AVANTIS III (Greece)

See "Chalkis, Greece" under "Pollution."

BALTIC SKY

See "Vessel Seized Carrying Explosives, Ionian Sea, Greece" under "Miscellaneous."

BANGA BIRAJ (Bangladesh)

Chittagong, Jun 10 — c.c. *Banga Biraj* and c.c. *Eagle Strength* are still lying in the same position at Chittagong. We have been informed by the local agent of *Eagle Strength* that an amicable understanding was reached with the concerned parties in the meeting held May 30 to settle the claim. Accordingly, the proposal is said to have been forwarded to related Bangladesh Government Ministries for consideration and approval. — Lloyd's Agents.

BERGE NICE (French Southern Territories)

London, Jun 9 — Lpg *Berge Nice* arrived Talcahuano 1051, May 21 for repairs, with estimated time of departure 1230, Jun 16.

BOSPORUS (Cyprus)

London, Jun 3 — Bulk *Bosporus*, which arrived Rotterdam in tow Apr 28 due main engine problems, subsequently sailed 1515, May 18, and passed Dover Strait May 19.

BREEZE (Malta)

See "Weapons Seized on Vessel at Istanbul, Turkey" under "Miscellaneous."

CAPE AFRICA (Taiwan)

London, Jun 5 — Following received from bulk *Cape Africa* Joint Operations Committee, dated Jun 4: In consultation with the South African Maritime Safety Authority and the Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism, a revised salvage plan with respect to *Cape Africa*, at anchor in False Bay, Cape Town, has been devised. In light of the recent experience in attempting to fit a cofferdam over the area of extensive damage to hold No.3, this phase of the cofferdam fitment operation has been shelved and the vessel will be lightened in order to bring it into a port for repairs. Efforts to fit a cofferdam over the area of damage to hold No.4 port side will continue and temporary repairs to this area will be undertaken. A specialised vessel will be used for the purpose of lightening *Cape Africa* by removing some 80,000 tonnes of its iron ore cargo. It is anticipated that this vessel will arrive in False Bay by Jun 20 and is expected to require at least seven full, good-weather working days in order to complete the partial cargo removal. *Cape Africa* will then have been sufficiently lightened to enable it to be towed to a port where temporary repairs can be undertaken. After the lightening operation, the area of extensive structural damage to hold No.3 will be above the waterline. Damage sustained to *Cape Africa's* No.2 double bottom tank on Wednesday morning prior to the release of the cofferdam, an area measuring some 20cm by 20cm, has been repaired and the tank pumped dry. The cofferdam has been located on the seabed and will be recovered. (See issue of Jun 4.)

London, Jun 10 — Salvage efforts on bulk *Cape Africa*, anchored in South Africa's False Bay, have run into serious difficulties. Attempts to fit a steel cofferdam over a 286-sq-m hole in way of No 3 hold failed last week, after the structure had to be cut loose to avoid further damage to the vessel. The cofferdam is now on the seabed under 39 metres of water and will now need to be recovered. The structure was transferred from a barge last Tuesday (Jun 1) and stayed in place during the afternoon. However, a surge of water and an increasing swell caused the cofferdam to breach a double bottom tank, which then flooded. The decision was taken to release it in the early hours of last Wednesday. The new hole, which was about 20 cm by 20 cm, has since been repaired. Salvors are now trying to lift some 80,000 tonnes of iron ore from the vessel before taking it into port for repairs. However, this is unlikely to happen before the end of the

month. There is further bad news in that surveys have reportedly revealed worse damage than expected to the vessel's side and interior structure.

CAPENSIS (South Africa)

London, Jun 8 — Following received from Port Elizabeth, dated today: Fishing *Capensis*: According to the vessel's local agents Cummins Diesel have still not finished the engine repairs. They expect the repairs to be finished next week with another week of fitting required before the vessel is able to sail.

CHEMINEES POUJOLAT-ARMOR LUX

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Swiss skipper Bernard Stamm set off his EPIRB early this morning after the keel parted from the hull of his Open 60 *Cheminees Poujoulat-Armor Lux*. The boat immediately capsized and is lying on its side. Stamm's position is north-east of Flemish Cap, about 360 miles from St John's Newfoundland. Stamm is reportedly uninjured and is safe inside and in a survival suit. He reports that the sails are keeping the boat stable on its side. MRCC Halifax are co-ordinating the emergency and are thought to be directing both airborne and seaborne rescue missions. Fellow Open 60 skipper Sebastian Josse, on *VMI*, who is about 200 miles behind Stamm is racing towards him and estimates being on scene in about 15 hours.

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated Jun 7, states: Bernard Stamm felt strong vibrations just before the keel of his \$2 million yacht *Cheminees Poujoulat-Armor Lux* snapped and the vessel capsized today off the coast of Newfoundland. Strong winds and high seas proved too much for the champion sailor from Switzerland, who was leading a prestigious transatlantic race when the accident occurred. At 0300, local time, Halifax Rescue Co-ordination Centre received a distress signal from the yacht. It was Day Seven of the Transat, a solo race from Portsmouth, United Kingdom, to Boston, Mass. Stamm was about 700 kilometres from Newfoundland, heading towards the Grand Banks. Navy Lieut Pat Jessup, spokeswoman for the rescue centre, said the weather was poor. "It was three-to four-metre seas, 35-knot winds and limited visibility." A Hercules aircraft, dispatched from Canadian Forces Base Greenwood in western Nova Scotia, found Stamm's overturned vessel by 0900 hrs and established radio contact. "He was in good condition from what we heard and he wasn't reporting any injuries," said Jessup. Stamm took shelter inside a specially designed, watertight compartment. Tanker *Emma* reached Stamm this afternoon. Crew members retrieved the stranded sailor by using one of the tanker's lifeboats. Stamm said his yacht's keel couldn't handle the speed once the vessel reached 26 knots in heavy seas. The boat flipped when the keel broke. Stamm, who was later transferred to a European fisheries patrol boat, was one

of 37 racers who left Portsmouth on May 31 to make the 4,500-kilometre crossing. He was expected to be dropped off in St. John's, NF, on Wednesday (Jun 9).

CONGER (Cyprus)

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 0620, UTC: Bulk *Conger* (43651 gt, built 1981), Ferrol for Rotterdam, cargo soya, was reported with engine problems at 2120, UTC, Jun 8. Vessel is currently in lat 43 38.2N, long 08 22.7W, awaiting tug *Charuca Silveira* which has an ETA of 1700, UTC, today.

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 2050, UTC: Bulk *Conger* is currently at anchor at Ria de Ares, near Corunna, where it arrived about one-and-a-half hours ago.

London, Jun 10 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 0650, UTC: Bulk *Conger* is still at anchor at Ria de Ares, in lat 43 25N, long 08 18W. Vessel was towed there by tug *Alonso de Chaves*.

Ferrol, Jun 10 — Bulk *Conger*, Itacoatiara for Rotterdam, cargo soya, was towed to local yard Izar Ferrol Jun 4 for engine repairs, and sailed Jun 8. However, vessel has again been towed to Ferrol because again reported engine problems and berthed at the yard at 1230 today. — Lloyd's Agents.

CONTSHIP AUCKLAND (Liberia)

London, Jun 3 — C.c. *Contship Auckland* arrived at Jawaharlal Nehru on Jun 2.

DENNIS ROSS (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1430, UTC: Tug *Dennis Ross* (377 gt, built 1972) was in collision with an unknown fishing vessel in the Tennessee River at about 1514, UTC, Jun 5. One crew member from the fishing vessel is missing.

DOMIAT (Egypt)

London, Jun 7 — Following navigation warning broadcast at 0610, UTC: Bulk *Domiat* (24105 gt, built 1985) aground in lat 55 30.96N, long 12 44.32E.

London, Jun 7 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 0900, UTC: Bulk carrier *Domiat*, St. Petersburg for India, cargo 33,000 tonnes potash, is still aground on a sandbank, with a pilot on board. There is no oil leakage and no visible damage.

London, Jun 8 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 0650, UTC: Bulk carrier *Domiat* is still aground.

Gothenburg, Jun 8 — Bulk *Domiat*, cargo 33,000 tonnes potash, and around 100 tons of diesel bunkers, ran aground yesterday at southern Oresund/The Sound and could not get off by itself, however no pollution reported. The vessel is aground approximate 2.5 kilometres south-east of Drogden fairway, between Drager and Skanor. The vessel has 39 crewmen, but no injuries reported. The Inspector of Maritime Administration is awaiting a salvage plan from the master/vessel, but not yet presented. Vessel will

require to discharge around 8,000 tons of cargo to refloat. Lloyd's Class surveyor to be involved. — Westax Marine Services A/B.

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 0510, UTC: Bulk *Domiat* remains aground at present.

Malmo, Jun 9 — Bulk *Domiat*: Divers have inspected the bottom and found impression over the whole bottom. No leakage has been noted. Bunkers have been shifted from bottom tanks to top tanks to avoid leakage. The vessel stands very hard on the ground and a great part of the cargo must be shifted. — Lloyd's Agents.

Gothenburg, Jun 9 — Bulk *Domiat*: Coast Guard officers reported that during the night, the sea-level increased by approximately 30 cm and aft part of the vessel lifted from the bottom and swung 30-35 degrees, but front part remained hard to the bottom, mostly consisting of rocks of flint and similar. Rudder and propeller OK, but rest of bottom structure sustained damage without any holes or leakage. Investigations continue into how to proceed and why a vessel of this size was trying to make it through The Sound. Inspectors and Coast Guard expect a salvage plan for emptying bunker tanks and some 7,000 to 8,000 tons of potash before new certificates to be issued and vessel allowed to proceed from the present position. — Westax Marine Services A/B.

London, Jun 10 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1200, UTC: Bulk *Domiat* remains aground in the same position. A refloating attempt last night was unsuccessful.

EAGLE 1 (Panama)

London, Jun 5 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, dated today: C.c. *Eagle 1* (18619 gt, built 1995), Hong Kong for Long Beach, lost 24 40ft containers overboard in heavy weather, Beaufort 9 (strong gale) in lat 28 06.8N, long 133 52.0E at 1100, local time, Jun 4. Vessel is proceeding and no assistance is required. Mariners are advised to take precaution in navigation on the said area as the containers might still be floating. (Note — *Eagle 1* sailed Hong Kong Jun 1.)

EAGLE STRENGTH (Panama)

See *Banga Biraj*.

EAGLE TAMPA (Singapore)

London, Jun 4 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 2000, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Eagle Tampa*: Temporary repairs being carried out at Galveston, permanent repairs will be carried out in Portugal. Repairs estimated to be in region of \$6.3 million. Bulk/oil *Pasir 1* presently at Galveston for temporary repairs. Repairs estimated to be in region of \$3.5 million.

EDEN (Panama)

London, Jun 3 — General cargo *Eden* sailed Las Palmas May 25, destination Laayoune.

Las Palmas, Jun 8 — General cargo *Eden*, which arrived at Las Palmas

from Laayounne Apr 21, has been repaired and is now in service having sailed May 25 for Laayounne. — Lloyd's Agents.

ELEFThERIA (Panama)

London, Jun 7 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0805, UTC: Bulk *Eleftheria*, 3FIU9, (36828 gt, built 1983), Lisbon for Ancona, cargo soya, and bulk *Hakki Deval*, TCLM, (9721 gt, built 1979) were in collision in lat 36 48N, long 01 23E, at approximately 0500 yesterday. *Eleftheria* sustained damage "topside" and is under tug escort to Ancona where ETA Jun 11.

London, Jun 7 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Bulk *Eleftheria* and bulk *Hakki Deval* were involved in a collision near the Algerian coast on Jun 6. After the collision both vessels continued their voyages. There were no injuries, however, *Eleftheria* sustained a fracture in No. 1 hold and as a result there was ingress of water. *Eleftheria* had previously departed from Portugal loaded with soya bound for Ancona. Accompanying the vessel to Ancona is tug *Megas Alexandros*.

ELENA X. (Greece)

London, Jun 3 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1420, UTC: Product tanker *Elena X.* was refloated with tug assistance and inspection revealed no damage or pollution. Vessel is proceeding to anchorage close to Preveza.

London, Jun 4 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the afternoon of Jun 2 product tanker *Elena X.* loaded with 1,270 tonnes of tar, grounded in shallow waters off Preveza. *Elena X.* was refloated with the assistance of tug *Kosmos* at 1530 yesterday and anchored safely off Ag. Thomas next to Preveza. Preveza port authority, which is investigating the incident, prohibited the departure of the vessel pending issuance of seaworthiness certificate.

London, Jun 4 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1425, UTC: Product tanker *Elena X.* has discharged all its cargo. It is now berthed at Preveza, detained until classification society provide a seaworthiness certificate.

ELM (Netherlands Antilles)

Plymouth, Jun 8 — General cargo *Elm* previously arrived for repairs, which have been completed and sailed yesterday evening. However, vessel has just returned with a further problem and is presently proceeding to a layup berth. Unfortunately we do not know exactly what the problem is on this occasion. Understand vessel should be underway by pm, tomorrow. — Lloyd's Agents.

EQUULEUS (Cook Islands)

London, Jun 3 — Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1430, UTC: No further information has been received on the situation of general cargo *Equuleus*.

London, Jun 7 — Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1436, UTC:

General cargo *Equuleus* is now in tow of tug *Calusa Coast*, bound Martha's Vineyard. Position at 1300, UTC, today lat 39 34N, long 68 28W.

EUROPEAN VIKING

Vienna, Jun 10 — Nineteen people have been injured when German tourist passenger *European Viking* (built 2001) hit a bridge on the Danube river in Vienna, police say. The vessel hit a pillar of the bridge and was carrying mainly American, British and Canadian tourists. "It happened while the ship was turning. The rear of the ship struck a pier of the bridge," a police spokesman said today. The injuries were minor, with passengers suffering scrapes and bruises. A vessel's cook suffered a slight burn when the impact knocked him over in the galley. The vessel was still functional and the damage to the busy road bridge was slight, police said. — Reuters.

EVITA (Norway)

See *Fribulk*.

FAIR MARE (Liberia)

London, Jun 10 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1115, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Fair Mare* (32641 gt, built 1978) departing the Strait of Hormuz, had an engine-room fire in lat 26 18.1N, long 56 53.2E at about 1022, UTC, yesterday. Vessel was towed to Fujairah. Three crew members are still missing.

FETISH (Cayman Islands)

Buenos Aires, Jun 3 — Bulk *Fetish* (17825 gt, built 1984) grounded at Km 179, at 2034, Jun 2. It is not obstructing navigation. No tugs are assisting the vessel to date. — Lloyd's Agents.

Buenos Aires, Jun 4 — Bulk *Fetish* is now being assisted by tugs *Alianza Rosario* and *Buni*. — Lloyd's Agents.

Buenos Aires, Jun 7 — Bulk *Fetish* refloated at 1700, Jun 4, assisted by tugs *Alianza Rosario* and *Buni*. — Lloyd's Agents.

FRIBULK (Bahamas)

London, Jun 6 — Following received from Sandnes, dated today: General cargo *Fribulk* (1840 gt, built 1971). Jelsa for Germany, was in collision with crude oil tanker *Evita* (72120 gt, built 1988) outside Stavanger at 0400, local time, Jun 5. *Evita* was anchored on Kalsmedgrunnen for orders when the accident occurred. After the collision *Fribulk* went back to Kopervik where the owners and the local authorities started an investigation. Only minor damage to both vessels. *Evita* moved to an anchorage near Stavanger for inspections.

London, Jun 8 — Following received from Sandnes, dated today: General cargo *Fribulk* continued to Germany on Jun 6 after completing repairs at Kopervik. Crude oil tanker *Evita* is still anchored outside Stavanger. The tanker is temporarily repaired.

GAZ MED (Panama)

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A morning toxic gas leak from a scrap ship, lpg *Gaz Med* (41535

gt, built 1974), made hundreds of people ill and forced many others out of their homes in Sitakunda, Chittagong, on Monday (Jun 7). A ship-cutting contractor died apparently from the gas emission that exposed about 5,000 people to serious health risks as the colourless pungent gas was spotted spewing from the vessel in Jahanabad at about 1100 hrs. Witnesses said the gas cloud spread several kilometres along the coast and reached up to Dhaka-Chittagong Highway after one of the three liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) containers on the vessel was cut open. The ship was beached on May 31 for dismantling at Foyjun Shipbreaking Yard. Villagers of Jahanabad and Kadam Rasul said many women and children threw up after inhaling the gas that filled the air. Chunnu Mia, 42, said his two children were in bed until yesterday after vomiting. Nuru Mia, 52, said his family left home and returned only after rain apparently minimised the impact of toxicity. "It became difficult to stay home when a third LPG tank was cut open sending gas gushing out," a shipyard worker said. "The other two tanks were sunk in the sea for sludge or chemical remains inside to wash away. The tanks will be retrieved after they become danger-free." Earlier, a group of pressmen who went to cover the incident from the city faced obstruction on their way to the yard. The guards and staff of the shipyard, who stopped the journalists visiting the ship, denied the gas leak. All activities at the shipyard remained suspended, as Nurul Islam, the cutting contractor of Foyjun Shipbreaking Yard and general secretary of ruling BNP's Sitakunda unit, died in a city clinic early yesterday. Locals believe Nurul died after inhaling the gas as he was at the shipyard all day when the ship was being broken. But the clinic in its death certificate said Nurul died of a cardiac arrest. Later, it turned out that he was taken to the clinic drunk and physicians quoting his family said he took sleeping pills shortly before 2200, Monday.

GLACIER EXPLORER (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Tour passenger *Glacier Explorer* (95 gt, built 1996) struck an object in lower Resurrection Bay about midday yesterday, and 92 passengers were transferred to another vessel, the U.S. Coast Guard said. No one was injured, and damage did not appear to be extensive, Lt. Matt Moorlag said. The vessel, operated by Kenai Fjords Tours out of Seward, was in the south end of the bay when it hit something in the water, Moorlag said. "I'm not sure what it was," he said. Company officials called the Coast Guard a little after 1300 hrs to make a routine notification, Moorlag said. Kenai Fjords Tours did not request any help from the agency, he said. The company responded quickly by sending another of its vessels, the *Coastal Explorer*, to take on the passengers, and all were transferred from *Glacier Explorer* without incident, according to Moorlag. *Glacier Explorer* sustained some

damage to one of its engines and took on some water through a shaft seal. It headed back to Seward on one engine, accompanied by the *Coastal Explorer*, Moorlag said. Both vessels were moored at Seward by 2045 hrs, he said. The Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office in Anchorage is investigating the incident, he added.

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: The master of passenger *Glacier Explorer* that struck a rock while transporting nearly 100 passengers through Resurrection Bay may have had a stroke of bad luck in hitting an unmarked rock, the U.S. Coast Guard said yesterday. *Glacier Explorer* apparently struck a rock or reef in Cheval Narrows off the northwest corner of Cheval Island about 1230 Monday while moving at about 22 mph, said Lt. Cmdr. Jim Robertson of the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office in Anchorage. No one was injured. The tour operator, Kenai Fjords Tours, sent two other vessels in the area at the time over to *Glacier Explorer*. One of them, *Coastal Explorer*, took on the other vessel's 92 passengers without incident and returned them to Seward, according to Scott Torrison, chief operating officer of CIRI Alaska Tourism Corp., owner of Kenai Fjords Tours. One-third of them decided to go out again on another tour on another vessel, said Torrison. The mishap occurred after a group of birders on *Glacier Explorer* wanted to see flocks of oyster-catchers on the island and the master moved in closer as the vessel rounded the tip of the island, Torrison said. "It just clipped the thing over the top," he said. The boat has a draught of only three feet. The hull was not damaged, Torrison said. The vessel's port engine and shaft were damaged, but *Glacier Explorer* was able to motor to the shipyard across the bay from Seward under its own power, he said. Cheval Island, in the southwest corner of Resurrection Bay, is about three miles east of Agnes Cove. Charts of the area show a shoal at a depth of 4.5 fathoms, or about 27 feet, where *Glacier Explorer* struck the object, said Robertson. The chart information, dated 1983, comes from an incomplete survey, he said. "The shoal area is based on one sounding, and obviously it comes up shallower than 4.5 fathoms," Robertson said. The chart is not inaccurate, he said, but it does not cover everything below the surface. Resurrection Bay is known for sharp differences in water depth over short distances.

GSF LABRADOR (Vanuatu)

London, Jun 4 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 0900, UTC: Drill ship *GSF Labrador* (7179 gt, built 1980) was en route from Ymuiden to Dutch platform K1-A but had to be diverted to Rotterdam for repairs to free blocked spudcan jetting lines. *GSF Labrador* arrived Verolme Botlek Shipyard at 0707 today, approximate duration of stay seven to 14 days. (Note — *GSF Labrador* left Ymuiden 1500, Jun 1 for North Sea.)

HAKKI DEVAL (Turkey)

See *Eleftheria*.

HEKIRYU MARU (Japan)

See *Sunny Linden*.

HERAKLIA (Greece)

London, Jun 8 — Following received from the managers of bulk *Heraklia*, dated today: *Heraklia* is still under repair and is expected to complete repairs around Jun 12.

HERNES (Cyprus)

Reykjavik, Jun 7 — The hull of bulk *Hernes* was made as watertight as possible using wooden blocks and sealant. The repairs were accepted by the vessel's Classification Society and the vessel sailed Hafnarfjordur at 0640, Jun 7, in tow of tug *Stevns Ocean*, bound Gdansk for permanent repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

HIBIKI MARU (Japan)

Moji, Jun 4 — At approximately 1340, Jun 3, Panamanian c.c. *Xiang Xiu* (4018 gt, built 1994), Shanghai for Keihin, Japan, and Japanese non specific tanker *Hibiki Maru* (99 gt, built 1989), on a loaded passage from Kokura to Shimonoseki, were involved in a collision in the Kanmon Strait. *Xiang Xiu* only experienced scratching of paint on its bow area. Vessel is under investigation, off Moji, by Japan Coast Guard. *Hibiki Maru* sustained minor damage to its stern area, but its main engine stopped and could not be restarted. Therefore vessel was towed to a shipyard in Shimonoseki for repairs. There were no injuries to either crew and no leakage of oil was reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

Moji, Jun 8 — Non specific tanker *Hibiki Maru*, collision with c.c. *Xiang Xiu*: *Hibiki Maru* sustained heavy damage to main engine reduction gearing, propeller, tailshaft and rudder, requiring renewal of same. The owners/repairers have not yet found replacement reduction gearing, therefore repair period cannot be fixed yet. *Xiang Xiu* sailed Moji Jun 7 for Yokohama after completion of Coast Guard investigation. The vessel sustained very minor paint scratches only and the class surveyor did not require any repairs to be carried out. — Lloyd's Agents.

HIGHSPEED 1 (Greece)

London, Jun 9 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Ferry *Highspeed 1* (4480 gt, built 1996), departed from Milos after a one and a half hour delay due to entanglement of a mooring line in No. 4 Waterjet at 1510, Jun 8. The removal of the line required assistance from a diver. The master and chief engineer gave positive statements at the port authority regarding the seaworthiness of the vessel. Following confirmation by a local marine engineer and the diver the vessel was permitted to sail. At the time vessel was performing the itinerary Milos-Sifnos-Serifos-Kythnos-Piraeus.

HUMBER ARM (Bermuda)

London, Jun 7 — Understand general cargo *Humber Arm* left Setubal pm, Jun 5 in tow of tug *Montalvo* for Civitavecchia.

HYUNDAI NO.105 (Panama)

London, Jun 7 — Following received from the owners of vehicle *Hyundai No.105*, timed 1700, Singapore time, today: At the end of yesterday, Jun 6, the owner has announced that the recovery operations of the 830 tonnes of bunker fuel on board *Hyundai No.105*, have successfully recovered in excess of 500 tonnes of bunker fuel from the sunken vessel. A team of some 15 divers commenced bunker recovery operations Jun 1. At that stage, the salvors appointed by owners and their P&I Club had on-site, a fully equipped barge, including a decompression chamber, a support tug, a tanker, product tanker *Sentek*, acting as recipient of recovered bunker fuel, and two support vessels, *Sea Kite* and *Sea Osprey*, which carry upgraded spill dispersant application equipment including fitted fixed spray arms. Both ships are also used at night to warn off any vessels heading too close to the site of the sinking and the salvors have further marked the site of the sinking with buoys, while Singapore authorities have continued to issue warnings to passing vessels. The removal of the bunker fuel is progressing slowly due to strong currents and poor visibility in this particular stretch of water. The difficult location of the ship, lying at a bottom depth of some 50 metres, only allows divers to operate for a maximum of 20 minutes per dive, for 3 hours at a time, between tides. Barring unforeseen weather delays the operation is expected to be completed within a further 20 days. No bunker fuel or other pollution has been reported. Once the bunker fuel has been safely removed from the wreck, a full survey of the site and the ship itself will be undertaken and all alternatives considered to ensure the vessel will not pose a navigational risk. Even though the sunken ship is not in the channel's shipping lanes and may have approximately 20 metres clearance between top of the ship and the surface, a careful assessment will be made of the situation and the owners have retained naval architects and other experts for this assessment.

ISLAND PRINCESS (Bermuda)

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

JOHN E.RIGBY (Canada)

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigations were underway today into why New Brunswick government ferry *John E.Rigby* ran aground in the Bay of Fundy. The ferry makes regular daily crossings between Deer Island and Letete, N.B. The ferry was hauled off a rocky ledge earlier this week after running aground and has been tied up for inspection and repairs. There were

10 people on board. No one was hurt. Conditions at the time of the grounding were described as good.

JONRIX (U.K.)

London, Jun 8 — General cargo *Jonrix* sailed Ipswich 1414, Jun 6.

LADOGA 11 (Russia)

Tallinn, Jun 3 — General cargo *Ladoga 11* completed repairs May 21 and sailed May 24 for Rochester. — Lloyd's Agents.

LAINÉ (Panama)

Buenos Aires, Jun 4 — Ro/ro *Laine* is still in the same position. — Lloyd's Agents.

Buenos Aires, Jun 7 — Ro/ro *Laine* refloated at 1425, today. Vessel is currently sailing towards San Nicolas (Arg) with the assistance of a tug in order to perform discharging operations. — Lloyd's Agents.

LECONTE (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Catamarans are filling in for grounded ro/ro *Leconte* at six Southeast Alaska communities. The state is leasing the vessels to provide scheduled transportation among Sitka, Angoon, Tenakee, Hoonah, Pelican and Juneau while *Leconte* is being repaired in Ketchikan. The vessel ran aground May 10 when it struck Cozian Reef in Peril Strait on the north end of Baranof Island. Repairs could cost less than \$3 million and be completed by Sep 1, according to a preliminary estimate by Ketchikan Shipyard operator Alaska Ship & Drydock. The catamarans, to run during daylight hours only, belong to Alaska Catamaran LLC, an affiliate of Allen Marine Inc. of Sitka.

LI DA (Mongolia)

Yokohama, Jun 10 — General cargo *Li Da* is still under repair at Imabari port. — Lloyd's Agents.

LIBERTADOR SAN MARTIN (Panama)

See *Antares I*.

LIL (Panama)

Moji, Jun 8 — Bulk *Lil* completed cargo discharge and sailed for Dalian Jun 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

LINDOS (Malta)

Rotterdam, Jun 4 — Efforts are currently under way to discharge part cargo from bulk *Lindos*, with this operation expected to continue through the weekend. When this operation is complete, refloating attempts will commence. — SMIT Salvage BV.

Rotterdam, Jun 6 — After having completed the lightering operation the joint salvage team of Nippon Salvage and SMIT Salvage successfully refloated bulk *Lindos* at 1520, local time, today. — SMIT Salvage BV.

Yokohama, Jun 9 — Bulk *Lindos*, which was refloated by salvors Jun 6, is going to discharge its remaining cargo and undergo an inspection before sailing to Hachinohe. No hull damage was observed. — Lloyd's Agents.

MEKONG VICTORY (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jun 6 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0600, UTC, today: C.c. *Mekong Victory* (5371 gt, built 1982, with engine problems) and tug *Greenville 15* arrived Singapore today. *Mekong Victory* arrived pilot station at 0925, local time and is now alongside Atlantis Shipyard Quay B.

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0030, UTC: C.c. *Mekong Victory* is still at Atlantis Shipyard Quay B, Singapore.

MIGHTY CONFIDENCE (Cyprus)

Santos, Jun 3 — Bulk *Mighty Confidence* departed from Santos at 1010, Jun 2, in tow of tug *Pegasus*, destination Rio de Janeiro. — Lloyd's Agents.

Rio de Janeiro, Jun 7 — Bulk *Mighty Confidence* arrived at ENAVI Repair Yard on Jun 4. Vessel is presently under repair, with no ETD and destination yet available. — Lloyd's Agents.

MORNING EXPRESS (Panama)

Busan, Jun 5 — Product tanker *Morning Express* discharged its cargo between May 28 to Jun 3. The vessel is presently lying anchored at Outer Harbour Anchorage, Yeosu, Korea after completion of tank cleaning and gas freeing. The owners of the vessel arranged local repairers to effect temporary repair at Yeosu and the repairs will be completed by Jun 10. After temporary repairs, the vessel will proceed to drydock for permanent repairs but the shipyard is not decided as yet. Bulk *Pos Bravery* sailed from Yeosu, (Gwangyang) Korea bound for Dampier, at about 1218, May 29 after completion of cargo discharge at Gwangyang. The permanent repairs deferred to vessel's periodical drydocking scheduled in July/August 2004. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MYSTRAS (Cayman Islands)

London, Jun 7 — Bulk *Mystras*: Temporary repairs was carried out in port (Apapa-Lagos) before the vessel sailed for Brazil Jun 1.

NCC MEKKA (NIS)

London, Jun 4 — The Bergen managers of chemical/oil carrier *NCC Mekka* (23197 gt, built 1995) reported today: This afternoon, around 1930, Norwegian time, chemical/oil carrier *NCC Mekka* had an explosion in one of its cargo tanks. The incident occurred along the coast of Brazil, after departing Santos. Two of the Philippine crew members are reported seriously injured. The local coast guard has been contacted with a request for helicopter to give medical assistance. The vessel has sustained some structural damage, but is in a stable condition and proceeding to Rio de Janeiro. As far as we can currently establish, the accident has not resulted in any pollution. The vessel had discharged part of a cargo of chemicals in Santos and was proceeding to Aratu, Brazil, to load cargo, before continuing to the US East Coast. *NCC*

Mekka has a crew of 27 persons. Three of which are Norwegian, 23 Philippine and one from Latvia.

London, Jun 5 — The Bergen managers of chemical/oil carrier *NCC Mekka* reported at 1400 today: One of the injured crewmembers *NCC Mekka* has died. The other crewmember is in hospital and his condition is critical. The ship is now at anchorage outside Rio de Janeiro. There is presently no danger for the ship, the remaining crew and cargo. We can confirm that the accident has not resulted in any pollution. A representative of the classification society will carry out an inspection of the damage to the ship and we expect this to take place today. Odfjell has requested for a Maritime Enquiry (Sj forklaring) to be carried out by Norwegian authorities. We anticipate this to take place in Rio de Janeiro during the next week. Until completion of the enquiry we are unable to make any comments as to the possible cause of the accident.

London, Jun 8 — Norwegian investigators are to probe the fatal blast on board chemical/oil carrier *NCC Mekka*, which has left one man dead and another fighting for his life in a Rio de Janeiro hospital. Bergen-based chemical tanker specialist Odfjell has called for a maritime enquiry to establish the events that led to the explosion on the vessel off Brazil Friday afternoon (Jun 4). Odfjell said that the blast occurred in one of the vessel's cargo tanks. Norwegian authorities are due to carry out their investigation later this week in Rio de Janeiro, with an initial inspection already carried out at the weekend by a representative of classification society Det Norske Veritas. Odfjell said the vessel is now anchored outside Rio de Janeiro after it announced on Sunday that one of the two seriously injured Philippine crew members had died. "There is presently no danger for the ship, the remaining crew and cargo," said Odfjell. "We can confirm that the accident has not resulted in any pollution." *NCC Mekka* was on its way north along the Brazilian coast to Aratu to load more cargo and then on to the US east coast, after it had discharged part of its chemical cargo in the port of Santos. Odfjell stated that the vessel had sustained some structural damage but was in a stable enough condition to proceed to its anchorage in Rio de Janeiro.

NEW ACE (Belize)

London, Jun 3 — General cargo *New Ace* sailed from Pyeongtaek on May 29, bound for Qinhuangdao.

NEW CARISSA (Panama)

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: When wood-chip *New Carissa* careened into the central Oregon coast five years ago, its owner blamed the resulting oil spill on the U.S. government, saying the Coast Guard's maps were flawed. But in a settlement this week, Green Atlas Shipping S.A. and its affiliates agreed to pay the federal government \$6.5 million, most of which will be used to

restore natural resources harmed by the shipwreck near Coos Bay, Ore. Neither the shipping company, nor its operator, insurer or ship master, have accepted responsibility for the 70,000-gallon spill. But the \$6.5 million the shipping conglomerate has agreed to pay is a victory for the six government agencies responsible for the restoration of wildlife habitat, said Larry Mangan, senior wildlife biologist for the Bureau of Land Management. The Bureau of Land Management will work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the State of Oregon and other groups to create a habitat restoration program — funded by the settlement money. The settlement brings partial closure to litigation stemming from the wreck. The State of Oregon sued the shipping conglomerate for \$25 million for the trespass on the coast of ship's stern. A Coquille jury voted in favour of the state, but the shipping company is in the process of appealing that decision. In a 2001 lawsuit, Green Atlas Shipping, its affiliate TTM Co. and the ship's insurer, the Britannia Steam Ship Insurance Association, sued the U.S. government for \$96 million. According to court records, *New Carissa* anchored at a spot marked on Coast Guard maps as suitable for a ship of its kind. The 2001 complaint alleges that the location was not safe for large vessels in the winter months — and should have been designated as such. The U.S. denied liability and instead launched a counterclaim against Green Atlas, TTM and Britannia for damages of approximately \$7 million, according to court records. TTM and Green Atlas are both subsidiaries of Japan-based Taiheyo Kaiun Co., which was later named in the suit, along with Benjamin Morgado, the master of *New Carissa*, and his insurer, Shipowners Insurance and Guarantee Co. As part of this week's settlement, the federal government will pay the ship's owner, insurer and operator \$4 million to settle the 2001 claim. The shipping parties are not gaining anything because the fine print of the settlement calls for Green Atlas Shipping to pay an additional \$4 million for damage to natural resources — cancelling out the gains from the government's payout. It's total payment is still \$6.5 million, following the court-approved settlement. Coos County officials were not as pleased with the decision. "It won't benefit the people who were harmed," said Coos County Commissioner John Griffith, who said the settlement should be aimed at business owners who were hurt by the beach's closure.

NIXE (Spain)

London, Jun 7 — Following received from Marinteknik Shipbuilders (S) Pte Ltd., Singapore, dated today: Ferry *Nixe* is a newly-built vessel by Marinteknik Shipbuilders (S) Pte Ltd., in Singapore, and owned by Spanish Company, Balearia. Vessel is a catamaran truck/car ferry with a capacity to carry 536 passengers and has a value of US\$18 million. The vessel

was to be self-powered to Spain by its 10 Spanish crew and three of Marinteknik's engineers, when the vessel encountered a storm in the Bay of Bengal (May 16/17). The wave height during the storm was 10 to 12 metres but the vessel "sustained very well in the cyclone" and damage was basically to the bow area. Although the impact of the storm was great, luckily nobody was injured and the crew was safe and sound. (Note — *Nixe* was reported arriving back at Singapore on May 29.)

London, Jun 7 — Following received from Marinteknik Shipbuilders (S) Pte Ltd., Singapore, dated today: Repairs to ferry *Nixe* have been completed and we expect the vessel to depart tomorrow.

ORION I (Malta)

Piraeus, Jun 8 — General cargo *Orion I* was sold/renamed Apr 15. Its new name is *Katina*, H8BG, owners/managers Master Confidence. The vessel remains at Eleusis roads. No repairs were reported. ETD is unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

PASIR 1 (Singapore)

See *Eagle Tampa*.

PING YANG NO.8 (Belize)

See *Taisei Maru No.1*.

POS BRAVERY (Panama)

See *Morning Express*.

POWHATAN (Liberia)

London, Jun 9 — Following navigation warning broadcast today: Engine troubled bulk *Powhatan* (36615 gt, built 1995) adrift in vicinity of lat 37 29N, long 144 43E, at 2330, UTC, Jun 8. (Note — *Powhatan* sailed Kashima Jun 8 for Tacoma.)

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Coast Guard Japan, timed 0800, UTC: Bulk *Powhatan* reported at 0021, UTC, today that it was carrying out repairs, itself, to No.6 piston. At that time estimated time for repairs was 10 hours. No assistance required from coast guard.

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Coast Guard Japan, timed 1215, UTC: Bulk *Powhatan* reported about two hours ago that the engine trouble has been completely repaired.

PRESTIGE (Bahamas)

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The first 79,000 gallons of tar-like oil from a sunken crude oil tanker *Prestige* off Spain's north-west Atlantic coast have been successfully extracted, Spanish officials announced today. Spanish oil company Repsol-YPF developed a pioneering technique that involved drilling small holes in the wreckage and having the oil float out — since it is less dense than sea water — into giant bags that take it to the surface for recovery. Deputy Prime Minister Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega said the extraction work had started on Thursday (Jun 3) and that the first bag full of oil from the bow area had been brought to the surface early today. The extraction project is expected to take months and cost \$122 million. The

vessel split apart in a storm off the Galicia coast on Nov 19, 2002, disgorging most of its 20 million gallons of thick, toxic fuel oil onto the beaches of northern Spain and southwestern France in what was Spain's worst environmental disaster. The Spanish government says nearly 3.7 million gallons of oil remain inside the two pieces of the vessel.

PRIMROSE (Cyprus)

London, Jun 4 — Passenger ro/ro *Primrose* arrived Ostend 1610, Jun 3, from Ramsgate.

PULUPAKI (Tonga)

Nukualofa, Jun 9 — Ferry *Pulupaki*, Tongan Registry No 154, owned by Walter Trader Company Uata Shipping Line, ran aground on Hakauloa Reef in the approaches to Pangal harbour, Lifuka Island, in the Ha'apai group, on the evening of May 26. The vessel was refloated the following day. The incident is under investigation. — Lloyd's Agents.

SADALSUUD (Panama)

See "Aspropyrgos, Greece" under "Pollution."

SALAMAT 2 (Panama)

London, Jun 3 — Asphalt tanker *Salamat 2* sailed from Singapore at 0645, May 30, destination Chittagong.

SAN REMO

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jun 7 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1003, UTC: General cargo *San Remo* (1283 gt, built 1965), bound Bandholm, near Aarhus, loaded with fertiliser, grounded in lat 54 50.19N, long 11 30.2E, at 0332, UTC, Jun 5. The vessel is still aground and salvage operations are in progress.

London, Jun 7 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 2100, UTC: General cargo *San Remo* was refloated at 1610, UTC, and is now alongside in Bandholm. No pollution and no major damage observed, vessel grounded on mud. The vessel is awaiting a divers' inspection.

Copenhagen, Jun 9 — General cargo *San Remo* is still in port at Bandholm. No damage was found, hence no repairs are required. The vessel expects to sail Jun 10 for Fredericia. — Lloyd's Agents.

SARAH JANE

Vigo, Jun 7 — Ref *Sarah Jane* is still undergoing repairs at Varaderos Domaio, Vigo. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Mar 12.)

SEA SPLENDOR (Panama)

Terneuzen, Jun 3 — Product tanker *Sea Splendor* (19351 gt, built 1977) grounded outside Everingen C anchorage at approximately 1715, UTC. Multiraship tugs and others are attending and are attempting to refloat the vessel. — Multiraship Netherlands.

Zeebrugge, Jun 4 — Product tanker *Sea Splendor* was refloated at 0045, local time, today. Vessel is now bunkering at Everingen after which vessel is expected to proceed on voyage. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Jun 4 — Product tanker *Sea Splendor*, cargo of about 29,000 tons of diesel oil, dragged anchor and drifted aground at about 1850, local time, yesterday while bunkering in the Everingen anchorage on the River Scheldt. Four tugs of the Union and Multiratug came to assist the vessel, but did not succeed in refloating it off the sandbank, while the tide was going out. Later when the tide came in again the tugs refloated the vessel at about 0045, local time, and assisted it back to the anchorage. The tanker had no damage.

London, Jun 4 — Understand salvage services were rendered to product tanker *Sea Splendor*, cargo gas oil, by Multraship Towage & Salvage under Lloyd's Open Form.

London, Jun 6 — Product tanker *Sea Splendor* sailed Everingen 1939, Jun 4 for Zarate.

London, Jun 9 — Product tanker *Sea Splendor* passed Dover Strait Jun 5.

SEA TRUST (Lebanon)

London, Jun 3 — Vehicle *Sea Trust* (981 gt, built 1983), which arrived Antwerp 1215, Jun 2, from Hamburg, had fire break out on one of the cars being loaded on board at Berth 405, Antwerp, around 1700 yesterday. Initially attempts were made to utilise the vessel's fire extinguishers in order to control the blaze but the car proved difficult to obtain access to and eventually the decision was taken to use the cargo space sprinkler system. As a result of the amount of water on board, the vessel began to list to starboard and ended up resting partly against the bottom of the dock and partly against the quay wall, where it is now lying in a stable position at an angle of 45 deg to starboard. The fire has been extinguished.

London, Jun 4 — Salvors were negotiating last night with the Lebanese owners of vehicle *Sea Trust*, a car carrier that underwent a heavy list at Antwerp after a vehicle fire. URS, Multraship and Scaldis were in discussion with the owners, Beirut-based Abou Merhi Lines. Roger van den Bussche, a representative from Ilomar, the company's Antwerp agents, said the vessel's own fire prevention system was activated when a vehicle fire broke out on the fifth deck. The water made the vessel list, but the system extinguished the fire quickly, without the need for local firefighters to intervene. The terminal where *Sea Trust* berthed is operated by stevedoring company Zuid Natie. One man was hospitalised. It is thought he will have to undergo an operation on his hand but is not in serious danger. Other members of the 16-strong Syrian and Lebanese crew and the local stevedores carrying out lashing at the time suffered smoke inhalation but were later released from hospital. *Sea Trust* is not blocking other traffic at the port and Mr van den Bussche said a vessel was handled at the same dock. He confirmed that *Sea Trust* is owned by the Lebanese firm and is not chartered in.

Ymuiden, Jun 5 — Wijsmuller Salvage BV and Scaldis Salvage & Marine

Contractors were yesterday awarded the salvage contract for the heavily listing vehicle *Sea Trust* in the port of Antwerp. The vessel has a heavy list of 45-50 deg to starboard after an internal fire and has ended up aground in a semi-submerged condition and leaning on the quay. Wijsmuller and Scaldis salvage teams, including divers, engineers, a salvage master and naval architects, were moved in yesterday afternoon/evening while the Scaldis crane barge *Norma* had already been standing by on location during the day. Two trucks of salvage equipment were moved in yesterday evening from Wijsmuller Salvage BV's warehouse in the Netherlands. Salvage work has started this morning with diving inspections being executed to determine the situation. Special attention is given to prevention of pollution during the operations. The salvage operation will be executed using the "stability assisted refloating" method, whereby the vessel is planned to be righted and refloated using a specially developed pumping process and the use of external stability support from *Norma*. Part of the cargo may be discharged in the process. — Wijsmuller Salvage BV.

London, Jun 8 — Understand salvage services are being rendered to vehicle *Sea Trust* by Wijsmuller Salvage BV/Scaldis Salvage under Lloyd's Open Form.

London, Jun 9 — A Dutch-Belgian joint venture salvage team is confident that preparation work on vehicle *Sea Trust*, which capsized in the port of Antwerp last week after a vehicle fire, should be completed in the next few days. The vessel is currently listing 48 deg, resting on the quayside at the Hansa dock at the Zuid Natie terminal. The dock has been able to remain open throughout the incident. Dave Bakx, of Belgian firm Scaldis and manager of the project, which is being carried out together with Wijsmuller Salvage, said around 120 vehicles had been brought off already. However, there are still around 400 cars underwater. A 40-strong joint salvage team is now busy sealing the vessel up before the lift operation starts. They have closed the vessel's doors, ventilation and fuel pipes and are closing the engine-room and ventilation shafts. Salvage pumps are being installed and loading ramps have been secured and crane barge *Norma* is being deployed. Earlier, Roger van den Bussche, a representative from the Abou Merhi Lines' Antwerp agent, Ilomar, said a fire had broken out in one of the cars on the fifth deck and the vessel's own fire prevention system was activated. Although the fire was successfully extinguished in a relatively short time, the water meant the vessel started to list. Firefighters were also on hand. Mr van den Bussche said *Sea Trust* first listed to port but a middle ramp being used for loading the vehicles broke off and more water flooded in. Around 500 cars had been loaded at Hamburg and a further 200-300 cars were being loaded in Antwerp. The vessel had been due to continue its journey to

Tartous. Several of the 16-strong Syrian and Lebanese crew and the local stevedores carrying out lashing at the time suffered smoke inhalation but were later released from hospital.

SHOUN MARU NO.21 (Japan)

Cape Town, Jun 7 — Fishing *Shoun Maru No.21* sailed Cape Town May 27 for fishing grounds. — Lloyd's Agents.

SILKEBORG (Republic of Ireland)

Beirut, Jun 4 — At approximately 1130, Jun 3, while ro/ro *Silkeborg* (20172 gt, built 1979) was operating at Quay No.10 in Beirut port, fire/smoke was seen coming out from its funnel. The vessels' crew, in co-ordination with Lebanese firefighters, succeeded in putting out the fire within a very short time. Fire damage to the vessel and/or cargo was negligible. The cause was most probably a leakage of oil through a loose gasket. The vessel sailed to Limassol at 2100, Jun 3. — Lloyd's Agents.

SILVA (Cambodia)

Esbjerg, Jun 9 — The situation regarding general cargo *Silva* remains unchanged. — Lloyd's Agents.

SIMA BAHAR (Turkey)

London, June 8 — A press report, dated June 6, states: C.c. *Sima Bahar* (8892 gt, built 1996) ran aground on a "char" during its berthing at the container terminal Chittagong at around 1215 yesterday when its pilot lost control over the steering mechanism. (Note — *Sima Bahar* arrived Chittagong June 5, from Singapore, and sailed June 7 for Singapore.)

Chittagong, Jun 10 — C.c. *Sima Bahar* was refloated on the same day of grounding, Jun 5. No damage to the hull was sustained. The vessel sailed for Singapore on Jun 7 after discharging cargo. No repair work was required. — Lloyd's Agents.

SIR MICHAEL (Honduras)

St. Vincent, Cape Verde, Jun 4 — Anchor handling tug *Sir Michael* is still arrested and we have no information when it is to be released. — Lloyd's Agents.

SPIRIT OF ONTARIO I (Bahamas)

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated Jun 4, states: Passenger ro/ro *Spirit of Ontario I* returned to the port of Rochester this afternoon. *Spirit of Ontario I* has been in Toronto for the last three weeks undergoing \$1 million in engine repairs. The maiden voyage, the Rotary Club's premiere passage, will take place Jun 17. The ferry's operator, Canadian American Transportation Systems, plans to begin service between Toronto and Rochester on Jun 18.

STENA NAUTICA (Sweden)

Gdynia, May 28 — Passenger ro/ro *Stena Nautica* is still laid up alongside in Gdansk shipyard. Estimated time of departure is between Jun 12 and 15.

SUAM REEFER (Ghana)

Accra, Jun 9 — Ref *Suam Reefer* is still aground, no efforts have been made to refloat it. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUN VENUS (Panama)

Moji, Jun 8 — Chemical/oil carrier *Sun Venus*, explosion Dec 24: Repairs were completed and the vessel returned to normal trading on Jun 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUNCRUZ V (U.S.A.)

Miami, Jun 4 — Passenger *SunCruz V*: A representative of the SunCruz Casino Ship Line stated that the vessel is not running at this time but that it will be ready next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

Miami, Jun 8 — Passenger *SunCruz V* is still out of service. It is hoped that the vessel will return to normal schedules at the weekend (Jun 12-13). — Lloyd's Agents.

SUNNY LINDEN (South Korea)

London, Jun 4 — C.c. *Sunny Linden* arrived at Osaka on Jun 2, sailing later the same day for Kobe, where it arrived on Jun 3. Vessel departed Kobe later on Jun 3, destination Ulsan.

Yokohama, Jun 9 — C.c. *Sunny Linden* was repaired temporarily at Fukuyama and set sail Jun 2 for Kobe. General cargo *Hekiryu Maru* departed for shipyard at Innoshima in Hiroshima Prefecture Jun 1. — Lloyd's Agents.

SVEN OLTMANN (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jun 5 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0102, UTC: C.c. *Sven Oltmann* (5006 gt, built 1992), Rotterdam for Bilbao, oil pipe defect in lat 50 58.16N, long 01 23.46E at 1502, UTC, Jun 4. Coastguard tug *Anglian Monarch* standing-by vessel which is anchored in the south-west lane.

London, Jun 5 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0205, UTC: C.c. *Sven Oltmann*: SOSREP and CPSO have given authority for the vessel to be towed to a safe anchorage at the earliest opportunity by the tug *Anglian Monarch*.

London, Jun 5 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1005, UTC: C.c. *Sven Oltmann* has been towed by tug *Anglian Monarch* to the inshore traffic zone where it is effecting repairs.

London, Jun 6 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0855, UTC: C.c. *Sven Oltmann*: Parts and technician are due today to effect repairs.

London, Jun 7 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0045, UTC: C.c. *Sven Oltmann* is still anchored in the same position repairing. It is believed the necessary parts were delivered to the vessel today.

London, Jun 8 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0005, UTC: C.c. *Sven Oltmann* is still anchored in the same position, effecting repairs. Vessel is expected to complete repairs and continue voyage tomorrow.

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0515, UTC: C.c. *Sven Oltmann* is still anchored effecting repairs. Completion of same is still anticipated today, possibly this afternoon.

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 2015, UTC: C.c. *Sven Oltmann* completed repairs and proceeded on voyage at about 1830, UTC.

TAISEI MARU NO.1 (Japan)

Yokohama, Jun 10 — General cargo *Taisei Maru No.1*, collision with general cargo *Ping Yang No.8: Taisei Maru No.1* departed from Tokuyama Jun 1 and subsequently discharged cargo at Ube. It is now under repair at Wakamatsu shipyard, with departure expected today. *Ping Yang No.8* departed from Tokuyama Jun 1. After arriving at Takuma, in Kagawa Prefecture, for loading, it sailed for China, date of departure unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

TENAGA LIMA (Malaysia)

Yokohama, Jun 9 — According to the local agent lng *Tenaga Lima* is still under repair at Yokohama. At this point, it is going to depart for Bintulu, Malaysia, around the end of October, 2004. — Lloyd's Agents.

THAILINE 6 (Malaysia)

Yokohama, Jun 7 — General cargo *Thailine 6* was supposed to call at Chiba, but after the collision, changed schedule to proceed to Hitachinaka, arriving there on May 30. Vessel effected temporary repairs and departed for Tomakomai on Jun 3. Vessel will effect permanent repairs in Malaysia. — Lloyd's Agents.

TIGER (Denmark (Int. Register))

Chittagong, Jun 9 — Understand from the local agent that general cargo *Tiger* sailed at 1445, local time, Jun 8, bound for Port Kelang. Reportedly the owners of the vessel negotiated with the Bangladesh Naval Authority and after coming to some kind of amicable settlement the vessel was allowed to sail. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRICOLOR (NIS)

London, Jun 10 — The Combinatie Berging Tricolor consortium reported Jun 4: The floating sheerlegs *Taklift 4* continues its work on the vehicle *Tricolor* wreckage. Since the salvage operation resumed on May 15, the floating sheerlegs has lifted approximately 3,500 tons of debris from the seabed. A barge continuously carries the debris at approximately 700 tons per trip to Zeebrugge, where the material is processed. *Taklift 4* is currently lifting wreckage debris from the deckside of *Tricolor*, which was pounded to pieces by the swells. At the keelside of the remaining *Tricolor* sections roughly four double bottom sections are still intact. These will be lifted in due course by the use of chains or wires.

URVAAG

Trondheim, Jun 9 — Owner/insurance company of fishing *Urvaag* inform that the closing date for repair tenders is

Monday Jun 14. For the time being the vessel is still alongside at Averoy. — Lloyd's Agents.

VANGUARD (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Den Helder MRCC, timed 1030, UTC: General cargo *Vanguard* (3806 gt, built 1994), Rotterdam for Ireland, had engine problems in lat 51 48N, long 02 30E, this morning. Understand vessel corrected problems by its own means but encountered further engine trouble and is returning to Rotterdam. Vessel is proceeding under its own power.

London, Jun 10 — General cargo *Vanguard* has now arrived in Europoort and is currently berthed in lat 51 56.8N, long 04 02.5E. Vessel was on voyage to Waterford when the engine trouble was experienced yesterday.

VIRGIN EXPRESS (Panama)

London, Jun 7 — Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1449, UTC: General cargo *Virgin Express* (959 gt, built 1975), with 12 persons on board, was reported disabled and adrift 25 nautical miles south-west of the Dominican Republic, in lat 17 27N, long 71 56W, at 1100, UTC, today.

London, Jun 8 — Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 2305, UTC, Jun 7: We are still trying to contact general cargo *Virgin Express*, which is believed to be still adrift.

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 0025, UTC: General cargo *Virgin Express* arrived safely at Pedernales, Dominican Republic, at 0830, local time, today.

XIANG XIU (Panama)

See *Hibiki Maru*.

**AGHIOS CHARALAMBOS (Panama)**

London, Jun 6 — Bulk/oil *Aghios Charalambos* sailed Rotterdam 0455, Jun 4 for Port Cartier.

BALTIC SKY

See "Vessel Seized Carrying Explosives, Ionian Sea, Greece" under "Miscellaneous."

BANGA BIRAJ (Bangladesh)

See under "Marine."

BIGA (Canary Islands)

Bilbao, Jun 7 — General cargo *Biga* is still under embargo in the port of Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

BOREAS (Cyprus)

Bilbao, Jun 7 — General cargo *Boreas* is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

CAPO GRIFO (ITALY)

Genoa, Jun 8 — Chemical tanker *Capo Grifo* is currently still laid-up at Genoa, waiting to be sold. — Lloyd's Agents.

EAGLE STRENGTH (Panama)

See *Banga Biraj* under "Marine."

FEEDER 5 (Malta)

Cadiz, Jun 4 — General cargo *Feeder 5* has recently been auctioned and "granted" to the IZAR Shipyard in San Fernando. — Lloyd's Agents.

PROJECT WORKSHIPS (Netherlands Antilles)

Kochi, Jun 9 — Ro/ro *Project Workshops* was renamed *Project* and the vessel sailed from New Tuticorin to Dubai on Jun 4. — Lloyd's Agents.

REMBRANDT (Bahamas)

Freeport, Bahamas, Jun 8 — Passenger *Rembrandt* is not, as far as we know, under arrest or detention at this time. Vessel appears to be just "laid up" with a skeleton crew on board awaiting tow to Holland. This has been its status for several years now. However, we checked with the ship's agents this morning and have been advised that tug *Englishman* is due to arrive Freeport next week and that it is their understanding that this tug might be engaged to tow the vessel from here to Rotterdam about Jun 16. — Lloyd's Agents.

RIHAM-I (Sao Tome and Principe)

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated Jun 7, states: Four seamen in a long-running court battle over unpaid salaries must wait another week while legal experts work out who actually owned their vessel and who was their employer. Their vessel *Riham-I* (? ex hopper dredger *Al Mosul*) has been stranded at Al Hamriya Port since Oct 2001, when it was impounded and auctioned for non-payment of port fees and for falling into disrepair. The crew members have filed a lawsuit against their former employers and other parties involved to recover their salaries for 31 months as well as other benefits. The Dubai Court of First Instance yesterday postponed the hearing until Jun 15 and asked the men — two Indians, one Iraqi and a Pakistani — to prove that they worked for the defendants. They were also told to prove how much money they had been earning. Two of the seamen said they received \$400 per month, while the other two were earning \$500 per month. A fifth crew member, an Iraqi master, filed a separate lawsuit to recover his salary. Noori Abd Khamat has claimed a monthly salary of \$2,000. The second and perhaps the final hearing of Khamat's case will be held on Wednesday (Jun 9). Before yesterday's hearing, the four other crew members had been hopeful that an end was in sight. They said they were disappointed and feared that the court battle might be prolonged further, forcing them to stay on board the vessel. "We had some hope in this hearing. Now we have to prove that we have the right to claim our salaries for the last 31 months we worked on the ship," said Mohammed Ansar Shah, one of the two Indian seamen. The other crew members are the Iraqi master, Noori Abd Khamat, Iraqi

electrician Mohammed Hussain Alawi, Indian Santosh Kumar Singh and Pakistani Abdul Mannan.

S.ARAZ (Turkey)

London, Jun 3 — Bulk *S.Araz*, first reported under arrest at Lagos on Sep 12, 1995, departed from Lagos on Jan 7, bound for Alang, where it arrived on May 19. — Lloyd's Agents.

SIDER BAY (Netherlands Antilles)

Bilbao, Jun 7 — Ref *Sider Bay* (4371 gt, built 1991) is currently under embargo in the port of Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Sider Bay* arrived Bilbao May 23 from Bourgas.)

SIR MICHAEL (Honduras)

See under "Marine."

TIGER (DIS)

See under "Marine."

WINDWARD II (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Port of Spain, Jun 9 — Passenger ro/ro *Windward II* has been released but is still at Port of Spain awaiting implementation of the Classification Society's recommendations regarding repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

Pipeline Accidents**BEIJI AREA, IRAQ**

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

CENTER AREA, NORTH DAKOTA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: An estimated 10,500 gallons of oil spilled from a pipeline south of Center, North Dakota, and was being cleaned up today, officials of the Mandan refinery and the state Health Department said. Tesoro refinery officials said the spill, about nine miles south of Center, was reported about 1700 hrs, yesterday, from a pipeline that carries oil to the Mandan refinery. It happened in an unpopulated area and posed no danger to the public, refinery officials said. Dennis Fewless, the water quality director for the state Health Department, said the spill happened where the pipeline crosses a drainage area that he described as "a little intermittent stream." "They're doing a controlled burn right now, to get as much oil as they can that way," Fewless said today. "Then, if there's any runoff, they'll set up booms and collect that." If not contained, the oil could eventually find its way to Square Butte Creek, but it appeared to be contained within a quarter-mile of the pipeline, he said. Refinery spokesman Leif Peterson said the cause of the spill was under investigation. Fewless said the spill, while not the largest one ever reported in the state, was significant.

RIALTO AREA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated Jun 3, states: A major water pipeline is shutting down for emergency repairs. The 26-mile-long Rialto Feeder pipeline, which brings in imported water from Northern California, will be shut down for a week for repairs starting Jun 7. An inspection earlier this year found the pipe in danger of rupturing. The three-decade-old pipeline serves about one million customers in Fontana, Chino, Chino Hills, Claremont, La Verne, Montclair, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga and Upland. The water it carries supplements existing local supplies, so the effect of its shutdown varies from city to city. While it's not the primary source of water for most cities, it is an important part of the picture, as drought and pollution have cut into available local water supplies. The Metropolitan Water District has a list of suggestions on how to prepare for the pipeline shutdown and how to conserve water during the week it's closed.

Pollution**ASPROPYRGOS, GREECE**

Piraeus, Jun 7 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: On Jun 6, at the old quay of Hellenic Petroleum, Aspropyrgos, during loading of product tanker *Sadalsuud* (1486 gt, built 1971) with a cargo of heating oil, two tanks overflowed and two-three cubic metres of cargo were spilt into the sea. The antipollution works were contracted by the vessel to a private company and completed with satisfactory results. Eleusis Port authority has detained the master of the vessel and he will appear today before the public prosecutor.

London, Jun 7 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: The second court of Athens handed down a sentence of three months imprisonment deferred for three years to the master of product tanker *Sadalsuud* for causing pollution at Hellenic Petroleum quay on Jun 6. The master is to appeal the sentence and was released.

CHALKIS, GREECE

London, Jun 10 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During bunkering of general cargo *Avantis III* (2362 gt, built 1977) from a tanker truck at the port of Chalkis, in the afternoon Jun 9, the bunker tank overflowed and pollution of diesel oil of 100 metres by 10 metres was caused. The antipollution works proceeded using a skimmer and absorbent pads with successful results. The Master and Chief Engineer were arrested and are to appear before the Public Prosecutor of Chalkis.

MOSKVA RIVER, RUSSIA

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency Ministry experts and environmental police are fighting the after-effects of an oil spill in the Nagatino boat yard on the Moskva river south of Moscow, NTV television has reported. An oil slick about 1 km in diameter has covered the water surface. To prevent the slick from spreading special barriers have been installed around the yard. A local resident volunteered to help the environmentalists and jumped into the dirty water. He told an NTV correspondent that he could smell diesel fuel. Water samples have been taken for tests and the results are expected to be ready later today.

PALO SECO, TRINIDAD

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Clean-up operations at the site of the oil well blowout in Palo Seco will continue throughout the weekend. Arnold Corneal, Petrotrin's communications manager, said yesterday the clean-up crew has been working day and night to ensure that the environment is safe for all residents in the area. No houses were directly affected by Wednesday's (Jun 2) oil spill, only some nearby vegetation. Several residents were however treated by the company's medical personnel for "minor irritations" as a result of the blowout. The state-owned oil company also provided meals for residents living near the well blowout in Block WD15, Los Charos, Palo Seco. Officials from the Environmental Management Authority said they would remain at the site until clean-up operations were completed. Corneal said the well, PS66, was capped on Thursday and "everything came to a closure". An estimated 200 barrels of oil were lost.

**BRAZIL**

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated Jun 2, states: The number of deaths due to the ongoing torrential rains in northeastern Brazil rose to 28 today as authorities found the bodies of seven more victims, officials said. Alagoas fire department commander Col. Jadir Ferreira Cunha said that the number of fatalities was expected to rise further. Authorities said that 54 people have been injured in the bad weather and 2,200 have lost their homes. Alagoas state governor Ronaldo Lessa said that the regional capital was declared a disaster area, adding that no value had as yet been calculated for the damage. The National Civil Defence Department today issued an advisory about the possibility of new storms tomorrow and Friday (Jun 4) in the southern and southeastern portions of the country. The department said that in the states of Sao Paulo, Parana, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul

there could be heavy rains, thunderstorms and winds of up to 70 kilometres per hour. Authorities also predict new storms over the next two days in Alagoas and in the neighbouring states of Pernambuco and Sergipe.

CHINA

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Rare gale force winds tore down trees and caused fires that destroyed houses and killed cattle in China's northwestern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, state media said today. Seven people were also burned in the fires, fanned by winds of up to 90 kilometres an hour that tore across the region's Turpan city and Toksun county between Tuesday and yesterday, the Xinhua news agency said. It did not elaborate on the condition of those who had burned, but said more than 200 houses were destroyed and 286 head of cattle killed. Witnesses said the gales sucked up sand, which darkened the sky and buried irrigation channels. Fruit was shaken from trees and vegetable crops flattened. The winds also forced authorities to shut down sections of major roads. The local government estimated that direct economic losses had reached 2.32 million yuan by today, Xinhua said.

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Twenty-one people are feared dead after a massive landslide engulfed a village in the south-western municipality of Chongqing at the weekend. Twenty-four people were buried alive in Wansheng under as much as 200,000 cubic metres of mud and coal-mine waste after days of heavy rain. Only three people were pulled out alive, Xinhua reported. Five bodies were recovered in a rescue operation led by Chongqing Mayor Wang Hongju but the report said rescuers held little hope of finding any more survivors. "It is almost impossible that any of those missing have survived because the rubble slid down about 800 metres," a rescuer was quoted as saying. The three rescued people were out of danger and recovering in hospital. Fourteen homes were buried on Saturday afternoon (Jun 5) when the rain triggered the collapse of a hill and pile of mine waste but 32 of the 56 residents were not at home at the time of the disaster. At least eight two-storey homes were destroyed by the landslide, which was 150 metres wide and 1 km long, the Guangzhou-based Southern Metropolis News reported. More than 100 villagers were evacuated by authorities and special teams had been set up to help relocate the victims' families, the Xinhua report said. About 500 police and a large number of villagers participated in the rescue efforts, the agency reported. However, the operation was hampered by the scale of the landslide, even though at least six bulldozers were used. The mud was four metres thick at its deepest point. Rescuers had been warned there could be more landslides as the hill was in danger of collapsing

further, Xinhua said. Wansheng is 110 km south-east of the Chongqing city centre and borders Guizhou province.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITI

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The toll of dead and missing from floods that ravaged parts of Haiti and the Dominican Republic was set at more than 3,300 today as aid workers reached the most remote areas. In Haiti, the official death toll was at 1,191 and the number of missing at 1,484. The figures on the Dominican side of the border were 395 dead and 274 missing. That brought the overall toll to at least 3,344 from flooding caused by days of rains that unleashed torrents of water and mudslides on the border area of Hispaniola island nearly two weeks ago. The new official figures totaling 1,586 confirmed dead in both countries is lower than the 1,700 reported earlier, a figure based on accounts by the government, witnesses and journalists. "The death toll is higher than expected, and surely it will continue to rise," said Marko Kopic, a representative of the International Federation of Red Cross Services. Aid workers said hundreds of victims washed away in floodwaters or buried in mudslides will probably never be found. Red Cross workers found 17 bodies yesterday as they took a boat through the southern Haitian town of Mapou, still submerged following the May 24 floods. Haiti's Civil Protection Agency estimated 31,000 Haitians were affected by one of the worst natural disasters to strike the Caribbean.

FIJI

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Torrential rains that have already forced the evacuation of hundreds of villagers could cause sudden flash flooding on Fiji's main island today, the South Pacific nation's Meteorological Office warned. A slow-moving weather system was likely to dump more rain on Viti Levu island following heavy rains yesterday, the weather office said. While flood levels in some rivers dropped overnight, rivers in the east of the island could rise suddenly and without warning, the office said, adding that it expected the heavy rains to continue until Monday (Jun 7). In the small town of Korovou, where flooding forced some 600 residents to leave their homes for shelters on higher ground yesterday, the floodwaters have receded, but the district has been left without electricity or clean water. Residents started to return to the town early today to begin the massive task of cleaning mud and water from their homes and land. Fiji's Public Works Department said several roads remained closed because of landslides and flooded rivers, adding that the main east coast road connecting Korovou to the capital, Suva, was still too dangerous to use. Also yesterday, mountainous waves battered the coast and damaged roads on the isolated island of Rotuma, 640km north of Suva, the Public Works Department reported.

TYPHOON "CONSON"

London, June 7 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Conson" was near lat 16.7N, long 119.0E, at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 35 degrees at four knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Forecast valid at 0600, UTC, June 8 lat 19.2N, long 120.2E, maximum sustained winds 65 knot, gusts 80 knots.

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau issued an alert yesterday as tropical storm "Conson" approached the island, bringing with it the possibility of torrential rains that could trigger landslides and floods. At 0800 hrs the centre of the storm was 560 kilometres south-southwest of Oranpi, the southernmost tip of Taiwan. With a radius of 150 kilometres, the storm was moving north-northeast at an hourly speed of 14 kilometres. The bureau said the edge of the storm may swipe at Taiwan late today if it kept moving at the present direction and speed.

London, Jun 8 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Conson" was near lat 19.3N, long 119.7E, at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 020 degrees at eight knots. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots. Forecast valid at 0600, UTC, Jun 9: Lat 21.9N long 120.6E, maximum sustained winds 85 knots, gusts 105 knots.

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau (CWB) issued its first land warning for this year's typhoon season yesterday as typhoon "Conson" swirled closer to the island and threatened to bring heavy rain and strong winds. "Conson", originally described as a tropical storm by the Central Weather Bureau, was upgraded to the status of typhoon late yesterday evening. If "Conson" maintains its current course, the typhoon's fringe is expected to begin lashing Taiwan's southern tip early today, the Central Weather Bureau said yesterday. "Conson" was in the Bashi Channel, about 280 kilometres south-southwest of Taiwan's southern tip yesterday evening, the weather bureau said. The typhoon is expected to bring torrential rains and heavy winds for the next few days, bureau forecaster Lu Kuo-cheng said. The Hengchun Peninsula is expected to come under "Conson's" onslaught early today, the bureau's meteorologists said. Vessels plying the Bashi Channel or waters near the Tungsha (Pratas) Islands and the southern part of the Taiwan Strait, as well as Taiwan's southeastern offshore areas, should be on high alert against gusty winds and torrential rains. People in the Hengchun Peninsula, Orchid Island, Green Island, southern Taiwan and southeastern Taiwan should be on guard against possible torrential rains, floods, and mud and rock slides that may be triggered by the typhoon, the meteorologists said. The bureau will

know by tomorrow noon whether the typhoon will directly hit Taiwan. Authorities from Kaohsiung Harbour, southern Taiwan, announced suspended ferry services between Kaohsiung and Penghu Island in the Taiwan Strait. "Conson" has sustained winds of 110 kph and moving north-northeast at a speed of 11 kph, the bureau said yesterday afternoon. Its sustained surface winds grew higher in the evening.

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Conson" lashed Taiwan's southern tip early today, forcing authorities to cancel domestic flights and trains as the storm whirled its way up the island's eastern coast. The storm grew slightly stronger overnight and was packing winds of 120km/h as it blew in from the Bashi Channel and swept into southern Taiwan, the Central Weather Bureau said. Moving at 15km/h, "Conson" was expected to stick to its north-northeast course and travel up the eastern half of Taiwan, the bureau said. The typhoon was expected to leave Taiwan by tomorrow afternoon, forecasters said. Flights and trains to the southeastern coastal city of Taitung were cancelled, airlines and the railroad said. International flights were sticking to their original schedules.

London, Jun 9 — Following received from Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Conson" was located near lat 22.2N, long 122.5E. Movement over the past six hours: 45 degs at 14 knots. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and based on the eye fixed by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 90 knots, with gusts to 110 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 25 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Jun 10, the centre is predicted to be near lat 26.5N, long 124.8E, with maximum sustained winds of 80 knots and gusts to 100 knots.

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful typhoon was heading north-east near south Japan's Okinawa Prefecture's main island this morning and heavy rain is expected, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The agency warned of heavy rain in the Okinawa and other southern regions in Japan through today and tomorrow, while some northern areas will also experience downpours. The agency is expecting 200-300 millimetres of rain by tomorrow noon in the southern regions. At noon today, Typhoon "Conson", the season's fourth, was about 90 kilometres west-northwest of Naha and heading northeast at 30 km per hour. The typhoon had an atmospheric pressure of 965 hectopascals at its centre and was packing winds of up to 125 kph.

UNITED STATES

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated Jun 3, states: More than 400,000 homes and businesses in Texas and surrounding states remained without power today. About 300,000 of the cut-off customers were in the Dallas-Fort

Worth area, where back-to-back storms caused an estimated \$100 million damage. Tens of thousands were also affected in Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma. TXU Electric Delivery said it could take until midday tomorrow to restore all power in northern Texas. Damage in the Dallas-Fort Worth area was tentatively estimated at \$100 million by the Southwestern Insurance Information Service, an industry group. Most of the damage was due to wind, spokeswoman Sandra Ray said. Power remained out for nearly 70,000 in northwestern Louisiana, including 50,000 in the Shreveport-Bossier City area. Of the 45,000 without electricity in Oklahoma, 36,500 were in the Tulsa area, where winds hit 80 mph. About 100,000 Oklahoma customers were without power at the height of that storm, and some could remain in the dark into the weekend. More than 30,000 customers were without power late yesterday in Arkansas, which was hardest hit around Hot Springs.

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated Jun 6, states: Recent thunderstorms caused an estimated \$15 million in damage in Kentucky, with 16 of the 36 counties that have declared a state of emergency — including Fayette — yet to be assessed. Kentucky Emergency Management completed a joint assessment of the 20 counties with the Federal Emergency Management Agency Jun 4. Fayette County officials estimate the May 27 tornado that ripped through several neighbourhoods in north-east Lexington caused more than \$7 million in structural damage. Malcolm Franklin, director of Kentucky Emergency Management, said he was confident the state would be given federal disaster assistance. The minimum threshold for federal assistance is \$5 million in damage, he said. Numbers for the other counties should be available early next week, said Stacy Floden, spokeswoman for Kentucky Emergency Management. Jefferson County, where downpours caused flash flooding, also was among those not included in the early damage estimates. The series of storms over the last week were unique because they affected the entire state, while most storm systems usually affect only one part of Kentucky, Floden said. Due to the large area, FEMA, state and local officials are still assessing damage, Floden said. "Normally where it takes them a day or two, it's taken them a whole week." Henry, Martin, Magoffin, Powell and Estill counties appear to be the hardest hit from the storms, Franklin said. In the 20 counties already assessed, more than 2,000 homes were damaged, and 136 have been listed as destroyed. There were five deaths attributed to the storm system. In Fayette County, 26 houses were destroyed, 66 houses and commercial properties had major structural damage and 294 properties had some sort of storm damage, said Pat Dugger, the city's director of environmental and emergency management. The city's damage estimates do not include property loss from vehicles, fences, landscaping,

livestock or crops, Dugger said. Lexington spent \$87,458 in overtime and equipment costs in its storm response, said Bruce Edwards, Mayor Teresa Isaac's press secretary. The police department spent the most money, racking up more than \$48,000 in overtime costs. Officers were deployed throughout town to provide traffic control at intersections with dark signal lights or security in neighbourhoods where the tornado touched down, said Assistant Chief Bill Thompson, with Lexington police's bureau of patrol. Franklin said his office is recommending that Gov. Ernie Fletcher make the request for federal assistance this weekend. As soon as Kentucky gets a federal declaration from President Bush, FEMA will publish a toll-free number and will open a disaster field office, possibly in Frankfort, Franklin said. Also, FEMA will set up offices in the worst-hit areas, he added. Bush has already declared a disaster for sections of Indiana hit by severe thunderstorms and tornadoes that officials blamed for two deaths. The same group of storms spawned tornadoes in Henry and Fayette counties as they swept across Kentucky. (See issues of Jun 3 and 7.)

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Thunderstorms battered northern Texas with heavy rain and wind up to 70 mph during the night, flooding streets and homes and knocking out power in areas where some people were still in the dark because of last week's violent weather. An estimated 6 inches of rain fell through early today in parts of Fort Worth, Denton and communities along Interstate 35, which was blocked by high water in places. Three to 5 inches of rain fell in an area from Jacksboro toward Decatur. People had to be rescued from stalled cars and from homes flooded by water 3 to 6 feet deep in Fort Worth and Tarrant County late yesterday, authorities said. Wind gusted to as high as 70 mph at Saginaw late yesterday, the National Weather Service said. The storms knocked out electrical service for large areas of the Fort Worth suburbs of White Settlement and Benbrook, authorities reported. Last week, about 500,000 customers were blacked out by severe storms Tuesday and Wednesday in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area. Fewer than 500 of those homes and businesses were still without power today in Tarrant County, Grand Prairie and DeSoto, said Scott Withers, spokesman for TXU Electric Delivery. Just over 5 inches of rain fell in adjacent areas of southern Oklahoma, but there were no immediate reports of flooding or damage, state and local officials said.

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: A string of severe storms that battered North Texas last week will result in insured losses of between \$75 million and \$100 million, according to the Southwestern Insurance Information Service. Packed with lightning, torrential rains and winds in excess of 60 mph, the storms struck the Dallas-Fort Worth area on Jun 1, downing power lines and leaving

thousands in the dark for up to one week. "It was definitely the most major power outage in recent history in Texas," said Jerry F. Johns, the president of the SIIS in Austin, Texas. In addition to property losses, the power outages will likely trigger business interruption losses, Mr. Johns said.

Earthquakes



IRAN

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A fresh earthquake measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale hit the mountains north of Tehran, just over a week after a quake in the region left 35 dead and hundreds injured. The Geophysics Institute of Tehran University said it registered the mild tremor at 0831 hrs (0401, UTC), with the epicenter near the mountain town of Baladeh. According to the official news agency IRNA, there were no immediate reports of casualties or serious damage. Since May 28, when a quake measuring between 5.5 and 6.1 on the Richter scale hit the Elburz mountain range, some 297 aftershocks have been registered here, many of them felt in the capital itself.

JAPAN

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake with a magnitude of 5 on the Richter scale hit the eastern Hokkaido and northern Tohoku regions of Japan just after 1300 hrs, today. Its focus was about 70 kilometres under the surface of the sea off Kushiro.

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Three moderate to minor earthquakes measuring 4.2, 4.1 and 3.3 on the Richter scale shook southwestern Japan today, the Meteorological Agency said. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the quakes. There was also no fear of tsunami tidal waves, the agency said. The first 4.2 quake occurred at 0805 hrs with its epicentre located off the western coast of Wakayama Prefecture, 500 kilometres south-west of Tokyo. The focus of the first quake was 10 kilometres below sea level, it said. The second quake happened at 0904 hrs at the same location. The focus of the second quake was measured only as "very shallow." The third hit at 0913 hrs. It was also 10 kilometres deep, the agency said.

TAIWAN

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale jolted Taiwan today, but there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties, officials said. The tremor struck at 0809 hrs, with an epicentre around 21 kilometres north-east of Taitung, a coastal town in the south-east

of Taiwan, the Seismology Centre said. Its focus was 3.3 kilometres below the ground.

UNITED STATES

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A light earthquake measuring 4.5 on the Richter scale was felt in Northern California early today, the US Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Centre said, with no reports of damage or injuries. The epicentre of the tremor was located 10 kilometres north of Tahoe Vista and Lake Tahoe, at a depth of six kilometres. It struck at 0146 hrs.

Volcanic Activity



MOUNT AWU, INDONESIA

London, Jun 8 — A press report dated today, states: About 20,000 people have been evacuated from the slopes of a volcano in northern Indonesia which has begun showering hot ash on villages, local officials said today. "There are already small eruptions and the emission of smoke and volcanic ash," said Samuel Dolompaha, from the vulcanology monitoring station on Sangihe island north of Sulawesi. He said the wind-blown ash from Mount Awu has fallen on villages but the evacuation from danger zones was believed to have been almost completed. Local welfare official Makasenda said villagers have been moved to the island's main town of Tahuna, 15 kilometres south of Mount Awu, and were given temporary shelter in government buildings, schools and places of worship. She said the evacuation is continuing.

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A major eruption shook a volcano in northeastern Indonesia today, hurling stones and spewing smoke, but causing no injuries because the thousands of villagers living along the mountains slopes were already evacuated. The explosion on Mount Awu in Sangihe Island, some 2,160 kilometres north-east of Jakarta, was followed by several smaller blasts and aftershocks. Volcanologists predicted that the eruptions would continue for some time. "Mount Awu has already begun to explode with the major eruption on Thursday morning," said Syamsul Rizal, a volcanologist dispatched to the island. "We cannot predict when it will end since many smaller blasts and aftershocks continue to occur," he said. The eruption threw up rocks near the volcano's crater and spewed smoke about 3,000 metres into the air, but there was no lava flow, Mr Rizal said. Signs of an impending eruption began last week, and authorities later evacuated thousands of people living in a radius of 7 kilometres around Mount Awu. Nearly 12,000 people are being housed in the nearby town of Tahuna, in government offices and other public buildings. Mr Rizal

said that because of the timely evacuation, nobody was hurt in today's blast.

MOUNT BROMO, INDONESIA

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Two tourists have been killed and another seriously injured when a volcano in Indonesia's densely populated East Java province erupted. A policeman on duty in the town of Probolinggo says Mount Bromo, a popular tourist destination, erupted at around 1520, local time. The officer says the three victims are Indonesians from the island of Bali. Smoke and ash are rising three kilometres above the crater of the 2,392 metre Mount Bromo in Java. Detikcom news service quotes a geology official as saying the top level of alert has been declared for Mount Bromo. An evacuation from the danger zone is requested under such an alert but the policeman in Probolinggo says that no evacuation has been started. On Sangehe island Mount Awu is also erupting.

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A search and rescue team is being warned to stay clear of an Indonesian volcano following a deadly eruption as experts check for signs of further activity. The 2,392-metre Mount Bromo, a popular tourist destination, shot out a shower of rocks and stones yesterday afternoon. The eruption killed a 13-year-old Singaporean boy and an Indonesian, and injured five other people. Geologists and volcanologists are studying Mount Bromo in East Java to establish the nature of the eruption and assess whether it is still dangerous. Today the volcano is emitting merely a thin plume of smoke but an expert says it is too early to give the all-clear.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: An American soldier was killed and two were wounded yesterday when a bomb exploded near their patrol in southern Afghanistan, while warplanes pounded militants holed up in mountain caves nearby. Taliban militants, meanwhile, killed two policemen south of the capital and threw a grenade at a relief group in the north-west — signs that violence is spreading ahead of historic national elections in September. The attack on the US soldiers occurred when a bomb hit their Humvee near Deh Rawood, about 250 miles south-west of the capital in the violent southern province of Uruzgan, spokeswoman Lt-Col Michele DeWerth said. She said all three were flown to Kandahar Air Field Hospital, where one soldier died. Uruzgan Gov Jan Mohammed Khan said US forces had surrounded the area of the explosion and were not allowing Afghan troops in.

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: US-led coalition hunting down militants in Afghanistan says American marines have killed several Taliban fighters while foiling a planned ambush. An Afghan official said 21 militants had died, but the Taliban has disputed both of these accounts.

Kabul, Jun 10 — About 20 gunmen burst into a construction site in Afghanistan early today, killing 11 Chinese workers and wounding five, Chinese state media said, in one of the bloodiest attacks on foreigners in the country. The attack on a Chinese aid project in northern Kunduz province occurred two days after about 100 Chinese workers had arrived at the site, Xinhua news agency said. Security guards exchanged fire with the assailants in the attack that killed 11 workers and wounded five, the agency said. "I am getting reports that this happened 30 km outside Kunduz. It appears that armed men entered their compound," said an aid security official in Kabul. The reason for the attack just outside the provincial capital, Kunduz, was not known but China has pledged to help war-ravaged Afghanistan rebuild a major irrigation project near Kabul. Kunduz has hitherto been deemed a relatively safe area. After the killing of five Medecins Sans Frontieres workers in the north-west last week, fears have been growing that an insurgency is spreading. — Reuters.

BANGLADESH

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Police detained at least 50 demonstrators and six persons were injured in clashes as an opposition-sponsored general strike to protest alleged government corruption and rising crime shut schools and shops and forced traffic off the streets across Bangladesh yesterday. The 24-hour strike came just hours ahead of a planned visit by US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan. In Dhaka, the capital city of 10 million people, schoolchildren and shopkeepers stayed home and streets were empty of traffic except for rickshaws and a few buses that defied the strike. Similar shutdowns were reported in 60 other cities and towns. Authorities said nearly 8,000 police and paramilitary troops were ordered into the streets of Dhaka to prevent any clashes during the strike, and security forces erected barbed-wire barricades around the Awami League's headquarters in central Dhaka.

COLOMBIA

Bogota, Jun 6 — At least seven people were injured when a car bomb exploded in Colombia's southwestern city of Cali, in an attack police today. Police said the bomb exploded on a nearly empty city street yesterday night after the car was left blocks away from a police station that was probably the bombers intended target. They blamed the blast on the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. None of the injured were in critical condition, they said. — Reuters.

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated Jun 7, states: A car bomb exploded today in the car park of a Catholic church in Medellin, wounding 12 people, including a priest and two pregnant women, police said. The bomb was detonated by remote control, police spokesman Gabriel Jaime Salazar said. Police were investigating the explosion, which bore the hallmarks of previous attacks by the rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, Salazar said. Separately, Colombia's Army chief reported today that 157 Colombian soldiers were killed in action in the first five months of the year, compared to 199 in the same period in 2003. Of those, 49 were killed by land mines, Gen. Martin Orlando Carreno told reporters. Land-mine victims in Colombia are up 345 percent from just 1.5 years ago, U.N. officials say. Colombia is now No.4 in the world for victims of mine blasts, behind Chechnya, Afghanistan and Cambodia. Officials say the FARC embarked on a massive mine-laying campaign after the collapse of peace talks in February 2002 and an ensuing government offensive to recapture territory from the rebels.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The UN says rebel soldiers appear to be withdrawing from the Congolese town of Bukavu, which they seized on Wednesday (Jun 2). Local UN commander General Ian Isberg said rebels had been seen moving to the outlying areas of the town. Yesterday, Congolese demonstrators tried to attack and loot UN compounds elsewhere in the country in protest against the capture of Bukavu. Three people were killed in the capital, Kinshasa, when peacekeepers fired into the crowd. Local rebel leader Gen Laurent Nkunda said he had already ordered 300 fighters to leave Bukavu and the rest would depart later but remain "around" the town. Renegade commanders - who are ethnic Banyamulenge, related to Rwandan Tutsis - say government forces have been attacking members of their community. Gen Nkunda said that he did not want to control the town, merely to protect the Banyamulenge.

London, Jun 5 — Senior military sources say rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo have captured a second strategic town in the east of the country. Reports say renegade fighters have gained control of Walikale, 150 km west of Bukavu, which rebels seized on Wednesday (Jun 2). The United Nations has confirmed that the fighting has spread. Renegade Gen Laurent Nkunda has denied that his troops were moving towards other towns. He said he would withdraw his remaining officers and their bodyguards from Bukavu tomorrow. Under a deal struck by the UN, rebel fighters had pledged to withdraw from the town by yesterday evening. The soldiers are members of a former rebel group, the RCD, that is supposed to be integrated into Congo's new national army. In Walikale, there

were clashes between two factions of the army yesterday and one of the factions were forced out, leaving the former RCD.

Bukavu, Jun 6 — Two South African UN peacekeepers were killed in Congo today, raising fresh fears the country's fragile peace process could be shattered even though renegade troops pulled out of the border town of Bukavu. The United Nations said the two peacekeepers were shot dead when their convoy was ambushed outside Goma, some 80 miles north of Bukavu and also on the eastern border with Rwanda. Nine other peacekeepers were wounded. General Obed Rwibasira, army commander of the North Kivu province, said the attackers were Interahamwe, Rwandan Hutu rebels who fled into Congo after Rwanda's 1994 genocide, but the UN said it did not know who was responsible. Under pressure to withdraw from the UN and international mediators, hundreds of fighters loyal to dissident commander General Laurent Nkunda headed north of Bukavu, although UN peacekeepers on the ground remained cautious. Earlier today, Nkunda — thought to have 4,000 troops — said he had completed his mission and was leaving Bukavu. "We are going to stay beyond the airport at Kavumu, (and) give a chance to the government to solve its problem," he said. The assault on Bukavu was the most serious challenge yet to the peace process in the Democratic Republic of Congo. — Reuters.

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Troops loyal to a renegade commander clashed with government forces today on the outskirts of a strategic city in eastern Congo, further inflaming a crisis that could derail a peace process that ended years of war in Africa's third-largest country. The European Union considered sending peacekeepers to the region in a bid to stem the violence that has erupted around Bukavu, Belgian Foreign Minister Louis Michel said. Today's fighting erupted after the government's regional military commander, Brig. Gen. Mbuza Mabe, tried to return to Bukavu, said Col. Jules Mutebutsi, one of two renegade leaders who seized the city last week. Mutebutsi's troops fought with government forces for several hours about a mile outside Bukavu in a bid to prevent Mabe's advance. There were no details of casualties. The United Nations has evacuated some of its staff and their dependents as anti-UN tensions rise over the mission's failure to prevent the fall of Bukavu, said UN spokesman Hamadoun Toure. But the United Nations has not yet ordered an evacuation of nonessential staff, Toure added.

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Renegade troops battled with government forces on the outskirts of Bukavu today, despite U.N. efforts to end a crisis that threatens to derail the country's peace process. The fighting erupted as U.N. officials talked to Col. Jules Mutebutsi, a renegade leader, in a bid to get him to keep his fighters

outside the city. Government forces advanced on Bukavu and fought tribal fighters allied to the renegade troops, Mutebutsi said. There were no immediate reports of casualties. U.N. officials, who did not want to be identified, confirmed the fighting and blamed government forces for launching the attack. The United Nations had wanted Mutebutsi to leave the city and government troops to end their advance so the two sides could negotiate an end to the crisis.

Kigali, Jun 9 — Congolese government troops have retaken control of Bukavu from dissident soldiers who fled the town without a fight, a U.N. source and witnesses told Reuters today. U.N. spokesman Sebastian Lapierre said rebel leader Colonel Jules Mutebutsi and his men have left the town one week after seizing it with another group of renegade soldiers. "Mutebutsi's soldiers have run away as the government troops are moving back in. Mutebutsi is no where to be seen," Lapierre said by telephone from Bukavu. The United Nations seized a large arms cache yesterday with about a half ton of weapons suspected to belong to Mutebutsi. There were reports of shooting south of Bukavu late yesterday but no gunfire in town as government soldiers, who one witness said totaled about 800, moved in. A government spokesman in Kinshasa said there had been fighting today as troops took control of the Bukavu airport. — Reuters.

GERMANY

Cologne, Jun 10 — A suspected nail bomb exploded in a predominantly Turkish district of the German city of Cologne yesterday, injuring 22 people, and authorities said they could not rule out it was a guerrilla attack. The explosion wrecked a shop and hairdressing salon in the western city's Muelheim district, and sprayed the street with nails, police said. "The background is totally open, we can't rule anything out, we can't rule out a terrorist background at the moment," said a spokeswoman for the interior ministry of North Rhine-Westphalia state, which includes Cologne. However, ZDF television cited unnamed security sources as saying the blast was probably linked to organised crime rather than politically motivated. There was no immediate confirmation from police or the country's domestic intelligence service. Police called a news conference for 1300 hrs in Cologne to give details of the investigation. There was little impact on financial markets from the blast, which occurred at 1600, local time, with share prices dipping briefly. A police spokeswoman said: "It was probably a bomb which was filled with nails among other things." Police said no warning was given. Police said 22 people were hurt in the blast. Four suffered serious injuries while the rest sustained cuts. Police evacuated 20 buildings after the blast. A witness said cars and house fronts of several buildings were damaged. — Reuters.

INDIA

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Three people including a ruling party politician were killed and seven policemen were injured in a grenade attack in Indian-administered Kashmir, police said. Ghulam Mohiudin, a local worker for the People's Democratic Party, was shot dead late yesterday in the southern district of Anantnag, a police spokesman said. A rebel and an army soldier were killed in an overnight gunbattle in the northern district of Baramulla, police said. Today, seven policemen were injured in southern Doda district when suspected rebels lobbed a grenade at their patrol, police said, clarifying an earlier account that the victims were civilians.

IRAQ

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A roadside bomb killed two American soldiers and wounded two in a series of attacks today against occupation forces and their Iraqi allies, while tensions eased in the Shiite holy cities of Najaf and Kufa just weeks ahead of the transfer of sovereignty to the new Iraqi government. The roadside bombing, which occurred in eastern Baghdad, was the second fatal attack against American troops in the capital in as many days. Five US soldiers were killed and five wounded yesterday in an ambush near the Shiite neighbourhood Sadr City, an al-Sadr stronghold. Elsewhere in Sadr City, Al-Sadr's militiamen attacked an Iraqi police station and American soldiers guarding the building returned fire, wounding at least one militiamen, witnesses said. Assaults also ambushed two civilian sport utility vehicles, favored by Western civilian contractors, on the road to Baghdad's international airport. An Iraqi Interior Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said two or three people were killed but he had no further information. Another civilian car carrying Westerners was attacked today in the northern city of Mosul. Police said one civilian was killed and three others were injured but they refused to identify them by nationality. A rocket-propelled grenade also hit an Iraqi army recruiting centre in Mosul, wounding 17 people, according to hospital officials and police. Attacks against such facilities appear aimed at discouraging Iraqis from joining security services, which are expected to assume a greater role in fighting insurgents after the transfer of power. Late today, residents reported an armed clash in Fallujah, the restive Sunni Muslim city that was the scene of heavy fighting between Marines and insurgents last April.

Taji, Iraq, Jun 7 — Guerrillas detonated a car bomb outside an Iraqi-US base just north of Baghdad yesterday, killing nine people and wounding dozens as attacks intensified ahead of the formal end of the US-led occupation on Jun 30. Hospital sources said at least nine Iraqis were killed and 61 wounded in the blast at Taji. A statement purported to be from a group

headed by Islamist militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who Washington suspects of links to al-Qaeda, claimed responsibility for the car bombing, describing it as a suicide attack. Zarqawi and his group have claimed a series of suicide bombs and attacks in Iraq on US troops and Iraqi officials. US Major Andreas Dekunpfy said in Taji that a car bomb was used but it was not clear if it was a suicide attack. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jun 7 — Nine of Iraq's major militias have agreed to disband, the country's interim prime minister said today, but the deal does not cover radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's militia. "I am happy to announce today the successful completion of negotiations on the nationwide transition and reintegration of militias and other armed forces previously outside of state control," Iyad Allawi said in a statement. Allawi said nine major militias had agreed the plan, including Kurdish peshmerga militias and the Badr Brigade of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, a Shi'ite party. Those that had not were outlawed. "All of these parties have accepted detailed plans, timetables and terms for the transition and reintegration of the armed groups under their authority, or have already disbanded their militias," Allawi said. "As of now, all armed forces outside of state control, as provided by this order, are illegal. Those that have chosen violence and lawlessness over transition and reintegration will be dealt with harshly." Allawi said following today's agreement the U.S.-led administration would issue an order activating the ban on militias and private armed groups. Meanwhile, a U.S. soldier was killed and another wounded in a mortar attack on their camp near Baghdad yesterday, the U.S. military said today. It said the soldiers were from the 13th Corps Support Command. — Reuters.

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states A car bomb exploded today in the northern city of Mosul, killing 10 people and injuring 100 others, the U.S. military said. American forces raced to evacuate the wounded after the explosion outside a local government building and near a school in Mosul, 360 kilometres north-west of Baghdad. Some of the victims were taken to a military combat support hospital in Mosul.

Warsaw, Jun 8 — A Polish businessman kidnapped in Iraq last week was released today, Poland's army said. Masked gunmen abducted Jerzy Kos, a manager with Polish construction company Jedylnka, at the firm's Baghdad offices. "Mr Kos has been released," Polish General Staff spokesman Zdzislaw Gnatowski said today, saying he had no further details. — Reuters.

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Saboteurs blew up an important oil pipeline today, forcing authorities to cut output on the national power grid by 10 percent, police and Iraqi officials said. The blast occurred about 0930 hrs near Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad, said Col. Sarhat Qadir of the Kirkuk police. Oil Ministry

spokesman Assem Jihad said that the attack would not affect exports from the northern oil fields. However, Jihad said the blast cut supplies to the Beiji electric power station, forcing a reduction of 400 megawatts. Iraq now produces about 4,000 megawatts of power. Cuts in the country now last more than 16 hours a day, making it difficult to cope with soaring heat which is already topping 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Falluja, Jun 9 — Rebels killed 12 members of an Iraqi security force in a mortar attack in the flashpoint town of Falluja today, the force said. It was the first time guerrillas have attacked General Mohammed Latif's Falluja Brigade since it set out to pacify Iraq's most rebellious town west of Baghdad last month following fierce fighting between U.S. troops and insurgents. Officers in the force told Reuters 10 people were wounded in the attack. Members of the force said a joint patrol with American troops had been scheduled to pass through Falluja at the time of the attack. — Reuters.

ISRAEL

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: Israeli helicopters have fired missiles during an operation in Gaza City. The raid, which targeted a metal workshop shortly before midnight, was an apparent retaliation for an attack on town in southern Israel. Witnesses say the workshop, in Shati refugee camp on the Gaza City beach, was used to make motorcycles. The Israeli military said it contained weapons and ammunition used by the Islamic militant group Hamas for attacks on Israeli civilians. Two people were slightly wounded in the attack, witnesses said. Hours earlier, five Israelis were treated for shock after a missile, reportedly produced by Hamas, exploded on a road in the town of Sderot. (See issue of Jun 2.)

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: An armed Palestinian was shot dead early today during clashes with Israeli troops during an army raid on the northern West Bank city of Jenin, Palestinian medics and security sources said. Naamun Zerini, 29, a militant from the radical Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, was killed during a major gunfight which broke out early today when around 30 Israeli jeeps and tanks moved into the city and arrested five people, they said. His death brings the toll since the September 2000 start of the Palestinian intifada, or uprising, to 4,103, including 3,112 Palestinians and 920 Israelis. The Brigades is an armed offshoot of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

IVORY COAST

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The Ivory Coast army has attacked rebel forces for the first time in almost a year, casting new doubts on the fragile peace process. A rebel commander said that 12 people had been lightly wounded. The army said the strike was in retaliation for an earlier attack on its positions by a

"renegade group". Military spokesman Colonel Jules Yao Yao said that five vehicles had been destroyed in the helicopter air-strike. The New Forces, who control northern Ivory Coast, have denied responsibility for the attack on the central town of Gohitafla. They said their convoy was returning from the town to their stronghold in Bouake to restore order after the fighting, and denounced the air-strike as a breach of the ceasefire. It said the attack was an act of "manipulation" to allow Mr Gbagbo to justify renewed fighting against them. Gohitafla is at the south of the "confidence zone", or no-man's land, between the rebels and government forces, monitored by 4,000 French and 2,500 United Nations peacekeepers. According to a French military spokesman, two French and several Ivory Coast soldiers were lightly injured, while the attackers suffered heavy losses. Tensions have been rising in Ivory Coast since New Forces leader Guillaume Soro was sacked from his position as minister of communication last month. Newspapers close to the former rebels have carried many recent articles alleging the government is massing forces near the confidence zone. Following yesterday's attack on Gohitafla, about 200 supporters of Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo attacked the French embassy in Abidjan. They threw stones before being driven back by riot police using tear gas.

NEPAL

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Millions of students stayed away from schools and colleges in Nepal yesterday because of a strike called by the student wing of the Maoist rebels fighting to establish communist rule. The All Nepal National Free Student Union Revolutionary, the student group backing the rebels, who've been fighting a guerrilla war since 1996, called the indefinite school and college strike. The strike organisers are demanding that the government lift its ban on their organisation, release detained members and cut schools fees by 25 percent. The government hasn't responded. Student groups said they were asking the rebels to end the strike. Umesh Shrestha of the Private And Boarding School Organisation of Nepal. Police said they suspect rebel-supporting students were behind a small explosion Sunday (Jun 6) night at a school in Bharatpur, about 160 kilometres south of the capital, Katmandu. No one was injured.

NIGERIA

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated Jun 4, states: Soldiers in gunboats clashed with ethnic militants in the rivers of Nigeria's oil delta today, and militants and villagers claimed that dozens of fighters and civilians were killed. A navy spokesman denied there were casualties. Residents of Port Harcourt, which is several miles from where the clashes occurred, reported hearing pre-dawn gunfire at the time of the attack. Hundreds of soldiers and police have deployed to the nearby

villages of Ogbakiri, Buguma and Tombia since last week, apparently to stem months of fighting between two rival ethnic Ijaw militant factions. Villagers in Oduoha said they woke to gunfire before dawn. Community leader Lloyd Eyime said he went outside his house and saw soldiers in gun-mounted speedboats firing upon his riverside community. Residents fled into mangrove swamps and dense bush, he said. When Eyime returned, he said, he found about 30 bodies lying about the otherwise abandoned village. "Right now where I'm hiding, I can see flames from one of my cars that was set ablaze by the soldiers. As I'm talking to you, I don't even know the whereabouts of my wife and children," he said, speaking to The Associated Press by cell phone. Dokubo Asari, one of the two feuding ethnic Ijaw commanders involved, said his men were fighting back. "We shot at them and one of their gunboats sank," Asari said. A senior navy official in Port Harcourt denied that anyone had been killed or injured. Most villagers deserted their communities during fighting before security force members began arriving, he said. "We've been sending troops there since last week. They heard we were coming and they deserted towns and villages. There have been no killings. Everything is quiet," the navy officer said, speaking on condition he not be identified. A government spokesman for the area's River state said he did not know of any killings but defended the deployment. "The military have had to come in because of the escalating nature of the violence by the cultists," state spokesman Emma Okah said, referring to the factions, which are often called "cults" in southeastern Nigeria.

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: Rioters killed at least 50 people and burned down three mosques in fresh violence between Christians and Muslims in northern Nigeria. Fighting erupted in Numan yesterday after the north-eastern town's Christian majority objected to local Muslims building a mosque with a minaret overlooking a local chief's palace, officials and witnesses said. Adamawa State's Governor Boni Haruna declared a dusk until dawn curfew after visiting the area and ordered security personnel drafted to the town to shoot anyone trying to carry out acts of violence and destruction. Numan's Muslims are rebuilding their main mosque after it was destroyed on Jun 8 last year, when 100 people were killed in a riot triggered by the murder of a Christian evangelist, Esther Jinkai, by a Muslim water seller. Zalwalie said the reconstruction project ran into opposition from a chief of the Bachama tribe, Numan's Christian majority group, who claimed the mosque's minaret is taller than its predecessor and overlooks his palace courtyard. The local council ordered a suspension of work on the minaret pending an amicable resolution of the dispute. However, the Muslims continued with the work yesterday and the Christians objected, leading to the clash. It was not immediately clear

whether the victims of the fighting were Muslims, Christians or people from both sides of the divide. President Olusegun Obasanjo responded to the violence by declaring a state of emergency in the central state of Plateau, suspending its assembly and its elected governor and imposing a retired general as local administrator.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, June 4 — Pakistan's port activity and industrial production suffered today on account of a countrywide strike called by country largest opposition party the Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal (MMA) and Shiite group to protest the assassination of renowned religious scholar Mufti Nizamuddin Shamazai, who was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Karachi on last Sunday and bomb blast in Ali Raza Imambargah and worst law and order situation in Sindh. The strike was peaceful except few incidents of tyres burning and aerial firing at different localities in Karachi. The labourers turn out at the port was thin as result loading and offloading affected. All the big markets, commercials centre, banks and offices were closed. Partial strike was also observed in other parts of Sindh and Balochistan Province. However, businesses remain as usual in Punjab and North West Frontier province. In southern port city of Pakistan, the traders of All Pakistan Organisation of Small Traders and Cottage Industry (APOSTCI) and other trade organizations of Karachi took part in the shutter down strike. The National Transport Ittehad, an alliance of 18 transport owners' and workers' associations, also supported MMA's call for countrywide wheel-jam strike today. In a joint statement, Salim Khan Bangash, chairman of the alliance, Nazir Hussain Atmanzai, Haji Pir Khan Afridi and other leaders declared that all the transport including buses, mini buses, rickshaws, taxis, air-conditioned coaches, yellow cabs, trucks, trailers, Suzuki etc will remain off the roads — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Pakistani troops traded gunfire with militants in a tense border region today, and at least seven insurgents were killed, a senior security official said. The clash began when assailants fired rockets and mortars at troops from a mountain near Wana, the main town in South Waziristan near the Afghan border, said Brig. Mahmood Shah, chief of security for Pakistan's tribal regions. Pakistani forces returned fire, and soldiers were sent to areas that appeared to be the source of the hostile fire. Shah said seven to eight of the attackers were killed. The Pakistani forces suffered "negligible damage," Shah said. Army spokesman Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan said the military could see seven to eight bodies but could not confirm whether they were foreigners or not. He said the fighting was still going on and the bodies had not been retrieved. He added that one injured militant had been captured.

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: Pakistani forces clashed with heavily armed foreign militants today, killing more than 20 people in a mountainous tribal region near the Afghan border where hundreds of al-Qaida fighters are believed to be hiding, officials and a tribal elder said. The bloodshed follows weeks of failed efforts to get the militants in South Waziristan to surrender to authorities by peaceful means after an army counter-terrorism offensive in March that left 120 people dead. Brig Mahmood Shah, chief of security for Pakistan's tribal regions, said foreigners and local tribesmen had been holed up in four fortress-like houses, about 25 miles from the Afghan frontier. He said they traded fire with paramilitary and army soldiers who had surrounded the area. He said about 20 foreign militants and one paramilitary soldier had been killed, and three civilians had died in the crossfire. "The intermittent shooting continued until 1630 hrs and then finally it stopped. According to our information up to 20 foreigners have been killed. We have bodies of several of them. One injured is also with us," Shah told the private Geo television network. He said seven of the dead had already been buried but others were lying ravines and could not be recovered. An army statement said earlier that the bodies of at least eight militants, some of them foreigners, had been retrieved and one wounded militant captured. The security forces suffered a few casualties, it said without elaborating. Pakistani officials gave no information about the nationalities and the identities of those killed and captured in the clash in the Ghat Ghar area, about 20 miles west of Wana, the main town in South Waziristan. Officials said the clash began early Wednesday, when two military posts and a camp came under rocket and mortar fire. The military returned fire and soldiers were sent to areas that appeared to be the source of the attack.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Around 50 people were wounded when tribesmen in Indonesia's easternmost province of Papua battled with spears and bows and arrows today. "The battle erupted again this morning and at least 49 people, including a member of the Brimob (paramilitary police unit), were wounded and rushed to hospital," Timika district police chief Paulus Waterpauw said. The renewed battle between the Nduga and Damal tribes followed a clash on Saturday (Jun 5) in which two people were killed. Most of those injured today were hit by arrows or spears or had slash wounds. Mr Waterpauw said police had been able to separate the two camps but could not yet bring rival representatives together because tension remains high. The weekend battle followed a dispute about two months ago in which one Nduga tribesman was killed. Local tradition dictates that a death should be avenged

by a death in the rival camp unless compensation, usually involving livestock and the hosting of a feast, can be negotiated.

PERU

Lima, Jun 5 — Peru's Shining Path rebels killed two policemen and a naval officer and injured several others in an ambush in the country's central jungle region, the Interior Ministry said today. Rebels shot at a police vehicle on patrol yesterday as it crossed a bridge near the jungle town of Aguaytia, 310 miles northeast of Lima, killing two policemen and injuring another, the ministry said. Rebels then set the police car on fire, it added. A naval officer was also killed after rebels ambushed another patrol in the area later yesterday and two other officers were injured, the ministry said. — Reuters.

RUSSIA

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A blast ripped through an oil storage depot in the town of Neftekumsk in Russia's Stavropol region early today, the RIA-Novosti news agency reported quoting police sources. The blast, which according to preliminary information was due to an explosive device planted underneath an oil cistern, occurred at 0300, local time, the sources said. Another explosive device was reportedly found under another cistern, and the police were trying to disarm it, the sources added. There was no immediate word on casualties. Stavropol region borders the volatile Caucasus, including the war-torn republic of Chechnya.

UGANDA

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated Jun 4, states: At least 20 people have been killed in northern Uganda in an attack by the rebel Lord's Resistance Army. Guerrillas attacked a camp for displaced people in Kitgum district early today, a UN official in the area and other sources said. The rebels shot and hacked people to death, according to witnesses.

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Rebels attacked a refugee camp in northern Uganda, brutally killing 19 civilians and forcing 3,000 others to flee their homes, a government official said today. More than 100 rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army attacked the camp in Apach district late yesterday, rampaging through civilians' homes, burning hundreds of huts and abducting several of the camp's residents, said Francis Owor, the district commissioner. Lt. Paddy Ankunda, the regional army spokesman, confirmed 19 people were killed in attack 193 miles north of Kampala. He said government forces were chasing the insurgents.

ZIMBABWE

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: President Robert Mugabe's government announced plans today to nationalise all Zimbabwean farmland. Title deeds to all productive land will be cancelled and replaced with 99-year state-issued leases, the state-

run Herald newspaper reported. "In the end all land shall be state land and there shall be no such thing as private land," Land Reform Minister John Nkomo was quoted as saying. Since 2000, the government has been seizing white-owned commercial farms for redistribution to black Zimbabweans. The controversial programme, combined with erratic rains, has crippled the country's agriculture-based economy. Zimbabwe now suffers acute shortages of food, hard currency, gasoline and other imports. United Nations crop forecasters predict the country will produce only half its food needs this year. Mugabe, however, argues redistribution is needed to redress British colonial injustices, when much of the best farmland was settled by whites. About 200,000 black families have been allocated land under the government program, most for small-scale farming. Hundreds of others have bought commercial farms. The government did not intend to "waste time and money" in disputes with farmers whose land had been seized, regardless of what legal documents they held, Nkomo was quoted as saying in the article. "Ultimately all land shall be resettled as state property," he said. Nkomo gave no timeframe for the nationalisation programme, but said a National Land Board would be set up to supervise the process and ensure the effective use of land. He asked current land owners and occupiers to come forward for vetting to qualify for state leases. Critics of the redistribution programme say much of the best farmland has been allocated to Mugabe's supporters and is currently underutilised or lying fallow. Production on many other farms has dropped sharply because their new owners lack financial resources, seed, fertilizer, fuel and farm machinery. Nkomo said the state-issued leases would be sufficient collateral for farmers to secure loans to purchase the material and equipment they need.

Labour Disputes



AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Sydney ferry services will come to a standstill for about five hours after the morning peak period today and commuters are advised to use alternative transport. State Transit says peak morning and afternoon services will run normally but no ferries will operate between 0900 and 1415, AEST. The service freeze is due to a union stopwork meeting. Extra buses will carry passengers between Circular Quay and Manly, while regular bus or train services are available for other routes.

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The Australian Workers Union says several hundred workers have downed tools today at the LNG

plant at Wickham Point. The union's Frank Chambers says the workers will not return to work until Thursday (Jun 10). Mr Chambers say the action follows a dispute over consultation with the project's developer Bechtell. The union says negotiations are continuing to try and resolve the situation.

BANGLADESH

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

BENIN

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: Judges are starting a three-day strike in Benin. The strike - the second in less than a month - is aimed at forcing the closure of all courts and tribunals and paralysing the justice ministry. The judges have accused the Benin government of interfering frequently in judicial matters. Recently, several judges have been convicted of embezzling public funds.

BRAZIL

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: Brazilian oil workers staged a one-day "warning" strike today in efforts to force state-owned energy giant Petrobras to make concessions on benefits, the National Oil Workers Federation said in a statement. The federation said failure by Petrobras to make concessions could lead to a five-day strike beginning July 5 and, eventually, a full-scale walkout by the federation's 37,000 members. The federation statement noted that today's job action did not lead to any interruption in oil production, refining or distribution, with Petrobras supervisory personnel able to maintain normal services. However, a five-day strike would cause disruptions, the union said. Workers are demanding greater participation in a profit-sharing plan and better retirement benefits. In a statement, Petrobras said it was "open to negotiations" on the issues, but provided no details.

FRANCE

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Morning ferry services between the Channel Islands and the French port of St Malo were cancelled today. Industrial action in the port has affected Condor and Emeraude sailings to and from St Malo. Passengers are being asked to contact the ferry companies for more information.

GREECE

Athens, Jun 3 — Some Greek government and private sector employees have gone on a 24-hour strike, causing flight cancellations and closing key tourist sites. Olympic officials said the stoppage today would not affect preparations for the Games in August. Striking workers on short-term contracts accused successive governments of "holding them hostage" and breaking campaign pledges to offer them permanent posts. Nine flights of national carrier Olympic Airlines were cancelled and major tourist attractions, such as the Acropolis in the capital, were closed, officials said. Preparations

for the Olympics in Athens are running to a tight deadline with the Games just over two months away. "Construction is ongoing. It is not affected by the strike at all," a Games spokesman told Reuters. "In fact this afternoon the slide will start of the second arch over the main Olympic Stadium," he said, referring to work on the much-delayed roof. — Reuters.

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Piraeus towing companies have today started a five-day strike. The strike is due to end at midnight local time on Friday, Jun 11.

London, Jun 9 — The strike by Piraeus towing companies ended at 1500 hrs, today. Berthing/unberthing and towage of vessels has now returned to normal at the port.

INDIA

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: The two-week long strike at P&O Port's Chennai Container Terminal (CCT) ended over the weekend but shipping lines say it could take up to two more weeks before the terminal returns to normal operations. Some 300 non-management workers at CCT brought the port to a virtual standstill after they went on strike from May 23 over wages and the reinstatement of four workers who had earlier been suspended by CCT management. The strike was called off at 2200 Saturday after CCT reached an unspecified agreement with workers, according to reports. Because striking workers were not allowing cargo to move in or out of the port landside, what cargo was being off-loaded from vessels has been piling up in the container yard, creating substantial congestion. A spokesman from the Singapore-based Chennai Feeder Operators (CFO) grouping said that it would take up to two additional weeks to clear the backlog. The strike hit local feeder lines with average vessel turnaround times ballooning from 24 hours to five to six days, costing the feeders up to US\$20,000 per day. In some cases vessels returned to Singapore ballasted to maintain their schedules, foregoing up to US\$100,000 in lost cargo revenue. Feeder lines levied a congestion surcharge last Wednesday of US\$25 and \$50 on each empty and laden container respectively. Meanwhile, six local chambers of commerce forming part of Chennai's City Chamber of Commerce (CCC) called for another container terminal to be built to avoid export paralysis resulting from any future labour strife. The Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) estimated that exporters and traders lost over 5,000 crore rupees (S\$1.75 billion) due to the strike. Car makers Ford and Hyundai were also hit hard by the strike with both companies exporting completely knocked down (CKD) automotive kits out of the CCT. Early in the strike, Ford chose to re-route its car kits further south out of the PSA International-run port at Tuticorin. 'We have chosen to route our export of CKD kits to Mexico and South Africa, through the Tuticorin port as a temporary arrangement,' an unnamed

Ford India official was quoted as saying. "Though it involves 300 km of extra travel from Chennai, we cannot afford to delay shipments.' This has jacked up the logistics cost of the company by three to four times and has also resulted in Ford losing two to three days of production, he added. 'With most of the automobile manufacturers adopting the just-in-time production system, a halt in supply would break the production schedule. And to get the production back on track would be difficult and expensive,' he said.

MOROCCAN AIRLINE PERSONNEL

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Pilots at Royal Air Maroc, Morocco's national carrier, have decided to end their strike following an agreement struck with the management, the company said. About 95 percent of the airline's pilots have been on strike since May 26, initially in protest at what they described as the illegal sacking of six colleagues, their representative body said. Details of the agreement were not divulged. The industrial action has led to the cancellation of 80 percent of RAM's flights and the pilots' association had said its members would not resume flying until the sacked men were reinstated and the airline withdrew warning letters threatening measures against "more than 50 pilots". RAM management said the strike was costing the company 1.5 million dirhams (136,000 euros / 169,000 dollars) a day in lost earnings and supplementary charter costs. RAM chairman and managing director Mohammed Berrada has said that the strike was in part motivated by the launching of a RAM subsidiary offering reduced prices for tourists wishing to visit the north African country. Pilots asked to fly planes for this subsidiary "asked for a supplementary salary, which would no longer allow the company to remain competitive," Berrada said.

NEPAL

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

NIGERIA

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dateline Lagos, today, states: About 40 vessels laden with various refined petroleum products are now stranded at the Nigeria coastal waters as importers refuse to discharge the products following the planned Labour strike. The Crude Oil and Products Traders Association of Nigeria COPTAN yesterday appealed to the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) to drop the planned strike. Sources disclosed that since last week when the NLC issued the strike notice, the vessels have refused to discharge their products at the various coastal jetties. Their action is out of the fear that the products might end up not attracting economic prices. It was learnt that many of the traders have diverted their vessels to neighbouring countries. COPTAN, in a statement yesterday, said that it was impossible for the companies to sell the products at the old prices because the minimum landing cost is now N51 per

litre. The group said that if demurrage and other charges are added to the landing cost, the price cannot but be about N53 per litre. The price increase is a problem to all of us, not only to trading companies, marketers, NNPC and the Federal Government but a problem that happened globally and effect the whole world, it stated. According to the group, the current marketing pricing is a pain to the whole world. It added: We want to believe that Labour knows what it is doing. But Labour must also understand that government will not deliberately go out of its way to punish people. It urged Labour to meet with the marketers since the development is a private sector problem. The group noted that crude oil prices may not come down to a reasonable level in the next years due to constant threat to effective crude supply from the middle East, as the crisis in that region is likely to continue for long a time. Meanwhile, many motorists in Lagos and environs have started stock-piling the products in the anticipation of tomorrow's Labour strike.

London, Jun 9 — Nigeria's trade union leaders say they are going ahead with today's general strike despite a court order to call it off. The federal court banned the strike over fuel price rises, while ordering the government to lower pump prices. Government officials were quoted as saying they would abide by the ruling. However, Nigerian Labour Congress president Adams Oshiomhole said that the strike would go on and that the actions would end only when there was evidence that the cost of petrol was actually coming down. The two sides are still in talks to try to avert the strike, which is due to last 21 days. Motorists have formed long queues at fuel stations and many supermarkets have sold out of basic goods as shoppers stocked up in anticipation of the strike. The strike threatens to paralyse Nigeria's economy. There are fears that it could also disrupt the country's oil exports at a time when world prices are already close to record highs because of soaring demand and fears of unrest in the Middle East.

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Much of Nigeria has come to a near-standstill after millions of workers walked out over rising fuel prices. The streets of the commercial capital, Lagos, were reported to be deserted as a nation-wide strike scheduled to last three weeks got under way. The strike went ahead despite a court ruling ordering trade unions to stand down, and instructing the government to cut petrol prices to February levels. The government has said it will comply, but this has not mollified the unions. Adams Oshiomhole, president of Nigeria's biggest union, the Nigerian Labour Congress, said the strike would continue until there was evidence that the cost of petrol was actually coming down. Police spokesman Chris Olakpe said that the situation was calm and that more than 200,000 officers had been deployed to keep the peace. Banks and public offices were closed in the capital, Abuja. However, the strike was

not universal. The Sultan of Sokoto, Nigeria's most senior Muslim leader, appealed to unions in the state of Sokoto not to strike. This call was respected, a source in the region said. There were fears that the strike could disrupt Nigeria's oil exports just one week after world oil prices hit record highs on concerns about violence in the Middle East. Nigeria, a member of oil exporters' cartel Opec, pumps more than two million barrels of oil a day, contributing to global daily consumption of more than 75 million barrels. Oil multinationals operating in Nigeria said they had put in place contingency plans to ensure oil shipments continue as normal. Nigeria's latest strike was called in protest against a surge in average fuel prices from about naira 42 (\$0.30) a litre to naira 50-55 in late May. Pump prices have more than doubled since June last year, when the government abolished long-standing fuel subsidies and price controls. However, it retains the power to influence fuel prices through an oil industry "stakeholders' committee." The abolition of subsidies, aimed at curbing government spending and stamping out fuel smuggling, has proved highly unpopular in Nigeria, where the bulk of the 130-million strong population subsists on less than a dollar a day despite the country's abundant oil. Unions blame rising fuel prices for recent increases in the cost of food and public transport. The fuel dispute triggered an eight-day strike, punctuated by riots which claimed 12 lives, in June last year. The latest strike has so far been peaceful, although the Nigerian police are reported to have deployed some 22,000 officers to prevent trouble.

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Millions of Nigerian workers marked the second day of a nationwide general strike as labour leaders turned up the pressure on President Olusegun Obasanjo's government over fuel prices. Government officials insisted that they had complied with a court order and forced private filling stations to cut prices by around a fifth, as demanded by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and other union bodies. But union leaders in Lagos and Abuja said they would not call off the strike until they had confirmed for themselves that prices had fallen. In Lagos there was more traffic on the road than on the first day of the strike, but most banks, markets and government offices remained shut. More than 40 filling stations in the city visited by AFP were in fact closed, and not selling fuel — at any price. In the northern city of Kano, forecourt staff said they were awaiting orders before setting prices and reopening. In the capital Abuja most filling stations were closed, although a handful did reopen and attempted to sell at lower prices — between 41 and 43 naira (around 30 cents) per litre — down from last week's rate of around 52. But labour leaders, buoyed by widespread public support, insist the price must fall to 38 naira per litre, the rate in February when the NLC called

off a planned general strike after a court ordered the government to freeze prices. In Abuja, a convoy of union activists toured the reopened filling stations and intimidated them into closing down once more. The managing director of the state-run Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) insisted that the government had complied with a new court order made Tuesday (Jun 8) to return to fuel price that were in force on February 9. "Any petrol station that refuses to comply will face the consequence. And what do I mean by this? The station gets sealed up," said Funsho Kupolokun, in an interview of state television. "The NNPC has complied and is complying. Private marketers say, however, that if forced to respect a rate of 38 naira per litre they cannot make a profit selling fuel which they have paid for on the international market and imported themselves. Instead, they say, they will be forced to buy from the NNPC's limited stocks of subsidised petrol, which would mark an effective end to Obasanjo's deregulation policy and lead to fuel shortages. Despite being Africa's largest crude oil exporter, Nigeria imports most of the refined fuel used by its 130-million-strong population, as corruption and inefficiency have rendered its own oil refineries all but useless.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of drivers are travelling from Northern Ireland to Scotland for MOT tests because of a strike. More than 6000 tests are being cancelled each week in the province after civil service staff at MOT centres walked out demanding more pay. The dispute now in its 26th week means drivers either face a three-month wait for an appointment or have to bring their cars to Scotland. Around 500 members of the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance are out on strike.

UNITED STATES

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Tentative contract agreements were reached to raise the wages of some 10,000 home health care aides to \$10 an hour, but thousands of others remained without settlements and on strike for a second day today. A total of 23,000 aides, who care for sick or frail patients in their homes, walked off the job yesterday to demand a wage hike and better benefits. Workers said they made around \$7 an hour and many have no sick days or health insurance. The workers are represented by Local 1199 of the Service Employees International Union, one of the state's most influential unions. The union's executive director, Jennifer Cunningham, said tentative agreements had been reached with Visiting Nurse Service and three affiliated agencies, representing a total of 10,000 workers. She said that under the contracts most workers would get \$10 an hour by 2007. Those 10,000 aides were back at work today, said Chris Fleming, a spokesman for the union. The rest were on the second day

of a planned three-day strike. Mayor Michael Bloomberg called the tentative agreements an "encouraging breakthrough" and urged all the strikers to return to work. At a rally yesterday, Rivera asked workers if they would agree to postpone the second and third days of their strike to give other agencies time to reach agreements, but the workers responded with boos. Carol Rodat, president of the Home Care Association of New York State, which represents most of the agencies, said she didn't know how to meet workers' demands "without more federal and state reimbursements." The agencies said they were using replacement workers and monitoring patients' needs, but some patients were left without care.

Awards & Settlements



INDECENCY COMMENTS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: The United States' largest radio chain has agreed to a record settlement to resolve indecency complaints against Howard Stern and other radio personalities, federal regulators announced today. The Federal Communications Commission's \$1.75 million deal with Clear Channel Communications is the largest settlement negotiated by the FCC and a broadcaster. FCC Chairman Michael Powell praised the settlement as a victory for the American public. "Clear Channel has now formally admitted that it violated the law and has made binding commitments to clean up its act," Powell said in a statement. He said the radio giant would train its on-air personalities and employees on indecency laws, and suspend and fire those who violate the rules. The agreement settles fines proposed by the agency against Clear Channel for remarks Stern made in an April 2003 broadcast. It also covers several dozen open investigations and pending cases stemming from listener complaints lodged against shows on Clear Channel stations.

MISAPPROPRIATION OF DESIGNS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated Jun 7, states: A U.S. District Court jury decided today that model train-maker Lionel LLC and others should pay \$40.8 million to rival Mike's Train House Inc. for misappropriating its designs. Mike's Train House of Columbia, Md., sued Michigan-based Lionel in 2000, saying that Lionel sold trains made from designs stolen from a South Korean manufacturer hired by Mike's Train House. The jury found that Lionel, along with its supplier Korea Brass Co. Ltd. and an individual, Yoo Chan Yang, earned millions of dollars by misusing designs that belonged to Mike's Train House. According to the lawsuit, an

investigation in 1999 by South Korean authorities found that designs belonging to Samhongs Co. Inc., which subcontracts for Wolf, had been stolen by a competitor, Korea Brass. Three former Samhongs employees and one Korea Brass employee were charged with stealing trade secrets. All four pleaded guilty in 2000, the lawsuit said.

PERSONAL INJURY, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated Jun 3, states: A 32-year-old woman seriously injured in the “9/11 terrorist attacks” has been awarded \$8.6 million by the federal Victim Compensation Fund, the largest payment under the program so far. Deborah Mardenfeld, a human resources executive at American Express, was walking on Vesey St. shortly after 0900 hrs, when she was crushed by debris falling from the second plane that slammed into the World Trade Centre. Mardenfeld almost bled to death and needed an immediate transfusion of 31 pints of blood. Her buttocks were sliced off, her back was split open, her intestines were punctured and her legs were crushed and fractured, among other injuries. She spent the next 15 months in hospitals, the first five at NYU Downtown Hospital, and then 10 more months at the Rusk Institute for rehabilitation. “She had 27 different reconstructive operations and needs 10 more in the future,” said attorney Guy Smiley of Manhattan, who represented Mardenfeld for free in her case with the compensation fund. Smiley said the \$8.6 award was split into \$4 million for pain and suffering and \$4.6 million for medical costs, care she will need for the rest of her life and loss of income. The Victim Compensation Fund has issued payments for 2,569 injury claims. Payments have ranged from a low of \$500 to Mardenfeld’s award.

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated Jun 4, states: A jury has awarded \$1.2 million to a 93-year-old woman who was stung by a swarm of fire ants in her nursing home bed. Pearl Smith had blisters on her arm, neck, back and upper torso from the scores of stings she suffered in 2002 at the Surrey Place nursing home. She could not get out of bed to escape the ants. Her attorney, Michael Kohl, said she is unlikely to collect any money because the company that operated the nursing home, Consulting Management and Education, had no liability insurance, and its debts exceed its assets. There were no attorneys for the company in court yesterday when the jury awarded the damages. Surrey Place is now under new management.

ROAD ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated Jun 3, states: A jury has ordered Ford Motor Co. to pay nearly \$369 million to a woman paralysed in a rollover accident involving a Ford Explorer. The jury today ordered the automaker to pay \$246 million in punitive damages. It awarded more than \$122.6 million in compensatory damages Tuesday (Jun 1). Ford has said it will appeal. During

a news conference after the verdict, Buell-Wilson, a 49-year-old mother of two, offered to reduce the damage award by \$100 million if Ford would fix the design problems in the Explorer that left her permanently paralysed from the waist down. However, in a statement, Ford insisted the Explorer was safe. Schoville said Ford declined to follow its engineers’ suggestions to widen the Explorer’s wheel track or to lower its center of gravity — costly changes that would make the vehicle more stable. Dennis Schoville, Buell-Wilson’s attorney, contended Ford had sacrificed passenger safety for profits. The lawsuit involved design issues found on all Explorers made through 2001, Schoville said. Concern about costs also kept Ford from sufficiently reinforcing the Explorer’s roof to protect passengers in a vehicle “they know is going to roll over,” he said.

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Keith Fauci spent nearly 15 years learning to operate a car again after a diving accident left him paralysed. Within months of getting back on the road, catastrophe struck again. Mr Fauci was driving his specially equipped van on State Road A1A near John D. MacArthur State Park in March 2003 when it was struck from the rear by a car. The crash sent his van flying off the road. A Circuit Court jury awarded Fauci \$5.9 million last month for his injuries and pain. Fauci’s lawsuit was against his own insurance company, Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance Co., which offered him only \$2,000 after the crash. The insurance carrier for Sandra Campbell, the driver who caused the crash, had already settled with Fauci, who then filed a claim under his own policy’s underinsured drivers clause. Fauci’s attorney, Steven Phillips, argued during the five-day trial that his client lost the use of his left arm in the crash, suffers extreme pain and no longer has the ability to drive. After the verdict, Liberty Mutual sought a new trial. The company argued that Fauci, whose spine was fractured in 1985, was a quadriplegic before the crash and diagnostic tests did not confirm new injuries. “The jury must have been affected with sympathy, bias or prejudice in reaching the verdict,” Liberty Mutual attorney Adam Balkan said in his petition for a new trial. The petition was denied last week by Judge Susan Lubitz.

WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT, CLEVELAND, OHIO, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: The City of Cleveland has agreed to pay more than \$1 million to a man cleared of rape after serving 13 years in prison and allow an independent review of its police laboratory, officials said today. Michael Green was released in 2001 after DNA tests on a rag used by the rapist to wipe himself proved he was innocent. Another man later confessed to the attack and is serving a five-year sentence. The city agreed in a settlement to pay Green \$1.6 million

and to allow an independent audit of more than 100 cases handled by its crime laboratory since 1987. “This is not about me anymore,” Green said. “It’s about those who are still incarcerated and those paroled who have given up hope about proving their innocence.” City Law Director Subodh Chandra acknowledged the crime lab engaged in “bad science.” A lab technician and his supervisor were placed on unpaid leave yesterday until the audit is complete. Criminal justice experts say the agreement is a rare example of law enforcement officials permitting a comprehensive review of their work.



CHICAGO AREA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An Amtrak train was involved in an accident at 360 W. 42nd Place as it headed towards Union Station. A total of 44 passengers and three crew members were on the Hoosier State train when it derailed, Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari said at the scene. The train, comprised of a locomotive and a passenger car, was making a run from Indianapolis. The train was just finishing its journey from Indianapolis when the head two cars veered off the track, NBC5 reported. The cause of the accident was unknown this afternoon. There were no injuries and no one taken to hospitals, 2nd Battalion Chief Matthew Thomas said on the scene.

GANJA AREA, AZERBAIJAN

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A railway accident occurred in Ganja, 350 kilometres from Baku, today. Twenty-seven carriages carrying bauxite and the engine owned by the Clay Production Association overturned as a result of brake system failure. No casualties were reported. As a result of the accident, 1,800 tons of bauxite spilled onto the ground and the engine and carriages were put out of operation. According to the investigation carried out by the State Railway Office, the accident was caused by driver negligence, failure to examine the train before setting off.

NORTHAMPTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 50 passengers had a lucky escape when a train was derailed by an object on the tracks tonight, a police spokeswoman said. The four-carriage locomotive was just outside Northampton station when the accident happened at around 1815. A total of 53 passengers and crew escaped unhurt and were escorted from the train by rail service staff and fire crews. The passengers were on the busy 1706 Birmingham to Euston Silverlink

service when it struck an object at slow speed as it approached a red signal. A spokeswoman for Northamptonshire Police said the four-car unit rode up over the object, causing the wheels to leave the tracks. No injuries were reported, she added. The area has been cordoned off and an investigation is being carried out by British Transport Police.

SEATTLE AREA, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Five tank cars on a freight train derailed today in an area of homes and factories. One of three cars that tipped over was leaking a flammable liquid, Burlington Northern Santa Fe spokesman Gus Melonas said. The train, headed for Barstow, Calif., was leaving a terminal yard and had just pulled onto the main line when it derailed, blocking both rail lines between Seattle and Portland, Melonas said. The leaking tanker contained styrene monomer, a flammable substance used in manufacturing plastics, he said. A dispatch supervisor for the Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency said there were no injuries, and the spill posed no respiratory or environmental risks. She said the liquid was clear and odourless. The supervisor said an area with a 1,000-foot radius was cleared around the spill. Nearby streets were blocked off, and some residents were unable to travel to and from their homes. Hazardous materials crews were working to plug the leak. Melonas said he hoped the tracks would be reopened by early tomorrow.

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Both tracks of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe main line between Seattle and Portland, Ore., have been re-opened after a tank car derailment in which a small amount of flammable liquid was spilled. Railroad spokesman Gus Melonas said one track was opened about 2000, yesterday, and the other was cleared about 0200, today. Three cars tipped onto their sides and three others remained upright after jumping the tracks yesterday afternoon, railroad spokesman Gus Melonas said. About 10 gallons of styrene monomer oozed out of two of the derailed cars before the leaks were plugged three hours later, Vancouver Fire Department spokesman Jim Flaherty said. No one was injured and no evacuations were ordered, but nearby streets were closed as a precaution and a 1,000-foot cordon was established around the derailment until the leaks were stopped, Flaherty said. The cause of the derailment was under investigation. None of the chemical reached storm drains or other drainage into waterways, and environmental effects appeared minimal, said state Ecology Department spokeswoman Sandy Howard. A private contractor will clean up the spill, Flaherty said.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A minor freight train

derailment in south Seattle blocked this morning's Sounder commuter trains from Tacoma. Sound Transit spokesman Lee Somerstein says about 1,500 passengers were affected on three trains. One was stopped at Tukwila and two others never left Tacoma. Buses were arranged for commuters who were stranded. Sound Transit says the derailed trains will not be cleared in time for the evening commute, so their Seattle to Tacoma train service has been suspended for the rest of the day. The line was blocked today when four or five cars of a freight train derailed at a switch near Boeing Field. None of the cars overturned and there was no hazardous-material danger.

SUMMERFIELD, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated Jun 4, states: Nearly half of a 28-car CSX freight train derailed in central Florida, toppling cars carrying mostly harmless materials but leaving a carload of phosphorous acid on the track, authorities said. The derailment blocked both lanes of traffic on a county road, but no one was injured. It was not immediately clear why 13 cars from of the train, bound from Jacksonville to Tampa, derailed at about 50 mph. Most of the cars contained harmless dry goods, mail and liquor; a car carrying phosphorous acid remained upright. CSX investigators were on the scene.



Miscellaneous

BAN ON IMPORT OF BEEF AND POULTRY FROM UNITED STATES BY ASIAN COUNTRIES

London, Jun 4 — A press release, dated Jun 3, states: As U.S. exporters continue to face the impact of import bans on American beef and poultry by Asian governments, the Westbound Transpacific Stabilization Agreement said today it would extend existing shipping contracts and rates with shippers of refrigerated beef, pork and poultry by five months, until Nov 30. "It is hoped that by then Asian governments will have lifted separate bans against U.S. beef and poultry as precautions against bovine spongiform encephalopathy — mad cow disease — and avian influenza," the carrier group said. Most U.S. meat exports to Asia move under 12-month service contracts that run from Jul 1 through to Jun 30 of the following year. Under the approach recommended by the transpacific carrier group, current contracts would expire on Nov. 30 and new contracts would run from Dec 1 through no later than Jun 30, 2005, returning to the traditional, seasonal contract cycle. But the Westbound Transpacific Stabilization Agreement also warned that it would raise rates for contracts post-Dec 1 by \$600 per 40-foot container and \$480 per 20-foot container, to cover higher costs. It cited

higher "vessel charter, equipment, rail, trucking and other operating costs during the past year, plus specific costs associated with bringing specialized refrigerated containers and related services back into the transpacific market to meet an expected surge in demand as the bans are lifted." Some 93,500 40-foot containers of refrigerated U.S. beef, pork and poultry were shipped to Asia in 2003, up from 88,300 in 2002, the carrier group reported. The bans on beef were imposed in December 2003; the poultry bans followed in January, although Hong Kong has recently lifted its ban on U.S. poultry exports. According to the carrier group, total refrigerated meat shipments to Asia could fall about 25 percent this year if the bans continue throughout the year.

BUILDINGS DELIBERATELY DAMAGED, GRANBY, COLORADO, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated Jun 7, states: It will apparently cost millions of dollars to fix the damage caused by a bulldozer rampage in a small Colorado town. Granby mayor Edward Wang says 13 buildings were damaged and at least six — including town hall — are expected to be total losses. An angry shop owner last Friday (Jun 4) used a fortified bulldozer to target buildings associated with a zoning dispute. The coroner says Marvin Heemeyer shot himself in the head shortly after the bulldozer ground to a halt in the wreckage of a warehouse.

COAL MINE FLOODED, GANSU PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Thirty-four coal miners trapped in a flooded shaft in northern China managed to escape alive today, the government said. The miners were working last night in the Honghui No.4 Coal Mine in Gansu province when one of the passages became inundated with water, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The workers eventually made their way out through a passage in an adjacent pit early this morning, the Xinhua report said, citing Chang Qing, deputy head of the General Affairs Office with Jingyuan Mining Industry Corporation, which runs the mine. All were in good health and were at home resting, Chang said. The cause of the flooding is currently being investigated.

COLLAPSE OF BRIDGE, LIAONING PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A bridge has collapsed in north-eastern China sending at least three vehicles plummeting into the river beneath. There is no information on the number of casualties, but two people have swum ashore after surviving the fall, according to the Xinhua news agency. The two-lane bridge connected the cities of Panjin and Yingkou, in China's north-eastern province of Liaoning. It is not yet known what caused the accident. The 500-metre Tianzhuangtai bridge, high above the Liao river, is

reported to have collapsed at around 0700 (2300, UTC, Jun 9). A witness told the Associated Press news agency that only the centre section of the bridge appeared to have collapsed. According to Xinhua, divers conducting a rescue operation have been delayed by the rising tide, as the accident site is near an estuary. The director of public security at Tianzhuangtai suggested heavy truck traffic may have led to the collapse. However, corruption in the building sector and poor quality control have in the past been blamed for such disasters.

COLLAPSE OF BUILDING, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A six-storey apartment building collapsed early today in the Bangladesh capital Dhaka, killing at least 11 people and injuring several others. About 25 people were feared trapped inside, rescuers said. Some 60 people were asleep in the brick and cement building in Dhaka's impoverished Shakhribazar district when some of the lower apartments crumbled. Rescuers found seven people dead in the rubble, and four badly injured people died on the way to hospital, said Selim Newaz, a fire fighter at the scene. Among the dead were two women and two children. At least eight injured people, including a 70-year-old woman, had been admitted to hospital, he said. Newaz said the first three lower apartments of the building collapsed into a heap of debris and most victims were believed to be trapped there. The cause of the collapse was not immediately known, but neighbours said the owner recently added three floors to the original three-storey building, which was about 200 years old.

COLLAPSE OF COAL MINE, FANGSHAN DISTRICT, CHINA

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers are searching for 10 miners trapped underground after a tunnel collapsed at noon on Sunday (Jun 6) in a coal mine on the outskirts of Beijing. The accident occurred in Da'anshan Coal Mine in Fangshan District, 90 km from downtown Beijing, while 16 miners were working underground in the east and west tunnels. Those trapped were working in the east tunnel. Local leaders, including Beijing Mayor Wang Qishan, and senior officials from the State Administration of Work Safety, rushed to the scene to direct the rescue work. It is a tough task to rescue the trapped as the east tunnel collapsed completely, not partly, said rescuers.

CONTAINER CRANE DAMAGED AT DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated Jun 3, states: South African Port Operations (SAPO) staff at the Durban Container Terminal are this week moving 880 tonne 65-metre high Noell quayside crane 512, 57 metres into an empty stacking area, so that damaged crane 511 can be pushed along the shared rails, and repaired. Technicians

and special equipment from the Noell crane manufacturers in Germany with local partners CPS Projects carefully jacked crane 512 up to knee level and placed it onto well-oiled skids. Then floating it on a thin layer of nitrogen gas, the crane was slowly inched away from the quayside by means of long hydraulic rams. Once out of the way, crane 511 was moved along on its rails to an area where it will be repaired and restored to service as soon as possible. Joe Madlala, acting Business Unit Manager at the Durban Container Terminal said: "This is an unusual project which went off smoothly and we expect crane 512 to be back in operation by Friday. "Since crane 511 was damaged, it has been hampering the flexible operation of the cranes on either side of it because the cranes can not move past each other. We therefore decided to move it to another site for repair." "During the week long process delays have been kept to a minimum as shipping lines were pre-warned and were able to take appropriate action. We are now able to move the serviceable cranes freely along the quay - which had not been the case while the damaged crane was trapped between working cranes." he said.

DEFECTIVE GASOLINE, UNITED STATES

London, June 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Lawyers for motorists with broken gas gauges will seek more than \$100 million in damages from Shell and its refiner Motiva Enterprises for repairs, insurance claims and lost time blamed on high-sulphur gasoline pumped in May. The Florida Circuit Court suit estimates one million vehicle owners pumped defective gas supplied by the Shell-owned refinery before Shell and Texaco shut down about 400 stations just before the Memorial Day holiday weekend. The suit, filed yesterday, is the second to be filed in Florida over the gas pulled from the market last month. The latest seeks class-action status to cover anyone damaged by the gas sold in Florida. Karyn Leonardi, spokeswoman for Shell and Motiva, said the company had not yet seen the lawsuit and had no comment on it. But she said Shell "responded quickly and appropriately to minimise the impact on customers" by suspending sales and replacing defective gas. The earlier suit was filed in federal court in Fort Lauderdale. High sulphur levels can break gas gauges and make them read full when tanks are empty. "In order to correct it, it costs anywhere from \$400 to \$1,000 per vehicle depending on the make and model," said attorney John Ruiz, who sued on behalf of three Miami gas purchasers. The suit seeks money for the fuel, replacement parts, repair costs, rental cars used when vehicles were in for repairs, loss of the use of vehicles, towing charges and insurance deductibles. The suit also seeks future damages for any higher insurance premiums and any loss in vehicle resale values. After the holiday, Shell said it had received about 15,000 calls from consumers in Florida,

Mississippi and Louisiana about the tainted gas. About 9,000 claims have been filed to fix faulty gas gauges in the three states. Problem fuel turned up in shipments to Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa, Sarasota and New Orleans.

LEVEE BREECH, STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated Jun 6, states: Gov. Schwarzenegger surveyed thousands of acres of submerged cropland yesterday, a day after declaring a state of emergency that could help farmers recover from a major levee break. Schwarzenegger toured the area by air, then got out of a helicopter to inspect the 500-foot breach in a dirt embankment that had kept waters of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta off a low-lying island. Walking up to one side of the break, the governor and state water and emergency officials watched cranes dump boulders to shore up the levee's crumbled edges — the first step in efforts to prevent further erosion and eventually plug the leak. Officials have said it will take at least 45 days and cost about \$20 million to repair the breach and pump out water that has flooded 11,000 acres of farmland west of Stockton. Schwarzenegger on Friday declared a state of emergency and offered reimbursement to local governments and reclamation districts through the state's Disaster Assistance Act. Schwarzenegger said damage to asparagus, alfalfa, wheat, corn and tomatoes was estimated at \$10 million. Many islands in the labyrinthine delta are depressions that sit below the level of surrounding rivers, with a lattice of levees keeping them dry. A fisherman noticed bubbling water Thursday morning, which signalled a levee breach that quickly grew to a yawning hole. The fact that repair crews were moving the two-ton rocks signalled that the water level on the island had risen about eight feet and equaled the height of the adjacent Middle River, where the floodwaters originated. The water will be pumped out, a process which took six weeks the last time the area flooded, 24 years ago. Workers were hurrying to raise by five feet another levee that runs parallel to state Highway 4, the main artery through the delta between Stockton and the Bay Area. Officials fear winds could raise waves on the new inland lake, damaging the levee and washing across the roadway. They urged motorists to avoid the area. "It's a race against time," said Jason Fanselau of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He also said that while the cause of the break in the privately owned levee was not known, "clearly it wasn't built of proper materials or it wasn't maintained." Fanselau said Local Reclamation District 2039, which owns the levee, might bear financial responsibility for the damage. But the district's lawyer, Richard W. Johnson, sharply disagreed on both counts, calling Fanselau's comments "reckless." He said the district has maintained its levees for years, and a district manager drove over the levee three times the day before the break without seeing any

sign of damage. Aside from providing fertile cropland, the freshwater delta is a source of drinking water for much of California. To keep salty ocean water from being drawn in from San Francisco Bay as floodwaters poured onto the island, the federal Bureau of Reclamation cut its water exports from the delta by 80% and increased flows from the Sacramento River to stabilize the freshwater supply, said spokesman Jeff McCracken. Friday, the bureau increased flows from Lake Oroville and Lake Shasta. The water will take three and five days, respectively, to reach the delta, arriving as the bureau plans to increase exports once this weekend's levee flow and full-moon-driven tidal surge abates. State and federal water managers have asked farmers to boost their use of well water in the interim, while cities to the south increase their use of reservoir water.

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: San Joaquin County officials estimate the levee break in the Delta could cost \$100 million in repairs and property damage. Administrators estimate it will cost up to \$7 million to repair the break. They say it could cost another \$19 million to drain Upper and Lower Jones Tract, plus another \$2 million for emergency repairs on the levee holding back the waters of Trapper Slough and the Middle River. With the costs of the lost crops, flooded buildings, and damaged infrastructure are figured in, the total loss could reach \$100 million. The break occurred Thursday (Jun 3) morning on the levee that runs beneath Bacon Island Road. Once the levee breached at about 0845 hrs, the gap quickly expanded to about 400 feet as the rushing water eroded away the exposed ends of the levee. Seventy residents of the area and about 300 farmworkers were forced to leave under a mandatory evacuation order. Another 70 residents of Bacon and Mandeville islands were forced from their homes yesterday, after fears arose that the only road to the islands might wash out. The 11,000 acres of flooded land consist primarily of alfalfa, wheat, asparagus and tomato fields. Where the crops once stood, there is now a lake approximately six miles in diameter.

MALINGO JAYA (Malaysia)

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The Indonesian crewmen of tug *Malingo Jaya* (128 gt, built 2003) allegedly overpowered the sole Malaysian on board before taking control of the RM3mil vessel and diverting it to Kalimantan. Sarawak CID chief Senior Asst Comm (II) Abdul Razak Hassan said yesterday that the Malaysian, Abdul Patta Kawasa, 42, from Lahad Datu, claimed he was held captive for over a week by his six Indonesian colleagues on board the Sibu-registered vessel. Malaysian police have sought the assistance of their Indonesian counterparts to locate the crew members and the vessel, which was towing a barge containing RM2.8mil worth of scrap metal from the Kuala Baram industrial estate to Port Klang, he said. "The six are now being

sought by us. They are suspected to have stolen the tug and the cargo and are also suspected to have held the Malaysian as captive for more than a week," he said. SAC Razak said Abdul Patta was not harmed in any way. The tug left Kuala Baram with the cargo on May 21 and was due to reach Port Klang on May 28 but did not. The six Indonesians were employed three months ago. The management of the shipping company, M.S. Gear Sdn Bhd, lodged a police report in Sibu on Friday, stating that the vessel and crew had gone missing. After Abdul Patta arrived in Sibu yesterday afternoon, his manager, Lau Cheng Kiong, took him to the central police station to lodge a report against his colleagues, alleging that they had abducted and confined him. Abdul Patta said by phone that three days after departing from Kuala Baram, four men in a speedboat boarded the tug and together with the Indonesian crewmen on board, commandeered the vessel to Kalimantan before heading towards western Java, Ruben Sario reports. Abdul Patta said he was taken to Jakarta and with the help of "certain people," he boarded a flight to Pontianak before taking a bus to Kuching and then a flight to Sibu yesterday.

OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON BERMUDA FLAGGED PASSENGER VESSEL

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated Jun 4, states: A virus on board Princess Cruise passenger *Island Princess* cut short vacations for thousands as the vessel was forced to dock one day earlier than scheduled. *Island Princess* arrived Whittier just after 1630 this afternoon, bringing with it some 2,000 passengers and almost 900 crew. According to Princess officials 75% of the illness occurred by day three of the trip which lead them to believe it was brought on board and spread that way because the virus lays dormant for two days. Officials also believe it came from a group on board that had just toured the Canadian Rockies. "We found that there was an occurrence in a virus in a restaurant in a hotel in the Canadian Rockies so the coincidence of timing and location and these people passing through and then the fact that a reasonable number of people on that motor coach took ill at the same time," said Princess' President, Charlie Ball. Princess officials say the ship is staffed with one senior doctor but on Wednesday CDC officials joined the ship in Skagway along with another doctor, nurses, and extra crews. Passengers and crew were also provided with regular health updates advising them of the situation and providing information to minimise the risk of infection. All procedures that were carried out well, according to Ball, "We're very gratified with how it happened cause we were able to squash the ongoing problem on the ship and now we'll have some time to make sure its totally gone from the premises by the time people get on board tomorrow." That boarding time has been pushed

back to allow for extra disinfections and cleaning of the ship. Twenty four passengers that are still symptomatic are being kept on the ship overnight to make certain they are healthy and ready to travel by tomorrow. Also, Princess has taken extra steps to compensate its passengers for the inconvenience. (See issue of Jun 4.)

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Island Princess* left Whittier early yesterday after the vessel was scrubbed down following a norovirus outbreak that caused more than 400 passengers and crew members to become ill. The Princess Cruises vessel was heading for Vancouver with a new set of passengers, cruise line officials said. So far, there were no signs of another outbreak. On the previous voyage last week, 375 passengers and 49 crew members complained of Norwalk virus-like symptoms, said Julie Benson, a Princess Cruises spokeswoman. That trip was cut short about seven hours to give crews time to fully sanitise the *Island Princess* before the new passengers boarded. By the time the ship arrived at Whittier Friday evening (Jun 4), 23 passengers were still sick, said Charlie Ball, president of Princess Tours, the company's Alaska operations. They were allowed to stay overnight on board the vessel - isolated away from well passengers who couldn't find rooms in the town. On Saturday, most were fit for travel but several still were not feeling well, so Princess made lodging arrangements for them Saturday night, Ball said. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta are investigating the outbreak and sent a team to board the vessel in Skagway last week. CDC spokeswoman Christine Pearson said yesterday that investigators had just returned and still must review ship medical logs and other information to try to determine the source of the virus.

POWER OUTAGE, MALTA

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A fault which developed in a 33kv surge diverter in Gudja yesterday triggered a domino effect which killed energy supply from both power stations, leaving Malta and Gozo without electricity for up to four hours. During a press conference hastily called by Enemalta Corporation yesterday evening, it was explained that the damage was not contained to a limited area because, in layman's terms, the back-up system did not function and this resulted in a loss of energy supply from the Delimara and Marsa power stations. Enemalta chairman Tancred Tabone, chief executive officer Ray Attard and the corporation's head of electricity Ronnie Vella praised their own employees for the speed with which they restored electricity supply to both Malta and Gozo in a relatively short time. Mr Vella said that the fault developed near Villa Bettina in Gudja at about 1450, but it was the malfunction in the back-up system that caused both islands to remain without electricity supply for different periods of time. He added that the supply was back at Tarxien minutes after the fault

was located and the system was restarted, with all other areas gradually getting their electricity back within a maximum of four hours. The last area to have its electricity supply restored was Msierah at about 1900, Mr Vella said. An internal investigation will be carried out to see what exactly happened, and although foul play is not being excluded, it is probable that the fault was just an accident. Mr Vella said that the fault was not caused by an overload in the system. At the time, the power supply that was being generated was about 210mw, which is just over 50 per cent of the supply that the power stations produce at their peak.

SUSPENSION OF MEAT IMPORTS FROM SOME EU COUNTRIES BY RUSSIA

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated Jun 3, states: The European Commission has condemned Russia's decision to suspend meat imports from the EU as unnecessary and unjustified. Russia stopped the imports from up to half of EU countries, including France, Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic, in a row over veterinary certificates. Reijo Kemppinen, chief spokesman for the EU executive, said that the measures could potentially affect 1.3bn euros (£864m) in trade annually. "Any disruption of trade is unnecessary and unjustified. These measures do not correspond to any scientific assessment of the risk, nor are they backed up by appropriate risk management measures," he said. "EU exports are safe and they are healthy. We insist that, in line with the recent agreements between Russia and the European Union, these restrictions are given up and difficulties overcome immediately." Russia has asked for over a year that the EU should introduce a single veterinary certificate to replace the individual certificates currently issued by the 25 EU countries. While technical discussions with Russian officials on the certification are still ongoing, the EU insists it has no legal basis to issue the single document requested by Moscow. On the other hand, all EU countries are supposed to follow the same principles for the veterinary paperwork and Russia is entitled to send veterinary inspectors abroad, just like the EU. The ban will have an impact on 11 or 12 member states: the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Estonia, France, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Austria and possibly Finland as well. The EU accounts for over half of Russia's trade - providing almost 80% of its beef imports and half of its pork imports.

VESSEL SEIZED CARRYING EXPLOSIVES, IONIAN SEA, GREECE

Piraeus, Jun 9 — General cargo *Baltic Sky* remains under arrest at Astakos port. Prospects of its release are unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

WEAPONS SEIZED ON BOARD VESSEL AT ISTANBUL, TURKEY

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Customs authorities in

Istanbul seized a radio-controlled missile and launcher as well as other weapons from a vessel that was headed for Egypt from Ukraine, a government official said today. The weapons, which also included a number of rockets and warheads, were discovered in two containers after customs officials searched the vessel, which had docked at the port of Ambarli, 20 miles from the city, Kursad Tuzem, the minister in charge of foreign trade and customs, said. "The cargo declared by the master did not match what was inside the containers," Tuzem said after meeting with customs officials and paramilitary police at Ambarli. "There were military weapons inside. We can say that the weapons are the kind that we can describe as 'sophisticated,'" he said. Tuzem said the master had declared the vessel was carrying spare parts. Officials became suspicious after noticing damage to numbers inscribed on the container, he said. Asked whether the containers may have also included chemical weapons, Tuzem replied: "The inspections are ongoing." Tuzem said the vessel, on voyage from Ukraine, had unloaded the containers at Ambarli. Another vessel was scheduled to carry the cargo to Egypt. In Ukraine, Foreign Ministry spokesman Markiyanyuk said that his ministry "is in the process of checking all the relevant facts about the vessel and its cargo."

London, Jun 7 — The vessel impounded in Turkey last week while carrying sophisticated missile systems from the Ukraine to Egypt is c.c. *Breeze* (7720 gt, built 1978). The Turkish authorities have so far refused to name the vessel involved, which at the time of writing remained alongside in Ambarli. However, investigations by "Lloyd's List" and Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit have established its identity as a Maltese-flag containership with the IMO number of 7511242. (Note — *Breeze* sailed Odessa May 21, arrived Novorossiysk May 22, sailed May 24 and passed Istanbul May 25, bound Ambarli.)

Fires & Explosions



BAKERS, DURHAM, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated Jun 3, states: A bakery firm has offered a £10,000 reward after suspected arsonists torched a County Durham factory on Apr 26. A joint police and fire service investigation into the fire is continuing, but the company says evidence so far suggests arsonists are to blame.

COAL MINE, XINGYANG CITY, CHINA

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Bodies of two miners, killed in a gas blast in a colliery in Xingyang City, central China's Henan

Province, were discovered and carried out of the well yesterday afternoon. A gas explosion occurred at about 0400 yesterday morning at the Kaiyuan Colliery in Liuhe Township of the city, with four escaping and sent to a local hospital for medical treatment and another four trapped under the well. The local government has so far sent two rescue teams, consisting of 16 rescuers in total, to the site of the accident. At 1600 yesterday two of the four trapped miners were found dead and their bodies were carried to the ground. No information is available about whether the other two miners are alive or dead. Rescue work is still under way. Currently, the ventilation and telecommunication systems of the well have been resumed and 300 metres of the laneway has been restored, according to a local government official.

COMMERCIAL PREMISES, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A towering "wall of flames" tore through a South San Jose commercial centre early yesterday, destroying a dozen small businesses. No injuries were reported in the 0728 hrs blaze at Seven Trees Shopping Centre on Monterey Highway that caused more than \$3 million in damage. About 130 firefighters battled the fire, which was quickly upgraded from two to five alarms, requiring a mutual aid response from the Santa Clara County Fire Department. "At its peak, we were pumping 3,000 gallons of water per minute, but with no effect," San Jose Fire Capt. Phil Manley said. "This was a spectacular fire." San Jose Fire spokeswoman Allison Cabral could not comment on the fire's origin, as a team of investigators, including a unit from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, were to survey the damage today. The northeastern pocket of the complex — a 30,000 square-foot-space — became a cauldron of flames and black smoke that brought down rooftops, collapsed walls and engulfed a cluster of nearby businesses, including a clothing shop, jeweler and tropical fish store. The blaze was declared contained at 1015 hrs, and under control an hour later. "It's a total loss," said Albert J. Wang, the property manager for the Seven Trees Shopping Centre. The buildings that burned were retrofitted with sprinklers, fire officials said. About 40 other businesses escaped damage.

FACTORY, ABINGDON, OXFORDSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: More than 70 firefighters have tackled a fire at a battery factory in Oxfordshire. The fire broke out on the ground floor of the Ultralife Batteries factory in Nuffield Way, Abingdon, at about 0230 BST, today. Explosions caused by burning batteries made it difficult for the fire crews but the fire was finally brought under control at about 0600 BST. No one was injured and the cause of the fire is being investigated.

FACTORY, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters remained on stand-by throughout the night after a large fire badly damaged a factory in south Auckland last night. More than 50 firefighters with 18 fire appliances fought the blaze at the former Affco freezing works on Hugo Johnson Drive, Otahuhu, after the alarm was raised about 1930 hrs. The building is mostly vacant but one man who lived and worked there said the lights went out and he smelled smoke. Firefighters used thermal image cameras to reveal hot spots and find the source of the blaze. Within an hour and a half the blaze was under control and some of the appliances returned to their bases. However, one appliance remained on stand-by overnight in case any of the hotspots flared up, the Fire Service said. A fire safety officer was expected to examine the factory today.

FACTORY, JIANGXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion today at a firecracker factory in eastern China's Jiangxi province killed 16 people and left three others seriously injured, state press said. The blast occurred at the Huayuan Firecracker Mill in Luxi County early this morning, leaving a crater over an area of 80 square metres and knocking over the factory's garage, Xinhua news agency reported. Trees in the vicinity of the blast were covered with gun powder, while windows in homes some 100 metres away were shattered, it said. An investigation into today's blast was ongoing, Xinhua said.

FACTORY, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A Russian news agency reported that an explosion ripped through a cognac factory in Moscow today, injuring at least 40 people, but emergency officials later said there had only been a carbon monoxide leak that lightly poisoned two people. The Interfax news agency had said a gas canister exploded at the plant in the southeastern part of the city. It quoted police as saying they had ruled out sabotage. But the south-east Moscow police department later released a statement saying workers had brushed against a valve on a tank containing carbon dioxide, causing a leak. The statement said two people were hospitalised with light poisoning and others refused treatment.

FARMING CO-OPERATIVE, OTTAWA, CANADA

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: A weekend fire of suspicious origins caused more than Can\$1 million worth of damage at the Ottawa Co-op, but it is not expected to derail area farmers who rely on the business. Adrian Derousseau, general manager of the co-op, said yesterday the business' crop production division was badly damaged in the fire that began shortly before 2300 hrs, Saturday (Jun 5). It destroyed the division's

offices and warehouse at 120 North Cedar St. No one was injured in the blaze, but Derousseau said firefighters worked mightily to contain the building's chemicals and pesticides from escaping into the adjacent Marais des Cygnes River. Richard Oglesby, assistant chief of the Ottawa Fire Department, said the blaze was one of the largest in the city in the past five years. Firefighters responded to the call at 2255 hrs and worked to bring the blaze under control until about 0200 hrs. Damage was estimated at between Can\$1 million and Can\$3 million. Firefighters entered the building but had to retreat after hearing two explosions, Oglesby said. A private contractor also was brought to the scene to build several small dikes in area ditches to prevent contamination of the river. The cause of the fire had not been determined yesterday. Larry Scott, a spokesman with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, confirmed department investigators were on the scene, but he said it was too early to say whether the fire had been intentionally set. The company expected to receive two new sprayers today and tomorrow to replace three sprayers lost in the fire. It also was receiving a new shipment of chemicals and pesticides. The company has rented new office and storage space in a building directly east of its former location.

GRAIN ELEVATOR, LE MARS, IOWA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated Jun 6, states: A grain elevator that contained seed mixing equipment and thousands of pounds of grain could not be saved by firefighters after a fire broke out around 2200 yesterday. Firefighters from the volunteer fire departments in Le Mars, Oyens and Merrill arrived at the Le Mars Agri-Center Incorporated, just south of the downtown business district, shortly after 2200 hrs when flames were spotted coming from the three-storey white brick building and an attached metal structure. Multiple attempts were made late last night into this morning to breach the building and extinguish the flames, Deputy State Fire Marshal David Schipper said, but they had to be halted when the building became unstable after floors and footings started to give in to flames and heat. "It got to the point we had to stop those efforts," Schipper said. An estimated 60 firefighters were at the Le Mars business this morning as another crew, this one from Orange City, arrived with an aerial truck at 0500 hrs to assist those who had been on scene overnight. Authorities at the scene then made the decision to control the burn and allow the elevator to burn to the ground. Shortly after 1800 today, the Le Mars Fire Department was the only department still at the elevator and were busy dousing surrounding structures with constant streams of water as flames and grey smoke were still coming from the building. Streets surrounding the business remained closed. "All of the buildings around the elevator are connected," Schipper said.

"We have been able to keep those buildings from being damaged and stop the fire from spreading." There is no word on the cause of the fire and there may not be one for at least another week. Schipper said an investigation cannot be conducted until the fire is extinguished, something he said might take a few more days.

INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, LEYTON, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated Jun 3, states: The site of a fire which destroyed more than 100 works of art was burgled before the blaze began, according to police. The fire spread through factory units at the Cromwell industrial estate in Leyton, destroying a warehouse owned by art storage company Momart. The value of the works lost is reported to be in the region of £50m. Police said arson was a possible cause but it was too early to know if the fire had been started deliberately. A Scotland Yard spokeswoman said: "It is now believed that the fire began in a particular unit. The warehouse had 34 units in total - two main ones and 32 smaller ones. "One of the smaller units where the fire actually began appears to have suffered a burglary, but it is yet to be established if the fire was deliberately started." Momart's managing director Eugene Boyle said the company was still not able to access the site due to ongoing police investigations. "Whilst they (the police) have not concluded their investigations, indications are that it started following a break-in to premises containing watches, computers and mobile phones." The owners of some of the artworks destroyed in the fire are considering legal action against Momart, but a Momart spokesperson insisted the company had not been negligent.

LORRY DEPOT, THETFORD, NORFOLK, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated Jun 7, states: An investigation into the cause of a fire at a lorry depot has been delayed because the site remains unsafe. About 50 people had to leave their homes in Thetford, Norfolk, early yesterday while firefighters tackled the blaze, next to a chemical factory. More than a dozen articulated lorries were destroyed or badly damaged in the fire at the Star depot in Brunel Way, near the Suffolk border. Norfolk Fire Service said the chemical tanks are in a dangerous condition. They will have to be pumped out before fire and police officers can get onto the site. It took about 100 firefighters six hours to bring the fire under control. A small amount of chemicals leaked into the Little Ouse river. Rita Penman, from the Environment Agency, said tests of the water found wildlife was not affected.

OIL STORAGE DEPOT, NEFTEKUMSK, RUSSIA

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

PREMISES, BEIJING, CHINA

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A four-storey

building — the west wing of the Jingmin Hotel, under renovation in Beijing, burned down yesterday, killing at least nine people and injuring 39. Xinhua said the building was mainly used as temporary quarters for renovation workers and the hotel office. Jingmin Hotel is a recreational centre for retired army officers. Xinhua said the fire broke out on the first floor where the swimming pool was located. The news agency quoted witnesses as saying they heard several explosions when the fire started, while a middle-aged woman said she saw a few people jump from the second floor. Thirty-six fire engines were despatched to put out the fire. Some witnesses speculated the blaze took a heavy toll because the building also housed a staff canteen, kitchen and dormitory. Firemen arrived 10 to 15 minutes after the blaze began. Xinhua said police and firemen were investigating the incident.

PREMISES, FAVERSHAM, KENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 7 — A huge explosion has torn through a row of terraced houses in Kent, destroying two of them and damaging four others. Around 80 firefighters were at Abbey Street, Faversham, at the height of the incident after the blast at 0700, UTC. An 83-year-old woman was pulled from the rubble by neighbours and taken to hospital but suffered no more than cuts bruises and burns. The injured woman was taken to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital and was due to be kept in overnight. Fires, thought to have been started by the explosion, spread to other houses in the terrace. More than 10 fire engines were sent to deal with the incident, with several ambulance crews and police officers also at the scene. Engineers from gas company Transco have also been at the scene. Firefighters said it was thought leaking gas may have been to blame, but it was too early for confirmation. Kent Fire and Rescue's specialist Urban Search and Rescue Team were searching the wreckage for any further casualties. However, they had left the scene by 1200, UTC, content no one else was trapped.

PREMISES, MOTUEKA, NEW ZEALAND

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Charred concrete walls were all that remained of a Motueka building after a huge blaze early on Monday (Jun 7). Flames leapt 20 to 30 metres high after fire broke out at 0300 hrs in the concrete buildings opposite the local fire station. The Motueka Carpet Court, containing the Absolute Furniture store, and an adjoining sushi bar were gutted. The Gecko movie theatre suffered moderate smoke damage. Fifty firefighters and 11 appliances from throughout the region contained the blaze after a two-hour battle.

REHABILITATION FACILITY, ST. ALBANS, VERMONT, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: An early morning fire

destroyed much of a multi-million-dollar rehabilitation facility on Route 104 that was under construction and scheduled to open next month. Investigators from the Vermont State Police and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms searched today for the cause of the fire at the Hawk's Nest, which was reported at 0310 hrs. The fire destroyed at least half of the \$3.5 million, 66-unit L-shaped building. Investigators were trying to determine what was salvageable. St. Albans Town Fire Chief Harold Cross said the flames spread quickly because fire doors had not yet been installed. Cross said that although the sprinkler system had been installed, the water had not been turned on. Cross said firefighters were able to stop the blaze at the southwest corner of the building, saving one section. The west wing was spared fire damage, but incurred water and smoke damage, he said. Cross said the ATF agents were investigating because the building was worth more than \$1 million. The fire was spotted by a resident of the adjacent Franklin County Rehab & Adult Care Centre.

SCHOOL, NORTHAMPTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Nearly 60 firefighters are dealing with a fire at a school. Crews called to Lings Upper School in Northampton at 0200 BST, today believe the fire began in a mechanic's area and spread to a workshop. Part of the single storey building has already collapsed and the cause of the fire is being investigated.

STEEL MILL, GALATZ, ROMANIA

Bucharest, Jun 4 — The actual cause of the fire at Ispat Sidex S.A. on Jun 2, was an accidental leaking of about 40-50 tonnes of melted steel which damaged the entire electric installation of the furnace No.5. The steel mill management stated to the media that it was only "a technological incident", resulting in a steel loss of about 10,000 tonnes. Furnace No.5 is at present out of operation. Repairs to the electric installation and operations to remove the solidified steel commenced yesterday afternoon and are still in progress. Investigations into the incident are presently also being conducted by the Labour Territorial Inspectorate. — Lloyd's Agents.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated Jun 3, states: For the second consecutive day, rainfall helped firefighters attempting to control a blaze burning today in a North Florida swamp. Rain began falling about 1300 hrs, today, and firefighters stopped building fire lines around the massive Santa Fe Swamp near Hampton because of lightning, said Annaleasa Winter, a wildlife mitigation specialist for the Florida Division of Forestry. About a half-inch of rain yesterday helped knock down the fast-growing wildfire and allowed some 500

evacuated residents living near the Alachua-Bradford county line to return home. Winter said a tour of the swamp today showed little fire or smoke. "It is looking really good," Winter said of extinguishing the fire, which started Tuesday (Jun 1) and raced through 4,050 acres of swampland. No injuries have been reported, and no homes or structures have been damaged. In another North Florida blaze, more than 100 firefighters in the remote John Bethea State Forest, north of Baxter near the Georgia border, gained ground on a blaze covering nearly 3,000 acres. The fire was 85 percent contained with the help of additional rain yesterday. Fires earlier in the week in South Florida burned brush near Fort Myers, closing Florida Gulf Coast University for a day, and along Alligator Alley, the highway linking Fort Lauderdale and Naples, which was closed for several hours while blazes were brought under control. Meanwhile, a forest fire in New Mexico was almost half contained. The fire had burned about 38,000 acres near Capitan, in the south-central part of the state, and was 45 percent contained as of yesterday night. The fire was not threatening structures, but crews went into areas to the northwest, talking to residents, mapping what is there, doing thinning work around buildings and checking where new containment lines might be built, fire information officer Beth Wilson said. Crews also continued building defense lines on the fire's south, east and west flanks. Fire incident commander Pruitt Small told the crowd that the plan is to slowly coax the fire down the ridge and let it burn out. (See issue of Jun 3.)

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated Jun 6, states: Firefighters hope that cooler temperatures will help them gain control of a fire that has charred more than 7,500 acres in Santa Barbara County and destroyed one home. The fire was about 20 percent contained and could be slowed down by a marine layer expected to drift into the region tomorrow, said Barry Peckham, spokesman for the Los Padres National Forest. Residents were allowed to return home late today and at least one lane on both southbound and northbound lanes of Highway 101 was open from Santa Barbara to Buellton, Peckham said. One home was destroyed and three outbuildings have been damaged. The Arguello and Shell Oil refineries were threatened, but undamaged. The fire also damaged train trestles owned by Union Pacific Railway just south of Gaviota. There were no reports of any injuries. The blaze also threatened 150 homes in the gated community of Hollister Ranch as people were also ordered to leave three state beaches, said Jan Purkett, a spokeswoman for the county fire department. The fire broke out before noon yesterday in a section of the Gaviota Pass, about 27 miles north of Santa Barbara, and burned across narrow canyons and steep hillsides covered with chaparral. The cause was under investigation. In Orange County, about 100 firefighters battled a fire that burned about 55-acres in a recreational

area today. The fire was 50 percent contained as of 1700 hrs and full containment was expected early tomorrow, said Capt. Stephen Miller of the Orange County Fire Authority. It began about 1220 hrs in Irvine Regional Park, which was closed by park rangers, authorities said. No structures were threatened, and there were no reports of any injuries. The cause of the blaze is under investigation.

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: Firefighters have steadily gained in their efforts to corral a fire that has burned 51,685 acres in New Mexico's Capitan Mountains. The lightning-caused fire was 80 percent contained today and was burning within lines cleared by firefighters, officials said. The blaze sent a thick layer of smoke into Ruidoso, Capitan and Hondo this morning as firefighters continued mop-up and rehabilitation work. The blaze, in the Lincoln National Forest, has burned 12 cabins. The fire has cost more than \$5.4 million, said Jackie Denk, a fire information officer. In California, strong and erratic winds blew the Gaviota wildfire down into Arroyo Hondo canyon today, eroding progress in containing the blaze and forcing Highway 101 to close again. Capt. Charlie Johnson of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department said he did not know when the highway would open again and when the fire would be contained. Firefighters had hoped to contain the massive blaze by 1800 hrs, Thursday (Jun 10). Highway 101 was closed from 1500 to 1645 hrs today as strong southward winds pushed smoke, ash and dust from the more than 7,030-acre wildfire across the freeway. The highway was reopened, only to close again around 1900 hrs as flames jumped into the canyon. Residents in six or seven households in Arroyo Hondo were evacuated. Working in steep, rugged terrain, 1,437 firefighters had contained about 40 percent of the blaze with help from 15 helicopters and 87 engines before winds kicked up today, Johnson said. Costs of fighting the wildfire continue to mount, and currently stand at \$2 million, according to officials. A marine layer was expected to bring cooler and damper weather conditions to the area during the next few days, Johnson said. Train services between San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara remains closed until officials repair a damaged trestle, he said.

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: Pockets of flame sent up smoke today within containment lines cleared around the Peppin Fire, which has scorched 51,685 acres in the Capitan Mountains, New Mexico. "While some parts of the fire have cooled nicely, others continue to be active and we are giving them our full attention," said Steve Bumgarner, who is in charge of the firefighting. The fire was 80 percent contained, officials said. Crews were securing the fire's western flank, assessing trigger points on the southern flank and patrolling for hot spots along the northern and eastern

perimeters. The firefighting force was pared from 298 people yesterday to 125 people today. Also assigned to the blaze were two helicopters and five engines. The fire has cost more than \$5.6 million, officials said.



ABORTED TAKE-OFF AT JEDDAH AIRPORT, SAUDI ARABIA

Karachi, Jun 5 — Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) said today that it has received US\$ 3 million from UK based reinsurers as compensation against one of its Airbus 310's damaged at Jeddah Airport in the first week of March. An official of the airline said that aircraft was over 20 years old but badly damaged during an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia. As a result the aircraft's landing gear and engines had become irreparable. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

AIRCRAFT DAMAGED AT HANGAR, OLD LAHORE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PAKISTAN

See "Pakistan" under "Weather & Navigation."

AIRCRAFT FIRES, MANCHESTER AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Two aircraft belonging to the same airline have caught fire within 24 hours of each other on landing at Manchester Airport. Police say the undercarriage of the first Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) aircraft caught fire at Terminal Two at 0857, BST, on Tuesday (Jun 8). Firefighters based at the airport put out a fire on a second PIA flight at about 1113, BST yesterday. A police spokesman said none of the passengers on board was injured. Officers confirmed there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the incidents. It is believed the fires were started by overheating around the undercarriages.

C-GBIL

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: One person is believed dead after a crash at the Prince George airport. Airport manager Stieg Hoag says the aircraft appeared to have trouble while taking off at around 0715 today. He says the small Cessna crashed off the runway after encountering difficulties. Hoag says the Transportation Safety Board has been notified about the crash. The pilot is thought to be the only occupant of the aircraft.

London, Jun 9 — A privately operated Cessna 182P, Skylane, C-GBIL, departed R01 at the Prince George airport under SVFR on a VFR flight plan at 0717, PDT. Attempts to contact the pilot on several frequencies were unsuccessful. The aircraft subsequently

climbed to about 3000 feet and then descended, resulting in impact with the water in a small lake on the airport property north of the threshold of R15 at 0720. The pilot was fatally injured. (See "Crash, Prince George, British Columbia, Canada" in issue of Jun 9.)

C-GIOE

London, Jun 4 — Cessna 180J, C-GIOE, operated by Nueltic Lake Air Service, Grace Lake for Nueltic Lake, on landing a float dug into the water and the aircraft nosed in and overturned in the water at 1100, Jun 2. The pilot was able to climb onto a float. The passenger, who is also the owner of the air service, was snagged by his seat belt but was able to partially exit from the aircraft. Both had hypothermia but only minor injuries which were treated at the Leaf Rapids Health Centre.

CRASH ABERDEEN AREA, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated Jun 9, states: The crew of a plane which crashed into a passing car at Aberdeen Airport 18 months ago could have done more to avoid the accident. The official investigation into the incident has reported that, although there was engine failure, the pilots should have been able to fly safely. The plane had been taking off for Denmark after carrying out contract work for Royal Mail when it crashed. Those involved in the crash were not badly injured. The plane came down in the morning of Christmas Eve, 2002, after its engine failed. It struck the ground, slid across a field and crashed through a fence, its nose hitting a passing car. Despite the plane and the car bursting into flames neither the two pilots nor the woman motorist were injured. After a lengthy investigation into the incident, experts found that although the pilots had flown together in the past, they had not stuck to proper training procedures. This was partly responsible for their actions during the emergency. The right engine was confirmed to have lost power but investigators said they could not determine why. Only the left engine showed any evidence of a bird strike, which has been ruled out as the cause of the accident. In their report, air accident officials also criticised the standard of flight recording on the plane, which they said hampered the investigation.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF GABON

Libreville, Jun 8 — A passenger plane carrying 27 people plunged into the sea off the coast of Gabon today, officials from the aircraft's operator Gabon Express said. The French army rescued seven passengers and took them by helicopter to a hospital in Libreville, the central African country's capital, while the others remained trapped in the plane, an army spokesman said. The plane was travelling from Libreville to Franceville in the southeast of the former French colony, via Port-Gentil, the economic capital. — Reuters.

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A small commercial aircraft crashed today into the Atlantic shortly after take-off from the capital of the West African nation of Gabon, killing at least 14 of the 30 people aboard, the airline said. Ten others were rescued and were being treated at a hospital in the capital, Libreville. The twin-engine propeller aircraft, traveling to the southern city of Franceville, crashed about 50 yards offshore, according to officials of Gabon Express, the private company operating the flight. Regional Africa No. 1 radio said the crew had unspecified technical problems shortly after take-off and tried unsuccessfully to make it back to the airport. Rescuers saved 10 of the 26 passengers and four crew members aboard, company officials said. Fourteen bodies were recovered by late afternoon, while six people were still missing. French navy sailors based in the former French colony were helping Gabonese firefighters in the effort. Recovery teams were trying to attach a cable to the aircraft's cabin to drag it onto the beach. At least two Lebanese were on board, and the passenger roster indicated several other foreign passengers, a company official said.

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Gabon's president, Omar Bongo, has declared three days of mourning after an aircraft crash in the Gulf of Guinea which killed 16 people and has left three others missing, his office said today. "A national funeral will be organised after consulting the families of those lost," a statement from Bongo's office said, after the aircraft nosedived into the sea yesterday morning about 100m off Libreville's beach. Eleven survivors, eight passengers and three of the four crew members, were treated in hospital in the capital, according to the official toll released after emergency services worked all day to save trapped people. The survivors "were not seriously injured", a hospital official said late yesterday. The 19 people dead or missing included two French nationals, a Lebanese and a German, their respective embassies said today. The turboprop Hawker Siddeley 748 passenger aircraft was headed from Libreville to Franceville in the south-east of the central African country when it crashed after take-off, part of its landing gear falling off and landing on the beach. Seven French nationals were aboard the aircraft, five passengers and two crew members, and five of them were among the survivors, the French embassy said. The German embassy said that "a German citizen whose body has not been found" was on board the aircraft. Two Lebanese people were also on board, according to Beirut's mission here. One survived and the other was known to have died. When the aircraft, which belonged to private company Gabon Express, plunged into the water, its tail was jutting above the surface, raising hopes survivors could still be found. Nearly four hours later the wreck was fully submerged with people presumed trapped inside. Witnesses said they saw

the twin-engined aircraft begin to head back to Leon Mba international airport before it crashed. "The plane took off, then turned back with only one propeller turning," said a man who had just seen off a relative at the airport. A woman on the beach who was waiting for returning fishing boats when the accident happened said: "Smoke was coming out of the plane. It plunged nose-first into the water, and people emerged." The president's office said the accident happened "following technical problems", according to a statement read out on national radio. The last of this type of aircraft, known as the BAe 748 after the company was merged into British Aerospace in 1977, was produced in 1988.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF SAINT JEAN CAP FERRAT, FRANCE

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Five people, including the pilot, were killed when a helicopter on a tourist flight crashed into the sea today between the French Riviera resort of Nice and Monaco, the local press service said. "This helicopter was carrying five people... Unfortunately there are no survivors," it said in a written statement. The accident occurred off the posh French seaside resort of Saint-Jean Cap Ferrat when the helicopter chartered by a Monaco-based company crashed at midday due to an unknown cause, officials said.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF SAINT JEAN CAP FERRAT, FRANCE

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Two Britons are believed to be among five people killed when a helicopter crashed off the French Riviera. The two, understood to be a man and a woman, were on board the Heliair Monaco helicopter which went down in the sea a mile off the coast of Saint Jean Cap Ferrat in southern France. All four passengers and the pilot died in the accident which happened as the helicopter flew from Nice airport to Monaco. A spokesman for the Monaco Principality said the cause of the accident remained unknown as weather conditions were good. He said Monaco heliport control was alerted by Nice airport after they lost contact with the single rotor Ecureuil helicopter. A British Embassy spokesman in Paris said that one female body had been recovered so far from the helicopter, adding that "The helicopter is in 300 metres of water."

CRASH INTO TALSTON RIVER, NORTH WEST TERRITORIES, CANADA

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: Two people died when they became trapped in a float plane which crashed into a river, Royal Canadian Mounted Police said today. The pilot and one other passenger managed to get out of the plane and survived. There was no immediate word on their condition. The plane's four occupants were headed to a fishing camp on the Talston River. A second plane was sent out when the fishing party didn't return to the float base at

Four Mile Lake, seven kilometres south of Fort Smith. The second pilot spotted the missing float plane, a Cessna 185, upside down in the river, police said.

CRASH, NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA

See VH-MIB.

CRASH, PROSERPINE AREA, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A man is fighting for life tonight and three other men are recovering in hospital after a light plane crashed attempting an emergency landing in north Queensland today. A Queensland Ambulance spokesman said the incident occurred near Proserpine, north of Mackay, around 1300 hrs, today when the Cessna 206 crashed near the marina of the Laguna Quays Resort. Police said all four occupants were initially taken to Proserpine Hospital, but two passengers were later airlifted to Townsville while another was transported to Mackay. A police spokeswoman said a 79-year-old passenger, who suffered head, neck and chest injuries as well as severe fractures to his lower body, was reported to be in a very serious but stable condition in the Townsville Hospital. Fellow passenger Greg Henzell, in his early 50s, suffered chest and facial injuries and was also at the Townsville Hospital in a stable condition. The third passenger, Ron Leishman, 54, received fractures from the incident and was currently stable in Mackay Hospital. The pilot, Gary Poole, 53, remained in a stable condition in the Proserpine Hospital with injuries to his left hand and a broken arm. The plane was believed to have taken off from nearby Proserpine Airport, with witnesses reporting the pilot had attempted to make an emergency landing when the crash occurred. It is unknown what caused the crash or where the plane was heading. An Australian Transport Safety Bureau spokesman said investigators would leave Canberra early tomorrow to travel to the crash scene.

CRASH, SHATSK AREA, RYAZAN REGION, RUSSIA

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: An An-2 aircraft has crashed in the Ryazan region. The Russian Emergency Situations Ministry's information department report an An-2 aircraft caught on a power transmission line off the settlement of Shatsk while fertilizing crops and crashed at 2100, Moscow time, May 31. According to a news agency correspondent, there were no victims. A pilot was taken to a regional hospital of Shatsk.

CRASH, STANLEY AIRPORT, FALKLAND ISLANDS

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A Fugro Airborne Surveys aeromagnetic survey aircraft, in the Islands carrying out work on behalf of Falkland Minerals Limited, suffered an uncomfortable landing while returning from a flight at the weekend. The

aircraft was landing at Stanley airport at approximately 1520 Saturday (May 29) when a failure of the nose landing gear occurred. The aircraft came to rest on the runway. There was no fire resulting from the incident and the two people on board escaped uninjured. As a result of the incident the aircraft's propellers, engines and nose landing gear have been damaged. The aircraft has been recovered to the FIGAS hangar and an investigation into the cause of the incident is being conducted by the Department of Civil Aviation, in conjunction with the Flight Safety Department of Fugro Airborne Surveys and the Brazilian Department of Civil Aviation. Derek Reeves of Falkland Minerals Ltd said "we are now awaiting a full report from Fugro Airborne Surveys as to the full extent of the damage and are also considering options to undertake additional survey work at a later date."

CRASH, TALLHASSEE REGIONAL AIRPORT, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated Jun 8, states: Crew fatigue and a copilot's colour-blindness contributed to the pre-dawn crash of a FedEx Boeing 727 at Tallahassee Regional Airport two years ago, the National Transportation Safety Board said today. All three crew members survived the Jul 26, 2002, crash, which destroyed last-minute qualifying paperwork for several Florida legislative races. In a final report, the NTSB said the aircraft's crew made an unusual decision to try and land on a rarely used runway without an instrument system to help guide them in. Instead, they used a precision approach path indicator, or PAPI system, that gives pilots a colour signal to help them aim for the runway. Too much white light means the aircraft is too high; too much red, it is too low. First Officer William Frye suffered from colour-blindness and probably would not have been able to accurately see the lights, the NTSB ruled. The agency also said Capt William Walsh and Frye were both probably impaired by fatigue on the flight from FedEx's hub in Memphis. A lawyer for the crew and the pilots' union suggested the PAPI system itself might have been to blame. The attorney for the crew, Don Maciejewski, said all three men saw the same read-out from the lights, indicating Frye's vision was not a factor. "Bill has got a very slight problem in hue detection — he can tell red from white," Maciejewski said. "They went to great lengths to try and nail the crew." John Mazor, a spokesman for the Airline Pilots Association, said the union also believed the PAPI system may not have worked properly. "We are not yet convinced that condensation on the PAPI didn't somehow create a false signal that might have somehow misled the pilots," Mazor said. Kristin Krause, a spokeswoman for FedEx, said Frye, Walsh and second officer David Mendez had been on non-flight duty since the accident and that their employment was "under review."

EMERGENCY LANDING, HONG KONG

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A Cathay Pacific Airways flight from Hong Kong to London was forced to make an emergency landing at Hong Kong's airport after developing engine trouble yesterday. The Boeing 747-400, carrying about 400 passengers and crew members, landed safely and there were no injuries. Flight CX251 had taken off from Hong Kong when the pilot spotted smoke coming from one of its engines, and it returned to the airport at 1830, BST, about 75 minutes after take-off, she said.

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Cathay Pacific has launched an investigation after smoke from the engine of a Boeing 747-400 forced it to make an emergency landing in Hong Kong early yesterday. Flight CX 251 had been bound for London when the pilot noticed the smoke from the No 1 engine about 30 minutes into the journey. The plane landed back in Hong Kong at 0130 hrs and there were no injuries among the 381 passengers, four pilots and 17 cabin crew. A Cathay spokeswoman said the flight had left Hong Kong International Airport at 0015 hrs as scheduled. After spotting the smoke, the pilot immediately called the airport control tower for an emergency landing and turned off the defective engine, telling passengers they were returning to Hong Kong because of a technical problem. The aircraft has four engines but needs only two to operate. The plane landed smoothly and passengers were transferred to another airline soon afterwards. The total delay was about three hours and 15 minutes and the flight landed at London's Heathrow Airport at 0900 hrs. The spokeswoman said: "There was a smooth landing and there were no injuries but we are certainly checking now what the cause of the smoke was." She said it would take some time for the results of the investigation but a government spokeswoman said Cathay had submitted a preliminary report to the Civil Aviation Department pending completion of the investigation.

EMERGENCY LANDING, NAHA AIRPORT, OKINAWA, JAPAN

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A Bangkok-bound Japan Airlines flight from Narita airport made an emergency landing yesterday at Naha airport in Okinawa Prefecture after detecting smoke in the cabin, the airline said. No one was injured. Passengers on Flight JL717, a Boeing 747 service with 223 passengers and crew on board, noticed sparks near fluorescent lighting in the ceiling as well as a smell of something smoldering about two hours into the flight, according to the airline.

EMERGENCY LANDING, PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A commercial jet made an emergency landing this

morning at Philadelphia International Airport after an onboard instrument indicated there was smoke on the aircraft. Airport authorities say the jet landed safely just before 0700 hrs. No one was injured and no fire was detected. Airport spokesman Mark Pesce says investigators are trying to determine what triggered the smoke warning. Officials would not immediately say where the aircraft was coming from or going to, or how long passengers would be delayed.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A Qantas flight to Newcastle on Monday (Jun 7) was redirected to Sydney after an engine failed and fog enveloped the airport. About 31 passengers were travelling on an early morning flight from Melbourne when one of two engines on the Dash 8 jet failed. Heavy fog at Newcastle forced the pilot to divert to Sydney airport. A Qantas spokeswoman said the aircraft landed safely and without incident. Passengers eventually arrived in Newcastle two hours late.

N182PB

London, Jun 8 — Air Tractor AT-402, N182PB, crashed near Pine Bluff, Arkansas, at 2000, Jun 7. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N261FM

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated Jun 3, states: A 74-year-old Lutz man died today when his single-engine plane crashed shortly after take-off from Tampa North Aero Park. The plane crashed in woods just south of the Lexington Oaks subdivision. The Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the crash, said Tim Monville, a senior safety investigator with the NTSB's Miami office.

London, Jun 4 — North American T-28B, N261FM, operated by Joseph J. Rendzio, while on a flight from Tampa, Florida, with one person on board, crashed in the vicinity of Tampa, at 1630, UTC, Jun 3. The pilot died.

N6162E

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A single-engine airplane crashed in Weld County, Colorado, today, killing the pilot and injuring two passengers. The plane crashed nose down, cartwheeling onto its belly at a turf farm along U.S. 85 outside Platteville, witnesses said. The accident happened about 1730 hrs, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. One of the passengers, a woman, was taken by helicopter to North Colorado Medical Centre in Greeley. The other passenger, also a woman, was taken by ambulance to the same hospital. The pilot, a man, died at the scene, said Undersheriff Margie Martinez of the Weld County Sheriff's Office. The tail number on the downed aircraft - 6162E - is registered to JBJW Investments Inc. in Denver, according to FAA records.

London, Jun 8 — Raytheon A36, N6162E, crashed near Greeley, Colorado, at 2331, Jun 7. The aircraft was destroyed. One of the three persons on board was killed and the other two were seriously injured.

N9151C

London, Jun 9 — Air Tractor AT-502, N9151C, crashed near Joiner, Arkansas, at 1745, Jun 8. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was seriously injured.

VH-MIB

London, Jun 10 — Robinson R22 Mariner helicopter, VH-MIB, crashed and caught fire about 30-40 kilometres south of Tobermorey Station, Queensland, at approximately 0130, UTC, May 30. The helicopter was conducting an aerial assessment of a fence line. The helicopter was destroyed. There were two people on board; one received fatal injuries, and the other received serious injuries.

Product Recalls



ALMONDS AND ALMOND PRODUCTS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated Jun 1, states: Two supermarket chains operated by The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. have joined a US nationwide recall of almonds and products containing almonds because of possible salmonella contamination. Farmer Jack and Food Basic supermarkets have joined at least six other companies operating in Michigan that have recalled products containing almonds bought from Paramount Farms of California. More than 13 million pounds of raw almonds supplied by Paramount Farms are under recall and are the focus of a federal investigation by the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Farmer Jack and Food Basic recall covers Natural Raw Whole Brown Almonds, Cashew-Almond-Raisin Mix, Energy Mix, Fruity Nut Mix, Nutty Mix, and Fitness Mix. They were sold under the America's Choice Brand and the Sunray Food Brand. The recalled products have the best before/code dates of Aug 4, 2004, through to May 31, 2005.

DAIMLERCHRYSLER MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: DaimlerChrysler is recalling 438,391 Chrysler PT Cruisers because of a flaw that could cause an under-bonnet fire but right-hand drive export models are not affected. There have been nine reports of fires but no injuries or deaths, DaimlerChrysler US spokeswoman Curtrise Garner told the Associated Press, which noted that the recall covers PT Cruisers from model years 2001 to 2005. The National

Highway Traffic Safety Administration reportedly said on Friday (Jun 5) that a high-pressure power steering hose can loosen and come into contact with other parts of the vehicle - if the hose is punctured and power steering fuel leaks out, a fire can start.

FLOOR FANS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 2 million oscillating floor fans are being recalled by a Texas company because of a potential fire hazard, the government said today. The Consumer Product Safety Commission said the electrical power cord can get caught in the fan's blades, damaging the cord and possibly igniting a fire. The agency said there have been at least 31 incidents in which the cords were damaged. Nine resulted in substantial property damage. The 2.2 million fans were manufactured by SMC Marketing Corp. of Grand Prairie, Texas. The fans were sold at Home Depot stores nationwide from early 1997 through October 2001. Several models are on recall, including 18-inch pedestal floor fans with the model number SR-18 or SP-18. All the fans are white with the brand name, "SMC," on the front grill.

HONDA MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Honda Motor Co. is recalling 130,617 CR-V sport utility vehicles because the driver's air bag may inflate incorrectly, federal regulators said yesterday. Vehicles from the 2002-2004 model years are included in the recall. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said some air bags have bad wiring and could inflate at the wrong rate, increasing the driver's risk of injury in a crash. Dealers will repair the wiring beginning this month, NHTSA said. Honda also is recalling 19,572 Accord sedans because their instrument panel lights can fail. Sedans from the 2000-2001 model years are included in the recall. Regulators said heat buildup inside the instrument panel is causing the panel lights to go out. Honda is expected to begin notifying owners about the recall next month, the government said.

HYUNDAI MOTOR VEHICLES, SOUTH KOREA

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Hyundai Motor Co., South Korea's largest carmaker, will recall more than 13,000 small trucks to fix defective parts, the Ministry of Construction and Transportation said today. The recall affects 13,657 units of Hyundai Motor's Porter II truck produced between Dec. 10 2003 and May 3 this year.

MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Jun 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Three models of Mitsubishi vehicles sold in Hong Kong have been included in a widened recall by the Japanese carmaker. Super Exceed vans made before September 1994, Lancer diesel taxis made before

August 1993 and Galant sedans made from November 1996 to February 1997 have to be sent back to the dealer. Mitsubishi Motors distributor Universal Cars estimated that there were 72 affected vehicles, including 40 Lancer diesel taxis. A company spokeswoman said most of the taxis, which had a defect in the engine oil cooler hose, were already off the streets. There are 31 Super Exceeds and one Galant affected by the recall. The rear brake line in the Super Exceeds might foul the shock absorber, resulting in possible damage. The Galant has a defective passenger air bag that could result in delayed deployment. Other vehicles currently sold in Hong Kong are not affected by the recall, which is part of a larger recall of 507,000 vehicles announced last week after the company found evidence that executives covered up safety-related defects.

WHEELCHAIRS, JAPAN

London, Jun 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Suzuki Motor Corp said yesterday it will recall 80,560 motor-powered wheelchairs in the Senior Car series for free repairs as broken screws led to injuries to two users in the past. Subject to the recall from today are 74,316 wheelchairs manufactured between September 1994 and August 2001 and 6,244 units made between May and September

Port Conditions



INDIA

See under "Labour Disputes."

PANAMA CANAL

London, Jun 4 — Panama Canal situation: Vessels with beams of 91ft and over, or those with transit restrictions due to their cargo and/or draughts, are currently experiencing delays of four-five days transiting the Panama Canal in either direction. Based on projected arrivals, these delays could increase to five days by this weekend. If arrivals remain heavy, delays could reach six days by next week. "Non-restricted" vessels with beams of less than 91ft, transiting in either direction, are experiencing delays of about three days. This could increase to four days by this weekend or the beginning of next week. The Panama Canal Authority have a projected 41 vessels arriving each day for the next three days, with a daily average transit of 28 vsls. The current backlog for vessels waiting to transit is 67 and is expected to increase to 93 vessels by the weekend. Should the backlog remain at over 90 vessels for two consecutive days, "Condition 3" of the prebooking system will be invoked, further reducing the number of booking slots becoming available. Vessels that are prebooked and transit while "Condition 3" is in effect will be required to pay the

Port Conditions

“premium” booking fee (just over “double” the normal fee at US\$0.83 x PC/UMS net tons).

Balboa, Jun 5 — Due to the existing backlog of vessels awaiting transit, the Panama Canal has just declared Condition No.3. Under this condition the number of booked slots is reduced to eight for the large category of vessel, and to four, for the small category. Vessels that reserve and transit while condition 3 is in effect will be assessed the higher reservation fee i.e. US\$ 0.83 x PC/UMS ton instead of the normal US\$ 0.39 X PC/UMS ton. — Lloyd’s Agents.

Balboa, Jun 7 — Present delays awaiting transit for large (91 feet beam or more) non-booked and restricted vessels now running at seven-to-eight days with increasing tendency. Small non-booked vessels experiencing delays of about five days and also on the rise. The Canal is expected to resume full capacity operations at 0001, Jun 11, when conditions should start to improve. We anticipate that it will take approximately two weeks once full capacity is restored for delays to reach the normal level of 24 hours or less just in time for the next outage which is scheduled for Jul 5 through Jul 15. — Lloyd’s Agents.

Balboa, Jun 9 — In an effort to improve the Canal situation, the Panama Canal has restored full capacity as of 0600, this morning i.e. 42 hours ahead of schedule. Additional resources are being assigned to reduced the extraordinary backlog that has accumulated over the last eight/nine days and we trust that by the end of next week delays will reach normal levels. — Lloyd’s Agents.

SYRIA

Lattakia, May 22 — Waiting time is presently one day at Lattakia and six days at Tartous. — Lloyd’s Agents.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	09-Jun-2004	Coal: Four vessels due by 14/6; up to 1 day’s delay expected.
Dalrymple Bay	09-Jun-2004	Coal: Two vessels at berth, 11 at anchor; 52 vessels due by 23/7; vessels are berthing in order of cargo availability; up to 14 days delay expected.
Hay Point	09-Jun-2004	Coal: Two vessels loading, 2 at anchor; 11 vessels due by 18/6; up to 2 days delay expected.
Gladstone	09-Jun-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Two vessels at berth, 2 at anchor; 28 vessels due by 27/6; up to 6 days delay expected; Barney Point: 1 vessel at berth; 5 vessels due by 27/6; up to 2 days delay expected; shutdown at Barney point for ship loading and train unloading operations from 06:00 17 June to 06:00 24 June.
Brisbane	09-Jun-2004	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Two vessels due by 19/6; no delays expected. Grain: 2 vessels due by 14/6, both to load wheat; no delays expected.
Newcastle	09-Jun-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: Two vessels loading, 6 waiting; 18 vessels due by 18/6; Dykes 4+5: Two vessels loading, 4 waiting; 10 vessels due by 19/6; Kooragang and Dyke terminals: 1-5 days delay expected. Grain: 3 vessels due by 18/6, all to load wheat; 1-6 days delay at present due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Kembla	09-Jun-2004	Coal: Ten vessels due by 26/6; CB1: 4 vessels due by 25/7; up to 2 days delay expected. Grain: 5 vessels due by 19/6, 4 to load wheat, 1 canola; up to 4 days delay at present due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Hedland	09-Jun-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), “A” berth: One vessel loading at berth, 5 at anchor; 3 vessels due by 12/6; 2-6 days delay expected; “B” berth: One vessel loading at berth, 5 at anchor; 4 vessels due by 14/6; 2-8 days delay expected; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island): 1 vessel loading at berth, 2 at anchor; 3 vessels due by 13/6; 1-6 days delay expected; Westyard “D” berth: 1 vessel loading at berth, 2 at anchor; 2 vessels due by 10/6; 3-5 days delay expected.
Dampier	09-Jun-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: One vessel loading at berth; 13 vessels due by 22/6; 1-4 days delay expected; East Intercourse Island; One vessel loading at berth, 1 at anchor; 13 vessels due by 22/6; 1-6 days delay expected.
Port Walcott	09-Jun-2004	Iron ore: Force majeure is still in effect; 2 vessels loading at berth, 1 at anchor; 16 vessels due by 21/6; up to 3 days delay expected; 2 ship loaders are being used on a more frequent basis, requiring 2 loading plans: one for single ship loader, 1 for dual loader operation; shippers request that load plans be submitted as early as possible (10 days) so they can coordinate stockpiles more effectively.
Melbourne	09-Jun-2004	1 vessel waiting to load wheat; 5 vessels due by 1/7, 2 to load wheat, 1 wheat/barley, 2 barley; up to 3 days delay at present due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Geelong	09-Jun-2004	Grain: 7 vessels due by 27/6, 3 to load wheat, 3 barley, 1 canola; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Portland	09-Jun-2004	Grain: 1 vessel berthed to load wheat; 5 vessels due by 9/7, 3 to load barley, 2 wood-chips; up to 9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Adelaide	09-Jun-2004	Grain: No. 27 berth: 11 vessels due by 27/6, 2 to load barley, 8 wheat, 1 canola; 2-10 days delay expected due to berth congestion.
Port Lincoln	09-Jun-2004	Grain: 7 vessels due by 10/7, 4 to load wheat, 3 barley; up to 1 day’s delay expected due to berth congestion.
Geraldton	09-Jun-2004	Grain: 7 vessels due by 18/6, 5 to load wheat, 1 feed/wheat, 1 barley; 2-18 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Kwinana	09-Jun-2004	Grain: 14 vessels due by 27/6, 13 to load wheat, 1 barley; up to 12 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Albany	09-Jun-2004	Grain: 4 vessels due by 15/6, all to load wheat; 1-8 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Esperance	09-Jun-2004	Grain: 7 vessels due by 25/6, 2 to load wheat, 2 barley, 2 feed, 1 coarse grain; up to 2 days delay expected due to cargo availability and berth congestion.

Port Conditions

Azerbaijan

Baku	07-Jun-2004	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; Azerneftiyag terminal: 2 vessels berthed, 1 loading gasoline, 1 discharging naphtha; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: 1 vessel berthed discharging crude oil; 1 vessel due 11/6 to discharge crude oil; Sangachal district: 1 empty vessel berthed; Transserve terminal: closed.
Apsheeron	07-Jun-2004	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 1 vessel berthed, completed discharging of fuel oil; 1 vessel due 7/6 to discharging crude oil.

Bulgaria

Bourgas	07-Jun-2004	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (1 metals, 1 lead, 1 scrap, 1 cigarettes, 1 containers, 1 coils), 6 discharging (1 containers, 1 steel billets, 1 kaolin, 1 magnesium, 1 zinc concentrate, 1 copper concentrate); 7 vessels waiting in roads, of which 4 to load (2 chemicals, 1 coils, 1 empty), 3 to discharge (1 iron ore, 1 coal, 1 crude oil); 5 vessels due of which 4 to load (1 bulk ammonium sulphate, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 steel sheet, 1 equipment), 1 passenger vessel.
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Colombia

Santa Marta	02-Jun-2004	Four vessels berthed (1 containers, 1 bananas, 1 bulker, 1 coal), no vessels anchored; 9 vessels due (4 containers, 2 general cargo, 1 bananas, 1 tanker, 1 PCC), with 9 days delay expected for PCC.
Buenaventura	02-Jun-2004	Shore crane operational. Nine vessels berthed (3 containers, 1 general cargo, 5 bulkers), 3 vessels anchored (2 general cargo, 1 bulker); 21 vessels due (16 containers, 3 general cargo, 1 bulker, 1 tanker), with 2 days delay expected for general cargo, 1 day for bulkers.

Egypt

Alexandria	07-Jun-2004	Twenty-nine vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 23 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 1 Ro/Ro, 3 tankers; 6 vessels at inner anchorage, 8 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	07-Jun-2004	Twenty-one vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 13 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 reefer, 4 container vessels; 6 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Suez Canal	07-Jun-2004	Nineteen vessels transiting Northbound, 22 Southbound.

Georgia

Supsa	07-Jun-2004	Oil products: 3 vessels due by 24/6, all to load crude oil. Terminal due to be shut down for maintenance of off-shore cargo lines for ca. 3 weeks in July. Dates will be confirmed nearer the time.
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India

Mumbai	08-Jun-2004	No labour problems. Seven vessels loading at berth, 6 discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; expected delays: container vessels: 12 hours; bulkers: 1-2 days on completion of cargo documents; general cargo vessels: berthing within 24 hours of arrival.
Calcutta	08-Jun-2004	Six vessels loading at berth, 16 discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 2 vessels bunkering, 1 under repairs/dry-docked; 20 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Cochin	08-Jun-2004	Four vessels loading at berth, 5 discharging at berth; 1 other vessel in port; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge, 2 waiting at anchorage to load; 1 vessel under repairs, 2 dry-docked; 11 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Chennai	08-Jun-2004	Four vessels loading at berth, 10 discharging at berth; 3 other vessels berthed; 4 vessels waiting at outer anchorage not ready, 1 awaiting specific berth; 29 vessels due, with the following delays expected: iron ore/scrap: up to 2 days; TNEB coal/steam coal/fertiliser/others: up to 1 day; there is a strike at the container terminal.
Mormugao	08-Jun-2004	No labour problems. Three vessel loading at berth, 1 discharging at berth; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 5 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 13 vessels due (7 iron ore lumps/fines, 1 fuel oil, 1 naphtha, 1 limestone, 1 coking coal, 1 containers, 1 metcoke), with 3-4 days delay expected for limestone and 2-3 days for coking coal vessels.
Kandla	08-Jun-2004	Conventional vessels: Three vessels loading at berth, 1 discharging at berth, 1 discharging in stream; 2 vessels waiting to load; 22 vessels due, with no delays expected; Tankers: 2 tankers discharging at berth, none waiting; 7 tankers due, with up to 1 day's delay expected.
Mangalore	08-Jun-2004	Two vessels loading at berth, 3 discharging at berth; 1 vessel awaiting berth to load; 8 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Jawaharlal Nehru	08-Jun-2004	Two vessels discharging at liquid berth; 3 tankers waiting at anchorage to load; 5 tankers due, with no delays expected; no delays expected for berthing at LB-01 and LB-02.
Paradip	08-Jun-2004	No labour problems. Three vessels loading at berth, 4 discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 17 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Tuticorin	08-Jun-2004	A high velocity wind has been affecting berthing/unberthing operations from 11.00-19.00 hrs.; Two vessels loading at berth, 6 discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 7 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Visakhapatnam	08-Jun-2004	Three vessels loading at berth, 7 discharging at berth; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 3 waiting at anchorage to discharge; 23 vessels due, with 1-2 days delay expected.

Iran

Neka	07-Jun-2004	Oil products: 5 vessels berthed, of which 3 discharging crude oil, 2 to discharge crude oil; 15 crude oil vessels waiting.
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Port Conditions

Israel

Haifa	09-Jun-2004	No labour problems; Eight vessels discharging at berth (5 general cargo, 3 bulker), 10 vessels loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 2 car carriers, 3 tankers); 2 bulkers waiting at anchorage to discharge, 1 passenger vessel waiting at anchorage to load/dischARGE; 4 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 2 awaiting orders; 19 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Ashdod	09-Jun-2004	No labour problems; Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 10 vessels discharging at berth (8 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 6 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 car carrier, 3 tankers); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 general cargo, 1 bulker), 4 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load/dischARGE; 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 2 awaiting orders; 16 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	09-Jun-2004	No labour problems; Two general cargo vessels discharging at berth, 1 vessel loading/discharging containers at berth; 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge containers; 2 vessels due, with no delays expected.

Kazakhstan

Aktau	07-Jun-2004	Oil products: 3 vessels in roads; 3 vessels due by 8/6.
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Pakistan

Karachi	07-Jun-2004	1 vessel loading steel pipes at berth, 7 discharging at berth (2 HSD, 2 DAP, 1 jute, 1 tallow, 1 phosphorus), 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 general cargo, 1 MOL, 1 container), 3 waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 container, 1 crude oil, 1 coal); 1 vessel awaiting orders; 1 container vessel due, with no delays expected.
Port Qasim	07-Jun-2004	Eleven vessels discharging ore at berth; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load containers, 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 fuel oil, 2 palm oil, 1 VCM, 1 containers); QICT berth: 1 container vessel.

Panama

Panama Canal	07-Jun-2004	For vessels with beams over 91 ft, or with transit restrictions due to cargo and/or draughts, delays are currently running at approximately 3 days, and are expected to increase to 4 days by the end of this week. Delays for non-restricted vessels under 91 ft beam are currently running at 2 days. Delays could increase to 3 days by the end of this week. Condition 3 of the Transit Reservation System will be in effect at 00:01 8/6 and continuing until further notice. Reservations previously accepted will be honoured. Restoration of reservations under a less restrictive condition will be reassessed as transit backlog decreases.
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Poland

Gdynia	07-Jun-2004	Five vessels in port operating of which 1 loading bulk cargo at berth, 4 discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 grain, 2 bulkers); 21 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 36 vessels due.
Gdansk	07-Jun-2004	Twelve vessels in port operating of which 11 loading at berth (3 coal, 4 general cargo, 2 bulkers, 2 tankers), 1 discharging general cargo at berth; 1 tanker waiting in roads; 9 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 21 vessels due.

Russia

Novorossiysk	07-Jun-2004	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (1 coils/steel billets, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate/bulk NPK, 1 aluminium, 1 UAN solution, 1 diesel oil), 3 discharging (2 bulk sugar, 1 oranges); 6 vessels waiting in roads, 3 to discharge bulk sugar, 3 to load (1 pig-iron, 1 bulk NPK, 1 diesel oil); 43 vessels due of which 41 to load (2 DRI, 2 steel billets, 1 pipes, 8 coils, 4 copper, 6 bulk NPK, 2 steel sheet, 1 scrap, 1 coils/steel sheet, 3 aluminium, 1 slabs/flowers, 2 slabs, 2 pig-iron, 1 coils/pipes, 1 cement, 2 diesel oil, 1 pig-iron, 1 zinc), 2 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: 3 tankers berthed, all loading, of which 2 crude oil, 1 diesel oil; 1 tanker in roads to load crude oil; 11 tankers due, 10 to load crude oil, 1 fuel oil.
Makhachkala	07-Jun-2004	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, 1 waiting in roads; 1 vessel due 7/6.

Sri Lanka

Colombo	07-Jun-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. South-west monsoon rains being experienced. Seven container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 15 vessels discharging at berth (9 containers/feeders, 2 bagged fertiliser, 2 Ro/Ro, 1 bagged cement, 1 bulk cement); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 bagged maize, 1 bulk cement); 5 vessels dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders from principals, 1 at new tanker berth; 5 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.
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Turkmenistan

Turkmenbashi	07-Jun-2004	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed of which 1 loading gasoline, 1 to load fuel oil, 1 completed discharging crude oil; 3 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 light gasoil/heating oil, 1 naphtha, 1 unknown cargo; 1 vessel due 13/6 to discharge crude oil.
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Port Conditions

Ukraine

Odessa	07-Jun-2004	Seventeen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (7 metal, 1 metal/wood, 1 wood, 1 pipes/wood, 1 pig-iron, 1 sunflower oil), 4 discharging (1 sugar, 1 luggage, 1 rice, 1 citrus, 1 discharging/loading containers; 8 vessels in roads, of which 4 to load (1 metal, 1 sunflower oil, 1 scrap, 1 pig-iron), 2 to discharge metal, 2 to discharge/load containers; 64 vessels due, of which 31 to load (27 metal, 1 sunflower oil, 1 wood, 1 scrap, 1 ferro alloy), 5 to discharge (4 metal, 1 other), 28 to discharge/load containers.
Reni	07-Jun-2004	Oil products: 1 in roads to load dark crude.
Mariupol	07-Jun-2004	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (3 steel, 2 coal, 1 coke, 1 fire-clay, 1 sulphur), 1 to discharge/load borax/steel; 5 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 steel, 1 coal, 1 coke, 2 sulphur; 40 vessels due, of which 39 to load (17 steel, 15 coal, 5 fire-clay, 1 sunflower beans, 1 fertiliser), 1 to discharge chrome ore.
Ilichevsk	07-Jun-2004	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (1 barley, 1 oil, 7 steel products), 1 discharging equipment, 2 loading/discharging containers; 3 vessels in roads, all to load steel products; 19 vessels due, of which 16 to load (14 steel products, 1 equipment, 1 kraftliner/paper), 3 to load/discharge containers.
Sevastopol	07-Jun-2004	One vessel in port loading steel; no vessels in roads; 5 vessels due, all to load, of which 2 fuel oil, 3 steel.

United States

Houston	07-Jun-2004	Cargill terminal: 1-2 days delay expected.
Galveston	07-Jun-2004	ADM-Farmland terminal: 1-2 days delay expected.
New Orleans	07-Jun-2004	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1 day's delay expected. Cargill-Westwego: 2 days 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: 2 days delay expected. Peavey/Paulina: 1 day's delay expected. Zen-Noh/Convent: 1 day's delay expected. Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays expected. Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: no delays; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: no delays; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: no delays. Twelve-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to increase to 12.4 ft. by 20/6. Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to New Orleans (Mile 090.0) - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 090) to Baton Rouge (Mile 233.5) - 45 ft. for all vessels; Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 36 ft. BW; Vessels with drafts up to 47 ft. have been handled up to Mile 180 in the past, but are approved by pilots on a case by case basis, based on current river conditions.
Seattle, WA	07-Jun-2004	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Beaumont, TX	07-Jun-2004	Louis Dreyfus terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Tacoma, WA	07-Jun-2004	Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Kalama, WA	07-Jun-2004	Kalama export terminal: 2 days delay expected; United Harvest terminal: no delays expected.
Vancouver, WA	07-Jun-2004	United Harvest terminal: 1 day's delay expected.
Portland, OR	07-Jun-2004	Columbia Grain terminal: 1 day's delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: 1 day's delay expected.

Yemen

Hodeidah	06-Jun-2004	All berths available; no vessels berthed; no vessels anchored; waiting times: bulk cargo: up to 2 days; general cargo, bagged cargo, containers: no delays expected.
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Published by Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit, part of T&F Informa plc, Sheepen Place, Colchester, Essex CO3 3LP.

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ISSN 0047 4908

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