

June 24 2005

Anger as Scottish councils oppose ship-to-ship transfers

Future of Forth Ports-backed proposal now rests with Department for Transport, writes David Osler — Thursday June 23 2005

TWO Scottish councils have rejected plans to carry out ship-to-ship transfers in the Firth of Forth, citing environmental fears.

But the authorities' stance was yesterday attacked by the scheme's promoter as "emotive".

Ian Laws, director of Melbourne Marine Services added: "They don't want it because they don't want it.

"They have not come out with any technical reasons why it is no good or unsafe."

Barred

Despite the thumbs-down at a recent meeting of East Lothian and Fife councils — which the company was barred from attending — the final decision rests with the Department for Transport.

Mr Laws is hopeful that the plan could yet be given the green light.

The proposals would enable the transfer of up to 8m tonnes of oil a year from smaller Russian tankers to very large crude carriers.

Around 105 vessel movements a year would probably be generated if the project was to go ahead.

Crucially, the plan has the backing of local port operator Forth Ports. As it would take place within Forth Port

harbour limits, it would come under the harbour master's control.

As Melbourne points out, anyone can quite legally undertake STS more than 12 miles offshore without being subject to the need for permission or any regulations whatever.

But the site of the anchorage, near Methil, is close to three legally protected wildlife areas, generating opposition from Scottish Natural Heritage and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The important local fishing and coastal tourism industries have also expressed concerns.

Fife council deputy leader Alex Thomson even argued that the move represented "the biggest single threat to Fife in the history of this council".

Safer

But Mr Laws countered by saying that ship-to-ship transfers were safer than traditional loading and discharging.

Moreover, as an oil industry centre, the Firth of Forth had all the right infrastructure in place. As such, it was in a better position to handle any accident than an isolated location.

Mr Laws also took issue with a spokesman for East Lothian, who told the Scotsman newspaper: "There is nothing

in it for us. All that we would gain was the inherent risk of a huge crude oil spill."

In fact, argued Mr Laws, the scheme would considerably benefit the local economy.

Services

Vessels would require pilotage, tugs, local agents and many more services, including hotels and taxis during crew changes.

A spokesman for Forth Ports confirmed that the company had fully evaluated the proposals and was totally behind them.

He added that an extensive risk assessment had been carried out on the company's behalf.

Forth Ports would also appoint well-respected Stena subsidiary Northern Marine to audit STS operations while in progress.

If the scheme did go ahead the amount of oil handled in the Firth of Forth would still be around 9% lower than that seen in 1998, the spokesman went on.

Tankers had already anchored at the proposed sites for many years.

In addition, all vessels involved in STS would be double-hulled.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
ARKLOW SPIRIT	general	IRL	BV	2,271	3,211	1995	Reported Jun 15 at Bromborough with engine problems.
BERNT OSKAR II	fishing	NOR	—	76	—	1954	Had fire break out in lat 67 49.7N, long 12 50.25E, Jun 10. Fire put out, towed into Ballstad.
CARIBE STAR	cement	PAN	—	4,071	6,947	1971	In collision with general cargo <i>Terry Uno</i> off Curacao Jun 10. Sustained bow damage and is at Curacao.
GEORG ESSBERGER	chem tanker	PMD	GL	3,790	5,771	2004	Anchored in the River Scheldt Jun 15 with engine trouble. Moved same day to Flushing for repairs and then proceeded in direction of Steenbank.
HAPPY STAR	container	KOR	KR	3,995	5,918	1996	LOF salvage services rendered Jun 3 in respect of grounding Kanmon Strait. Subsequently arrived Moji Jun 3 and sailed Jun 5.
IL JIN NO.3	general	KOR	—	978	—	—	In collision with bulk <i>Zhe Hai 128</i> in fog at Ulsan Jun 12. Sank as a result, leaking fuel and lubricating oil. Crew rescued.
JIANGSHAN	passenger	—	—	—	—	—	Had fire on fourth and fifth floor cabin decks, Jun 15, while at a wharf in Wushan. Whole vessel suffused with smoke. Extinguished same day. Investigation under way.
MORNING SPRAY	fishing	GBR	—	—	—	—	Reported engine failure, in sinking condition & crew taking to lifeboats in lat 53 04N, long 04 45W, Jun 9. Sank in lat 53 03.6N, long 04 44.9W.
MOUNTAIN BLOSSOM	chem/oil carrier	BHS	NV	11,598	19,993	1986	Sustained engine breakdown while transiting Dardanelles Jun 14. Anchored at Uzunburun. Completed repairs by own means and proceeded Jun 15.
NEW GLORY	general	DMA	NV	5,020	5,223	1983	Had fire on board in lat 01 58.8N, long 102 14.6E, Jun 11. 30% of vessel damaged. Fire brought under control and vessel taken in tow for Singapore. At Raffles Anchorage Jun 14.
NIKOLLA	general	PAN	—	1,160	1,120	1972	Wrecked on the rocks of Karaburuni Peninsula, Vlore, Jun 8, due to a freak wave. All eight crew rescued.
OSCAR DYSON	research	USA	AB ABS	2,218	796	2003	Returned to Kodiak Jun 3 after having mechanical problem at sea.
R21	barge	USA	—	883	—	—	Had fire south of Centreville, in Horse Shoe Bayou, St. Mary Parish 12 Jun 2005. All crew evacuated. Fire extinguished later.
TERRY UNO	general	PAN	GL	2,472	3,050	1984	In collision with cement <i>Caribe Star</i> off Curacao Jun 10. Subsequently sank. Crew rescued.
TEXAS GATOR	tug	USA	—	86	—	1967	Reported Jun 15 to have deliberately grounded on north side of Houston Ship Channel after experiencing shaft failure and taking water.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



A.P.STAR

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Kochi, Jun 14 -- On/about Jun 1/2, product tanker A.P.Star (14550 gt, built 1978) Indonesia for Rotterdam, experienced stormy weather in the Malacca Strait. The vessel reported an abnormal noise in the water ballast tank and accordingly, deviated to Kochi for repairs, arriving on Jun 8. "Port and starboard ballast tank wet and side wall crack was noticed" and repairs in the form of the replacement of the steel plate and welding are planned. No cargo was discharged. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Kochi, Jun 16 -- Product tanker A.P.Star: The repair by steel plate replacement on WBT 2S tank side walls and bottom web sheet undertaken and completed. Vessel sailed Jun 14 to Rotterdam. -- Lloyd's Agents.

AGENA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jun 15 -- General cargo Agena, Valletta for Poti, passed Istanbul Jun 3. Vessel subsequently passed Istanbul Jun 12 bound for Piraeus.

ALGONTARIO (Canada)

London, Jun 14 -- Bulk Algontario arrived at Thunder Bay on Jun 7 and on Jun 12, was assisted to the Dry-dock at Pascol Engineering by three tugs. The vessel will be having repairs done to its rudder and is expected to be there for about seven days.

ANDREW J.BARBERI (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 12 -- A press report, dated Jun 11, states: In an unexpected move, the judge presiding over the case of an assistant master who has pleaded guilty in the fatal crash of ferry Andrew J.Barberi in 2003 has scheduled a hearing to determine what role prescription medications might have played in the pilot's ability to operate the ferry. The assistant captain, Richard J.Smith, was at the controls of the Andrew J. Barberi, on the afternoon of Oct 15, 2003, when he lost consciousness shortly before the vessel hit a pier near the St. George terminal. Last August, Mr Smith pleaded guilty to 11 counts of seaman's manslaughter. Under federal sentencing guidelines, Mr Smith faces 21 to 27 months in prison. Prosecutors have asked the judge to impose a lengthier sentence, while Mr. Smith's defence lawyers have urged a shorter sentence. The judge, Edward R. Korman, has scheduled a fact-finding hearing for Tuesday (Jun 14) to learn more about the possible effects of Mr Smith's prescription medications on his state of mind. Mr Smith suffered from hypertension, insomnia, back pain

and other ailments. In an order dated May 2, Judge Korman, who is the chief judge of Federal District Court in Brooklyn, wrote that a probation report had questioned the assumption that the side effects from the medications "necessarily played a role in his losing control of the ferry." The order was surprising because the prosecutors and defence lawyers had agreed that Mr Smith fell asleep because of extreme fatigue, that he knew such fatigue impeded his abilities to pilot the ferry and that the medications exacerbated his fatigue. Indeed, in a memo filed yesterday, the prosecutors said that "the parties are in substantial or complete agreement on virtually every relevant factual issue" in the case. Mr Smith has acknowledged he was negligent, and even reckless, because he went to work despite his fatigue and disregarded the consequences. However, the government, in calling for a harsher sentence, has gone beyond that assertion, arguing that his use of sedating medications before the crash "was itself a separate conscious act of recklessness." Mr Smith's defence lawyers are likely to dispute that theory. In an April memo calling for a lesser sentence, they described him as "a model father, co-worker and citizen" whose "poor judgment on that day set in motion a chain of events with catastrophic consequences." In the memo filed yesterday, prosecutors said they planned to call four expert witnesses to support their theory of recklessness and to testify on Mr Smith's use of Tramadol, a pain reliever.

ANIARA (Singapore)

Piraeus, Jun 14 -- Vehicle Aniara remains at Hellenic Shipyards, Skaramanga, undergoing repairs. Estimated completion of repairs is unknown. -- Lloyd's Agents.

APOSTOLOVO (Malta)

London, Jun 9 -- Bulk Apostolovo was reported arriving at Trombetas, Brazil, at 1915 hrs, May 23 and sailing at 1325 hrs, May 24.

ARION (Panama)

Rio de Janeiro, Jun 13 -- General cargo Arion: Repairs are still in progress but there have been some delays and they are not now expected to be complete until mid-July. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ARKLOW SPIRIT (Republic of Ireland)

London, Jun 15 -- Understand that general cargo Arklow Spirit (2271 gt, built 1995) which arrived at Bromborough on Jun 12, remains in the port with engine problems.

ASL SANDERLING (Canada)

Halifax, Jun 9 -- Ro/ro ASL Sanderling completed repairs Jun 4 and departed Jun 5 for St. John's, Newfoundland, to resume schedule. -- Lloyd's Agents.

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

BASAVESHWARA (India)

Kochi, Jun 14 -- Product tanker Basaveshwara which arrived at Kochi Port on Jun 9 after repairing its starboard boiler, not the auxiliary boiler which had exploded. Understand that the auxiliary boiler is being replaced and that the work is still incomplete. The vessel is presently engaged in coastal service between Kochi and New Mangalore. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BERNT OSKAR II (Norway)

London, Jun 12 -- Following received from Bodo RCC, timed 0845, UTC: Fishing Bernt Oskar II (76 gt, built 1954) had fire break out in lat 67 49.7N, long 12 50.25E, on Friday afternoon (Jun 10). The fire has been put out and the vessel towed into Ballstad. It is believed the crew are no longer on board the vessel but they all are safe.

BONGGAYA 92 (Malaysia)

See "Celebes Sea" under "Piracy."

BRIENZERSEE

London, Jun 12 -- The 100-m long German inland tanker Brienzersee, 2,543 tons dwt, ran aground yesterday morning in the River Rhine near Oestrich. It was not until the evening that the river police able to find a suitable empty tanker to lighten the cargo destillaat (from a refinery). The vessel was aground all that time until midnight. Started pumping cargo out at 2130, local time. That evening the shipping traffic in the River Rhine was held up until midnight when Brienzersee was afloat again. Two police vessels and the assistance vessel Pilot were at the scene. Brienzersee, ran aground when she was overtaking another vessel and the current set her aside near the entrance of the side river Kleine Giess.

CAMILLA DESGAGNES (Canada)

London, Jun 10 -- Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1311, UTC: Ro/ro Camilla Desgagnes remains off New York. Final preparations are being made to tow the vessel to New York.

London, Jun 13 -- Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1315, UTC: Ro/ro Camilla Desgagnes was towed into New York at 1540, local time, Jun 11.

CARIBE STAR (Panama)

See Terry Uno.

CARNIVAL GLORY (Panama)

See under "Miscellaneous."

CHIHAYA MARU (Japan)

London, Jun 14 -- Cement Chihaya Maru arrived Yokohama Jun 12 from Ofunato.

Yokohama, Jun 15 -- Cement Chihaya Maru sailed Yokohama Jun 14 for Hakodate. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CHRISOPIGI LADY (Liberia)

Singapore, Jun 13 -- Product tanker Chrisopigi Lady is currently berthed

at Raffles Pier East, Singapore. Bulk Yue Shan is presently at Raffles Reserve Anchorage. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CLIPPER LANCASTER (Bahamas)

See under "Miscellaneous".

CRETE CEMENT (Bahamas)

Liverpool, Jun 15 -- General cargo Crete Cement arrived Liverpool Jun 14 from Turkey. -- Lloyd's Agents.

DORTHE DALSOE (Denmark)

London, Jun 13 -- A catalogue of errors led to a collision between a UK cargo ship and a Danish fishing boat, says a report. The collision between general cargo Scot Explorer, owned by Scotline, based in Romford, Essex, and fishing Dorthe Dalsoe took place in November 2004. The Maritime Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) says the accident happened due to a lack of crew on watch and a failure to use radar properly. Scot Explorer has since increased its manning levels. Scot Explorer was heading for Sweden carrying 2,000 of timber when it collided with Dorthe Dalsoe, which was seriously damaged. Investigators from the MAIB found the fishing vessel had a tired and inexperienced crew, and that it was not displaying proper lights. However, the report also says those on board Scot Explorer did not take the appropriate action. It says there was only one person on the ship's bridge, and another crew member who also acted as a look-out was attending to other responsibilities in the galley. It also found the radar system was not being used properly and says if it had been, the collision probably would not have happened. The report is recommending an independent study of safety levels for the manning of ships, and the use of look-outs on board.

London, Jun 15 -- Following received from Intrada Ships Management Ltd, dated today: Collision between fishing Dorthe Dalsoe and general cargo Scot Explorer: The Scot Explorer is not owned by Scotline but merely on time charter to them. There was no one on watch on the bridge of the Dorthe Dalsoe before the collision; the master had joined the inexperienced deck hand in the covered shelter deck from where he had virtually no external visibility; the master of the Dorthe Dalsoe had no nautical training and had no knowledge of the collision regulations; and it was the deck hand's first trip and he again had no nautical training.

ELEFThERIA (Panama)

London, Jun 10 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1050, UTC: Bulk Eleftheria is still aground. It is anticipated the vessel will be refloated on Jun 13.

London, Jun 13 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1010, UTC: Bulk Eleftheria was refloated at 0130, UTC, yesterday and is presently reloading cargo.

Copenhagen, Jun 13 -- Bulk Eleftheria came off the ground at 0130 yesterday and, after reloading grain,

proceeded to Kalundborg Fjord for examination by Danish maritime authorities today for possible damage. No damage was found and the authorities released the vessel. It resumed voyage today for Port Said. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Gothenburg, Jun 13 -- Three tugs initially did not succeed in refloating bulk Eleftheria. It was necessary to charter a vessel into which the cargo could be lightened. It is understood somewhere around 6-7,000 tons were offloaded before the ship could be pulled off the ground. Diver inspections have revealed no serious damage to the bottom. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Jun 13 -- Bulk Eleftheria has reloaded its cargo, but is still at Kalundborg Fjord until the State Inspectorate have completed their investigation. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

ELF (Cook Islands)

London, Jun 14 -- General cargo Elf arrived Szczecin Jun 10.

EMC 423 (U.S.A.)

Chicago, Jun 14 -- Eagan Marine informs that tank barge EMC 423 is scheduled to be scrapped in November. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FOSEN (Norway)

London, Jun 14 -- Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro Fosen has completed repairs and will return to normal service at 0530, local time, Jun 15.

FPSO JAMESTOWN (Vanuatu)

See "Warri Region, Nigeria" under "Piracy".

GALAXY (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A flash explosion on fish factory Galaxy was so violent it blasted three men out a small hatch into frigid waters triggered a dramatic sequence of heroism and death that, even measured against the Bering Sea's long legacy of commercial fishing tragedy, was extraordinary, according to a US Coast Guard report released yesterday. "It was a terrible accident that happened to one of the best boats in the fleet," said Lt. Cmdr. Chris Woodley of Anchorage, who investigated the Oct 20, 2002, demise of the Galaxy. Three crewmen died and 23 were rescued after an explosion and fire consumed the 180-foot vessel, which was fishing for Pacific cod about 30 miles south-west of St. Paul Island. Woodley laid out results of a two-year investigation yesterday plus recommendations to improve fishing industry safety. The Galaxy crew was reasonably trained to deal with emergencies, yet it made mistakes that might have contributed to the explosion in the engine-room, he said. In abandoning ship, several crewmen and Capt. David Shoemaker took heroic action to help fish ejected crewmen out of 43-degree water, to distribute survival suits to crewmen

cut off by flames and to get people into a life raft as the burning boat heaved in 15-foot seas, the Coast Guard report shows. A Coast Guard helicopter crew matched those feats, flying in close to send rescue swimmer Jason Quinn repeatedly into the water to help hoist up crewmen who were "standing on a frying pan" and had to leap 30 feet off the aft deck into the water. Other fishing boats rushed from miles away to save more Galaxy crewmen. Events unfolded quickly, and the crew had only four minutes to respond to the first signs of danger, Woodley said. "The crew had no way of knowing that an explosion was imminent," he said. Trouble started just after 1600 when crewmen saw smoke on multiple decks. The Galaxy was a freezer longliner, a steel-hulled vessel that catches fish using miles of baited hooks. The fish are pulled into a below-decks factory, where crewmen remove heads and guts and then freeze and box the fish. It was an old boat, built in 1942 in West Virginia as a mine layer for the Navy. In 1997, a Seattle company, Aleutian Spray Fisheries, bought the boat and converted it from a crab processor to a longliner. The refitted Galaxy was a top-notch fishing boat "run by one of the best operators," Woodley said. After learning of the smoke, the captain tripped the fire alarm, and the boat's firefighting team, led by chief mate Jerry Stephens, found black smoke pouring from an engine-room hatch. Under pressure and choking on smoke, the firefighters had trouble communicating with one another. Stephens then made a mistake, Woodley said. Believing a carbon dioxide system had already been discharged, which would have smothered flames in the unoccupied engine room, he ordered crew members to open exterior watertight doors to let in air and ventilate smoke. The team had made other mistakes, such as leaving the engine door open when standard procedure was to close all doors behind you. About 45 seconds after opening the ventilation doors an explosion erupted in the engine-room. Investigators still aren't certain exactly what set it off, likely a running generator, but they believe fresh air pouring into the engine-room caused a "backdraft explosion," an unpredictable flash that can occur when a rush of oxygen enters a space filled with something flammable. Massive pressure from the explosion launched three men, including Stephens, out a hatch measuring about three and a half feet by four feet at the very back of the boat. The hatch was used for deploying fishing lines. Other crewmen quickly threw down lines and buoys and pulled two of the overboard men to safety, but Stephens remained in the sea. Another crewman, Calvin Paniptchuk of Shaktoolik, donned a survival suit and jumped in to retrieve him. But Stephens was addled and couldn't help himself. Paniptchuk worked to exhaustion in strong current but couldn't save him. Fire broke out in

the Galaxy's wheelhouse, but Shoemaker managed to get off a Mayday to the Coast Guard, severely burning his arm in the process. He later would fall to a lower deck and suffer broken ribs. Flames separated crewmen who stood on either end until rescuers arrived. Aside from Stephens, who was never found, two others died: ship's cook George Karn, whose remains were found in Jun, 2003, on an island 450 miles away, and crewman Jose Rodas. All were Washington residents. The burned-over and abandoned Galaxy drifted aimlessly before sinking two days later in 1,000 feet of water, Coast Guard investigators believe. Since the accident, the Coast Guard and other organizations have given the helicopter crew, Shoemaker and crewmen awards for heroism. The toll could have been higher had the crew not had emergency training and had Shoemaker and other officers not kept their heads, Woodley said. The Coast Guard report makes a raft of recommendations, most calling for better training and education throughout the fishing fleet. In the wake of the Galaxy disaster, Coast Guard officers visited the 61 other boats in Alaska's head-and-gut cod fleet, checking emergency preparedness among a total of 1,600 crewmen. Coast Guard regulations require safety drills, but big problems were found on some boats, Woodley said. "It was really obvious that a lot of the boats weren't doing their drills. They were disorganized and just couldn't get it together," he said. John Young, an attorney and spokesman for the Galaxy's owner, Aleutian Spray, said the company agreed with the Coast Guard report. Some of the Galaxy's crew remain with the company, including Shoemaker, who is now Aleutian Spray's safety director, Young said. The Galaxy was "the pride of the fleet," he said, well-maintained with a good crew.

GENERAL JACKSON (Canada)

London, Jun 14 -- Tug General Jackson (237 gt, built 1958) lost propulsion resulting in striking a rock jetty at Steveston Bend near the Fraser River, B.C. in lat 49 07.50N, long 123 14W at 1019, Jun 11. No apparent damage.

GEORG ESSBERGER (Madeira)

Zeebrugge, Jun 15 -- Chem.tank Georg Essberger (3790 gt, built 2004) from Antwerp, anchored in the River Scheldt at 1411, local time, today, with engine trouble. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Zeebrugge, Jun 15 -- Chem.tank Georg Essberger raised anchor at 1415 and proceeded seawards, but at 1645, stopped and anchored in Flushing Roads, for repairs. At 1745, vessel raised anchor and proceeded in the direction of Steenbank. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note -- Georg Essberger sailed Antwerp 1132, Jun 15 for Tees.)

HALA

Piraeus, Jun 14 -- General cargo Hala is reported to have sunk. -- Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

HAPPY STAR (South Korea)

London, Jun 9 -- Understand salvage services were rendered to c.c. Happy Star (3995 gt, built 1996), loaded with containers, by Nippon Salvage Co Ltd under Lloyd's Open Form dated Jun 3 in respect of grounding in "Kanmon port," Kanmon Strait. (Note -- Happy Star sailed Mishima-Kawanoe Jun 1, arrived Moji Jun 3 and sailed Jun 5.)

HORIZON 9 (St. Kitts-Nevis)

Karachi, Jun 16 -- General cargo Horizon 9 sailed Pakistan yesterday evening for Fujarah instead of Iraq. Vessel is expected to undergo re-inspection of repair work carried out in Karachi. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

IKA NO.7

Suva, Jun 14 -- Vessel Ika No.7 is still lying in Suva Harbour under Fiji Customs custody. -- Lloyd's Agents.

IL JIN NO.3 (South Korea)

See Zhe Hai 128.

JAVA SEA (Singapore)

London, Jun 14 -- Following received from the agents of general cargo Java Sea, dated today: Java Sea is presently tied up at Cairns, undergoing cleaning operations. No decision has yet been taken regarding repairs.

JESSICA B. (Antigua & Barbuda)

Zeebrugge, Jun 13 -- C.c. Jessica B. arrived Antwerp Jun 11 from Le Havre and sailed Jun 12 for Dublin. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

JIANGSHAN

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated Jun 14, states: A luxury passenger liner carrying more than 460 sightseers, including 16 foreigners, and 50 sailors caught fire today at a wharf in Wushan, a city of south-western China's Chongqing Municipality, local police said. No casualties were caused in the fire. The fire broke out at around 0710 today after passenger Jiangshan, shipping in the Yangtze River from Chongqing to Yichang, a city of central China's Hubei Province, moored at the No. 9 wharf in Wushan port. Witness said the fire burst out in a cabin on the fourth floor and quickly spread to the fifth, leaving the whole vessel suffused with heavy smoke. Fortunately, most passengers were on the bank for sightseeing when the accident happened and some 80 tourists on board were quickly evacuated from the vessel, according to the police. Local authorities and firemen rushed to the scene, and the fire was extinguished at 0900 hrs. Investigation into the cause and estimates of the losses are under way.

JIN PACIFIC (Panama)

London, Jun 10 -- Bulk Jin Pacific arrived at Jubail on Jun 3. (See issue of May 26.)

KABALEGA (Uganda)

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated Jun 12, states: The wreckage of

sunken ro/ro Kabalega has been located on the bed of Lake Victoria. Two deep-sea divers made the discovery on Thursday afternoon. Works Minister Eng John Nasasira said on Friday, "They are currently working on their salvage plan, but the good news is they have sighted the ferry, which is lying tilted on the floor of the lake." He said the divers from M/s SubTech Diving and Marine, Durban, had not assessed the magnitude of the damage to the vessel. Earlier in the week the minister inaugurated a five-man commission of inquiry, led by former Attorney General Bart Katureebe, to investigate the sinking of the ferry. Three technical advisers from the International Maritime Organisation, Capt. Edwards Agbakoba, a marine safety administration expert, Dr. Ademun Odeke, a marine legislation expert, both based in London and Capt. Ernest Okkert Grapow, a marine salvage expert from South Africa will assist the commission. Tim Cooper, the owner of Bulago Islands on Lake Victoria, who went with the divers to the accident spot, said it took them four hours to locate the vessel, which was lying upside down, 150 feet on the bed of the lake. Sources said given the length of time it has taken to locate the wreck, the ferry had become covered with mud, which may add to the retrieval cost. The discovery came after futile attempts by divers from the Kenya Ports Authority and Alpha Logistics from Tanzania to locate the vessel.

KAVAJA (Albania)

London, Jun 14 -- General cargo Kavaja arrived Bari Jun 11. (See issue of Mar 10.)

KIPEROUSA (Malta)

London, June 10 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0350, UTC: Bulk Kiperousa: Situation remains unchanged, with salvors in attendance.

London, Jun 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Attempts to refloat stranded bulk Kiperousa failed, but would be attempted again this evening, the South African Maritime Safety Authority (Samsa) said. Spokesperson Captain Peter Kroon said today that the cable between the tug and the vessel had come undone on the first pull yesterday evening. "She hasn't moved, she is still sitting there," he said. Samsa would try again at around 1800 today when the tide would be at its highest. "The weather is fine, the wind is down, the swell is down, and we'll use a bigger, better, stronger cable," Kroon said. Kiperousawas en route from Gabon to Durban to take in fuel oil when it ran aground on a reef off Bhenga, just south of Hamburg in the Eastern Cape, on Tuesday (Jun 7).

London, Jun 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Another attempt will be made today to refloat beached bulk Kiperousa off the coast of East London, after the tow broke during yesterday's attempt, the SA Maritime

Safety Authority (Samsa) said. Spokesperson Captain Peter Kroon said another attempt would be made during high tide this evening at about 1900 hrs. A helicopter capable of lifting eight tons was being flown in with wires and chains to create a stronger connection when refloating the log-carrier. Small amounts of oil were leaking from the ship, but Samsa said the slick was very thin and was dispersing naturally. Pollution response teams from the Department of Environmental Affairs were on stand-by if the leakage increased.

London, Jun 12 -- A press report, dated Jun 11, states: Attempts to salvage bulk Kiperousa off the Eastern Cape coast have been suspended until Monday (Jun 13). Terry Tailor, Port control spokesperson, said they had decided to fly in a specialist salvage master from overseas to assist with the operation. He said attempts to refloat it would resume as soon as the salvage specialist arrived in the country.

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Attempts to refloat bulk Kiperousa have still not succeeded. A spokesman for the SA Maritime Safety Authority, Capt Peter Kroon, said a tug had gone out to the vessel and was connected to it. Salvors were working on board. He said that since heavy equipment had arrived he hoped new efforts to refloat Kiperousa would now be successful. The authority had given permission for the salvage operation to go ahead without the oil being removed from the carrier on Thursday. Small amounts of oil were leaking but the slick was very thin and was dispersing naturally. The other hazard was that the cargo of heavy logs could enter the water, where they would be a hazard to other vessels, he said. (See issue of Jun 14.)

Piraeus, Jun 14 -- Bulk Kiperousa: Salvage operations are still in hand. -- Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Maritime authorities were pumping water into the tanks of beached bulk Kiperousa off the coast of East London this afternoon to hold it steady during an approaching storm. SA maritime safety authority (Samsa) spokesperson Peter Kroon said an attempt would be made to refloat the vessel once the storm, expected arrive on tonight, had passed. "They are stabilising the ship's position at moment by pumping water into ballast tanks so that she doesn't move," Kroon said. "They will attempt to refloat her once storm has passed." Attempts to refloat the Kiperousa were unsuccessful yesterday.

East London, Jun 13 -- Bulk Kiperousa, Port Gentil for Far East, cargo of logs, aground in position lat 33 21S, long 27 25E at 1000, Jun 7. Salvage team on site since Jun 8, unsuccessful so far. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Maritime authorities are looking to Monday's (Jun 20) spring tide off the coast of

East London to assist in refloating beached bulk Kiperousa. "We are waiting for spring tide and nice swells," said Peter Kroon, the SA Maritime Safety Authority (Samsa) spokesperson. He said yesterday's bad weather was not as bad as they had hoped for. Bad weather would have created bigger swells, which would bounce the ship around, making it easier to refloat it.

KOTA GEMBIRA (Singapore)

London, Jun 10 -- C.c. Kota Gembira arrived at Aden on May 23, sailing the next day for Singapore, where it arrived at 1606 hrs, May 31. The vessel departed from Singapore at 0140 hrs, Jun 2, destination Shekou.

LAGARFOSS (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jun 12 -- C.c. Lagarfoss (7869 gt, built 1995), which was leaking a toxic gas off the Scottish coast, was allowed to continue its voyage to Iceland yesterday. The vessel contacted Aberdeen Coastguard about the leak of ammonia just after midnight yesterday. The vessel's 18 crew were confined to quarters and the gas finally dispersed around 0700 hrs. The Lagarfoss had been waiting about five miles off the coast of Aberdeen for chemicals experts to arrive and contain the leak.

LT LLOYDIANA (Italy)

Singapore, Jun 13 -- C.c. LT Lloydiana is still berthed at Tuas Temasek Pier East, Singapore. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MARVITA (Malta)

London, Jun 14 -- General cargo Marvita, which was towed to Hull Apr 14 for repairs after engine problems, sailed Hull Jun 12 for Hamburg.

MASSACHUSETTS (U.S.A.)

Suva, Jun 14 -- Trawler Massachusetts is still in port at Suva, awaiting potential buyers. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MEGA EXPRESS (Italy)

See "Corsica, France" under "Pollution".

MILKYWAY (Liberia)

London, June 10 -- Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0155, UTC: Crude oil tanker Milkyway arrived off Brisbane last night and should berth this evening.

London, Jun 12 -- Crude oil tanker Milkyway arrived Brisbane Jun 10.

MORNING SPRAY (U.K.)

London, Jun 9 -- Following received from Coastguard Holyhead MRSC, timed 2049, UTC: Fishing Morning Spray, MADX4, 21 metres long, reported in sinking condition and crew taking to lifeboats in lat 53 04N, long 04 45W at 1909, UTC. All three crew rescued by helicopter and airlifted to Holyhead MRSC, no medical assistance required. Vessel sank in lat 53 03.6N, long 04 44.9W.

London, Jun 10 -- A press release from the Maritime and Coastguard

Agency, dated Jun 9, states: At 2007 Holyhead Coastguard received a Mayday on VHF channel 16 from the fishing vessel Morning Spray, with three persons on board, reporting that they had engine failure, were listing badly and taking in water and were about to abandon ship. All relevant information was supplied calmly to the Coastguard by the skipper making the Mayday call. Holyhead Coastguard immediately launched a search and rescue operation sending Rescue helicopter 122 from RAF Valley to the scene along with Porthdinllaen lifeboat. The Morning Spray was sinking about 15 miles north of Bardsey Island. The crew abandoned the vessel and got into a life raft and resumed contact with the Coastguard using their hand held VHF radio. The rescue helicopter located the life raft and winched the three crew on board the aircraft by 2024. They were not in need of medical attention and were transferred to Holyhead Coastguard station. The three men are aged between 40 and 55 years from Holyhead. Porthdinllaen lifeboat retrieved the drifting life raft and reported that the 21 metre vessel had sunk.

MOUNTAIN BLOSSOM (Bahamas)

Istanbul, Jun 15 -- Chemical/oil carrier Mountain Blossom (11598 gt, built 1986), Yarimca for Gibraltar, while transiting Dardanelles sustained engine breakdown at 1740, local time, Jun 14. Vessel anchored at Uzunburun. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Istanbul, Jun 16 -- Chemical/oil carrier Mountain Blossom completed repairs by own means and upon inspection/formalities sailed from Canakkale at 2215, local time, Jun 15. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MSC ELENI (Panama)

London, Jun 10 -- C.c. MSC Eleni sailed from Antwerp at 1545 hrs, Jun 9, bound for Charleston.

MSC KATIE (Panama)

Durban, Jun 15 -- C.c. MSC Katie arrived Durban Jun 14 from Singapore. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NEPTUNE DELIMA (Malaysia)

See "Langkawi Area, Malaysia" under "Piracy".

NEW GLORY (Dominica)

London, Jun 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: General cargo New Glory (5020 gt, built 1983), Singapore for Port Klang, was put to a halt near Pulau Undan when the crew discovered that the engine-room had caught fire, a blaze which was to subsequently cause 30% of damage to the entire vessel. Nineteen crewmembers, including captain Dionisio Vicente, all from the Philippines, managed to contain the fire by shutting all doors leading to the engine-room, said ASP Rodzi Abu Hassan, the commanding officer of Marine Police. No one was hurt in the incident, he said, adding that Marine Police got a call from the Maritime

Rescue Co-ordinating Centre based in Port Klang at 0400 yesterday. The cause of the fire was still unknown, he added. "We are monitoring the situation and will be visiting the vessel again at low tide," he said. ASP Rodzi said the vessel was supposed to head for India after a stopover at Port Klang. Marine Police corporal Arif Ahmad said he could not go near the engine-room of the five-deck vessel earlier due to the heat. The fire damaged electronic equipment in the vessel, besides an office, resting lounge, galley and several other rooms.

London, Jun 12 -- Following received from Malaysia MRCC, timed 0710, UTC: General cargo New Glory had fire on board in lat 01 58.8N, long 102 14.6E, at 0300, local time, Jun 11. The fire was brought under control and the vessel taken in tow, no further assistance required. The vessel is being towed to Singapore and has probably already reached Singaporean waters.

London, Jun 15 -- Following received from Singapore Port Operations, dated today: General cargo New Glory arrived Singapore Jun 14 and is presently anchored at the Raffles anchorage.

NIKOLAY CHIKER (Russia)

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tug Nikolay Chiker (5250 gt, built 1989), which was trying to move the stranded bulk Kiperousa from the rocks, hit the ocean bottom yesterday and damaged itself, necessitating repairs in the harbour at East London. The tug hit the ocean bottom and damaged the area around its propeller, which was hitting the guard nozzle, South African Maritime Safety Authority spokesman Captain Peter Kroon said yesterday afternoon. The vessel came into the harbour at East London and was inspected by divers who were busy repairing the vessel late yesterday. (Also see Kiperousa.)

NIKOLLA (Panama)

Trieste, Jun 13 -- General cargo Nikolla (1160 gt, built 1972), Igoumenitsa for Shengjin, with a cargo of bricks, was wrecked on the rocks of Karaburun Peninsula, Vlore, about 1400, Jun 8, apparently due to a freak wave. The eight crewmen on board were rescued by a vessel of the Italian Finance Guards. Local authorities fear massive pollution if fuel is released from the wreck's tanks. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NORMANDY (Bahamas)

See "Ireland-France Ferry Dispute" under "Miscellaneous."

NORSEMAN

Tunis, Jun 14 -- Unknown Norseman: Owners have started the tug repairs by opening the engine. Some spare parts will be imported from Malta, therefore, ETC unknown. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NORWEGIAN DAWN (Bahamas)

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated Jun 14, states: Norwegian Cruise Lines is facing a lawsuit from 24 passengers battered in a storm as their vessel raced back to New York for an appearance in the TV show The Apprentice. The lawsuit was filed in Miami by passengers who were on board passenger Norwegian Dawn on Apr 15 as the vessel sailed from Florida back to New York. The vessel encountered a massive storm with 70-foot waves that swamped decks and rocked the vessel as people were hurled from their bunks. In the suit, passengers said the vessel could have avoided the storm by staying in port or taking another course. The line has acknowledged the ship was to have made a \$1 million cameo appearance on The Apprentice two days later, as reported by the New York Post, but denied the master, Niklas Peterstam, was under any pressure to hurry back to New York. "They deliberately took those passengers into a serious storm and put their lives at risk for financial reasons," lawyer Brett Rivkind said.

OSCAR DYSON (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated Jun 14, states: The new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration research vessel Oscar Dyson (2218 gt, built 2003) returned to port on Kodiak Island after encountering mechanical problems at sea. The vessel is currently undergoing repairs at the US Coast Guard Base. Executive officer of the vessel Todd Bridgeman said two problems appeared after the Oscar Dyson went underway Jun 1. The first issue with an on board generator has since been repaired. However, the crew is still working to repair problems in the main engine. Bridgeman said NOAA is flying in extra people from the design office today to examine the engine. The repairs are taking time, he said, because the Oscar Dyson is the first vessel in its class. Three more vessels like the Oscar Dyson are planned and NOAA personnel are studying the engine issues to avoid similar problems for future vessels. "We would rather have repairs done right than fast," Bridgeman said, adding the crew is working seven days a week on the problem. Bridgeman said the repairs to the vessel can be done locally using local companies. However, Bridgeman said the repairs don't amount to a breakdown of the vessel. He said the vessel is still in its "shakedown" phase where new equipment is tested under real conditions at sea. Issues like these can occur during the shakedown period, Bridgeman said. Most importantly, the vessel is still under warranty. The time to repair the vessel sets the Oscar Dyson summer research and testing schedule back somewhat, Bridgeman said. Plans are set to test the vessel's acoustic equipment early in October in the Ketchikan area and then winter over the vessel in Seattle for further equipment upgrades. The Oscar Dyson

was commissioned in Kodiak May 28 in a ceremony attended by Sen. Ted Stevens and NOAA administrators. (Note -- Oscar Dyson arrived Kodiak Jun 3.)

PHOENIX BETA (Hong Kong)

London, Jun 12 -- Crude oil tanker Phoenix Beta sailed Antwerp at 2230, Jun 10, for Braefoot Bay.

QUINAULT (U.S.A.)

Seattle, Jun 15 -- Repairs to ro/ro Quinault are proceeding on schedule, ETC Jun 22. -- Lloyd's Agents.

R21 (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated Jun 13, states: More than two dozen oil workers from barge R21 (883 gt, built 1977) were evacuated early Jun 12 after the inland barge they were on board caught fire. It happened around 0500 hrs just south of Centerville in Horse Shoe Bayou in Saint Mary Parish. Investigators tell say the fire started in the laundry room on board the barge operated by Coastal Drilling. Twenty-nine workers were on board when the fire started. Lt. Jeremy Green of the Saint Mary Parish Sheriffs Dept. said he thinks it is the metal portion of the living quarters that were burning. It started in the laundry room, they tried to put it out but it got out of control and various other things on the barge caught fire. Lt Green says fortunately everyone was evacuated safely. There were no reports of injuries. It took firefighters all morning to put out the blaze.

RENES (Malta)

London, Jun 14 -- General cargo Renes, which had explosion and fire on board at Tuzla Feb 6, arrived Constantza Jun 13.

RICH SPRING (Cambodia)

London, Jun 10 -- Following received from Coast Guard Japan, timed 0215 today: General cargo Rich Spring carried out emergency repair to a damaged part of the ship. Vessel was then taken in tow by a sistership and started the navigation to Najin, North Korea, at 0545 UTC, Jun 7.

ROSEBANK (U.K.)

London, Jun 10 -- General cargo Rosebank, now renamed Rosethorn, under St. Vincent & Grenadines flag, departed from Rotterdam on Jun 4, bound for Liepaja.

SCHIEBORG (Netherlands)

London, Jun 10 -- Bremerhaven shipyard SSW has completed extensive repairs to fire-damaged ro/ro Schieborg. The vessel returned to liner service between Gothenburg and Zeebrugge yesterday. The four-month long repairs were complicated by distortion of the vessel's hull and included several dockings in the floating dock of Bredo yard.

SCOT EXPLORER (U.K.)

See Dorthe Dalsoe.

SCOT EXPLORER (United Kingdom)

See Dorthe Dalsoe.

SEA ASTRIDE (Panama)

London, Jun 10 -- Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1530, UTC: General cargo Sea Astride ex Triton IV (298 gt, built 1966), Puerto Rico for Haiti, 14 persons on board, ran aground off Cabo Rojo at 2047, last night. Vessel remains aground and salvage negotiations are underway.

London, Jun 11 -- Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1308, UTC: A diver inspection yesterday evening revealed that general cargo Sea Astride did not actually run aground. The vessel remains anchored in the vicinity. The intention is to restart its engines later today and resume passage to St.Maarten.

London, Jun 13 -- Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1350, UTC: General cargo Sea Astride is currently moored at Mayaguez, PR, effecting repairs. (See issue of Jun 14.)

London, Jun 15 -- Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1440, UTC: General cargo Sea Astride is still at Mayaguez, awaiting Coast Guard inspectors.

SEA BEE (Mongolia)

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated Jun 14, states: The body of welder Pham Van Xoe, who was on board general cargo Sea Bee which sank off China, is scheduled to arrive at Noi Bai International Airport on Jun 14. According to the Vietnam Marine University, Xoe was the third found so far of the 23 on board the vessel, which sank on May 1 about 100 nautical miles off Shanghai's coast on the international sea route. The university, the owner of the sunken vessel, has spent roughly US\$60,000 in locating and repatriating the three bodies. It said that total expenses of the search for the crew are estimated at US\$150,000. The cause of the accident has not yet been determined and investigations are still going on. In October of 2004, work began to upgrade the vessel at a total cost of US\$390,000. It was approved by the Vietnamese Shipping Registry and Checking Agency for operations on the international sea route. The Viet Nam Insurance Corporation (Bao Viet) has said that the families of each of the 23 sailors on board the vessel will receive US\$25,000, the highest compensation for humans paid out by Bao Viet so far.

STARLUCK (Cyprus)

Buenos Aires, Jun 10 -- On Jun 8 lightering operations of approximately 7,000 tonnes of cargo from bulk Starluck to general cargo BBC Sealand commenced. Lightering operations are underway and upon completion of the same, attempts to refloat the vessel will be performed. Upon refloating the vessel will be towed for inspection to Necochea Roads or the Port of Quequen. To date,

no spillage has been reported as a consequence of the casualty. Apparently the cargo did not sustain damage. Ingress of water was reported only into the fore peak and fore double bottom tanks as a consequence of the grounding. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Buenos Aires, Jun 13 -- Bulk Starluck refloated with the assistance of two tugs at 2030, local time, Jun 11. On Jun 12, underwater inspection approximately five miles from the coast was performed. Damages in way of vessel's double bottom tanks were noted. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SVANOY (Norway)

London, Jun 14 -- Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Ro/ro Svanoy (2631 gt, built 1992) when arriving Flakk from Roervik, made hard contact to pier at 1345, local time, Jun 13. Vessel sustained damage to bow section. No injuries to the passengers and crew and no damage to the cars on board. The ferry has now been taken out of service and replaced by Ytteroy II.

SVEAFJELL (Norway)

London, Jun 9 -- General cargo Sveafjell was reported arriving at Kirkenes on Jun 4 and also reported sailing later the same day, bound for Aalesund.

TERRY UNO (Panama)

London, Jun 14 -- Following received from Curacao RCC, timed 1230, UTC: General cargo Terry Uno (2472 gt, built 1984) was in collision with cement Caribe Star (4071 gt, built 1971) from Aruba, off Curacao at about 1715, local time, Jun 10. Terry Uno sank as a result of the collision. Crew were safely rescued, no oil spill. Caribe Star sustained bow damage and is at Curacao.

TEXAS GATOR (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 16 -- A press report, dated Jun 15, states: A vessel has grounded on the north side of the Houston Ship Channel between lights 100-102, east of the Fred Hartman (146) Bridge. Salvage operations are due to begin in the morning. The grounded vessel does not obstruct the channel, however, VTS recommends a slow bell in that area.

London, Jun 16 -- Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, dated Jun 15: Tug Texas Gator, inbound, pushing two empty barges, experienced shaft failure and started taking water. The vessel ran itself aground to prevent sinking. T & T Marine have been contracted to salvage the vessel.

THERASSIA (Greece)

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Southwest Pass (SWP) at New Orleans is open again after crude oil tanker Therassia (56127 gt, built 1997) ran aground at 0300, yesterday morning. The SWP was closed to outbound vessels with a draft greater than 37 feet. However, this transit restriction was lifted after the vessel was refloated at 1105, local time.

THIA CHRYSOULA (Cyprus)

Pohang, Jun 15 -- Bulk Thia Chryssoula sailed Pohang Jun 14 for Fukuyama. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

TRINITY (Marshall Islands)

London, Jun 9 -- Chemical/oil carrier Trinity arrived at Singapore at 0940 hrs, May 24 and sailed at 2130 hrs, Jun 7.

VERA (Luxembourg)

London, Jun 13 -- Chem.tank Vera arrived Milford Haven Jun 9 from Newhaven and sailed same day for Antwerp, where arrived Jun 12.

VOLGO-BALT 234 (Russia)

See under "Miscellaneous".

YUE SHAN (Panama)

See Chrisopigi Lady.

ZHE HAI 128 (China)

Busan, Jun 13 -- General cargo Il Jin No.3 (978 gt, built 1985), Yosu for Donghae with 2,200 tones limestone, was in collision with bulk Zhe Hai 128 (15786 gt, built 1985) at Ulsan, at about 0519, Jun 12. Il Jin No.3 sank as a result of this collision, leaking fuel and lubricating oil over an area some 600 metres by three miles. All eight crew-members were safely rescued by Marine Police boats. Zhe Hai 128 reportedly sustained very minor damage to its bow area, and is presently lying anchored at Ulsan outer harbour anchorage for inspection and investigation. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Korean cargo vessel (general cargo Il Jin No.3) sank after being in collision with a much larger Chinese vessel (bulk Zhe Hai 128) in heavy fog off Korea's south coast near Ulsan yesterday morning. All crew-members were rescued. The 978-ton Korean vessel, was carrying limestone from Yecheon port, South Jeolla province. The Chinese vessel was en route to Onsan port in Ulsan, carrying 4,500 tons of iron ore. The collision occurred at 0519, local time, about 4.5 kilometres from Ulsan. All eight of the Korean vessel's crew-members were rescued by Ulsan maritime police. Oil leaked from the Korean vessel, forming a slick estimated to be 600 metres wide and 5.5 kilometres long. The slick was carried north-east and did not affect the coastline. The maritime police are investigating the collision. The Chinese vessel was also damaged but none of its 23-person crew was hurt.

**BONGGAYA 91 (MALAYASIA)**

See "Celebes Sea" under "Piracy".

CELEBES SEA

London, Jun 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Government troops today recovered two crew-members from tug Bonggaya 91 who were kidnapped by suspected Muslim extremist guerrillas in March near the country's sea border with Malaysia, Philippine military chief Gen Efren Abu said. The two Indonesians were recovered safely before dawn by troops on southern Jolo island, where the captives were taken after being kidnapped by suspected Abu Sayyaf guerrillas on Mar 30, military officials said. One other Indonesian crewman was seized with the two and remained in captivity, officials said. Abu did not immediately provide details about the Indonesians' recovery but said arrangements were being made to fly them to Manila later today. The Indonesian Embassy in Manila thanked the government and local authorities for helping the Indonesians regain their freedom. The Indonesians were sailing near Malaysia's Sabah state on Borneo island when they were seized by armed men on board another motor boat and taken to the southern Philippines. They were brought to Jolo, a violent region about 940 kilometers south of Manila, military officials said.

Manila, Jun 14 -- Tug Bonggaya 91: The remaining Indonesian crewman held hostage in southern Philippines is a captive of a faction of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group somewhere in the Island of Sulu. Two Indonesian seafarers freed from their Muslim terrorist captors Sunday (Jun 12) said that they were separated from tug's master Ahmad Rumiati prior to their rescue. During a debriefing conducted by Philippine military officials, they said that Rumiati was handed over to a different faction of the Abu Sayyaf. He was in good health when they last saw him, they recounted. Military officials said that occasionally, captives would be sold by their captors to other terrorist groups to raise funds. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

IRAQ

London, Jun 8 -- Pirates armed with AK-47 assault rifles attacked the crew of a large oil tanker waiting to load crude at Iraq's Basra oil terminal before making off with cash, an ocean crime watchdog said today. The raid happened at night on May 31 some 10 nautical miles from Iraq's deep water oil terminal where most of its crude oil is exported. "They tried to enter the bridge claiming to be policemen. The master denied them entry and the pirates became violent...they assaulted the master causing him injuries and demanded money," the IMB said in a report. A coalition warship arrived to assist following a mayday signal. Jayant Abhyankar, deputy director of the IMB, told Reuters the incident raised questions about security at the oil terminal, Iraq's main outlet for the oil exports which provide nearly all of its income. Security was stepped up last year at the southern Basra oil

terminal after al Qaeda's al-Zarqawi group carried out suicide boat attacks at the terminal. In late April 2005 security was also increased at the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr after an armed gang raided a vessel carrying Australian wheat. The ship was at anchor some distance from the port when the incident occurred. -- Reuters.

LANGKAWI AREA, MALAYSIA

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: A crewman of the product tanker Nepline Delima (4629 gt, built 1995) hijacked by pirates off Langkawi yesterday has been arrested for alleged involvement in the incident. The man, in his 30s, was remanded today together with the 10 pirates. It is learnt that several more arrests are expected with further progress in investigations. The group of heavily armed pirates boarded the vessel early yesterday morning but surrendered after a 12-hour drama on the high seas. Their downfall was brought about by a 28-year-old sailor who dived into the sea, stole their speedboat and returned with five police patrol vessels, including a PZ15 gunboat. The PZ15 gunboat commander then negotiated with the pirates. After more than three hours, they were persuaded to surrender peacefully at 1540 hrs.

MALACCA STRAIT

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Suspected Indonesian pirates hijacked a Malaysian-registered tanker today, held the crew hostage for nearly 12 hours and threatened to blow the vessel up, before surrendering to police and naval forces who laid siege on the ship, officials said. Ten pirates armed with rifles attacked the vessel before dawn off Malaysia's northern Langkawi island in the Malacca Strait, said marine police commander Abdul Rahman Ahmad. One of the tanker's 19 crew members escaped on a smaller boat and alerted mainland authorities, Abdul Rahman said. The tanker was carrying diesel and oil products from Port Klang in western Malaysia to Myanmar. The standoff ended six hours after police chased down and surrounded the ship, he said. The pirates, believed to be Indonesians, initially threatened to blow the tanker up, but after negotiations with police they surrendered, casting their rifles into the sea, said Noel Choong, head of the International Maritime Bureau's piracy watch centre in Kuala Lumpur. The attack was the seventh this year in the strait.

WARRI REGION, NIGERIA

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The wife of a British oil worker today claimed he was being held hostage by armed hijackers in Nigeria. Tony Gouldbourne, 43, from Liverpool, is on board a United States-owned, floating production FPSO Jamestown (19733 gt, built 1957) off the coast of the troubled Warri-region. Around 50 men

are understood to have taken over the vessel demanding money from the company. Mr Gouldbourne's wife Mary said the hijackers allowed him to call home to let his family know he was safe. A spokeswoman for the Foreign Office said they were aware of reports of the incident and were investigating.

London, Jun 16 -- Liverpool oil worker Tony Gouldbourne has been released by his Nigerian captors. A gang of rebels stormed the floating production FPSO Jamestown where Mr Gouldbourne, was working and held him and his colleagues hostage at gunpoint. Daughter Danielle, said "The Foreign Office rang to say my dad has been released and the hijackers have all left."

Seizures & Arrests



ASUNCION XI (Philippines)

Manila, Jun 14 -- Philippine registered coastal general cargo Asuncion XI (110 dwt) was detained Sunday (Jun 12) as it was about to leave the Port of Manila's North Harbour terminal for Palawan. The vessel was held in port after Philippine Coast Guard personnel discovered four boxes containing 200 kilos of ammonium nitrate onboard during a routine inspection. Coast Guard officials said that all that was needed for the confiscated items to be used as explosives were blasting caps. Officials said that the explosives were earmarked for Palawan in western Philippines. Asuncion XI is owned by Manila-based San Nicholas Shipping Lines. - Correspondents.

Manila, Jun 15 -- The Philippine Coast Guard said that it had released Philippine-registered general cargo Asuncion XI after it was detained Sunday (Jun 12) for carrying explosive chemicals. The vessel was allowed to leave the Port of Manila's North Harbour terminal for Palawan on the same day, after the 200 kilos of ammonium nitrate contained in four boxes were unloaded and brought to the Manila office of the Philippine Coast Guard. The vessel was held in port after Philippine Coast Guard personnel discovered the ammonium nitrate in its cargo hold during a routine inspection. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

CAN GIO (Honduras)

London, Jun 11 -- A press report, dated Jun 10, states: The trial of the dispute over a Vietnamese vessel detained in Tanzania, scheduled to be convened today, was adjourned sine die, according to representatives of the Vietnamese vessel's owner. The Tanzania High court did not give any reason for the delay, said Pham Ngoc Son, Vice CEO of Saigon Sea Shipping Company which owns general cargo

Can Gio. The seizure of the Can Gio since July 2004 resulted from a trade dispute between Tanzania's Mohammed Enterprises and Vietnam's Thanh Hoa Company Ltd., in which the ship had no direct connection to either company. Five sailors of the ship's crew of 12 are still on board, Son said. Besides its lawyers, the Vietnamese company has also consulted a French PhD Law of Vietnamese origin on the case, he added.

CEM TRADER (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Istanbul Jun 10 -- Cement Cem Trader, now renamed Deniz Ati under North Korean flag, sailed Tuzla Jun 3 for Tuzla anchorage. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Cem Trader arrived at Tuzla May 14, 2003, and was arrested due to owners' unpaid debt.)

HERKULES II (Poland)

Maassluis, Jun 15 -- Tug Herkules II is currently under arrest at the Wilhelminahaven in Dordrecht. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

JACKIE MOON (Antigua & Barbuda)

Maassluis, Jun 14 -- Reported that general cargo Jackie Moon will leave tomorrow under the name Ash. Vessel is no longer under arrest. -- Lloyd's Sub-Agents.

LOLITA (Philippines)

See Margarita.

MARGARITA (Philippines)

Manila, Jun 16 -- Non specific tankers Margarita and Lolita are still being held at Manila, pending resolution of their cases. -- Lloyd's Agents.

OSTWIND (Antigua & Barbuda)

Maassluis, Jun 15 -- General cargo Ostwind has been released from arrest at Vlaardingen. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

SANTORINI SKY (Greece)

Piraeus, Jun 14 -- Ro/ro Santorini Sky still remains under arrest and a new auction is scheduled for Sep 7. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ST.TROPEZ (Bahamas)

London, Jun 14 -- Passenger St.Tropez (9511 gt, built 1974) was arrested in Florida after a US bankruptcy judge granted a creditors' request to pursue remedies outside his court to recover their dues. The case had dwelt in a legal vacuum after the vessel's charterer, Florida Entertainment LLC, filed for bankruptcy in February. About 150 foreign crew members had not been paid since May. US marshals seized the vessel on Friday (Jun 10) after Judge Paul Hyman turned down a proposal by bankruptcy trustee Kenneth Welt to sell the vessel under the bankruptcy court's auspices. Creditors had opposed the proposal. National Maritime Services, a division of National Liquidators of Fort Lauderdale, has been appointed

substitute custodian and assumed charge of the vessel and the unpaid crew. Creditors and crew are now expected to move for a sale of the vessel in admiralty court. The arrest and appointment of a substitute custodian appears to mean that the vessel's crew, a majority of whom come from the Philippines, will now be able to go home on National Maritime Services' tab, with a reasonable expectation of being paid later. The bankruptcy trustee was responsible for vessel and crew maintenance thus far, but wage payments were understood to have stopped in May. The crew are said to be owed a total of \$130,000. This amount is expected to be recouped from the auction proceeds. St.Tropez is owned by S Navigation II, which chartered the vessel in November, 2002, to Southern Navigation I. The charterer is believed to have changed its name to Florida Entertainment LLC in March, 2003. Florida Entertainment LLC's bankruptcy filing in February this year scuppered a federal arrest order on the ship issued in January upon a claim filed by the vessel's food and beverage concessionaire, Admiral Cruises. Admiral claims \$1.6 million in unpaid dues. The original arrest order was executed on Friday following Judge Hyman's ruling. The bankruptcy trustee had stopped operating the vessel two weeks ago in an effort to conserve cash, leaving the crew in limbo. According to the bankruptcy trustee, the vessel can fetch no more than \$2.5 million at auction. This amount is not expected to be enough to cover creditors' claims. However, crew wages will have priority and will be paid first, their advocates have claimed. The unpaid crew members are expected to file a motion to intervene in Admiral's original lawsuit. Nordea Bank, which has already effected one arrest of the vessel in Galveston previously, is owed \$6 million on a mortgage in the latest legal situation.

VOYAGER (Netherlands Antilles)

Maassluis, Jun 15 -- General cargo Voyager was released from arrest on May 8. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ZHONKIYER (Russia)

London, Jun 14 -- Fishing Zhonkiyer (486 gt, built 1991), registered at the Sakhalin port of Nevelsk, has been detained by border guards for illegal crab catching in the Sea of Okhotsk. A fine worth 2.3 million roubles has been imposed on the vessel's captain, the press service of the North Eastern coast guard department of Russia said today. The vessel was spotted in the fishing zone by the Argal patrol vessel Jun 12. During a search border guards found some 13 tonnes of concealed frozen cooked opilio crab. The perpetrators will have to pay a three-million rouble compensation to the state for the damage.

Pipeline Accidents



DHOKE ALI AKBER, PAKISTAN

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Three people were killed and five were critically burnt when a gas pipeline caught fire in Dhoke Ali Akber, near the Sadiqabad police station, yesterday. Police said residents had complained the main pipeline had been leaking gas for many days and had lodged several complaints to the authorities concerned, but no action was taken. The pipeline exploded when a motorcyclist accidentally hit it.

Pollution



CORSICA, FRANCE

London, June 10 -- Corsica Ferries is to appeal against the decision of a French court to impose a six-month suspended prison sentence and Euro 500,000 fine on the master of its passenger ro/ro Mega Express (26024 gt, built 2001) who was found guilty of causing pollution in a protected zone off the Corsican coast. The court ordered Corsica Ferries subsidiary, Forship SpA, to pay Euro 490,000, leaving the master, Francesco De Luca, to pay the remaining Euro 10,000. But Corsica Ferries chief executive, Pierre Mattei, said he would be appealing against the decision of the court in Marseilles. He said: "We are the victims of a very severe interpretation of the law, which introduces confusion between the hoodlums of the sea and respectable shipowners who pay attention to the environment. It was an accident. There is no interest for us in tipping our dustbins in our living room, let alone in broad daylight." The sentence follows a hearing on Apr 6, at which the prosecutor justified his call for a prison sentence for the master by the need to make masters more aware of the seriousness of causing pollution at sea. The court heard that Corsica Ferries Mega Express was spotted from the air on May 12 last year at the head of a 22 km-long oil slick. Greenpeace, which was one of a number of environmental groups at the hearing, claimed the pollution had been caused deliberately to save the cost of immobilising the ship. But the lawyer acting for Capt De Luca said that it had been accidental and had come from an unknown source. The five environmental groups, who took civil action against the master and ferry company, were each awarded Euro 2,000 damages and Euro 400 costs.

EMU RIVER, BURNIE, AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Environmental officers have installed a second boom in an attempt to stop more oil spilling into Burnie's Emu River in northern Tasmania. A large slick, thought to be diesel, was discovered at the mouth of the river on Saturday (Jun 11) and traced to a stormwater drain from the nearby Wivenhoe industrial area. A boom was installed across the mouth of the river to stop the oil spilling into the sea. Environment Department spokesman Warren Jones says a second boom has now been strung across the stormwater drain to catch the oil until the source of the leak is found.

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tasmanian environment officers say they may never find the source of the weekend (Jun 11-12) oil spill on Burnie's Emu River in northern Tasmania. The 500-metre oil slick was discovered on Saturday. An emergency clean up began on Monday night when oil began drifting out to sea and a 50-metre line of oil washed up on the beach at the river mouth. A pump truck removed surface oil, while council workers helped clean up the beach. The environment division's general manager, Warren Jones, says there are no visible signs of environmental damage. "We've still got a clean bill of health as far as wildlife goes and my officers are continuing their inspections in the area to see if we can locate the source," he said. Mr Jones says environment officers have searched every stormwater drain leading into the river, but they have been unable to determine the origins of the oil.

NEW ORLEANS AREA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Crews discovered that about 560 gallons of crude oil spilled from a platform about 60 miles south-east of New Orleans, the U.S. Coast Guard said today. The spill was reported when Amerada Hess crews remanned a platform in the wake of a tropical storm, which crossed the Gulf of Mexico and made landfall on Saturday (Jun 11) along the north Gulf Coast. The spill happened at about 0930, Sunday. An unconfirmed number of birds died because of the spill in a marshy coastal area. Cleanup crews were on the scene today.

Weather & Navigation



AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: About a dozen buildings have been damaged in a fierce storm that passed over

Karoonda in South Australia's Murray Mallee last night. The storm, which struck about 2000 last night, ACST, has been described as a tornado. Police say eight homes have been damaged while the roof has been partly lifted off the local hospital. A wall was blown out at the local Country Fire Service building, and the St John Ambulance building and football club have also been damaged. The occupants of five of the damaged houses have been moved to the hospital while emergency services do repairs. State Emergency Services responded to about 90 reports of storm damage and flooding around the state last night. The most severe incident in Adelaide was a house fire at Salisbury Heights. A bolt of lightning started the fire at the house on Terama Court, causing about \$200,000 worth of damage. Flooding was also reported in the Adelaide Hills, McLaren Vale and Moana as well from the Barossa Valley, Murray Bridge and Tarlee.

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: The damage bill from Friday night's (Jun 10) severe storm at Karoonda, in South Australia's Murray-Mallee, is now estimated to be about A\$2 million. Officials say 60 per cent of affected households were not insured. The storm destroyed five homes and badly damaged more than 12. State Families and Communities Minister Jay Weatherill says the Government is looking at how it can help. "There may need to be an establishment grant that can be up to \$7,000 that may be available to some of those families." Farmers say the upside is that the storm brought 21 millimetres of rain, giving them a healthy start to the sowing season.

CANADA

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated Jun 8, states: An estimated 1,000 people who were evacuated because of torrential rains that have soaked southwestern Alberta over the last few days. Later today, declining water levels allowed High River officials to lift a mandatory evacuation in three neighbourhoods and allow some evacuees back into their homes. However, many were returning to find the sewers had backed up, in part because several stations that were supposed to handle sewage had been knocked out. Vacuum trucks were brought in to clean out the sewage lines as much as possible. Residents in the Beachwood Estates district were still being kept from going home, in part because of concern over the condition of the roads in the area. City spokeswoman Darlene Roblin said that situation was being constantly reassessed. While flood warnings and watches remained in effect for communities throughout the region, there was a ray of sunshine. Environment Canada lifted its heavy rain warnings as a low-pressure system responsible for dumping as much as 227 millimetres of rain on some areas limped east toward Saskatchewan. The forecast now is for

the weather to clear over the next few days. Flood forecasters in Saskatchewan expect runoff from the storm to raise river levels by more than three metres. In western Manitoba, a flash flood watch continued for communities hit hard by heavy rains last week. Flooded roads and campsites forced the closure of St. Malo Provincial Park campground until Jun 29, Manitoba Conservation said in a news release today. Other communities in Alberta covered by flood warnings and watches included Okotoks, Turner Valley, Black Diamond, Claresholm, Pincher Creek and Fort Macleod. The heavy rains and snow at higher elevations forced the closure of a half a dozen roads and secondary highways in the region. Areas downstream of the torrent such as Lethbridge were preparing for rising water levels by closing access to the Oldman River and by moving historical artifacts from the Fort Whoop-Up interpretive centre to higher ground. A voluntary evacuation order was issued for Bragg Creek west of Calgary, in part because there is only one road into the community. But water levels in the area were dropping quickly, said Fred Stegmeier of the Municipal District of Foothills. Alberta Premier Ralph Klein toured the flooded areas by helicopter, but he did not stop to meet with any evacuees. Klein said the province would help cover the cost of some of the damaged property that was not insurable.

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated Jun 12, states: At least 800 Calgary homeowners and hundreds of others across southern Alberta are expected to line up for disaster relief or file insurance claims after heavy rains flooded basements and caused sewer backups. The total bill is expected to reach nearly \$100 million. Insurers have not yet tallied the costs from last week's heavy rains in Calgary and area, although officials say it will probably reach \$30 million. "I think the numbers are going to come in pretty high," said Jim Rivait, regional vice-president for the Insurance Bureau of Canada. While sewer backups are covered under homeowner policies for those who have coverage, flooding through basement windows is not. However, the province has set aside \$55 million to deal with uninsurable losses from water damage such as flooding through basement windows and cracks. City officials expect between 600 and 800 calls. "That's really a ballpark figure," said Harvey Rindfliesch, the city's disaster services co-ordinator. City work crews have responded to more than 1,000 calls related to flooding, sewer backups, drainage problems and traffic issues. An afternoon storm led to flash flooding that required police to block off a number of underpasses out of downtown. The city said the worst is over, but residents are being warned to keep an eye on how much water they are using for the next three weeks while they struggle to

keep up with demand as dirty water comes in. Mandatory water restrictions are being considered.

CHINA

Beijing, Jun 10 -- A flash flood in a mountainous region of northeastern China slammed into a primary school today, killing 29 people, mostly children, and leaving four people missing. A "mountain torrent" hit the town of Shalan near Ning'an city in Heilongjiang province in early afternoon. More than 350 children aged 6 to 14 were at the school when the flood, triggered by heavy rains, hit, Xinhua said. Of the dead, 27 were children, with another two pupils among the missing, the report said. Rescue work was under way but poor communications in the town, in a valley about 450 km from the provincial capital, Harbin, made it unclear how many people had been affected. -- Reuters.

Beijing, Jun 12 -- Rescuers digging through mud and debris have found a further 27 bodies after a flash-flood swept through a packed Chinese primary school, state media said today. At least 91 people are now known to have died in the disaster Friday (Jun 10) in which a wall of water and debris smashed into the school near Ning'an, in northeast Heilongjiang Province. Hundreds of children and more than 30 teachers were inside at the time. Of the dead, 87 were primary school students and four were adult villagers, Xinhua news agency said, adding that more than two dozen people were still in hospital. The flooding, triggered by torrential rain, caused damage in seven villages near Ning'an city, knocking down 55 houses, the agency said. Heilongjiang Governor Zhang Zuoji had travelled to the site, about 450 km from the provincial capital of Harbin, to help co-ordinate a rescue and relief force of 1,400 people, it said. Xinhua did not say if the death toll was expected to rise further, and a local official reached by telephone said news from the area was still hard to obtain because of poor communications. Chinese newspapers carried photographs showing the school half-buried by mud and water. Television footage portrayed brick buildings in the area with walls washed away and fields ravaged by floods. The floodwaters had reached a depth of two metres as they swept through the school. More than 350 children and 31 teachers were inside at the time. State media have said that more flooding is likely with heavy rains predicted for northern and southern China in coming days and several rivers swollen to dangerous levels. -- Reuters.

Beijing, Jun 12 -- Rescuers have found 28 more bodies, mostly children, after a flash flood triggered by the worst rains in 200 years hit a packed Chinese school two days ago, killing at least 92 people, state media said today. The toll could rise further as the official Xinhua news agency said 17 children were still missing after the

wall of water and debris smashed into the school on Friday (Jun 10) near Ning'an, in north-east Heilongjiang province. Of the dead, 87 were primary school students and four were adult villagers, the official Xinhua news agency said, adding that more than two dozen people were still in hospital. One body had not yet been identified. The flooding, triggered by a storm that dumped up to 20 cm of rain in 40 minutes, caused damage in seven villages near Ning'an city, knocking down 55 houses and devastating large swathes of farmland, state media said. The floodwaters had swelled to a depth of two metres when they swept through the school on Friday afternoon. More than 350 children and dozens of teachers were inside at the time. Poor communications and a chaotic situation meant the scale of the tragedy became apparent only slowly, the death toll climbing gradually from the 29 initially reported on Friday night. "The bodies of some students were taken home by parents that day, and it wasn't until the government began an official tally that they were brought to the morgue. Therefore, the number of dead went up quite a lot in several days," Xinhua quoted local flood control spokesman Wang Tongtang as saying. Heilongjiang Governor Zhang Zuoji travelled to the site, about 450 km from the provincial capital Harbin, to help co-ordinate a rescue and relief force of 1,400 people. China suffers widespread flooding every year, causing huge loss of life. Earlier this week, days of heavy rains in southern China killed more than 200 and destroyed nearly 138,000 homes. State media have said more flooding is likely with heavy downpours predicted for northern and southern China in coming days and several rivers swollen to dangerous levels. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Confirmed deaths from a flash flood that slammed into primary school in northern China rose today to 99, and surviving students went back to class for lessons on how to deal with the trauma, state media reported. The dead included 95 students from the Shalan Central Primary School and four villagers, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Ten students are still missing from Friday's (Jun 10) flood. The torrent of water, triggered by heavy rain, rushed down a mountain and carried mud and debris into the school. Surviving students in Shalan, a remote village in Heilongjiang province, returned to class in a school about a mile from their old one, the China Daily newspaper said. Local authorities were being investigated for negligence. Huang Mingjun, Communist Party secretary of Shalan, and Li Zuoyu, the police chief, allegedly failed to organize a timely rescue, Xinhua said. Villagers complained that their appeals for help to the local government and police were ignored, it said. The governor of Heilongjiang, Zhang Zuoji, told authorities in

Beijing that he would accept disciplinary action for his subordinates' failure to respond to the disaster, Xinhua said.

COLOMBIA

London, Jun 13 -- At least 35 people have died in floods and mudslides caused by winter weather in Colombia since April, the local press reported Saturday (Jun 11). The six latest deaths occurred in the coffee-producing Axis region in the city of Manizales, and in Villa Maria, which were hit by mudslides, official sources said. The most serious case occurred in Manizales, capital of Caldas Department, where a mudslide buried two houses, with four persons, including two children, inside. In the rural area of Villa Maria, two people died after a mudslide toppled two houses while 30 others were evacuated. In Manizales, two houses collapsed and 50 more were evacuated because of a possible explosion of a vehicle that carried gas tanks. Weather experts forecast that the rain season in the Andean country will last until late June.

IRAQ

London, Jun 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Weather conditions at Basrah Oil Terminal have been normal since 1800, local time, last night. Berthing operations at the terminal had been temporarily suspended due to rough weather and tugs had taken shelter at Umm Qasr, since Jun 7.

London, Jun 13 -- There has been rough weather at Basrah Oil Terminal since yesterday afternoon. Tugs left to take shelter at Umm Qasr, at 0200, local time, today. The tugs are expected to depart Umm Qasr for Basrah at about 1030, local time, today.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Jun 10 -- The worst floods in Romania for 50 years caused damage worth 17.6 trillion lei (US\$596 million) in the last two months as they destroyed homes, roads and bridges, the government said today. Heavy rains hit western Romania in April and spread through the rest of the country in May, flooding hundreds of villages, destroying more than 800 homes and disrupting rail and road traffic, the government said in a statement. The government has already spent 1.3 trillion lei to help rebuild damaged infrastructure and aid those who remained homeless, spokeswoman Oana Marinescu said. In western Romania alone, 3,700 people had to abandon their homes. Work on rebuilding the houses will start on Jun 20. "We plan to grant another 4.0 trillion lei and will try to access European Union funds which could cover up to 2.5% of the damages and seek international loans, maybe from the World Bank," Marinescu said. She said around 10,000 hectares (25,000 acres) of land, one third of the surface flooded in April and May, were

still under water and 42 pumps from Hungary and Finland were working to get rid of it. -- Reuters.

TAIWAN

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Floods caused by torrential rain have claimed two lives and forced authorities to evacuate hundreds of residents from low-lying areas in Taiwan, officials said today. Rescuers this morning found the body of a 24-year-old man who was washed away the previous day while riding a motorcycle at Niaosung, a township in the southern county of Pingtung, the National Fire Agency said. A 65-year-old woman was buried alive by a mudslide at Tsochen, a mountainous town in the southern county of Tainan, said the agency. The military evacuated hundreds of residents in Pingtung county, where thousands of homes were cut off by the overnight floods. Agriculture authorities said dozens of southern mountainous villages were at risk of landslides as the Central Weather Bureau warned of persistent torrential rain in the next few days. Two airports in Pingtung were closed and landslides blocked roads.

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of homes in Pingtung were cut off by the floods and the military evacuated hundreds of people including an elderly people's home. Agriculture authorities said dozens of southern mountainous villages were at risk of landslides. The Central Weather Bureau warned of persistent torrential rain over the next few days. Two airports in Pingtung were closed and landslides blocked roads. Some schools in Pingtung and the nearby county of Kaohsiung were closed.

Taipei, Jun 16 -- Floods and landslides caused by a week of heavy rain have killed at least eight people in southern Taiwan and caused T\$1.16 billion (US\$37 million) worth of crop damage, officials said today. The victims included nine-year-old boy and a 73-year-old man, the government's disaster relief centre said in a statement, with no let-up in sight. Rain is forecast for the next few days. The island's south was hardest hit as flood waters swamped streets and rice fields. Television footage showed soldiers carrying old people and children from inundated homes. More than 2,000 people have been evacuated since heavy rain started to batter the island on Saturday (Jun 11). About 800 people were staying in temporary shelters. -- Reuters.

TROPICAL STORM "ARLENE"

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Arlene" developed today in the north-west Caribbean Sea, edging closer to western Cuba as the Atlantic hurricane season's first named storm. "Arlene" had maximum sustained winds of 40 mph after strengthening from a tropical depression that formed yesterday, the National Hurricane Centre in Miami said. At 0800, EDT,

the storm's centre was about 190 miles south-south-east of the western tip of Cuba. It was moving north at about eight mph, and this motion could bring the storm's centre near western Cuba as early as tonight, forecasters said. "Arlene" was expected to enter the Gulf of Mexico by tomorrow, and residents from Florida to Louisiana were told to keep an eye on the tropical storm.

London, Jun 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Arlene" struck Cuba at about 2100, UTC, yesterday. Data supplied by the US National Hurricane Centre suggest that the point of landfall was near lat 20.2N, long 84.2W. "Arlene" brought one-minute maximum sustained winds to the region of around 40 mph. Wind gusts in the area may have been considerably higher.

London, Jun 10 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: A tropical storm warning remains in effect for western Cuba from Pinar del Rio to the city of Havana and Havana provinces, including the Isle of Youth. These warnings may be discontinued later today. A tropical storm warning remains in effect for the Dry Tortugas. At 0900, UTC, a tropical storm watch is in effect along the northern gulf coast from Morgan City, Louisiana to Indian Pass, Florida. Tropical storm centre located near lat 21.6N, long 84.8W at 0900, UTC, today, position accurate within 45 nautical miles. Present movement toward the north-north-west or 340 degrees at seven knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 1000 mb. Maximum sustained winds: 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 120 north-east quadrant. Radius of 12-foot seas: 120 north-east quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jun 11: Position near lat 26.2N, long 87.2W with maximum sustained winds of 45 knots and gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 120 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 70 nautical miles south-east quadrant and 70 nautical miles north-west quadrant.

London, Jun 11 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Arlene" was located near lat 28.4N, long 87.1W. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north-west, or 320 degs, at 16 knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 991 mb. The maximum sustained winds: 60 knots with gusts to 75 knots. The radius of 50 knot winds: 75 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, zero nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants and 45 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. The radius of 34 knot winds: 140 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, 120 nautical miles in the south-east quadrant, zero nautical miles in the south-west quadrant and 75 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Jun 12, the centre is predicted to be near lat 32.5N, long 88.5W. Inland maximum winds 45 knots, with gusts to 55 knots.

London, Jun 12 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0300, UTC, today, the centre of tropical depression "Arlene" was located near lat 32.2N, long 87.6W. Position accurate to within 30 nautical miles. Present movement towards the north, or 360 deg, at 15 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 996 mb. Maximum sustained winds 25 knots with gusts to 35 knots. All coastal tropical cyclone warnings have been discontinued.

London, Jun 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Arlene" opened the hurricane season with a swipe at the Panhandle coast yesterday but it did little more than drop drenching rain. Striking near Pensacola with winds of about 60 mph, the storm failed to reach hurricane strength before landfall and quickly began to break up after heading inland. Damage was mostly confined to flooded streets and scattered power outages. There were no reports of injuries yesterday and, by early evening, most residents who had evacuated from coastal and low-lying areas were allowed to return home.

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: The remnants of Tropical Storm "Arlene" spread rain into the Ohio Valley yesterday after heading through the South with little damage other than power outages and street flooding. The Atlantic hurricane season's first named storm came ashore Saturday (Jun 11) in the western Florida Panhandle and southern Alabama. "Arlene" had threatened to strengthen to a minimal hurricane after plowing past the western tip of Cuba, but it had sustained wind of only about 60 mph when it arrived and quickly weakened to a tropical depression. One person drowned Friday in the rough surf kicked up by "Arlene" at Miami Beach. The heaviest reported rain Saturday fell 440 miles away in Naples, which got 5.67 inches during the storm. Nearby Hurlburt Field got nearly 5 inches, and 5 inches fell at Fort Myers and Columbus, Miss. "A few rivers had minor flooding, but nothing serious. Even as far as the damage, structural or to beaches, it appears to be minimal," weather service meteorologist Randy McKee said yesterday in Mobile. McKee said only one tornado spiral was detected on radar in the area. There were no immediate reports of tornado damage. Showers and thunderstorms streamed northward yesterday from western Tennessee through Kentucky into Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. The National Weather Service said there was one report of a tornado touchdown in south-eastern Indiana, but there was no major damage. Indianapolis received three inches of rain. What was left of the storm was moving northward at 27 mph and was expected to continue that motion with a gradual turn toward the north-north-east, the National Hurricane Centre said.

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Crude oil futures

may fall today after Tropical Storm "Arlene" passed through the Gulf of Mexico without damaging rigs and production platforms. Oil companies including Exxon Mobil Corp. and BP Plc were returning workers to offshore facilities evacuated as "Arlene", the first named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, approached the US. There were no immediate reports of damage.

TYPHOON "NESAT"

London, Jun 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Nesat" is forecast to strike Japan as a tropical storm at about 1200, UTC, today. Data supplied by the US Navy and Air Force Joint Typhoon Warning Centre suggest that the point of landfall will be near lat 32.7N, long 140.6E. "Nesat" is expected to bring one-minute maximum sustained winds to the region of around 40 mph. Wind gusts in the area may be considerably higher.

London, Jun 10 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Nesat" near lat 30.6N, long 138.8E at 0001, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 30 degrees at nine knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots, gusts 45 knots. Forecast for 0001, UTC Jun 11: Position near lat 35.3N, long 143.9E with maximum sustained winds of 25 knots and gusts to 45 knots. Extratropical.

UNITED STATES

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated Jun 12, states: Nearly two dozen homes were damaged and an estimated \$3.6 million in damage inflicted when a tornado ripped through a two-mile swath of land near Hammond, Wisconsin, officials said. No injuries were reported. The twister yesterday afternoon blew through a 100-foot-wide, two-mile stretch near the town, about 35 miles east of St. Paul, Minnesota, said Jeff Peterson, an area fire official. The Red Cross put 24 families up in hotels for the evening, an official said. The tornado wreaked havoc on a town house development, seriously damaging 17 townhouses and condominiums, he said. In all, 22 homes were damaged.

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated Jun 14, states: Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and heavy rain passed through Greater Cincinnati this afternoon leaving about 23,500 Cinergy customers without electricity. The outages are "pretty widely scattered" through the area with the most being in Hamilton and Clermont Counties in Ohio and Northern Kentucky, said Cinergy spokesman Steve Brash. Lightning strikes and wind damage were responsible for the outages, he said. Cinergy anticipates most of the affected customers will have the power restored by tonight, Brash said. There were numerous reports of downed trees and wires throughout the area.

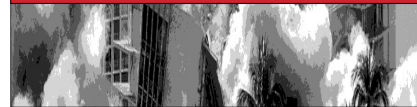
London, Jun 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Power was

restored to nearly 100,000 customers in southeast Texas whose homes were darkened by an outage during a storm. High winds caused several transmission lines to fail at the same time last night, said Entergy Texas spokesman David Caplan. The outage affected Entergy customers in at least seven counties. The company rerouted transmission lines and had power back to all customers within a few hours, Caplan said. Some south-east Texas prisons, including prisons in Huntsville, were forced into lockdown mode, Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokeswoman Michelle Lyons. "Whenever we have power outages we immediately have lockdown to restrict prisoner movement throughout the units," Lyons said. Louisiana-based Entergy has 373,000 customers from the Texas-Louisiana border to north of Houston.

VIETNAM

London, Jun 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 12 people died after heavy rains triggered landslides and flooding in northern Vietnam, officials said today. Eleven people died in the district of Binh Lieu where mudslides buried two houses overnight, said Nguyen Cong Thuan, deputy director of northeastern Quang Ninh province's Department of Flood and Storm Control.

Earthquakes



CHILE

Santiago, Jun 13 -- A powerful 7.9-magnitude earthquake shook Chile's northern mining region today, causing at least eight deaths, cutting power and driving residents from their homes in the port city of Iquique. The quake was also felt in the coastal cities of Arica and Antofagasta, in Chile, in the Bolivian capital, La Paz, and in southern Peru. Acting Chilean Interior Minister Jorge Correa said on Chilean television one man was confirmed dead in a landslide triggered by the earthquake. Correa said five others died after their car was crushed by a falling boulder on a mountain road near Iquique and two more died of undisclosed causes. Authorities said that the region suffered power cuts and that telephone communication was down in the area. "Police, fire and other civil protection agencies are in the area evaluating the situation," Chile's national emergency centre, ONEMI, said in a statement. "There is no chance of a tsunami," it said, citing an analysis by Chilean naval oceanographers who said the epicentre was in the mountains, not in the ocean. Local television reported that Iquique, which has a population of about 140,000, and the popular seaside resort of Arica, were most affected. ONEMI said the epicenter of

the quake was 70 miles north-east of Iquique but was felt throughout northern Chile, a zone of heavy mining activity. A source at Chile's state-owned Codelco, the world's top copper producer, said the company's operations in the region had not been affected. "Operations have not been stopped, they remain the same," the source at Codelco's Santiago headquarters said by telephone late today. The US Geological Survey said on its website that the quake measured 7.9, meaning it was capable of widespread and heavy damage. The quake occurred at 1844, local time, and lasted nearly a minute. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake struck northern Chile, killing at least eight people, toppling 17 houses and sparking alarm on the country's border with Peru, authorities said. The quake cut power in Iquique. The United States Geological Survey measured the quake at 7.9 on the Richter scale. "A major earthquake occurred at 2244, UTC, yesterday," the USGS said in a statement. "The magnitude 7.9 event has been located in Tarapaca, Chile," the service said, at a depth of 111 km," the USGS said.

Santiago, Jun 14 -- Boulders littered city streets and highways in northern Chile today after a 7.9-magnitude quake caused landslides and wrecked homes, killing at least 11 people and injuring 200. The quake yesterday evening in Chile's top mining district also cut off power and burst water mains in and around the port cities of Arica, Iquique and Antofagasta. Chile's Emergency Bureau ONEMI said most of the quake's victims were killed in landslides. "According to official information we have 11 dead reported," said ONEMI spokesman Mariano Gonzalez. Television images showed streets littered with giant rocks in Iquique, which has a population of about 140,000, and dozens of collapsed adobe homes in nearby towns. "Look, the church fell down, 15 houses are destroyed and 20 are uninhabitable. We've been out in the town square all night because it quaked all night. We don't have any food, water or power," Mercedes Cruz, a resident of the town of Huavilla, a town in the mountains near Iquique, told local radio. The earthquake caused operations to be suspended at only one mid-sized copper mine and briefly affected one other, leaving larger mines unscathed. Chilean mines produce a major portion of the world's copper supply. The quake hit at 1844 (2244, UTC) yesterday and lasted nearly a minute. An earthquake of 7.9 magnitude is capable of causing widespread damage. Earthquakes of lesser magnitude shook neighbouring Peru, as well as Ecuador further to the north, early today. They caused minor damage but no injuries, officials in the two countries said. Chilean government ministers toured the stricken region and President Ricardo Lagos cut short a European tour to travel to the quake area. Landslides

cut off some roads and highways, and emergency crews were clearing the roads. ONEMI said the epicentre of the quake was 70 miles north-east of Iquique. It was felt throughout northern Chile, in the Bolivian capital, La Paz, and in southern Peru. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 16 -- The ports of Arica, Iquique and Antofagasta are working normally, despite the major earthquake which struck northern Chile on Monday (Jun 13). Twelve people were killed and about 300 were injured as a result of the quake, which measured 7.9 on the Richter Scale. More than 6,000 people are believed to have suffered losses. The worst damage was seen in the city of Iquique, but many small inland towns were destroyed. Ports in the region (Arica, Iquique and Antofagasta), suffered only minor damage and are now working normally. All main routes are transitable, although caution is recommended. Some secondary routes are still cut off, however. Public services have largely been restored. (See issue of Jun 16.)

London, Jun 16 -- A report, dated Jun 15, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 1952, UTC, Jun 15. The magnitude 6.3 event has been located off the coast of Aisen, Chile, in lat 45.04S, long 80.39W, depth 10 km.

INDONESIA

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale shook the eastern island of Sulawesi today but there were no immediate reports casualties or property damage, a meteorologist said. The offshore quake hit at 1402 hrs, with the epicentre 219 kilometres north-east of the main coastal town of Manado, said Yusuf of the Jakarta meteorology office. The tremor, measured at a depth of 44 kilometres, was also felt by residents in the nearby town of Tondano.

JAMAICA

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: Sunday's (Jun 12) earthquake which was felt across most parishes caused moderate to severe damage to about two dozen houses in the parishes of Clarendon and Manchester, the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) reported yesterday. The Seismic Research Unit at the University of the West Indies, Mona, said the quake, which occurred at 2258 hrs and measured 5.1 on the European macroseismic scale, had its epicentre in Aeon Town, along the Clarendon/St Ann border. The quake, which lasted for several seconds, was followed by 12 aftershocks, the last one around 0700, yesterday morning, the Seismic Research Unit said. The ODPEM's acting director Ronald Jackson said there have been no reports of injuries, but said teams from his office were sent to locate residents who had fled their homes during the quake. In Aeon Town, the town's public library and three houses

were damaged, one of them severely, as a section of its wall collapsed. Eight homes in Silent Hill in Alston Clarendon and 12 in Manchester had significant cracks, including one which had a collapsed wall and another was totally destroyed, according to the ODPEM. There were also unconfirmed reports that a number of houses were damaged in St Ann in the districts of Mount Moriah, Coffee Ridge, Cave Valley and Borobridge. Teams from the ODPEM and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security are expected to carry out assessments in these areas today. So far, preliminary estimates put the cost of damages to houses in Manchester at more than \$1 million.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Jun 15 -- A report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 1013, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.1 event has been located in the New Ireland region, Papua New Guinea, in lat 04.60S, long 153.12E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 76 km.

TAIWAN

London, Jun 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale jolted Taiwan today, the Seismology Centre said. The quake struck at 0932, local time, with an epicentre 14 kilometres east of the eastern coastal town of Shiulin in Hualien county, and 10 kilometres underground. There were no reports of damage or casualties.

TONGA

London, Jun 14 -- A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0122, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located in Tonga in lat 18.73S, long 174.19W, depth 141 km.

UNITED STATES

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake shook most of Southern California early yesterday. There were no immediate reports of any injuries or damage, authorities said. The magnitude-5.6 quake struck at about 0840 and was centred 20 miles south of Palm Springs, according to a preliminary report by the US Geological Survey. Dozens of smaller temblors were registered within minutes of the quake, authorities said. The quake was felt as far west as Los Angeles and as far south as San Diego, 75 miles south-west of Palm Springs. It also was reported to be felt as far east as Arizona, according to messages sent to the Web site of seismologists at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. In Los Angeles County, there were no reports of damage. The California Highway Patrol reported several small rock slides on Highway 74, but no reports of accidents or serious damage. The quake occurred in a mountainous area within the San Jacinto fault zone.

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated Jun 14, states: A major

earthquake struck about 80 miles off the coast of northern California tonight, briefly prompting a tsunami warning along the Pacific coast. The 7.0-magnitude quake struck at about 1950 hrs, south-west of the coastal community of Crescent City and 300 miles north-west of San Francisco, according to the US Geological Survey Web site. Witnesses felt buildings shaking along the California coast but there were no immediate reports of damage. A tsunami warning was briefly in effect from the California-Mexico border north to Vancouver Island, British Columbia, but was called off about an hour after the quake hit. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration runs the warning system, which includes 25 other countries with Pacific coastlines.

Volcanic Activity



COLIMA, MEXICO

London, Jun 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Western Mexico's Volcano of Fire erupted anew with a loud rumble late yesterday, unleashing a column of ash that shot high in the air but without enough force to reach nearby communities. The explosion inside the crater of the 3,820-metre volcano, occurred shortly after 2200, but it was not immediately clear how intense it was. (See issue of Jun 10.)

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated Jun 14, states: Nearly four dozen people evacuated last week from a town at the base of Mexico's Volcano of Fire have been allowed to return to their homes, even though the peak continues to smoulder and occasionally spout ash. The Jalisco state civil defence agency said the volcano's eruptions had quieted enough to allow residents of the village of Juan Barragan to return to their homes yesterday, but that officials and residents would remain on alert. The agency said yesterday's eruptions sent ash only about a mile high, lower than last week's blasts. The residents of Juan Barragan, about five miles from the peak, had spent almost a week in an improvised shelter in the nearby town of San Marcos. Straddling the border of Colima and Jalisco states, the Volcano of Fire has unleashed six spectacular eruptions in the past four weeks, some of which sent ash as much as three miles above the crater of the 12,533-foot volcano. The volcano, located 430 miles west of Mexico City, is considered to be among the most active and potentially the most destructive of the volcanoes in Mexico. Seismologists say the increasing frequency of the eruptions and their intensity are signs the volcano was returning to an explosive stage like one that started in 1903 and climaxed with a massive explosion 10 years

later that left a 1,650-foot-deep crater at the volcano's peak and scattered ash on cities 240 miles away.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Insurgents linked to the former Taliban regime have set off a wave of violence in Afghanistan, launching a string of almost daily bombings and assassinations that have killed dozens of US and Afghan military personnel and civilians in recent weeks while spreading fear throughout the international-aid community. Analysts say the rash of attacks appears calculated to undermine stability in the lead-up to parliamentary elections scheduled for September, and has undercut predictions by US and Afghan officials over the winter that the radical Islamic militia was on the verge of collapse. In the past week, an election worker was shot in the face; two demining specialists were killed in a roadside ambush; a shoulder-launched surface-to-air missile was fired at a US aircraft; four US soldiers were killed, including two who came under mortar fire yesterday as they unloaded a helicopter in the eastern province of Paktika; and a suicide bomber killed 20 people in a mosque in the southern city of Kandahar during a funeral service for an assassinated pro-government cleric. The Taliban denied involvement in the mosque bombing but claimed responsibility for the cleric's murder. Development projects near the Taliban's southern strongholds have been suspended, and a virtual lockdown is in effect for many of the roughly 3,000 international residents of Kabul, the Afghan capital.

Kabul, Jun 10 -- Italian officials prepared to bring aid worker Clementina Cantoni home from Afghanistan today, hours after kidnappers released her from 24 days in captivity. Shortly after an aircraft arrived from Italy to take her back, a speeding convoy that included vehicles from the Italian embassy was seen entering the military side of Kabul International Airport. "It has just arrived," an airport official said of the special flight from Italy. "It will go back in one hour." Four gunmen seized Cantoni, 32, from a car on a Kabul street on May 16. She was released yesterday evening. The government said she was fine and had been held hostage by a criminal gang. No ransom had been paid or concessions given for her freedom, it said. President Hamid Karzai praised the work of his Interior Ministry, security forces and tribal elders in securing her release. Her release was the result of hard work by the police and many others, including tribal elders and

Muslim clerics, the government said. "A tribal jirga (traditional assembly) of senior elders, they were negotiating on behalf of the Ministry of Interior, they brought her back," said ministry spokesman Lutfullah Mashal. Officials have declined to reveal the kidnappers' demands or identify them except to say they were criminals, not Islamic militants. Cantoni was handed over to the Italian embassy late yesterday and Italian officials said she would fly back to Rome today. -- Reuters.

Kabul, Jun 10 -- Insurgents in Afghanistan ambushed a patrol today and one US soldier and seven of the attackers were killed, the US military said. The joint US-Afghan army patrol was attacked in Paktika Province in the south-east of the country. "Coalition forces reported the enemy fleeing shortly after the ambush began. Coalition fixed and rotary-wing attack aircraft and artillery responded to the attack," the US military said in a statement. Three US soldiers were wounded, it said. The name of the dead soldier was being withheld pending notification of next-of-kin. -- Reuters.

Kandahar, Jun 13 -- A suicide bomber drove a car packed with explosives into a U.S. military convoy in southern Afghanistan today, killing at least five American soldiers, police said. The blast came from a taxi as a U.S. military convoy was heading down a main road to the west of Kandahar city, said a senior police officer, who did not want to be identified. "The latest report I have is that five people in the vehicle that was hit by the suicide car have been killed," he said. "This was a suicide attack. The person in the car that carried out the act has been torn into pieces." -- Reuters.

Kabul, Jun 14 -- US and Afghan forces killed two insurgents and detained 12 after a clash in southern Afghanistan, the US military said yesterday. The militants were killed on Sunday (Jun 12) in a firefight with US and Afghan soldiers to the north of the main southern city of Kandahar, the military said in a statement. One insurgent was wounded and 12 others were detained for questioning, it said. The incident came amid stepped up violence linked to Taliban guerrillas in southern and eastern Afghanistan in the run-up to parliamentary elections due to be held in September. About 150 insurgents have been killed in violence this year, according to US and Afghan government figures. Dozens of government security men have also died in the fighting, as well as 13 US soldiers since March. Yesterday a suicide bomber rammed a car packed with explosives into a US military vehicle near the city of Kandahar, killing himself and wounding four American soldiers, one seriously. -- Reuters.

Kabul, Jun 15 -- U.S. and Afghan forces killed seven Taliban insurgents and detained 10 in an operation in southern Afghanistan aimed at containing rising guerrilla violence, a

senior Afghan army officer said today. The militants were killed yesterday in a joint operation in Mian Nishin district of Kandahar province, said General Muslim Amid, the senior Afghan army officer in the southern region. "It was a mopping up operation in which seven Taliban were killed, two wounded and 10 others arrested," Amid told Reuters, adding that four Afghan troops were wounded. He said U.S.-led forces suffered no losses in the operation, which was continuing. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 16 -- A press report, dated Jun 15, states: Suspected Taliban rebels broke into a medical clinic near the Pakistan border and killed a doctor and six of his assistants, while seven gunmen were killed when hundreds of insurgents clashed with Afghan and US-led coalition forces, officials said today. The fighting is the latest in a spasm of violence in Afghanistan that has raised fears of instability ahead of crucial legislative elections in September. The attack on the independently run clinic in Khost province came late yesterday, said Almar Gul Mungle, commander of a frontier security force. It was unclear why the medical staff were targeted, but Mungle suggested rebels may have thought they worked for the government. In a second attack, suspected Taliban rebels in southern Kandahar province shot and killed a tribal elder whose family prominently supported President Hamid Karzai's government, said local deputy police chief Gen Salim Khan. The fighting that left seven rebels dead erupted after about 90 suspected Taliban gunmen attacked a joint Afghan and coalition patrol yesterday on the border between Kandahar and Uruzgan, two southern provinces, said army commander Gen Muslim Amid said. Four Afghan soldiers were wounded in the fighting, which ended with the insurgents fleeing into nearby mountains, carrying their injured, he said. Two rebels were captured. Troops pursued the rebels into the mountains and were still hunting them today, Amid added. US military spokesman Lt Col Jerry O'Hara confirmed coalition troops were involved in the fighting, but declined to comment beyond confirming no coalition casualties, saying an assessment was under way.

ALGERIA

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thirteen communal guards fighting armed Islamists in Algeria were killed and six wounded when a bomb exploded under their truck on Tuesday (Jun 7) more than 400km south of Algiers, Algerian dailies reported on their websites. The truck carrying 19 guards on their way to participate in a security force mopping-up operation was blown up on a track near the village of Ain Rich, 180km south-west of the town of M'Sila, the newspapers said. Twelve communal guardsmen died on the scene, a thirteenth dying

later on the way to hospital. El Watan daily said the bomb "was not dated" and had apparently been placed on the track at a time when the Islamists were firmly implanted in the region. One of the wounded guards was quoted as saying: "No terrorist appeared at the scene of the attack." The armed Islamists operating in the Ain Rich region belonged to the militant Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC), the newspapers said. The last GSPC attack in the region cost the lives of two soldiers in March. The Ain Rich blast was the deadliest incident in Algeria since May 15 when 12 troops were killed in the Khenchela region 500km east of Algiers, in an ambush attributed by the press to the GSPC. On Feb 21 the GSPC announced it had killed 10 soldiers three days earlier in an ambush of a convoy in the Batna region 430km east of the capital. The GSPC also claimed an attack on Saturday (Jun 4) against a military base in north-east Mauritania. The Mauritanian government said 15 people were killed and 17 injured in the raid on the base by about 150 assailants in the isolated desert Lemgheitty region.

Algiers, Jun 14 -- Three policemen and a local government guard have died in two separate attacks in Algeria blamed on Islamic militants, newspapers said today. The policemen died yesterday when rebels ambushed a patrol near Hadjaret Enes, 100 km west of the capital Algiers, El Watan newspaper said quoting informed sources. A local government guard died in a separate bomb attack on Sunday (Jun 12) during a patrol of an area near Ain Defla 120 km west of Algiers, Le Quotidien d'Oran daily said. Authorities were not immediately available for comment. -- Reuters.

BOLIVIA

La Paz, Jun 9 -- Bolivia's Congress today swore in Supreme Court President Eduardo Rodriguez as the country's new president, a move aimed at defusing weeks of protests and bringing forward elections. President Carlos Mesa resigned this week after three weeks of blockades by the poor Indian majority, who had called for nationalization of energy reserves and a special assembly to grant them more power in South America's most impoverished nation. -- Reuters.

La Paz, Jun 10 -- Bolivia's interim president vowed to hold elections as he took office today, leading indigenous groups to start lifting roadblocks as weeks of massive protests appeared to be ending. Eduardo Rodriguez, the former Supreme Court chief, was sworn in as interim president late yesterday, taking the place of President Carlos Mesa who resigned in an effort to halt protests he feared could push Bolivia toward civil war. Rodriguez said after he was sworn in. "I am offering a short mandate with the help of Congress." Troops killed a miner in protests yesterday as lawmakers suspended an initial session on Mesa's resignation.

Rodriguez, who has a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University, is mandated by the constitution to call elections. His caretaker government has not yet set a date for the vote but he has said elections could be held in December. La Paz began slowly returning to normal after weeks of blockades caused fuel and food shortages. In El Alto, a sprawling poor area in the mountains above the capital, protesters began opening roadways to the international airport although indigenous leaders have yet to official lift the blockade. Officials said natural gas supplies began flowing back into the capital for hospitals and factories and indigenous groups lifted a blockade halting access on a main highway leading to eastern Santa Cruz province. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated Jun 12, states: The last blockades remaining around Bolivia's main city, La Paz, have been lifted, allowing fuel into the city for the first time in weeks. The move follows a truce from indigenous Indian protesters ahead of a meeting today with the new President, Eduardo Rodriguez. Mr Rodriguez took office on Thursday (Jun 9) night following weeks of unrest and the resignation of President Carlos Mesa. Bulldozers removed the last remaining barricades, and fuel transporters with police escorts trundled down the mountains to the city for the first time in almost a month. Residents of the slum city of El Alto adjoining the capital were the last to end their protests. They say their main demands for the nationalisation of Bolivia's rich gas reserves and constitutional reform have yet to be met. And they warn that without progress on these issues, their truce will only be temporary. Other protest groups - including Indian peasant farmers and miners - have been more conciliatory. Roadblocks across much of Bolivia were lifted on Friday (Jun 10). And so long as President Rodriguez calls new elections promptly, most protesters - for now at least - will be satisfied.

BURUNDI

Dar es Salaam, Jun 10 -- Delegates from the Burundian government and the rebel Forces nationales de liberation (FNL) began talks today on how to implement a ceasefire agreement, after almost a week of delays. "Both sides are blaming each other for violating the ceasefire agreement," Joram Biswalo, a senior official in Tanzania's ministry of foreign affairs, told IRIN in Dar es Salaam. FNL is Burundi's only rebel group to continue fighting. -- Reuters.

ETHIOPIA

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of people have been arrested across Ethiopia following violent clashes in which police killed 36 people, a U.S.-based human rights group reported today. Human Rights Watch said student activists and opposition

supporters had been rounded up in a crackdown after last week's fighting. Ethiopian federal police said some detainees were being held at Ziway detention facility, 90 miles south of the capital, but could not give exact numbers. Arrests have continued in the capital, where police detained at least three members of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council earlier this week. New York-based Human Rights Watch said it had obtained reports of mass arrests in at least nine cities outside the capital since last Monday. Ethiopia's main opposition leader was freed from house arrest after the country's main political parties agreed to work together for peace after 10 days of political unrest left at least 37 people dead. Hailu Shawel, the leader of the opposition Coalition for Unity and Democracy, said he was informed yesterday that his house arrest was lifted after two days of talks mediated by the European Union. Tensions still remain and political parties are expected to meet today to continue discussions on improving relations. In Washington, the State Department called on the Ethiopian security forces yesterday to avoid use of excessive force in dealing with postelection violence. Spokesman Sean McCormack also urged students, civil society, opposition supporters, government party members and political leaders to exercise restraint as well.

HAITI

Port-au-Prince, Jun 10 -- A surge of kidnappings for ransom blamed on slum gangs, police officers and bank tellers is terrorising Haitians and adding to the woes of a nation grappling with political upheaval and desperate poverty. Police have seen at least six kidnappings a day recently and the figures could be much higher because many Haitians prefer not to contact authorities, fearing their abducted relatives could be killed. At least 350 people were kidnapped between Feb 25 and May 31, authorities said. In the latest case, a mother, father and their three children were snatched from their car by gunmen today in a busy section of Port-au-Prince. Haiti has been roiled by political and gang violence since a bloody rebellion ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in February 2004. The spate of kidnappings comes as thousands of U.N. peacekeepers work with a poorly trained and ill-equipped national police force to contain the violence. The kidnappers have set up efficient intelligence networks targeting largely middle-class families and members of the business sector. In some cases, victims say their abductors knew exactly how much money the families would be able to pay. "A number of bank tellers are part of those criminal networks," said a victim's husband, Mario, who did not want to reveal his last name for security reasons. He said the kidnappers called on the phone and demanded \$40,000. "When I said we did not have that kind of money, the caller said that I had \$50,000 in the

bank and he was right," Mario told Reuters. Relatives usually choose to negotiate and pay a ransom to kidnappers in exchange for the victims' release. Gangs from Aristide's slum strongholds, as well as police officers and others considered "respectable" in Haitian society, are behind the abductions, said Jessie Coicou, a spokeswoman for the Haitian National Police. "There are people of good family and high social level that unfortunately are involved in kidnappings," Coicou said. Police Chief Leon Charles has pledged a stepped-up effort to combat what he called a "new plague." The leader of Haiti's U.S.-backed interim government, Prime Minister Gerard Latortue, blamed the surge in kidnappings on criminals deported to Haiti by the United States. "Many of them were not even born in Haiti, but have Haitian parents," said Latortue, who demanded the United States halt the deportations. The U.S. Embassy's press attache in Port-au-Prince, Caroline Courlay, told Reuters the embassy had no comment. Some Haitian and U.S. officials have attributed some of the recent violence, including kidnappings, to armed gangs that remain loyal to Aristide and are trying to disrupt national elections scheduled for later this year. The kidnappings have forced high-profile Haitians to change their routines. Government officials have reinforced their security, while a growing number of business executives and politicians who never felt the need for special security will not take a step without their bodyguards and are providing security for their wives and children. Some once-crowded commercial areas of the capital's downtown are now empty in early afternoon. -- Reuters.

INDIA

Srinagar, Jun 9 -- Six separatist guerrillas and a soldier were killed today in a fierce gun battle in troubled Indian Kashmir, police said. It was the highest toll in a single encounter in recent weeks in the disputed region, where rebel violence has declined since India and Pakistan launched a peace process 18 months ago. The gun battle erupted in the Kern sector of northern Kashmir near the Line of Control or ceasefire line dividing Kashmir between India and Pakistan. India's army chief, General J.J. Singh, said today that Muslim rebels were making repeated attempts to infiltrate into Indian Kashmir from the Pakistan side. "Every week there are one or two infiltration attempts. Some get killed but some cross. We are continuously foiling their attempts," he told reporters. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least seven people have been killed and 70 injured by a powerful car bomb explosion near a school in a busy southern Kashmir town, according to Indian police and the Army. The blast shook the town of Pulwama, 30 kilometres south of the Indian Kashmir summer capital, Srinagar, about 1100 hrs when it was

bustling with life. Police say four people were killed on the spot, while three died on the way to hospital in Srinagar. "So far seven people have died and over 70 are injured," a spokesman said. The explosion took place near a high school and students were among the injured. Eight of those hurt were in critical condition. Army spokesman Vijay Batra said the blast had been caused by a car bomb. Ambulances ferrying the injured from Pulwama, a district headquarters, were seen arriving at Srinagar's main hospital. Private cars and mini-buses also rushed to Srinagar with the injured, their drivers pleading with policemen to clear traffic snarls. "It was a massive explosion that brought us out of our homes," retired government employee Ghulam Mohammed said. "I could see people lying on the ground, some of them bleeding profusely." He said many vehicles were damaged in the explosion that also smashed the windows of several dozen shops, houses and office complexes and sent people running for cover. The blast closed all shops, banks, post offices and schools in the town, which is prone to rebel attacks.

Srinagar, Jun 13 -- Twelve people were killed and more than 70 wounded today when a powerful car bomb exploded near a school in a busy town in Indian Kashmir, security officials said. Witnesses said pieces of human flesh were scattered near the site of the explosion in Pulwama town south of Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital. Three children were among the wounded. No militant group has claimed responsibility for the explosion, which damaged the school as well as dozens of shops, houses and vehicles. It was the worst incident of separatist violence in Kashmir since moderate separatist politicians began a historic trip to Pakistan on Jun 4 for talks on the disputed Himalayan region, which is claimed by both India and Pakistan. "I have never witnessed such a devastating blast. We are still waiting for details," police official Abdul Rashid said. Bomb blasts and gun battles occur almost daily between rebels and Indian troops, despite an 18-month peace process between nuclear rivals India and Pakistan, which have fought two wars over the region. Indian intelligence officials said security forces were preparing for more violence in Kashmir. "Militants are not happy with the ongoing peace process. They are also desperate after losing their top brass. So they will try to do such acts in future also," said a senior intelligence official. Police fired in the air and used tear gas to disperse hundreds of people protesting against the blast, blaming it on the government. Three protesters were wounded, witnesses said. Soldiers patrolled the streets after the explosion in Pulwama. Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf said today he was very hopeful of resolving the dispute with India over Kashmir, although he gave no time frame. More than 45,000 people have been killed in

Kashmir since the revolt began against Indian rule in 1989. -- Reuters.

Srinagar, Jun 14 -- A strike in protest against a bomb explosion that killed 15 people shut down schools, shops and businesses in Indian Kashmir's main city today. More than 100 people were wounded in yesterday's powerful car bomb explosion near a school in the town of Pulwama south of Srinagar, summer capital of Indian Kashmir. Police blamed Muslim rebels for the explosion, but no militant group claimed responsibility for one of the worst attacks in recent months. Schools and colleges were also closed in the strike called by Kashmir's hardline separatist leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, and a Pakistan-based militant alliance, United Jihad Council. -- Reuters.

IRAN

Tehran, Jun 12 -- At least three bombs exploded in the south-western Iranian oil town of Ahvaz today, killing three people, an Interior Ministry spokesman said. He said three or four bombs had gone off in the town, 550 km south-west of Tehran. -- Reuters.

Ahvaz, Jun 12 -- Bombs killed eight people and wounded 75 in Iran today in a rare string of attacks five days before a presidential election. Security is tight in the Islamic republic, where bombings have been almost unheard of in the past decade. Officials blamed the attacks on exiled opposition groups seeking to dissuade Iranians from voting. Four bombs in Ahvaz, capital of the partly Arabic-speaking province of Khuzestan, where most of Iran's oil reserves lie, targeted government buildings, killing seven people, provincial officials said. Hours later, a bomb in the capital Tehran killed one person. The bombings have rattled Iranians ahead of the elections, in which Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is favourite in opinion polls to regain the post he held from 1989 to 1997. Rafsanjani, a wily pragmatist seen as the most moderate of five conservative candidates, remains well short of the 50% support he needs to avoid a run-off vote. A poll published yesterday showed that Mostafa Moin, one of three reformists in the race, had edged ahead of former police chief Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf into second place. In the Ahvaz blasts, two of the dead were women, and 70 people were wounded, the officials said. Ethnic unrest claimed five lives in Khuzestan in April. The Popular Democratic Front of Ahvaz, which is campaigning for an independent Khuzestan, denied it was behind the attacks, but said another Arab group calling itself the Ahvazi Revolutionary Martyrs' Brigades had claimed responsibility. The Tehran bomb was hidden in a rubbish bin. Apart from the person killed, five people were wounded, Ali Aghamohammadi, spokesman for the Supreme National Security Council, said. The dead man had been waiting for a bus near Imam Hossein square

in a crowded district. Hardline Islamic vigilantes detained about 20 foreign journalists who had converged on the bomb scene and took them to a nearby mosque, one of the journalists said in a call from his mobile telephone. It was not clear why they were being held. A police spokesman said a home-made device had also exploded in a rubbish bin in central Tehran, causing no casualties. Aghamohammadi said three other bombs had been defused in Tehran and several people had been arrested. There was no immediate word on who had carried out the Tehran bombing or whether it was linked to the attacks in Ahvaz. The bombs in Ahvaz, 550 km south-west of Tehran, targeted the governor's office, as well as two local government departments and a housing complex for state media employees. -- Reuters.

IRAQ

London, Jun 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Saboteurs blew up a main oil pipeline in northern Iraq yesterday, police said today. "A huge fire flared at about 1600, GMT, after saboteurs blew up a bomb under the oil pipeline, eight km east of Baiji refinery," Lie. Col. Yassin al-Janabi in Baiji said. The pipeline is one of the main pipelines that feed Baiji refinery with crude from Kirkuk oil fields, Janabi said, adding that large quantities of crude leaked to the nearby valleys of Hemrin mountains, some 210 km north of Baghdad. Firefighters and Iraq security forces backed by US troops reached the area, where black and thick smoke could be seen pouring into the sky, he added. The saboteurs filled their tankers with stolen crude to smuggle it out of Iraq, added the statement. The police managed to detain the saboteurs, but large quantities of crude had leaked to a nearby valley, situated about 15 km north of Baiji, the statement said.

Baghdad, Jun 11 -- A suicide bomber wearing the uniform of Iraq's high-profile Wolf Brigade police force killed eight officers and wounded many others at the commando unit's Baghdad headquarters today, police at the scene said. Police officials put the total number of dead and injured at close to 20. The bomber, who officers said also carried police identity documents, entered the barracks with other members of the unit reporting for work in the morning. Body parts littered the barracks area, close to the Interior Ministry and police academy, which houses the Wolf Brigade, a military-style force of several hundred mainly drawn from the capital's Shi'ite poor. In another incident, a car bomb exploded in a street in a Shi'ite area of Baghdad overnight, killing 11 people and wounding 29, police and hospital officials said today. Residents in the area said locals had become suspicious about a car parked in a street in north-west Baghdad yesterday evening. As they crowded around it, the car exploded. -- Reuters.

Baghdad, Jun 11-- Gunmen opened fire on a bus filled with labourers just south of Baghdad today, killing 10

people and wounding three, a police official said. The official said the bus carrying 13 people was travelling from the southern town of Hilla to Baghdad when two cars pulled up on either side and the gunmen attacked. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated Jun 12, states: The US military announced the killing of four more soldiers today, pushing the American death toll past 1,700, and police found the bullet-riddled bodies of 28 people - many thought to be Sunni Arabs -- buried in shallow graves or dumped in the streets in Baghdad. The bodies were discovered as the Shiite-led government pressed to open disarmament talks with insurgents responsible for a relentless campaign of violence, which has taken on ominous sectarian overtones with recurring tit-for-tat killings. A crackdown by Iraqi security forces in Baghdad and offensives carried out by US forces in western Iraq have had only had a temporary effect in blunting the cycle of carnage in which at least 940 people have died since Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari announced his government six weeks ago. Al-Jaafari spokesman Laith Kuba said many militant groups were reaching out to the government, seeking a place in the political process. He urged them to lay down their arms. Some insurgents are motivated to end their resistance, Kuba argued, by the election of an Iraqi government which put the American presence in the background, although its military is still 140,000 strong. "Now is the right time for any group to lay down their weapons and take part in the political process," he said. The offer did not include foreign extremists such as Jordanian-born al-Qaida in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi because "they only want to kill," Kuba said. Four American soldiers died yesterday in two roadside bombings west of Baghdad, increasing the number of US forces killed since the war began in March, 2003, to at least 1,701. Al-Zarqawi's group has claimed responsibility for multiple suicide bombings, including yesterday's attack inside Baghdad's heavily guarded Interior Ministry headquarters. That attack killed at least three people and targeted the feared Wolf Brigade, a Shiite-dominated commando unit that Sunnis claim is killing members of their community, including Muslim clerics. Gen Rashid Flaiyeh, who runs all the Interior Ministry elite units including the Wolf Brigade, escaped an apparent assassination attempt today when a mortar barrage rained down on his mother's funeral in northern Baghdad. Eleven mourners were wounded, including two seriously, Lt Ismael Abdul Sattar said. Flaiyeh is Interior Minister Bayan Jabr's security adviser. Lt. Ayad Othman said a shepherd found the bodies of 20 men on Friday (Jun 10) in the Nahrawan desert, 20 miles east of Baghdad. "All were blindfolded and their hands were tied behind their backs and shot from behind," Othman

said. "The assassins excavated a hole and buried them inside it and seven were found naked." Witnesses claimed the slain men were Sunnis, according to a statement from the influential Sunni organisation, the Association of Muslim Scholars. No details were provided to support the claim, but the association said it had begun an investigation. Eight other slain men were found shot in the head today in two different locations in Baghdad's predominately Shiite northern suburb of Shula, police Capt Majed Abdul Aziz said. The bodies could not immediately be identified. The discoveries were announced two days after 21 men were found slain on Friday near Qaim, on the lawless Syrian frontier about 200 miles west of Baghdad. It was feared the bodies may have been those of Iraqi soldiers who went missing on Wednesday after leaving their base in Akashat, a remote village near Qaim, in a bus bound for Baghdad. Last month, multiple batches of bodies turned up in various locations across Iraq. Many were killed in apparent revenge slayings that have raised fears Iraq was descending into sectarian civil war. Despite the raging violence, there were several positive developments today. French journalist Florence Aubenas and her Iraqi assistant Hussein Hanoun al-Saadi were freed yesterday after five months in captivity. Aubenas left Baghdad at noon today on a French government aircraft in the middle of a sandstorm that had closed the capital's international airport for two days. In northern Iraq, the 111-member Kurdish Parliament unanimously elected veteran guerrilla leader Massoud Barzani to be the first president of Iraq's northern Kurdistan region. Barzani was elected to a four-year term and will also lead the Kurdish Peshmerga militia, which numbers an estimated 100,000 members.

Baghdad, Jun 13 -- A senior US diplomat survived today when a suicide car bomber struck a US military convoy in Baghdad, several police sources said. The diplomat's identity was unclear. It was also not clear if he was specifically the target. A US embassy spokesman said he was unaware of the incident or of any diplomatic convoy being attacked. A spokesman for the Iraqi Islamic Party, a major Sunni Muslim grouping, said a senior US official had just left its compound in western Baghdad when the explosion occurred. A US military spokesman said a US patrol had been hit by a car bomb but he was unaware of a diplomat being involved. An Interior Ministry spokesman and police had said earlier that a US military convoy had been attacked by a suicide car bomber in the west of Baghdad at around 1400 hrs (1000, UTC), and that two civilians nearby had been killed and five wounded. Witnesses said US soldiers cordoned off the area after the blast, arriving in unusually large numbers for what was otherwise a fairly routine incident in

Baghdad. There has been a surge in suicide car bombings in Iraq over the past six weeks since a new, Shi'ite-led government was formed, many of them targeting Iraqi police and soldiers. Around 900 people have been killed in that time, most of them civilians. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 29 people have been killed and 60 wounded in bombing attacks in northern Iraq, as the autonomous Kurdish region is set to install its first president. A blast has hit civil servants waiting outside a bank in the northern Iraqi oil hub of Kirkuk, killing at least 19 people and wounding 53 others. Kirkuk police chief Major General Turhan Yusuf says a suicide bomber has blown himself up amid public workers standing outside the Al-Rafidain bank in the city centre. The blast comes shortly before Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani is to be sworn in as president of three provinces in northern Iraq, an event that seals their long fought-for autonomy but does not resolve the disputed status of Kirkuk. Mr Barzani, son of the Kurdish nationalist hero Mullah Mustafa Barzani, is to take the oath of office after being formally selected on Sunday (Jun 12) as president of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Baquba, Jun 15 -- A suicide bomber killed 16 people at a restaurant popular with Iraqi soldiers north of the capital, police in the nearby town of Baquba said. Further details of the explosion in the town of Khalis, 60 km north of Baghdad, were not available. -- Reuters.

Baghdad, Jun 15 -- Iraqi troops found and freed an Australian held hostage in Baghdad Monday (Jun 13), the latest of several recent success in recovering foreign captives. But two bomb attacks on Iraqi troops and police, including one in which a soldier may have blown himself up with nearly 30 other troops, showed insurgents remain a deadly force. Iraqi soldiers came across Douglas Wood, a 63-year-old U.S.-based engineer, lying tied up under a blanket as they searched a house they suspected was being used by gunmen. Coming four days after the release of a French journalist and three weeks after Romanian reporters who were held by the same group, there was speculation that security services may be closing in on kidnap gangs -- although it appeared Wood's discovery may have owed more to chance than intelligence. An Iraqi hostage was also found. There was little violence and three people were arrested, the U.S. military said, describing it as a raid on a suspected arms cache. At Khalis, 60 km north of Baghdad, a suicide bomber wearing Iraqi army uniform killed at least 26 people and wounded 29 at an army mess, police and military sources said. Six soldiers were still listed as missing. Wounded men told reporters they believed the bomber was a member of their unit. In the same town, on the main road north to the oil city of Kirkuk, two senior

anti-terrorist police officers from Kirkuk were killed by gunmen who opened fire on their car, local police said. In southern Baghdad, a car bomb exploded near a police patrol, killing at least 10 people and wounding 29, police said. The blast blew a crater in the road and destroyed half a dozen cars, including several police vehicles. Police officers said policemen and civilians were among the dead and wounded. Two mortar rounds landed on houses in the southwest of the capital, killing five people, police said. In Tal Afar, a volatile town near the northern city of Mosul, five civilians and two police officers were killed when at least 15 mortar rounds rained down on a police base in an old fort and neighboring houses, police said. Fifteen people, including a policeman, were wounded, medical staff said. -- Reuters.

ISRAEL

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Israel's Supreme Court ruled today that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Gaza withdrawal plan is constitutional, removing the last legal obstacle to this summer's watershed pullout. In Gaza, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas met with Islamic militants in a bid to salvage a shaky truce following a flare-up in fighting with Israel. Abbas urged the militants to respect the cease-fire and reached an agreement granting them a role in withdrawal preparations, scheduled to begin in mid-August. The 11-judge Supreme Court rejected 12 petitions by opponents of the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements, ruling that the pullout does not violate the settlers' human rights. In their 320-page ruling, the judges upheld four technical challenges dealing with financial compensation for settlers to be evicted but stressed that the withdrawal itself is constitutional. One judge dissented, arguing that a law governing the pullout is unsound and should be repealed. Yoram Sheftel, an attorney for the settlers, said his expectations were low because the Supreme Court has a tendency to back the government against Jewish settlers. Since Sharon already has won parliamentary approval for the withdrawal, the court decision exhausted the settlers' legal options for halting the withdrawal. The plan would uproot 9,000 settlers from their homes. Justice Minister Tzipi Livni praised the court's decision and expressed hope the ruling would defuse potentially violent settler resistance to the evacuation. Abbas arrived in Gaza yesterday night against a background of violence, an Israeli air strike on a mortar launcher and empty vehicle, and rocket fire at Israeli targets by Hamas and Islamic Jihad. On Tuesday (Jun 7), six people were killed in a series of clashes. Abbas hoped to shore up the truce during his visit. He also was seeking to resolve an election dispute with Hamas. Abbas recently postponed

legislative elections, angering the armed Islamic militant group. Samir Mashharawi, a member of Abbas' Fatah party who participated in the meeting, said the Palestinian leader urged the militants to halt their attacks even if they perceived Israel to be violating the truce. In Gaza, an explosion rocked a refugee camp today, witnesses said. There were no reports of injuries. The Israeli army said the blast appeared to have been an accident.

KYRGYZSTAN

Bishkek, Jun 10 -- A leading Kyrgyz parliamentarian was shot dead in the centre of the capital, Bishkek today, the city police chief said. A Reuters reporter at the scene near a theatre just off Bishkek's main avenue saw a corpse covered with a white cloth. Police chief Omurbek Suvanaliyev named the parliamentarian as Zhirgalbek Surabaliyev, but gave no further details. The motive for the shooting and identity of the attackers were not immediately clear. Kyrgyzstan has been wracked by political turmoil for months following a flawed parliamentary poll in February and March which sparked protests and led to the ousting of President Askar Akayev. -- Reuters.

LIBERIA

Monrovia, Jun 10 -- The international community still needs provide another US \$10 million so that thousands of ex-combatants can be eased back into civilian life, UN officials said today. Almost two years after Liberia's peace deal, around 43,000 former fighters who have been disarmed are still waiting for funds to go back to school or begin vocational training. UN officials said the United States had recently donated \$15 million to help reintegrate ex-combatants and Sweden had given \$3.6 million. The European Commission, meanwhile, has pledged seven million euros (US \$8.5 million). "(This) has helped us reduce the funding shortfall... but we still need about \$10 million," Abou Moussa, the acting head of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), told reporters today. Liberia is struggling to recover from 14 years of civil war, and with crunch elections just four months away, international experts are worried about ex-combatants kicking their heels on the streets, creating a ready-made recruiting pool for anyone wanting to disrupt the democratic process. Analysts point to the fact that a flawed disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration process in Liberia in the 1990s was a key reason behind the West African nation's spiral back to war. -- Reuters.

MEXICO

Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, Jun 13 -- Mexican troops and federal police took over a lawless city on the U.S. border today to curb a drug war that has spiralled out of control, killing dozens and setting off an armed clash between police. Some 45 people have been killed this year in Nuevo Laredo,

across the Rio Grande from Laredo, Texas, in a fight between cartels for control of drug routes. Order collapsed last week when suspected drug hitmen killed the town's security chief Alejandro Dominguez in a hail of 30 bullets only a day after he had been sworn into the post. Troops in Humvee vehicles roared through the streets and federal police surrounded the town hall this morning, taking dozens of local police away in trucks. On Saturday (Jun 11), some 40 municipal police ambushed federal agents sent from Mexico City to investigate the killing. President Vicente Fox's government accused local cops of being in the pay of drug traffickers. "There are very clear signs of a relationship between elements of the Nuevo Laredo police and drug smuggling, hence the decisive action," government spokesman Ruben Aguilar told journalists in the capital. More than 500 people have been killed in Mexico this year in a drug turf war, mostly between smugglers from the western state of Sinaloa and the Gulf Cartel, based in Tamaulipas state south of Texas. Aguilar said federal forces had also begun an anti-crime crackdown in Sinaloa and the state of Baja California at the weekend. Nuevo Laredo is a key link in the northward trade of cocaine, marijuana and amphetamines. Joaquin "Shorty" Guzman, a drug trafficker from Sinaloa and Mexico's most wanted man, is trying to take business from the Gulf Cartel in and around Nuevo Laredo, security sources say. -- Reuters.

NIGERIA

Abuja, Jun 10 -- A new round of talks aimed at ending a two-year conflict in Sudan's Darfur region began in Nigeria today with both sides cautiously optimistic about chances for a deal. At stake is an elusive settlement of a dispute that has killed tens of thousands of people and driven more than two million from their homes into teeming refugee camps inside Sudan and across the border in Chad. Delegates from the Sudanese government and two rebel groups spelled out their positions at a ceremony to launch the negotiations at an Abuja hotel, as did mediators headed by the African Union. "The positive thing they (the rebels) said was that they are committed to reaching peace during this round. That is the most important thing they mentioned," Majzoub al-Khalifa, head of the government negotiating team, said after the ceremony. The parties said they would tackle immediate issues such as restoring security for Darfur's people as well as longer-term questions such as power-sharing arrangements in the region. The Darfur talks come in the wake of a separate peace deal reached by the government in January with different rebel groups in the south of the country, ending a 20-year civil war. -- Reuters.

Warri, Jun 15 -- A militant group in Nigeria's oil-producing Niger Delta

said it kidnapped two German oil workers and four Nigerians today to press for a series of social and economic demands. Oil services company B&B said six of its staff, two Germans and four Nigerians, were abducted while travelling by boat from Delta State to Bayelsa State, where the ethnic Ijaw militant group is based. "Six of our staff including two Germans and four Nigerians were kidnapped earlier today. We haven't heard any word from them," said Thomas Horbach, B&B project manager in the oil hub of Warri. T.I.T. Manse, leader of the Iduwini National Movement for Peace and Development, said the kidnappings were aimed at putting pressure on the local unit of Royal Dutch Shell. He said B&B was a Shell sub-contractor. Manse, reached by satellite phone from the Amatu community along the Dodo River in Bayelsa State, said his movement was angry at Shell for failing to meet economic and social commitments it had made to the community. Shell had no immediate comment on the kidnappings, while the police in Bayelsa said they had no knowledge of the abductions. -- Reuters.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jun 16 -- Unknown saboteurs fired rockets at the passengers train of Pakistan Railway-Chilton Express near Jacobabad in Sindh Province of Pakistan late yesterday night. Railway police official told journalists that the Chilton Express was on its way from Quetta City of Balochistan Province to Lahore in Punjab. After it left Jacobabad railway station for Lahore, unknown armed men fired two rockets at the train near Dil Murad railway station injuring five passengers and damaging one of its bogies. Heavy contingent of police reached the scene and started investigation. However, the train proceeded to its destination after one hour -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, Jun 14 -- Communist rebels ambushed an army convoy in the northern Philippines today and killed at least 10 soldiers, police and military officials said. The ambush came two days after security forces killed 14 suspected communist rebels in a raid on a farming village in the northern province of Pampanga, near the capital Manila. An army spokesman in Manila said 10 soldiers were killed and several were missing in the attack in Ilocos Sur Province, 300 km north of the capital. Local police said 13 troops had died. The soldiers were on their way to a military ceremony in Cervantes town in the province when the heavily armed rebels attacked their truck, police said. -- Reuters.

RUSSIA

Moscow, Jun 10 -- Chechen rebels killed seven Russian police in an attack near the mountainous south of the region, Russian officials were quoted as saying today. The RIA Novosti and Interfax news agencies

quoted the regional interior ministry as saying the rebels were armed with a grenade launcher and hit a police vehicle near the village of Kurchaloi. Attacks by separatist rebels are daily events in Chechnya but it is rare for Russian officials to acknowledge their losses so quickly. -- Reuters.

Moscow, Jun 12 -- A Russian passenger train heading for restive Chechnya was derailed by an explosion today, Interfax news agency quoted the FSB national security service as saying. "The train driver said that an explosion took place in front of the engine," it quoted FSB spokeswoman Diana Shemyakina as saying. No one was killed when two carriages of the train heading for the Chechen capital Grozny derailed 150 km south of Moscow. Officials said two people were taken to hospital and more than 10 were lightly injured. Shemyakina told Interfax that a one-metre crater had been discovered at the scene. She said investigators had also found electric wires attached to rails. -- Reuters.

SOMALIA

Mogadishu, Jun 9 -- Mogadishu gunmen today re-manned roadblocks that were dismantled just two days ago in an unprecedented drive to prove the violent Somali capital is safe enough to be its Kenya-based government's home. The checkpoints, where heavily armed militias extort money from passing drivers, re-appeared in a few locations around the coastal capital in a blow to the peace effort, witnesses said. It prompted a strike by bus drivers -- regular victims of the extortion -- who demanded the roadblocks be completely removed. A little more than a dozen checkpoints have been taken down since Tuesday (Jun 7). Independent sources said earlier reports that as many as 25 of the roughly 50 in the city were dismantled were mistaken. On Wednesday (Jun 8), residents threw rocks at a re-established roadblock near the Bakara Market in a unprecedented display of civil anger. Though the militia refused to leave, drivers have since avoided the street to deprive the gunmen money, said Jabril Ibrahim Abdulle of the Centre for Research and Dialogue think-tank in Mogadishu. The roadblock removal effort, backed by civilian groups working with warlords, was part of a plan to pay gunmen to disarm and re-train as police or security at camps around the city. The interim Somali government, still based in Kenya where it was formed at peace talks last year, is deeply split on where it should first make its home. Mogadishu warlords in the government and allied MPs, including Speaker Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan, insist on Mogadishu, and have travelled there to make the case it is safe. Others allied with President Abdullahi Yusuf plan to first return to Jowhar, north of the capital, and the southern town of Baidoa, with a liaison office in Mogadishu. They argue the capital must be pacified before the government can fully

relocate there. Somali officials in Kenya plan to leave next week, after the Kenyan government hosts a farewell on Monday (Jun 13), Kenya's Ambassador to Somalia Mohamed Affey told Reuters. "There is no deadline. The proposition is that we have a final farewell ceremony hosted by Kenya as the host government for the Somali transitional institutions," Affey said, adding that MPs still here would soon go home. The Somali government has repeatedly delayed its return date. Donors are still paying the MPs' bills at Nairobi hotels. Yesterday, Somalia's cabinet appointed former diplomat Dr. Elmi Ahmed Duale ambassador to the United Nations. His appointment came as the cabinet approved an as-yet unfunded budget of \$279.5 million, the appointments of other presidential advisers and an ambassador to China. Meanwhile, a long-running fight between two subclans over control of southern town of Garbaharrey flared yesterday, killing nine and injuring 16, people who fled the town told Reuters by radio. Militias with heavy machine guns battled for control of the town, considered a strategic business hub because of its location near the Kenyan border in Somalia's southwest. -- Reuters.

Nairobi, Jun 13 -- Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia, which has been based in Nairobi since formed eight months ago, began relocating to the country today. Somali government spokesman Abdurahman Dinari said the relocation from Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, would be completed in a few days. "This morning the president, the prime minister, ministers and members of parliament will attend a farewell ceremony being held for them by [Kenyan] President Kibaki at State House," Dinari said. Interim President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed was scheduled to depart for Somalia following the ceremony, accompanied by cabinet ministers, Members of Parliament and other officials," he said. His first stop would be in the town of Jowhar, 90 km north of the Somali capital, Mogadishu. Dinari said Prime Minister Ali Muhammad Gedi and the rest of the Somali government "will follow within the next few days". Since the TFG was established in October 2004 Nairobi, it had announced plans to relocate to Somalia several times but it did not do so. While some government officials are installed in Mogadishu, this is the first time the "president is leading the way," a regional analyst, who requested anonymity, said. "It is a positive sign, and they seem serious this time around." The new government, which includes several faction leaders, did not relocate sooner because of security considerations. It had recently come under increasing pressure from the Kenyan government and western diplomats to relocate. On Jun 8, hotels in Nairobi asked members of the transitional government to vacate the rooms they have occupied for almost three years.

Earlier, the interim government had decided to relocate temporarily to the towns of Jowhar and Baidoa, in south-central Somalia. Yusuf and Gedi have said the government could not function in Mogadishu until the city was pacified and secured. "This government is determined to establish itself in Somalia, with the help of the international community" Dinari said. "There will be no turning back." At least 100 members of the 275-strong parliament, led by Speaker Sharif Hassan Shaykh Aden, are already in Mogadishu in an attempt to stabilise the city. They have been convincing faction leaders to disarm and encamp their militias. The first operation to rid Mogadishu of illegal roadblocks manned by armed militia began on Jun 7, in an effort to restore order to the war-torn city. Meanwhile, yesterday, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) council of ministers called upon the UN Security Council to lift an arms embargo it had imposed on Somalia. In a statement, IGAD asked the UN "to expedite the lifting of arms embargo on Somalia to allow for the deployment" of IGAD peacekeeping troops. -- Reuters.

Mogadishu, Jun 14 -- The plane carrying Somalia's president had to be diverted from landing in his country, and instead flew to Djibouti after he bade a formal farewell to his government's temporary home in Kenya, officials said today. Reuters erroneously reported yesterday that President Abdullahi Yusuf had arrived in the Somali provincial town of Jowhar, after earlier in the day leaving Kenya to set up his government on home soil. Yusuf had been due to land yesterday night in Jowhar and spend the night there, said Dahir Mire, permanent secretary in the office of the president. But the plane was delayed in leaving Kenya, and approached Jowhar after nightfall. "The pilot had to divert the plane to Djibouti because the airstrip in Jowhar has no lights," Mire said. Presidential spokesman Yusuf Ismail Baribari said the pilot of the plane decided not to risk the landing and headed for the nearest airport with night landing facilities, in neighbouring Djibouti. Officials say Yusuf will return from a planned tour of several Gulf countries, that was to begin in Qatar today, in about two weeks. Baribari said the president would begin touring Somalia after his arrival to start his day-to-day work as president. Prime Minister Mohammed Ali Gedi is expected to leave Kenya for Mogadishu on Thursday (Jun 16). Yusuf's government is the 14th attempt to restore effective administration to Somalia since it collapsed into chaos after the overthrow of military ruler Mohammed Siad Barre in 1991. -- Reuters.

SPAIN

London, Jun 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: An explosion shook an area near the airport in the

Spanish city of Zaragoza today following a warning call in the name of armed Basque separatist group ETA, officials said. Witnesses reported hearing two whistling noises that sounded like rockets being fired, but there was only one explosion, a government spokesman said. Authorities evacuated the airport before the blast, he said. The blast followed a warning call in the name of ETA to a Basque newspaper.

THAILAND

London, Jun 10 - A press report, dated today, states: A spate of arson attacks hit Thailand's unrest deep south today, a continuation of the previous day's violence spree. Beginning on early today, insurgents launched nine arson attacks against public buildings in the southern province of Pattani, some 1,000 kilometres south of Bangkok. Targets of the attacks included kindergarten, technical school, telephone booths and government office building, local police told Xinhua stringer. No casualties were reported in the attacks. It's the second day that Pattani has fallen into intensive trouble-making violence by militants. More than 10 arson attacks and eight bombs were reported in eight of Pattani's 12 districts yesterday, injuring four people. Insurgents also scattered road spikes on highway and sprayed separatist slogans on public buildings. A spate of violence also hit the neighbouring provinces of Songkhla and Narathiwat, which witnessed four arson attacks and one bomb explosion on late yesterday and today. One soldier was seriously injured when a bomb exploded on his way of patrol in Narathiwat last night.

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two bombs exploded in Thailand's restive Muslim-majority south today, killing one man and wounding three, police said, the latest violence in the region where more than 700 people have been killed in 18 months. A bomb hidden in a garbage truck exploded when it was driving past Sungai Padi police station in the province of Narathiwat, along the Malaysian border, killing one of the garbage workers and injuring two others, police said. A policeman parking his motorcycle near the road was also injured. Two hours earlier, a bomb blew up outside a bank in nearby Waeng district, although nobody was injured, police said. The government has imposed martial law in parts of the three southernmost provinces to curb the violence.

ZIMBABWE

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Police in Zimbabwe have fought running battles with residents of one of the oldest townships in Bulawayo as they demolished illegal structures. Makhokhoba in Bulawayo was the centre of resistance to colonial rule. A police spokesman said that more than 20,000 structures had been destroyed and 30,000 arrested in the three-week

nationwide operation. The opposition say "Operation Murambatsvina (Drive out rubbish)" is punishment for urban dwellers who mostly voted against the ruling Zanu-PF party in March elections. President Robert Mugabe said it is needed to "restore sanity" to Zimbabwe's towns and cities. The crackdown, which the United Nations says has left some 200,000 people homeless, has been condemned by Zimbabwe's churches, teachers and doctors. Zimbabwe's teachers' association said it had been a "catastrophe". Even those whose homes escaped "seem so traumatized they cannot concentrate on their learning", it said. In London, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said that Zimbabwe's charge d'affaires had been summoned in protest. He said the many HIV-positive Zimbabweans had been especially badly hit by the evictions. He also said that an extra 25 names had been added to the 95 people subject to a European Union travel ban and assets freeze. But Zimbabwe's police superintendent Oliver Mandipaka said that the operation would continue "until we have weeded out all criminal elements countrywide," reports the state-owned Herald newspaper. Even the well-respected traditional doctors in Makhokhoba township were not spared as riot police ordered the healers and their patients out of their shacks before setting them on fire. Most of the traditional doctors lost their herbs and supposedly magic charms. The police then moved on to flatten houses in Mzilikazi township next door to Makhokhoba. Bulawayo police spokesman Smile Dube said so far in Makhokhoba, police have discovered electrical goods worth thousands of dollars which they claim have been smuggled across the Botswana and South Africa borders.

within the paper industry could go on until the end of the month, forcing short-term working or temporary lay-offs of staff. Imerys says it is also considering requiring employees to take early holiday leave and time off in lieu of overtime as the dispute in Finland shows no sign of an early settlement. Six months of talks on new working arrangements between the Finnish Forest Industries Federation and the Finnish Paper Workers' Union have broken down and employees are now on strike. Around 32 percent of overseas clay sales go to Finland. Paper workers have been locked out by their employers for the past three weeks, which has caused all paper production in the country to cease. There is also a fear that the dispute could spread to Sweden where there are indications that its paper union could take industrial action in support their Finnish colleagues. The lockout in Finland could go on until the end of June if a resolution between the trade union and employers is not found and local clay is currently being stockpiled in storage depots now that exports to Imerys' main market have ground to a halt. Just five clay vessels have left Fowey this month.

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: A six-month-old labour dispute in the Finnish paper industry was set to continue after the Forestry Industries Federation, which represents pulp and paper producers, decided today to extend a month-old lockout. Talks between union and employers' representatives broke down yesterday evening when the two sides failed to reach agreement on a sector-wide collective agreement. Plants will therefore remain closed for an additional week, from Jun 29 until Jul 6, the Forestry Industries Federation said in a statement. "Employers were ready to find solutions on several questions but the Finnish Paperworkers' Union was not willing to compromise its targets," federation boss Timo Poranen said in a statement late yesterday. The state-appointed mediator suspended the talks, but may call the two sides to the negotiating table again next week. Several strikes by the industry's 24,000 workers and the lockout have resulted in falling production and some 40 million euros of lost earnings per day.

GREECE

London, Jun 10 -- A report in today's edition of "Newsfront" states: With congestion quickly building up Piraeus dockworkers began a 48-hour strike Jun 9. They had already been abstaining from overtime and weekend work, leading ship agents to demand Marine minister Manolis Kefaloyiannis, the Piraeus Port Authority (PPA) management and the workers resolve their dispute over pay and work conditions "at whatever the cost". With rolling repeated 48-hour strikes commencing Jun 9, some 20 container ships were said to be held up and at least a score more had been diverted. The car terminal was



NIGERIA

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."



FINLAND

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A crippling strike in Finland has severely hit clay exports from Fowey and Par Docks and could lead to Imerys employees being laid off. Rocks Pit and the Goonbarrow Refinery at Bugle have already been shut down because of the industrial action in Scandinavia and the clay company fears the dispute

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affected from Jun 9, ferry sailings disrupted, though dockers had agreed "for the time being" to handle cruise ships. On Jun 6 dockers occupied the office in the port where casual seasonal labour is employed. A Jun 9 meeting between Kefaloyiannis and dockers' representatives lasted just 20 minutes as both sides dug in their heels. The minister has vowed he will negotiate, but "not under pressure". He maintains the "few privileged dockers do not have any support" and the action will bring the port and the country's economy to its knees. The action follows Kefaloyiannis' refusal to endorse a pay deal agreed between the port's management and the unions. The minister said the remuneration of employees at the container terminal was excessively high and has published a list of port handling equipment operators showing their annual income, with some of the 325 dockers involved, earning E140,000 a year. This sum has not been officially challenged. Spyros Angelopoulos, president of the International Maritime Union, the representative body of Greece's liner agents, has expressed concern over the impact of the action on the Piraeus' image and pleaded to the parties to safeguard the working peace at the port. He claims the motives of each side "are unclear" and no one knows what the intransigent stance being adopted by each side will achieve. Ioannis Theologitis, president of Panhellenic Ship Agents Association, said the action had forced bulk carriers to cancel calls, while pure car carriers diverted to Eleusis. He notes the agreements at the heart of the dispute "has been seven years in the making" and blames the situation on "decisions made by the previous government". The port workers are diametrically opposed to government plans to cap pay, privatise port services and the practice of employing seasonal labour. As one analyst commented: "It's worker action like this that reminds the private investor of the pitfalls of working in industries where unions have held sway. We just have to look at what happened at the shipyards and how they were brought to their knees before the unions came to understand there can be a future for everyone, through co-operation."

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Greek bank workers continued to stay off the job today, after their union voted to extend a nationwide strike by 48 hours. The union is opposed to government plans to create a new supplementary pension fund for bank workers. Last week, bank employees staged two 48-hour strikes, creating problems for customers.

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Greek bank workers continued a nationwide strike for a seventh day today, after their union rejected government-proposed pension reforms. Under the reform, bank pension funds will be merged into Greece's main social security fund, IKA, while a state-controlled

supplementary fund will be created with voluntary participation by banks.

London, Jun 16 -- Port workers at Piraeus have today embarked on a new 48-hour strike, in support of their demands regarding wages, working hours and pension rights. The strike will apply for today and tomorrow.

NETHERLANDS

London, Jun 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Dutch workers at ProRail, the Netherlands' state-owned track maintenance company, hold a one-day strike tomorrow to press for a pay increase and will halt passenger and freight trains across the country. The FNV Bondgenoten, CNV and VHS labour unions asked ProRail's 3,000 employees to strike after the company offered a pay increase of 2.75 percent, while unions demand 4.75 percent. The strike, between 0300 hrs and 2300 hrs, will stop trains that carry about one million passengers and 80,000 tons of freight daily. ProRail pay talks broke down this month.

PAKISTAN

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Pakistan authorities have detained 300 staff of the state-owned telecoms company following strike threats. The government owns 88% of PTCL and plans to sell off a 26% stake. But unions fear job losses, causing thousands of workers to strike. The authorities have confirmed they made dozens of arrests after unions threatened to disrupt service unless the sale was withdrawn by Wednesday (Jun 15). Unions said that PTCL makes money and that there were no grounds for a sale. There is no grounds for it to be sold. Last month, telecoms firms including Singapore Telecoms, China Mobile HK, Telekom Malaysia, Saudi Oger, Emirates Telecoms, Turkcell and the Almal Consortium of Egypt, were shortlisted as potential bidders for the 26% stake. The unions fear the government is selling its stake, which has a market value of around \$1.5bn (£0.83bn), too cheaply. There were conflicting reports about how much disruption the strike had caused. Unions said "thousands" of PTCL's workers were on strike. But PTCL said that its service had run "smoothly" yesterday. An army spokesman said that troops had kept 52 exchanges running. This is not the first strike by PTCL workers fearing the consequences of partial privatisation.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jun 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: South Africa's Metrorail strike is over. The United Transport and Allied Trade Union (Utatu) followed the United Association of South Africa (Uasa) in calling off the strike yesterday evening. "Members who wish to return to work are free to do so," Utatu's general secretary Chris de Vos said in a statement. De Vos said negotiations with Metrorail failed and their demand of a 6.5 percent wage increase

was not met. He said a proposal from labour that the Commission for Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration get involved and other suggestions were refused by management. "It seems all efforts from Utatu have been discounted and ignored by management," he said. "Members should urgently inform us whether we should accept the 4.5 percent offer." Meanwhile, Uasa and Metrorail said in a joint statement that in terms of an agreement signed yesterday afternoon, the union had accepted an offer of 4.5 percent plus one percent for notch increases. The agreement was effective from April 1. In return, management committed itself to looking into improving the working conditions at the workplace, and ensuring the consolidation of Metrorail and the SA Rail Commuter Corporation would be orderly and conducted in a way that both maintained or improved conditions of employment. Management would also review remuneration parity between employees in Metrorail and Spoornet. It had also agreed to the encashment of accumulated leave over the June-July period, but this would be limited to three days. "Crucially, the agreement, which is also in line with the balanced one concluded with Satawu, the majority union, means that the three-day strike action by Uasa's members is called off immediately. "Given the fact that a decisive majority of unionised workers have accepted the offer on the table, management is now in a position to go ahead with the implementation of the wage agreement," management and Uasa said.

ZIMBABWE

Harare, Jun 10 -- A two-day strike called to protest a crackdown by President Robert Mugabe's government on informal traders headed for a total collapse today when most businesses opened as usual for the second consecutive day. A coalition of civic groups, supported by the main opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), had urged Zimbabweans to stay away from work yesterday and today to protest the destruction by police of illegal homes and street businesses. Police said a week ago they had arrested nearly 23,000 people and a U.N. official has estimated about 200,000 were left homeless. -- Reuters. (See issue of Jun 10.)

Awards & Settlements



EXPOSURE TO DISEASE, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated Jun 13, states: The widow of a man who died two years after contracting a rare flesh-eating disease while helping at the scene of a car

crash has settled with a tractor-trailer driver and his employer for \$2.3 million. Ronald Dyson, pulled over to help after a car ran into a utility pole, causing metal cable wires to fall. A tractor-trailer then drove into the low-hanging cables and Dyson was lashed and tossed in the air, according to court papers. The cables were coated with bird droppings that brought on the flesh-eating infection, said Thomas Goolsby, who represented Dyson's widow. He died in September, 2003. The civil lawsuit claimed negligent and reckless conduct on the part of tractor-trailer driver Kevin Royster and his employer, Sea Lane Express Inc. No tickets were issued to Royster or the driver of the car that struck the pole.

EXPOSURE TO TOXIC PESTICIDE, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 11 -- A press report, dated Jun 10, states: A former mechanic for an Edison forklift rental company who was disabled in 2000 when he was exposed to a toxic pesticide while repairing one of the machines has been awarded \$46.7 million by a Superior Court jury. The jury determined that Troy Chemical Corp. of Newark, the company that sent the contaminated forklift to Mid-Hudson Forklift Rental Corp. is responsible for the disabling illnesses Karl Webb, 53, now a resident of West Virginia, suffered after cleaning and repairing the machine on Feb 18, 2000. Webb's attorney, Mitchell J. Makowicz of the Chatham law firm of Blume-Goldfaden, said his client suffered nerve damage and heart and gastrointestinal complications following his exposure to the pesticide and other chemicals and has not been able to work since. Following a four-day trial and 90 minutes of deliberations in the courtroom of Judge Jamie Happs, the jury decided yesterday afternoon that Webb, who has a wife and five children ages 8 to 20, should be awarded \$45 million for pain and suffering, \$260,000 for past wages lost, \$1.36 million for wages he will lose in the future and more than \$20,000 for medical expenses. The method of payment, Makowicz said, is yet to be worked out. The jury award is believed to be one of the largest ever in Middlesex County. John Sawicki, an attorney from the Secaucus law firm of Stevens & Schwab and the attorney who represented Troy Chemical Corp., said "the verdict was clearly against the weight of the evidence presented" and that a motion for a new trial will be filed. He said he "is confident that the verdict will be overturned."

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: A boy left brain damaged as a result of medical negligence at birth has been awarded £4m damages. Six-year-old Liam Quinton was left "totally dependent on others for all aspects of his daily living" after an injury suffered at birth

in June 1999. Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust admitted liability for the injury at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester. A High Court judge in London approved the agreed settlement today. Mr Justice Simon said the youngster from Romsey, Hampshire, who has cerebral palsy, was born with "very severe physical disability". He added that Liam was a sociable boy with potential to develop. The judge was told by Liam's counsel, Dennis Matthews, that his serious brain injury was the result of a failure to appreciate he was suffering from foetal distress and delay in delivering him by caesarean section. Mr Matthews said agreement had been reached on the lump sum to be paid, subject to the judge's approval. Giving his approval, the judge said he was satisfied that a settlement "at this level is in the best interests of the claimant". Fiona Neale, for the trust, expressed its apologies and regret for the incident which led to Liam's injuries.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 10 -- A press report, dated Jun 9, states: A Florida jury awarded \$8 million to the husband of a woman who died after chemotherapy that wasn't necessary, lawyers said today. The jury ruled against Coral Springs Medical Center, University Hospital in Tamarac and two doctors. Pending expected appeals, they will each have to pay Charles Pandrea of Coconut Creek a percentage of the award, said Pandrea's Attorney Michael Ryan. A private autopsy showed Janet Pandrea did not have the cancer she was treated for, Ryan said. Ryan said Pandrea had a benign tumor in one lung, which could have been operated on. He said she developed side effects from her chemotherapy that ultimately led to her death. The North Broward Hospital District, which governs the Coral Springs hospital, said in a statement that an investigation was conducted and an employee "acknowledged his responsibility." "We believe it was this honest and forthright admission that resulted in the verdict returned by the jury," said the statement. "We acknowledge the tragedy befalling the Pandrea family and our thoughts remain with them." The jury found that oncologist Abraham Rosenberg must pay 50 percent of the money, Martin Stone, the Pandrea family doctor must pay 12 percent, Coral Springs Medical Center 10 percent, and University Hospital must pay 28 percent, Ryan said. Ryan said Janet Pandrea was hospitalized for breathing problems connected to the chemotherapy. At University Hospital, Stone allegedly misdiagnosed stomach ulcers and she was operated on. Pandrea died of severe infection after the operation, Ryan said.

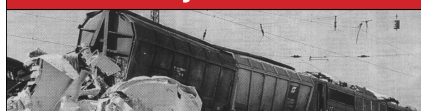
SEXUAL ABUSE, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 11 -- A press report, dated Jun 10, states: The Archdiocese of San Francisco agreed today to settle 15 pending lawsuits involving allegations of sexual abuse by Roman Catholic priests for \$21.2 million, the church said. Under the settlement brokered by a retired judge who is still mediating about 40 cases, the archdiocese will pay out \$6.6 million, with the rest coming from its insurers. Several other cases have gone to trial. "During the course of the recent trials and settlement discussions, we have heard the victims' anger and grief over the impact that the abuse has had on their lives and the lives of their families and friends," said San Francisco Archbishop William Levada. "It is our hope that the settlement of these cases will facilitate the process of healing for these victims," he added. Ten of the 15 cases involved allegations against one San Jose priest, the Rev. Joseph Pritchard, who died in 1988. All 15 claims were brought as the result of a 2001 state law that extended the statute of limitations for lawsuits to hold the church responsible for molestations that occurred in the past. Plaintiffs attorney Robert Mezzetti Jr. said confidentiality rules prohibit him from saying how much the plaintiffs, 11 men and four women who are now in their early-to-mid forties, will each receive under the settlement. Besides Pritchard, other former priests who were named in the lawsuits include three who served in the San Jose-area during the 1970s, Rev. Leonel Noia, Rev. Arthur Harrison and the Rev. Gregory Ingels, according to Maurice Healy, a spokesman for the archdiocese. The Seattle Archdiocese, meanwhile, agreed to pay \$1.7 million today to settle four cases of alleged sexual abuse by two priests. One of the accusers, Jeff Alfieri, committed suicide in the parking lot of the Holy Family Catholic Church in Bellevue two years ago. His beneficiaries will receive \$600,000. The Seattle Archdiocese has paid settlements to nearly 200 people in sex-abuse lawsuits.

London, Jun 16 -- A press report, dated Jun 15, states: A bankruptcy judge yesterday approved 30 clergy sex abuse settlement claims against the Diocese of Tucson. Nearly \$9.8 million would be paid in an initial distribution. The 30 cases involving 25 sex abuse victims and five parents drove the diocese to seek Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last September shortly after the Archdiocese of Portland, OR, became the first in the nation to do so. Among the cases were three involving three sets of Yuma brothers victimised as minors, which former Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Zlaket had called "barnburner" cases because of their potential for multimillion-dollar verdicts. Creditors must approve the plan; US Bankruptcy Judge James Marlar, who approved the settlement,

would then have to confirm it, possibly next month. Twenty-five of the claimants would receive amounts ranging from \$200,000 to \$600,000 each. Five victims, including three of the Yuma brothers, would receive a minimum of \$600,000 apiece. The other victims would receive at least \$200,000. Five parents of victims would receive \$21,250 or \$30,000 each. Three Yuma brothers say they were raped repeatedly by the Rev Juan Guillen, a priest who pleaded guilty in 2003 to attempted child molestation and is serving a 10-year prison sentence. The diocese filed for bankruptcy two weeks before it and Guillen were scheduled for a civil trial. The diocese's proposed reorganisation plan calls for at least a \$15.7 million settlement trust for clergy sex abuse victims, though attorneys said it was possible the final amount could reach \$20-22 million. The trust would be funded by insurance settlements, parish contributions and proceeds from a real estate auction. "We see this as a good result given that they will likely get their money within a year of the diocese filing bankruptcy," said Kim Williamson, an attorney for most of the victims who settled Tuesday, referring to the settlements. A hearing will be held Jun 30 to consider objections filed by other claimants who did not file suit before the diocese's bankruptcy filing.

Railway Accidents



AMAGASAKI, JAPAN

London, Jun 16 -- A press report, dated Jun 15, states: West Japan Railway Co announced yesterday it would resume train services between Takarazuka and Amagasaki stations on the Fukuchiyama Line, which have been suspended since the fatal derailment on Apr 25, on Sunday (Jun 19). The firm submitted a new timetable to the Construction and Transport Ministry's Kinki District Transport Bureau the same day. JR West said the firm decided to resume train services on Sunday because it had obtained some understanding of its efforts to secure safety for passengers from the bereaved families and the victims. The firm installed an ATS-P, the latest Automatic Train Stop system, on the line and submitted the plan to improve safety to the ministry after revising the timetable. As driver skills training for 510 drivers who drive trains on the line will be completed on Saturday, JR West decided to resume services on the section on Sunday. As speeding is believed to have caused the accident, JR West will reduce the speed limit on the curve where the train derailed to 60 kph from 70 kph while lowering it by 25 kph on the straight stretches to 95 kph. The firm newly installed 20

signals indicating the point where a driver should apply the brake and perform other operations on the line. The firm set a margin of permissible lateness for various services of between 25 seconds and three minutes and 15 seconds, and increased the stopping time at each station by 20 seconds to a maximum of 50 seconds. The travel time for rapid trains was increased by 90 seconds between Takarazuka and Amagasaki stations. The average travel time between those stations was increased to 20 minutes from 18 minutes and 16 seconds in the morning rush hours. Kenzo Tokuoka, head of the firm's railway's operations, said the firm set the reduction of the speed limit out of consideration of the bereaved families' feelings, adding that the firm believed there were no safety problems even if trains ran at the former speed limit of 120 kph.

AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

London, Jun 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: An empty goods train derailed overnight on the west side of Amsterdam's Central Station, the second such accident within a week. Three of the coal train's 36 wagons were derailed, but no injuries were reported. The cause of the accident is under investigation. A spokesman from rail network authority ProRail said the problems resulting from the accident were minor. Nevertheless, commuters between Haarlem and Amsterdam have been advised to expect a 30 minute delay today. Depending on investigations into the cause of the accident, ProRail said the railway will be cleared later in the day. The spokesman also said ProRail expects "the derailed wagons will be placed back on the rails at about midday". Despite initial fears of extensive damage, very little damage to track infrastructure was reported. The train was en route from Cologne in Germany to the industrial terrain in Amsterdam Westhaven when the accident occurred. The derailment was the second such accident within a week at Amsterdam Central. A train carrying gravel derailed also on the west side of the station on Tuesday (Jun 7) morning. Train delays were reported on Tuesday and Wednesday as authorities worked to repair the heavily damaged section of track. Investigations into the cause of that accident are continuing.

MOUNT ZLATIBOR AREA, SERBIA

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated Jun 12, states: Three carriages of a passenger train carrying more than a hundred school children derailed today in western Serbia, disrupting railway traffic but causing no injuries. The accident happened near Mt Zlatibor, about 72 miles south-west of Belgrade. It was not immediately clear why the carriages derailed. The train was travelling from the northern Serbian city of Novi Sad toward the Montenegrin coastal town of Bar. The railway route is the

key connection between the two republics. The Beta news agency reported that about 120 school children were in the derailed train. None were injured and they were returning to Belgrade in buses, the agency said. Railway traffic on the line was expected to resume later in the day.

PLACENTIA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated Jun 12, states: A freight train conductor blamed for a 2002 crash that killed three people and injured more than 260 was tired from working many back-to-back days prior to the crash, according to a published report. Former Burlington Northern Santa Fe conductor Dean E. Tacoronte worked 29 days straight and had only a few days off about a week prior to the crash, the Los Angeles Times reported today. Tacoronte's train collided with another on Apr 23, 2002, in Placentia, about 30 miles south-east of Los Angeles. Tacoronte, 41, said he saw an initial green signal, and he and former engineer Darrell W. Wells could not see the next signal, which was red, until they were 400 feet away and it was too late to stop. He said it had nothing to do with fatigue. "I was tired," Tacoronte said. "There have been times I would fall asleep on trains and not even know it. But I observed the signal and saw what I saw. I am not wrong." The National Transportation Safety Board determined that the final signal was visible from 2,400 feet away. Burlington Northern has paid more than \$16.2 million in damages so far in more than 150 lawsuits filed after the crash. Before the crash, the company adopted measures to keep train operators more alert, including giving them three days off after working seven days and allowing rest if operators are too tired to work.

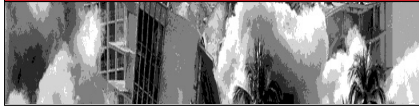
RZHEV DISTRICT, TVER REGION, RUSSIA

London, Jun 16 -- A press report, dated Jun 15, states: Twenty-four train tankers with fuel oil ran off the rails at 2005 today in Rzhev district, Tver region, north-west of Moscow, spokesman for the Emergency Situations' Ministry Viktor Beltsov told Interfax this evening. He said that the accident resulted in a fuel spill. The causes of the accident and the size of the spill are being checked.

London, Jun 16 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Rescuers and fire fighters have begun collecting the fuel spilt from railway tanks that derailed in the Tver region today. "Of the 24 derailed railway tanks with fuel, 15 overturned. Fuel is leaking from them. The other tanks have careened," an adviser to the Emergencies Minister, Viktor Beltsov, said. He said workers are building a dirt wall to prevent the fuel from leaking into the river Vazuza that is 150 metres from the scene of the incident. Top officials from the Emergencies Ministry are on their

way to the Tver region. Vice President of the Russian Railways company Vladimir Sazonov has also flown to the region. Sazonov is also the head of the commission set up by the company to investigate the incident. Beltsov said the railway where the incident happened is a one-way railway and not electrified. The incident happened at 2005 hrs in the Rzhev district of the Tver region, between the stations of Zubtsovo and Arestovo. According to Beltsov, there were 60 fuel tanks in the train.

Miscellaneous



AUSTRALIAN WHEAT SHIPMENTS UNDER INVESTIGATION BY IRAQ

Sydney, Jun 10 -- Iraqi prime minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari said the three shipments of Australian wheat stranded in the Persian Gulf should be discharged without delay. The ships each hold 12,000 tonnes of wheat and have been waiting in the Persian Gulf for three months after the Iraqi government claimed the wheat was contaminated with iron-ore. Mr al-Jaffari said results of independent tests carried out by Iraqi authorities showed that the percentage of iron dust found in the wheat was "very, very low and such a percentage could be found in all exported wheat". AWB spokesman Peter McBride said today that it expected discharge to occur at Umm Qasr port as soon as possible. The AWB has not received formal notification of the decision from the Iraqi government yet, but is expecting it shortly. -- Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

London, Jun 15 -- Iraq has decided to accept the three shiploads of Australian-origin wheat that have been prevented from delivery for the past six weeks due to a dispute about grain contamination. The 120,000 tonnes of grain, part of a one-million-tonne contract, had faced allegations of iron dust contamination. The Australian Wheat Board denied contamination and insisted that its screening process was above reproach. After test results by Iraqi authorities that confirmed the AWB's tests, the grain will now be delivered to Umm Qasr port this week. Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile said: "I welcome comments by the Iraqi prime minister that the testing of Australian wheat by Iraqi authorities is now complete and the green light has been given. All along we said the wheat was clean and free from contamination, so I am therefore pleased the announcement has vindicated our position." The cost for the vessels is estimated to be in the vicinity of A\$100,000 a day for the three vessels. That would make estimated costs for the six weeks that the vessels were at sea in excess of A\$126 million (US\$96 million) Since

the AWB has been cleared of any blame for grain contamination, the market is of the opinion that the bill should be paid by the Iraq Grain Board. A London analyst said: "Since it was Iraq that caused unnecessary delays for completion of the grain delivery, any additional costs, such as demurrage, should be borne by them. However, I am not completely sure that the AWB will not pay part of these costs in order to resolve the issue quickly and keep on Iraq's good side." There is concern that similar situations may arise with future consignments of grain to Iraq. However, the AWB appears to be making efforts to draw up guidelines to facilitate easy trade between the two countries. Mr Vaile said: "Now that this matter is resolved I would expect that AWB will be working much closer with the Iraqi Grains Board to ensure that these circumstances never arise again. I certainly intend further direct contact with Trade Minister Basit just to try and establish some guidelines for acceptability of these shipments." He added: "If they want to have them tested on route or over there, that is fine. But when they arrive we expect them to be unloaded."

CARNIVAL GLORY (Panama)

London, Jun 16 -- A press report, dated Jun 15, states: The US Coast Guard barred passenger Carnival Glory (110239 gt, built 2003) from docking in St. Thomas harbour yesterday morning because an automated system that normally submits security documents broke down, officials said. The vessel was delayed about four hours and its owners, Miami-based Carnival Cruise Lines, was fined \$32,500 because the company had not sent Coast Guard officials documents listing names of passengers, the names of crew members and the vessel's last five ports of call, said Lt jg Eric Willis, a Coast Guard spokesman. Carnival spokesman Vance Gulliksen said the computer system that normally sends out the documents several days ahead of time had been repaired, and the vessel's 3,500 passengers would be given extra time on St. Thomas to make up for the delay. "Typically these notifications go out by computer, but because of the computer breakdown, that didn't happen," Gulliksen said. The vessel, arriving from Nassau, Bahamas, was ordered back to international waters -- 12 miles out to sea -- until Coast Guard officials could examine the security documents, Willis said. "We expedited the review so we would not adversely affect their commerce," Willis said. "It's a very important security document. We did a nice balancing job here." The vessel was due to arrive in the territory at 0900 hrs, but it did not dock until after 1300 hrs. Neither Gulliksen nor Willis could immediately say if the computer breakdown had affected other Carnival ships entering US ports.

CLIPPER LANCASTER (Bahamas)

London, Jun 14 -- Bulk Clipper Lancaster (17209 gt, built 1996) remains in quarantine off Reunion, after the death of a seafarer sparked fears of an outbreak of the Marburg virus. The body is being kept on ice in an airtight bag, and may need to be buried in a lead coffin. Meanwhile, a second seafarer is in a serious but stable condition. A formal diagnosis has taken several days, as blood samples had to be flown from the Indian Ocean island to France for analysis. However, the symptoms have so far not spread to the rest of the crew, and operator Clipper Group was yesterday hopeful that a lesser illness will prove responsible. Concerns have been heightened because the called in Angola in April, where the Marburg virus has been running out of control since last year. Victims suffer high fever, diarrhoea, vomiting and severe bleeding from bodily orifices. There is no cure or vaccine for the illness, which proves fatal in around 80% of instances. Marburg is contagious to the point where infection can be transmitted by sneezes. The alarm was initially raised last week, while the vessel was sailing from Durban to China, laden with wood, and crewed by 22 seafarers of Romanian and Indian nationality. After the fatality, the vessel made a detour to Reunion on Thursday (Jun 9) and requested assistance. Medical personnel were dispatched by tug. Because of the possibility of a Marburg outbreak, Clipper Lancaster was ordered to remain 3.5 km offshore, and a 300-metre security zone was declared around the vessel. The sick man was placed under observation, and is since said to have stabilised. "We are uncertain about this illness, the doctors not having been able to establish a precise diagnosis," an official of the local prefecture told the local newspaper Le Journal. The crew were said to have been visibly terrified on account of the illness, although they are now reportedly calmer. A spokesman for Clipper Group in the Bahamas said yesterday: "We are waiting for the report from the medical authorities. The vessel is still under quarantine and at anchor." The vessel's P&I club is providing assistance to the crew he added, and the seafarers will be allowed on shore once the Reunion authorities grant clearance, he added.

London, Jun 15 -- Bulk Clipper Lancaster, at the centre of a suspected Marburg virus outbreak, remains in quarantine off Reunion, with the results of blood tests still awaited. Meanwhile, the flag state has released a statement over the case, confirming the death of one member of the crew. The seafarer's body was taken ashore yesterday in a zinc coffin. Another man is understood to be seriously ill, although stable. His illness may not be related to the fatality. The vessel is currently being disinfected, and the Indian and Romanian crew will undergo further checks on their health tomorrow. According to the Bahamas

registry, based in London, the vessel loaded timber in Equatorial Guinea and Congo in May. Despite earlier reports, it had not called recently in Angola, where Marburg is rampant. The operators have confirmed that there has been a delay in getting the results of blood tests. Samples had to be sent from the Indian Ocean island to France for analysis.

COLLAPSE OF MINE, KISKIMINETAS, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 11 -- A press report, dated Jun 10, states: A coal miner was killed when the roof collapsed today about two miles inside a western Pennsylvania mine, a coroner said. Workers were digging out the 26-year-old victim, trapped in rubble some 11,000 feet into the Tracy Lynne Mine in Kiskiminetas Township, about 30 miles north-east of Pittsburgh, Armstrong County Coroner Robert Bower said. The miner was not immediately identified. Officials with Rosebud Mining Co. of Kittanning called state police this evening to report the roof collapse. A rescue crew was dispatched because it was first thought other workers were trapped, but the unit was cancelled once it was determined nobody else was in the mine, officials said. The collapse was being investigated by state and federal agencies. Officials did not immediately comment on what might have caused it.

FLOODING OF COAL MINE, PATARATU, INDIA

Patna, Jun 16 -- Fourteen miners were feared dead when a wall collapse flooded a mine in eastern India, a government official said today. Rescue officials were trying to pump out the water from the mine in Pataratu town in the mineral-rich state of Jharkhand after the mine was flooded yesterday, said N.N. Pandey, commissioner of Hazaribagh district. There was no contact with the miners, he added. "We have engaged five pumps to remove water from the mine, but it will take three days," Pandey said. -- Reuters.

IRELAND-FRANCE FERRY DISPUTE

London, Jun 12 -- A press report, dated Jun 11, states: Passenger ro/ro Normandy (25745 gt, built 1982), carrying almost 800 passengers, which was blocked from entering a French port, was allowed to dock yesterday evening. Irish Ferries marketing director Tony Kelly said a court order had been secured to allow the ferry to berth at the port of Roscoff. "The protest in effect is ending allowing us to berth at Roscoff and allowing our passengers to disembark," he confirmed. About 700 workers from French seafaring unions, representatives from Irish unions and the British RMT transport unions gathered on the dock as the bitter row about employment on the Ireland-France route deepened. The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) confirmed the Normandy, at the centre of the protests

over outsourcing, had been blocked from entering the port. Mr Kelly said the 770 passengers on board the vessel were preparing to disembark. He said the protest was utterly irresponsible, illegal and unwarranted. Dozens of French police arrived at the port after the ferry was stopped around 20 yards from the dock. Reports from the port revealed protesters were burning pallets and blocking the ramp at the dock leaving hundreds of holidaymakers stranded at sea. Another vessel from Brittany Ferries which had travelled from Plymouth was also waiting at sea behind the Normandy in order to dock. The Irish Ferries vessel sailed from Rosslare port last night and was due to dock at 2300 hrs. Union bosses at SIPTU said it had informed international unions that Irish Ferries management was not going to fully negotiate with them on the issue of outsourcing. Company bosses have said savings of over Euro 5 million are needed to compete with other operators. The unions said the row was over the outsourcing of labour to agencies on the Rosslare to France routes, resulting in cheaper rates for workers being used.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Six people from Vietnam's northern region have just been found to have contracted bird flu virus strain H5N1, raising the total number of infections in the country since late 2004 to 61, a local healthcare worker told Xinhua today. "Six people were admitted to our institute last week. They have been tested positive to H5N1. Now, we're treating eight bird flu patients in all," a nurse at the Institute of Tropical Diseases in Hanoi capital city said on condition of anonymity. Among the eight patients, seven are showing good signs of recovery, and one is in critical health condition, the nurse said, adding that a doctor at the institute, who has taken specimens from bird flu patients for testing, has temperature, one of the disease's symptoms. Since mid-December 2004, a total of 61 local people from 21 cities and provinces have been reported to have been infected with H5N1, of whom 18 died. Last week, Vietnam's Preventive Medicine Department confirmed 55 infection cases, including 18 fatality ones, between mid-December 2004 and early June 2005. Since bird flu started to hit Vietnam in December 2003, the country had detected a total of 82 human cases of infections in 28 cities and provinces, including 38 fatalities, the department said last week. The confirmed cases do not include the six new cases.

POWER FAILURE, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Karachi, Jun 10 -- Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) in a statement concerning the blackout in Dubai said, "A sudden failure in one of the main Transmission Sub-Station at Jebel Ali Power Station caused the power failure to the city of Dubai at

around 0947 hrs, on Jun 9". DEWA's emergency and maintenance teams were immediately dispatched to attend the fault and progressively restored the power supply, starting with hospitals, trade centres, the dry dock and other main areas. Inside two and a half hours power was restored to most of the Deira area. Dubai airport was not affected as they have their own standby generator. A high level technical committee has been appointed to study the causes of this sudden failure and enhance the precautions to avoid such failures in the future. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

VOLGO-BALT 234 (Russia)

Beirut, Jun 14 -- General cargo Volgo-Balt 234 (2516 gt, built 1981) from Porto Nogaro, of the Continental Shipping Agency, cargo of pipes and wood, arrived at Beirut Jun 6. Vessel has been detained by the Lebanese Authorities for breach of the Israeli Boycott regulations. Vessel had been allowed to discharge its cargo and completed Jun 8. Baroudi & Associates Law Office acting on behalf of owners' P&I Club have submitted their pleading to the authorities to obtain its release. -- Lloyd's Agents.



CHURCH, WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 100 firefighters fought a seven-alarm fire last night and this morning that destroyed the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, in Weymouth, Mass., which dated back the early 1880s. Fire officials estimated the damage in the millions. "This is going to be totally destroyed," said Terry Donilon, a spokesman for the Archdiocese of Boston, who watched as teams of firefighters did their best to save the adjacent school and rectory early today. Officials said at least one firefighter was injured and taken to South Shore Hospital. The first calls came in to police about 2222 hrs., officials said. It wasn't clear how or where the fire started, but Weymouth Fire Chief Robert Leary said he thought it began in the church's boiler room in the basement. Donilon said he expected that everything inside the church would be destroyed.

FIREWORKS FACTORY, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

London, Jun 11 -- A press report, dated Jun 9, states: Death toll increased to six in explosions at a fireworks warehouse in Istanbul, sources told the A.A today. A series of explosions occurred at a depot in Umraniye, on the outskirts of the Asian side of the city at around 1100, local

time. Firefighters quickly brought a blaze at the warehouse under control and recovered the bodies of six people. The cause was not immediately known.

FOREST, QUEBEC, CANADA

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: The number of forest fires burning in northern Quebec was down to 36 yesterday from about 50 on Tuesday (Jun 7). But firefighters still have their work cut out for them, with a fire bigger than Montreal Island burning north of Girardville, about 390 kilometres north-east of Montreal, said Marie-Louise Harvey, spokesperson for the Societe de protection des forets contre le feu. Cool, wet weather has helped firefighters. About 300 firefighters are trying to extinguish the remaining fires, which have destroyed more than 298,000 hectares.

FOREST, SICHUAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fire fighters have halted the spread of a forest fire that swept across at least 1,600 hectares of woods in south-western Sichuan Province, local government announced today. No casualties were reported. The fire, which was caused by an explosion detonated by local geological surveyors, broke out at the Muli Tibet Autonomous County in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture of Sichuan at 1600, Jun 1, according to the provincial forest fire control office. More than 3,000 firefighters were organised to put out the fire through artificial rainfall and other means. "The fire in most areas was extinguished and about 1,900 people are putting out the ember. The area of forest burned and exact losses are under investigation" said an official with the office. Muli County boasts the largest forest reserves in Sichuan. This is the third forest fire in the area in the past three weeks. The previous two fires were put out on May 24 and May 28 respectively. The destroyed forest is located on a mountain ridge about 3,200 metres above sea level. Hot and dry weather conditions also add to the difficulties in fire fighting, said the official.

FURNITURE GALLERY, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated Jun 12, states: A fire broke out today in the largest furniture gallery in Malaysia, destroying goods of 14 furniture producers with an estimated damage of 5 million ringgit (1.31 million US dollars). No one was injured in the incident as the Plaza Perabot Malaysia located in Kuala Lumpur had not opened for business yet when the fire occurred at 1000, local time. It took 33 firemen an hour to put out the fire, Federal Territory Fire and Rescue Operations Assistant Director Ali Ismailwas quoted as saying by the national news agency. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

HOTEL, SHANTOU CITY, GUANGDONG PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jun 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: A hotel fire in southern China has killed at least 30 people and left 15 others injured. China's state media says the blaze took over the top three storeys of the hotel in Shantou city in Guangdong province. Officials say four of the 15 injured are in a serious condition in hospital.

HOTEL, SHANTOU CITY, GUANGDONG PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Chinese police have arrested four managers of a hotel in the southern province of Guangdong for a fire that killed 31 people last week, mostly karaoke hostesses, the China Daily reported today. The newspaper said one of the men, who it described as the boss of Huanan Hotel, was accused of preventing hotel staff from calling the fire brigade. "He is also said to have run off as the flames took hold," it said. The blaze broke out shortly after noon on Friday (Jun 10) and spread through three floors of the hotel in the city of Shantou. Many of the victims were women working as hostesses in the hotel's karaoke rooms, the China Daily said.

OIL STORAGE FACILITY, MOSCOW AREA, RUSSIA

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two people have been killed by an explosion at an oil storage facility near the Russian capital, Moscow. At least one other person is injured, after safety regulations were reportedly violated as a railway tanker was being emptied. Two blasts, at around 0200, GMT, started a huge blaze, and firefighters were trying to bring it under control. Around 200 people have been evacuated from a maternity hospital and flats near the facility in Noginsk. Two tanks of oil products caught fire and the blaze spread to at least one railway tank-car, officials were quoted as saying. Some 23 firefighting crews, as well as a firefighting helicopter and two special fire engine trains were tackling the blaze, he said.

PREMISES, BEKA'A VALLEY, LEBANON

Beirut, Jun 13 -- Liban Lait Sal, a Lebanese Dairy Product Company, situated in the Beka'a valley caught fire at about noon, Jun 12 and all the raw materials in the warehouse were destroyed. Cause of fire unknown but could be due to a short circuit in the warehouse where most of the stock is of plastic material. Estimated loss around US\$million. Insured with Libano-Arabe Sal. -- Lloyd's Agents.

REFINERY, GUJARAT, INDIA

London, Jun 16 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A major fire at Indian Oil Corporation Limited's (IOCL) Gujarat Refinery this evening stalled the start-up of its newly built Fluidised Catalytic Converter (FCC).

Two persons were injured in the incident. Besides three fire fighting units of the refinery, three units from the VMC and two from IPCL and GSFC plants were sent to the site. It took them three hours to extinguish the fire. Monetary loss is yet to be evaluated. Today, IOCL authorities were to start the unit after a warm-up. At around 1735 hrs, a breach in a feeder line joint lead to leakage of hydro-carbon fuels used for purging the structure. The leakage went unnoticed and probably came in contact with steam, also used for purging and caused the fire. Authorities were not certain about the extent of damage. Two pipelines have been damaged.

REFINERY, SENDAI, JAPAN

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Nippon Oil Corp., Japan's biggest oil refiner, said a fire today at its Sendai refinery in northern Japan shut a secondary unit. The fire started at 0655, local time, closing a sulfur collection facility used by a fuel oil desulfurization unit, the Tokyo-based company said. Nippon Oil said the blaze was put out at 0712 hrs and nobody was injured. The 145,000 barrels-per-day main crude distillation unit at the refinery in Miyagi prefecture, 190 miles north of Tokyo, is running normally after the fire, the company said.

SWEET FACTORY, PONTEFRAC, YORKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 10 -- Cadbury Schweppes said today it was still sourcing an alternative popcorn supplier after its only UK factory was razed by fire, but the incident would have no financial impact. The Monkhill Confectionery factory in northern England made chocolate-coated peanuts and raisins and Cadbury's Butterkist popcorn brand. "It's an important product, but it's not material in terms of the group's 6.7 billion pounds of annual sales," said a spokeswoman. She said it was too early to know when an alternative supplier would be appointed and declined to discuss the group's insurance cover for the factory. -- Reuters.

WAREHOUSE, SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES

London Jun 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Authorities have yet to determine what caused the fire that burned a Spotsylvania County warehouse to the ground Monday evening (Jun 13), slowing traffic in the region for hours. Last night, the remains of the Tallant Industries Inc. building was still smoldering. It was impossible for fire officials to begin investigating, said Don Taylor, assistant chief of Spotsylvania County's Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services Department. Taylor said firefighters spent most of yesterday at the scene while waiting for heavy equipment to move the debris. But the trucks, sent by Tallant's insurance company, never made it. The 4,000-

square-foot warehouse was engulfed in flames, which spread to adjacent storage sheds and an auto-salvage yard, Taylor said. About 75 Spotsylvania firefighters worked to control the blaze. Three were treated and released at Mary Washington Hospital for heat exhaustion, Taylor said.

WILDFIRES, RUSSIA

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: The taiga is ablaze in Yakutia and the Khabarovsk territory. A fire in Yakutia has spread to more than 300 hectares, the dispatcher's service of the regional forest protection airbase said. Meanwhile, ten small fires are registered in the republic. One fire on the area of 110 hectares is still raging in the Khabarovsk territory, but it was localised. All other fires have been extinguished in the territory. Seven new fires have broken out in the region over the past day, forest protection services localised and put out most of them. More than 200 people, 11 aircraft and 25 pieces of ground machinery are involved in firefighting efforts. Settlements are out of danger. About 7,000 hectares of forests burnt down or were damaged since the beginning of the fire-prone season.

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: A large forest conflagration that spread over 300 hectares has been brought under control in Yakutia. The fire outbreak was 32 kilometres north of the town of Olekminsk. Fire fighters also brought under control a blaze over 120 hectares of forests in the Khabarovsk Territory. More than 200 people fought the blaze there. Forest fires in the region represent no danger for residential areas at present, the Emergencies Ministry's Far Eastern regional centre said. Twelve blaze outbreaks are reported in the region, eleven in Yakutia and one in the Khabarovsk Territory.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A brush fire that evacuated at least 30 people from their homes near Wickenburg, Arizona, was 40 percent contained today, authorities said. The 2,000-acre Bobby fire, which threatened mobile homes, cabins and other structures yesterday, was not imminently threatening any structures, said Ken Palmrose, a spokesman for the Bureau of Land Management. "The threat is lessened in the whole area," Palmrose said today. "It's looking real good." Full containment was expected by tomorrow morning. Palmrose said evacuated residents were heading back home soon, of they hadn't already returned. He said there were no reports of any injuries or structures lost to the fire. About 190 firefighters were battling the Bobby fire, enforcing lines and putting out hot spots. The fire, which is burning about 10 miles south of Wickenburg, was reported at 1235, yesterday. It was burning in the

same area south of Wickenburg as two recent brush fires, one of which charred three homes earlier this week. The blaze was under investigation, but authorities suspect it was caused by people.



ACCIDENTS, LOKICHOKIO, KENYA

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: A South African pilot was involved in a bizarre incident in which two aircraft crashed on a runway in Lokichokio in Northern Kenya. The runway had to be closed for two days to clear the wreckage. The name of the South African pilot has not been released. Peter Smerdon, spokesperson for the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP), said today the accident happened shortly after 1300, Friday (Jun 10) when a Hawker-Siddeley 748 cargo aircraft belonging to a Kenyan airline landed without landing gear. The Hawker-Siddeley formed part of an air-bridge consisting of several aircrafts from various aid organisations that transported food from Lokichokio to Sudan. The pilot had no alternative but to perform a belly-landing, and the airport was closed to incoming air traffic because of wreckage strewn on the runway. Flights were directed to other airports. About an hour later a Hercules L-100 cargo aircraft belonging to Transafrik arrived at Lokichokio after dropping emergency supplies for the WFP in Sudan. Transafrik, which is based in Angola, employs several South African and former air force pilots. When the control tower turned the Hercules away, the pilot informed the crew, including the South African, that they didn't have enough fuel to reroute, but that he would instead attempt to land on a part of the runway that was clear of wreckage. The pilot set the aircraft down hard, in the process bending the aircraft's frame. Smerdon said the Hercules remained in one piece, but the momentum carried it forward into the wreckage of the Hawker-Siddeley. "Wreckage of both aircraft were then strewn across the whole runway, confounding the clearing up process. Fortunately the fire engine was still at hand after putting out the fire caused by the first crash landing. "Nobody was injured. Two tractors dragged away the wreckage and the airport was closed for two days." Smerdon said flights resumed yesterday afternoon "to our relief, since the airport is increasingly used for international flights".

BCF-5N

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: A hundred and twenty-nine passengers on board a

Chanchangi Airlines aircraft from Kaduna yesterday escaped death when the aircraft landed on a waterlogged runway of the Murtala Mohammed Airport, Ikeja, and skidded off into a ditch. It came 24 hours after a similar incident involving an EAS Airlines Boeing 737-200 at Jos Airport. The incident which occurred at about 0915 hrs, forced the Aviation Minister, Mallam Isa Yuguda, to Lagos, where he immediately announced the suspension of the two pilots, Capt. Ndubuisi Ekwueme of EAS and his counterpart in Chanchangi, Capt. Bala Ramallan. The aircraft, a Boeing 727-200, overshot the runway by about 100m and soon after the incident, the passengers were evacuated to safety, while the only available runway was shut to traffic for about five hours. During the period of the closure of the runway, no aircraft was allowed to take-off or land. Virgin Atlantic Airways' flight to London scheduled to depart at 1000 hrs did not do so until 1400 hrs. The flooding of the runway from weekend's downpour of the weekend was severe enough to spill to the presidential wing of the airport. Ironically, the ditch the aircraft ended up is the drainage canal constructed by the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) to check flooding of the runway and entire airport. At press time yesterday, relevant agencies were making efforts to engage Julius Berger Plc to pull the aircraft with registration number BCF-5N from the mud. Co-ordinator and Public Relations Officer of Chanchangi Airlines, Alhaji Mohammed Tukur, who was on board the aircraft at the time of the incident blamed it on the waterlogged runway, but the Aviation minister attributed the cause to the negligence of the pilot.

C-FZVM

London, Jun 9 -- Bell 47G-4A helicopter, C-FZVM, operated by Central AG-Air, was conducting a crop spraying operation near Tillsonburg, Ontario, when it crashed in a field at 0930, EDT, Jun 9. There were no witnesses to the crash. There was a considerable post-crash fire. The pilot extricated himself and was transported to the hospital with serious injuries. TSB investigators have deployed to the scene.

C-GBAW

London, Jun 15 -- At 1655, Jun 12, at Elmira, Ontario, Guelph Gliding & Soaring Association Bellanca 7GCBC, registration C-GBAW, was on climb out with a glider in tow. Approximately 200 feet above ground level, the glider pulled alongside the tow aircraft and was slowly overtaking it. The tow aircraft was then observed to bank sharply to the right, pitch nose down, and descend until it struck trees in a field. Witnesses on the ground rushed to the scene where they found the tow aircraft pilot seriously injured and the aircraft substantially damaged.

CRASH INTO LOUGH NEAGH, NORTHERN IRELAND

London, Jun 11 -- Two people have been rescued from a light aircraft which crashed into Lough Neagh. A man and a woman crawled on to the roof of their plane and were rescued by an RNLI lifeboat crew. They were taken to the Mid-Ulster Hospital in Magherafelt. The plane went into the lough shortly after 2000, BST, yesterday evening. It landed close to Ballyronan marina in County Londonderry. Fire, police and lifeboat services attended the scene. Coastguard watch manager Diana Gadd said the two people were shocked, but unhurt. "We understand that they had probably taken off from Toome. They had suffered engine difficulties, had come down on a sand bank on the west side of the lough and, sensibly, stayed on top of the aircraft which, thankfully, remained afloat," she said. "Had the aircraft sunk, it would have been another story of course. But the rescue units were on the scene very quickly." Ms Gadd said that the Ardboe lifeboat located the aircraft with the two persons standing on top of it. The crew took them ashore at Ballyronan marina.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF SWANSEA, WALES

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: A pilot was pulled from the sea by fishermen after being forced to land his light aircraft in the sea off Gower in Swansea. Coastguards said the man, a local businessman and an experienced pilot, scrambled from the plane before it sank near Bracelet Bay, west of the city. He was taken ashore and transferred to Singleton Hospital by ambulance. He was treated for shock and bruising but was otherwise unharmed. There were no passengers on board. The plane, a four-seater PA-28 Arrow, had just taken off from Swansea Airport and had been heading for Exeter on a same-day return trip when it developed engine problems. The pilot radioed a mayday call to Swansea Airport shortly after take-off. He said the engine had stalled and could not be restarted, and warned he might have to land at sea. Swansea Coastguard was alerted by the airport, and also by a member of the public who saw the aircraft crash-land in the sea. The Mumbles lifeboat was launched, but a nearby fishing vessel, Kiora, was able to rescue the man just a few minutes before his plane sank. The plane was still afloat when the fishing boat arrived. Ivor Davies, Swansea coastguard watch officer said: "By the time we got the call I could already see him standing on the aircraft. Then an angling vessel, the Kiora, pulled alongside and he got on. Moments later the plane sank, so he could not have timed it better. He was then taken to a waiting ambulance and transferred to Singleton Hospital." Mr Davies said the rescue crew had gone to the scene at the outset because it was not then

known that the pilot, believed to be from Swansea, was travelling alone. Swansea Airport operations manager Robin Jackson said the pilot was a businessman living in Swansea who kept his plane at the airport. It is hoped the aircraft will be recovered from the sea at low tide.

CRASH, BOURNEMOUTH AREA, DORSET, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 11 -- A press report, dated Jun 10, states: A helicopter crash which killed the boss of a Russian oil firm was an accident caused by pilot error, an investigation has concluded. Stephen Curtis, 45, was killed in March 2004 together with pilot Matthew Radford when the aircraft crashed on arrival at Bournemouth Airport. The accident, which happened at night and in poor weather, was caused by the pilot's inexperience, the report found. The Air Accident Investigations Branch said there was no foul play involved. Mr Curtis told friends before he died he was worried about business rivals with links to the Kremlin, and feared for his life. The Air Accident Investigations Branch report stated: "During the final stages of the approach the pilot probably became disorientated due to a loss of visual references when attempting to fly by sole reference to his flight instruments or limited ground lights or a combination of both. The pilot had probably become disorientated, and his limited instrument flying background did not equip him to cope with degraded visual environment. There was no evidence from the wreckage recovered of any mechanical failure or unauthorised interference with the aircraft or its systems that may have contributed to the accident."

CRASH, INGERSOLL AREA, ONTARIO, CANADA

London, Jun 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Brantford-area man is lucky to be alive after the helicopter he was flying crashed yesterday morning. Kevin Woytaz dragged himself 80 metres through a field to escape flames after a fire broke out in his downed helicopter. "Even with broken limbs, he crawled," said OPP Const. Laurie Hawkins. Woytaz, 43, of Mount Pleasant, south-west of Brantford, suffered non-life-threatening injuries when his Bell helicopter crashed into a farmer's field on Mount Elgin Road near Ingersoll. Hawkins said Woytaz suffered at least one broken leg, possibly two, and was in intense pain. Woytaz, who owns a crop-dusting business, was applying fungicide to wheat on the farm about 0930 when he crashed for unknown reasons. Ten volunteer firefighters were on the scene in minutes and quickly quelled the fire and stabilized the patient. On impact, small amounts of fungicide and fuel were released, Coventry said. The OPP and the Ontario ministries of Labour, Transportation and the Environment are investigating.

CRASH, PASSO GAVIA, BRESCIA, ITALY

Genoa, Jun 13 -- Piper PA 28 Arrow with three persons on board reported crashed near Passo Gavia, Valcamonica (Brescia district) at about 1025, Jun 11. The aircraft crashed during a flight from Aeroclub Brescia of Montichiari. Apparently the pilot had a coronary stroke and the other two persons died. Investigations are in hand and official inquiries being held. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CRASH, SAI KUNG, HONG KONG

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated Jun 12, states: Hong Kong Civil Aviation Department is investigating a helicopter crash in Sai Kung in which three people were injured, one seriously, according to a government press release today. A Top Jet Aviation Robinson R44 private helicopter with four people on board hit the ground at 1420 on Saturday (Jun 11) at Pak A near High Island soon after lifting off from Sai Kung at 1411. Soon after the accident, the Civil Aviation Department Control Tower asked helicopters in the vicinity to locate the crash site. A Government Flying Service Jetstream aircraft and a helicopter were dispatched to the scene and rescued all the four people. They were then airlifted to Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital at 1546. The helicopter wreckage has been transported to the Government Flying Service's hangar at Chek Lap Kok for further investigation and an inspector-in-charge has been ordered to coordinate the investigation.

CRASH, WOTTON UNDER EDGE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 16 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: An aircraft has crashed near a golf course, the fire service said today. The crash, thought to involve a light aircraft, was reported to the emergency services by golfers as they played a round at the Cotswolds Edge Golf Club in Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire. The incident was reported at 1913 hrs and the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, police and ambulance crews have attended the scene. Two people on board the aircraft were killed.

DELAYS DUE TO RADAR PROBLEMS AT NAHA AIRPORT, JAPAN

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: The U.S. Air Force's approach control radar for Naha airport in Okinawa Prefecture malfunctioned this morning, disrupting domestic flights of Japanese commercial airliners, according to the airliners. Four domestic flights that were scheduled to land at the commercial airport were cancelled, and 10 flights were diverted to other airports in Kagoshima Prefecture as well as Miyako and Ishigaki islands, Okinawa Prefecture.

EMERGENCY LANDING, DURBAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Civil Aviation Authority is investigating the circumstances surrounding an emergency landing at Durban International Airport today. Gilbert Twala, the head of the CAA investigation unit said today he believed SA Airlink's Captain Trevor Quantrill did an "outstanding job" landing the 18-seater Jetstream 41 aircraft under the circumstances. Quantrill experienced problems with the nose-gear of Flight SA Airlink SA8140 from Johannesburg to Margate on the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast as he approached to land at 1330, yesterday. He immediately alerted the control tower at Durban International Airport that he would divert to the larger airport for an emergency landing. Colin Naidoo, spokesperson for the Airports Company of South Africa in Durban, said the runway was closed in preparation for the emergency landing. Emergency vehicles, including fire engines, ambulances and police were put on standby. Foam was sprayed on the runway to prevent sparks when the aircraft touched down. Meanwhile, Quantrill circled over the sea, dumping excess fuel, while still trying to release the jammed nose-wheel. As a precaution against injury, passengers and crew were seated at the back of the aircraft. Eventually the aircraft was brought in to land, still without a nose-wheel, at 1450 hrs.

EMERGENCY LANDING, INDIRA GANDHI AIRPORT, NEW DELHI, INDIA

London, Jun 16 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Jet Airways flight today made an emergency landing at Indira Gandhi Airport in New Delhi when the pilot discovered "some technical snag" in the aircraft soon after take off. The aircraft, carrying 189 people on a domestic route, landed safely after full emergency measures had been taken at the tarmac, official sources said. One of the wings of the aircraft had developed some malfunction which was noticed by the pilot soon after taking off, they said. A Jet Airways official confirmed the unscheduled landing of the aircraft but termed it as a "precautionary" measure. He said the pilot found some technical snag in the cockpit of the aircraft and made a safe landing after informing the airports authority.

EMERGENCY LANDING, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: London City Airport is now open to traffic after a Swiss passenger aircraft flying from Swiss capital Berne made an emergency landing there this afternoon. Passengers leaving for Geneva on a flight scheduled around 1200 has just got announcement to

board their aircraft after the delay. The Darwin Airlines flight heading to London via Swiss city Lugano had its left engine caught on fire around 1315 hrs when it was landing on the airport runway. No specific figure of passengers has been given, but ground service staff estimated it as below 10 people.

EMERGENCY LANDING, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Officials do not expect any delays today at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) after an airplane made an emergency landing. The United Express jet landed just before 2330 hrs, last night. The plane had just taken off from LAX for Santa Barbara when the pilot noticed a problem with the nose gear. The pilot turned the plane around and when it landed, the nose gear collapsed and the plane slid about halfway down the centre of the runway. Sparks could be seen flying, but there was no fire. Seventeen passengers were on the plane. Nobody was injured.

G-JANG

London, Jun 13 -- Following received from Coastguard Swansea MRCC, timed 1241, BST: Piper PA28 (Turbo Arrow) G-JANG, en route from Swansea to Exeter, ditched into the water in lat 51 33.7N, long 03 59.4W, at 0854, UTC, following engine failure. Pilot rescued. Search and rescue operations terminated 0913, UTC. Aircraft sank immediately.

INCIDENT AT HANEDA AIRPORT, TOKYO, JAPAN

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tyres on the two front wheels of a Japan Airlines aircraft came off as the aircraft skidded to a landing at a Tokyo airport today, an airport official said. JAL spokesman Geoffrey Tudor said one man and a woman both suffered whiplash as the aircraft, carrying 222 passengers and crew on board, braked to a stop. The JAL flight from New Chitose Airport in northern Hokkaido state was landing at Tokyo's Haneda airport when the incident occurred, Transport Ministry spokesman Kazuyoshi Furukawa said. The Boeing 767 aircraft was at a standstill on the runway. Officials were investigating the cause of the accident, Furukawa and Tudor said. Everyone on board had been safely evacuated from the aircraft, Tudor said. Earlier, Furukawa had said that the two front wheels, instead of tyres, had come off the aircraft.

INCIDENT AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 11 -- A press report, dated Jun 10, states: A hydraulic line on a commuter jet ruptured today after the plane landed at Will Rogers World Airport, spraying passengers inside the cabin with fluid and prompting an emergency evacuation,

authorities said. Nobody was seriously injured on the Mesaba Airlines flight from Memphis, Tenn., but two passengers were taken to a hospital as a precaution, said Karen Carney, a spokeswoman for the airport. The 56 passengers and four crew members aboard the four-engine Avro RJ85 were evacuated by slides. Sixteen people were taken to the airport's fire station to wash off the hydraulic fluid. The cause of the leak was under investigation.

INCIDENT AT WASHINGTON-DULLES AIRPORT, VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 10 -- Saab SF340, registration unknown, operated by Shuttle America, right main landing gear collapsed after landing at Washington-Dulles Airport, Virginia, at 0137, local time, Jun 8. The passengers were deplaned on the runway, no injuries reported, damage is unknown.

N231HX

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Tennessee woman was listed in fair condition last night at the University of Missouri-Columbia Hospital, where she was taken after being injured in a mid-day aircraft crash yesterday. Jason Turner, the Jefferson City Fire Department's public information officer, said Dorothy Cruise had complained of possible back injuries after the single-engine aircraft piloted by her husband crash-landed in a bean field just north of the Jefferson City Memorial Airport. Jerry Cruise, apparently was not injured in the crash, which happened about noon as the Cruises were heading to a business meeting in Kansas City. "He ran out of fuel in one tank, switched his tanks over to another and, at that time, experienced some more problems," Turner told reporters. "He was making his approach to Jefferson City at an altitude of about 12,000 feet. He had a brief conversation with the tower about his landing gear being either up or down or halfway. At that time, they tried to wave him off, and then all of a sudden he figured out he was out of fuel and (landed) in the bean field." Turner said yesterday evening officials didn't know if Cruise guided the aircraft to the bean field or it just landed there. Cruise had told police and fire department officers "his speed was what he described as 'too high,' and he ended up putting the aircraft into the bean field here with his landing gear still up," Turner said. The crash site is north and east of the airport's control tower, and north of the Missouri National Guard's hangar. Turner said the fire department got the emergency call at 1203 hrs, shortly after the aircraft crashed. The aircraft may be in the field for a day or two before it can be removed. The Federal Aviation Administration was contacted immediately, he said. Turner said Cruise decided to land at Jefferson City to refuel, after his first tank went empty.

London, Jun 14 -- Mooney M20K, N231HX, operated by Transjordan Group Inc., experienced fuel problems and made a forced landing in a bean field near Jefferson City, Missouri, at 1702, local time, Jun 13. Damage was substantial.

N311CP

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two men were injured yesterday after their helicopter crashed during a training flight at Pueblo Memorial Airport. The student pilot and instructor were both taken to hospitals but their conditions weren't immediately known. "One (occupant) had some pretty severe burns," Assistant Fire Chief Dennis Rosolini said. "The other was burned too, but a lot less severely."

London, Jun 16 -- Hughes 269C, N311CP, crashed near Pueblo, Colorado, at 0106, Jun 14, while on a local flight from Pueblo. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were seriously injured.

N311V

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated today, states: Michigan authorities have reportedly ruled out mechanical failure as the cause of a Cessna 310C crash over the weekend (Jun 11-12), which injured two young men from Utah. However, that determination has yet to be made by federal investigators. The aircraft crashed Saturday shortly after taking off from Macomb Airport near Detroit, injuring Jason Castle and Randon Russell, 25. They were taken to local hospitals for treatment of what the department described as severe injuries. Officials say the men had just purchased the Cessna 310C, and are involved with the aviation department at Utah Valley State College in Orem. Wickersham said witness accounts suggest the aircraft had trouble getting enough speed to gain the altitude it needed after take-off. He said he doesn't think there was a mechanical problem with the aircraft.

London, Jun 14 -- Cessna 310C N311V crashed on take-off from Ray Community Airport, Michigan, at 1600, Jun 11. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were seriously injured.

N3906J

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated Jun 13, states: A World War II-era cargo aircraft crashed and burned today in the middle of a residential street, authorities said. All three men on board survived, and there were no reports of injuries on the ground. Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen said the McDonnell Douglas DC-3 went down shortly after take-off at 1548 hrs near Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. The aircraft, registered to John W. Andrews of Wichita Falls, Texas, was bound for Marsh Harbour, Bahamas, she said. Those on board were identified as pilot Charles Riggs,

co-pilot Charles Wirt and passenger Hector Espinoza. All three were in fair condition at Holy Cross Hospital, hospital spokeswoman Maria Soldani said. The aircraft crashed between several homes and buildings, in the middle of a tree-lined street about three miles east of the airport. "As much as possible it landed on a roadway," said David Rafter, the spokesman for Oakland Park Fire Rescue. "I don't know if it caused incidental damage to structure on the ground." Televised pictures showed firefighters putting out the fire with water and foam in a roadway, the burned-out cockpit and cabin near several parked cars. It was not immediately clear if anyone on the ground was injured, said Capt. David Erdman of the Broward County fire-rescue service. The aircraft was "a version of the DC-3 that was modified for Navy use. There are only six in the current registry," FAA spokesman Greg Martin said, adding that these were made between 1945 and 1946. Martin said the aircraft was operating under visual flight rules. There were partly cloudy skies in Fort Lauderdale around the time of the crash.

London, Jun 14 -- McDonnell Douglas DC3, N3906J, operated by John W. Andrews, departed Fort Lauderdale, Florida, failed to climb and crashed under unknown circumstances three miles east of the airport onto a residential street at 1950, local time, Jun 13. The aircraft was destroyed.

N4903F

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated Jun 11, states: The collision of two aircraft that killed five people two years ago occurred when the pilots failed to see each other and a controller neglected to warn one aircraft that another was nearby, the National Transportation Safety Board reported. In the accident, a single-engine Cessna 172N (Skyhawk) (N4903F), carrying a family of three on a joy ride, was heading south along the shoreline to return to Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. At the controls was Johnny Mark Willey of Margate, a new private pilot. Also killed were his wife, Susan and daughter, Shelbi, who were riding with him for the first time. Flying the other aircraft, a more powerful Cessna 182Q (Skylane) (N759XA), was Steve Ross of Boca Raton, who had a commercial license. A chaplain for Boca Raton Christian School, he and a school doctor, Douglas Bauer, were returning from the Bahamas and aiming north towards Boca Raton Airport. The two aircraft collided nearly head-on at 1,000 feet, about half a mile offshore, as they approached the Deerfield Beach Pier from different directions on Jun 17, 2003. The safety board placed the bulk of the blame on the two pilots. Federal aviation rules say pilots must see and avoid other aircraft. The safety board said a contributing factor was the fault of a controller in the Boca Raton Airport control tower who failed to tell Ross about N4903F.

N49LL

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated Jun 14, states: An Edwards, Colorado, couple were seriously injured in the crash of their twin-engine aircraft near the Grand Canyon. The Coconino County sheriff's office identified the victims as Ronald Davis and his wife, Lucinda Davis. They were flying from Thermal, California, to Marble Canyon when their Beechcraft King Air C90B crashed yesterday afternoon. An Arizona Department of Public Safety officer on a highway construction detail saw the aircraft go down on the north side of Arizona 89A, in the Marble Canyon area. The victims were airlifted to Flagstaff Medical Centre, and both were badly injured but in stable condition today, the sheriff's office said. The cause of the crash was being investigated by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board.

London, Jun 16 -- Beechcraft King Air C90, N49LL, crashed in Marble Canyon, Arizona, at 2200, Jun 13. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were seriously injured.

N51205

London, Jun 14 -- Cessna U206F, N51205, crashed while en route under unknown circumstances at Canyon Creek Strip, 65 miles north-west of Anchorage, Alaska, at 0120, local time, Jun 12. The aircraft was destroyed.

N71TS

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: A small corporate jet ran off a runway this morning at Norwood Memorial Airport. The aircraft was reportedly picking up New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and another player. Brady was not yet on the aircraft, and neither of the two pilots was hurt. The jet, a Dassault Falcon 10 manufactured in 1976, is registered to a company called Ginju, based in Arlington, Va. Brady's name does not appear in the registration information. Jim Peters of the Federal Aviation Administration said the aircraft ran off the end of the runway and became stuck in mud. The aircraft did not appear to sustain any major damage. The accident happened at about 1115. According to broadcast reports, Brady and possibly another member of the Patriots were waiting at the airport to be picked up for a flight to Long Island.

London, Jun 16 -- Dassault Falcon 10, N71TS, ran off the runway on landing at Norwood, Massachusetts, at 1517, Jun 14, following a flight from Farmingdale, New York. The two persons on board were not injured.

N759XA

See N4903F.

N78TD

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: A tourist helicopter

with seven people onboard crashed into the East River off Lower Manhattan shortly after take-off this afternoon, but the passengers and the pilot were quickly pulled from the water by police rescue boats, the authorities said. The passengers were taken to the hospital as a precautionary measure, a spokesman for the New York Police Department said. None of the injuries were considered serious. The accident occurred around 1330 near a downtown heliport and just south of the South Street Seaport. The cause of the accident was not clear. All but one of the people were able to walk after the accident. The other person was taken from a pier on a stretcher. The extent of that person's injuries is unclear. Five people were taken to Bellevue Medical Center, while the other two were taken to New York University Downtown Medical Center, according to a Fire Department spokesman. The helicopter made a "hard landing," a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Authority said, though it is unclear whether there was engine failure. The Police and Fire Departments as well as the United States Coast Guard responded to the crash. Television pictures showed the helicopter bobbing upside down in the river, its pontoons inflated, secured by ropes to a ferry slip after it had been towed by the Police Department's Harbor Unit.

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated Jun 14, states: A Bell 206L LongRanger helicopter carrying tourists on a sightseeing trip above Manhattan crashed into the East River minutes after take-off today. One passenger was in a coma after being pulled from the water, but none of the six others on board was seriously hurt, authorities said. Police units that patrol the harbor were already in the area conducting a drill and quickly rescued the pilot and his passengers, who were standing on or clinging to the helicopter's pontoons when the boats arrived, Inspector Michael Coan said. Everyone was taken to the hospital as a precaution. Six were able to walk; one woman was exposed to helicopter fuel and another nearly drowned before she could be rescued. The second woman was hospitalised in critical condition. She had water in her lungs and was placed in a medically induced coma, said Dr. Spiros Frangos, a surgeon who treated her at Bellevue Medical Centre. The helicopter was towed back to a pier in lower Manhattan. There was no immediate word on the cause of the crash. All those on board the helicopter reported hearing a loud bang as they ascended from the Wall Street heliport. The helicopter did a 360-degree roll before the pilot put it in the water and deployed its flotation devices. When the helicopter was removed from the water, its blade, tail and windows were broken. The 28-year-old aircraft was operated by Helicopter Flight Service.

London, Jun 16 -- Bell 206L LongRanger, N78TD, crashed into the East River, New York, at 1738, Jun 14,

while on a flight to Manhattan, NY. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. Two of the seven persons on board suffered minor injuries.

N81659

London, Jun 10 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A twin-engine aircraft en route from Grand Junction to southern New Mexico crashed on Mount Wilson today, killing the only person on board, federal aviation officials said. The pilot's name and hometown were not immediately available. The aircraft was a seven-seat Piper Seneca II registered to American Aviation Inc. of Salt Lake City, according to Federal Aviation Administration records. FAA spokesman Mike Fergus said the aircraft crashed in the Woods Lake area about 10 miles south-west of Telluride.

London, Jun 11 -- A press report, dated Jun 10, states: The National Transportation Safety Board is going to arrive in Telluride tomorrow to begin an investigation in to the crash of an aircraft that left Grand Junction yesterday and crashed near Telluride, killing the pilot. A multi-engine aircraft with one person on board crashed about 13 miles south-west of Telluride Airport yesterday. The Civil Air Patrol said. The pilot did not survive the crash. The San Miguel search and rescue team located the crash wreckage. Witnesses reported hearing a plane fly overhead and then an explosion. The corporate aircraft was a multi-engine TA 34 200T. It was reportedly flying from Grand Junction to Animas, New Mexico, but a flight plan was not filed.

London, Jun 13 -- Piper PA-34-200T (Seneca II) N81659 crashed eight miles south-west of Telluride, Colorado, at 1500, Jun 9, while on a flight from Grand Junction, CO, to Durango, CO. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N819ER

London, Jun 10 -- A press report, dated Jun 9, states: A small plane crashed into a house shortly after take-off, killing the pilot and engulfing the home in flames, authorities said. A state Department of Public Safety dispatcher said the pilot's body was found at the site. It was not immediately known if any other people were on the plane. No one was inside the home at the time. The twin-engine plane, registered to Twin Duchess Corp. of Houston, had just taken off from the Montgomery County Airport, authorities said. The National Transportation Safety Board was investigating.

London, Jun 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: A twin-engined aircraft with possible engine problems crashed into the roof of an east Montgomery County house yesterday, killing the pilot and igniting a blaze. No one was at home at the time of the 1540 crash, which occurred about 10 minutes after the Beech 76 Duchess took off from the Lone Star Executive

Airport a quarter-mile away, Conroe Fire Marshal Lt. Wil Wilkinson said. The pilot was identified as Masayuki Shiokawa, 32, of Conroe. Department of Public Safety Sgt. Jovon Reed said Shiokawa was an instructor for MVP Aero Academy, a pilot school in Montgomery County. Witnesses told authorities the aircraft's engine sounded like it was not running properly just before the crash, Wilkinson said. "One witness saw the tail end fall before it exploded," he said. When fire crews arrived "the house was fully involved and the tail section of the aircraft was on the side of the house," he added. Wilkinson said that because of the extensive damage, sorting through the debris to find the pilot's remains and parts of the aircraft would be a slow process. Wilkinson said airport officials did not receive a distress signal from the aircraft because the airport does not have a control tower. National Transportation Safety Board officials are expected at the scene today.

London, Jun 11 -- A press report, dated Jun 10, states: Federal officials continue their probe today into the crash of a small aircraft into a house north of Houston, killing the pilot and burning down the house. The Texas Department of Public Safety identifies the dead pilot as 32-year-old Masayuki Shiokawa of Conroe. A Federal Aviation Administration spokesman says the aircraft was not under air traffic control and there was no radio contact with the pilot. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating. Officials said there were few identifiable remains of the aircraft because of the fire.

London, Jun 13 -- Beechcraft Duchess 76 N819ER crashed into a house near Houston, Texas, at 2030, Jun 9, while on a local flight from Lonestar Airport, Houston. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N8634

London, Jun 16 -- Bellanca 7GCBC, N8634, crashed near Woodfords, California, at 1839, Jun 14. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The one person on board was killed.

N8680D

London, Jun 10 -- Piper PA-18A 150, N8680D, operated by Starka Ventures Inc., crashed into trees when the engine failed at Cedar Ridge Airport, Griffin, Georgia, at 1915, local time, Jun 8. The aircraft was destroyed.

Product Recalls



AUDI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated today, states: The importer of Audi AG vehicles said yesterday it will

recall 280 Audi A4 Cabriolet passenger cars due to a defect in their head lamps. Subject to the recall are the Audi A4 Cabriolet model imported between August 2002 and April 2004, Audi Japan KK said in a report filed with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

BATTERY CHARGERS FOR SCOOTERS, MOTORCYCLES & GO KARTS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Jun 14 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of about 584,000 PowMax battery chargers sold with certain Razor battery-powered scooters and ride-on vehicles in voluntary co-operation with Razor USA LLC, of Cerritos, Calif. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Manufacturer Leadman Electronic Co., Ltd. Of China. The battery charger can overheat and cause minor burns when touched. Also, nearby items can become damaged by the hot chargers. Razor USA has received 144 reports of battery chargers overheating. There have been no reports of injuries and six reports of minor property damage, such as a melted spot on a linoleum floor. The recall involves PowMax battery chargers distributed with Razor battery-powered scooters and ride-on vehicles. The name "PowMax" appears prominently on the face of the battery charger unit. The vehicles that were sold with the recalled chargers include Razor electric scooters, models E100, E125, E300, E300S, E200, and E200S, Razor Pocket Rocket mini electric motorcycles, Razor Ground Force electric go karts, and Razor Chopper mini electric motorcycles. Sold at discount department, auto parts and toy stores nation-wide from October 2003 through May 2005 for between \$130 and \$250, depending on the model. Manufactured in China. Consumers should stop using the battery charger and contact Razor for a free replacement. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

COFFEEMAKERS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Jun 10 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Bunn-O-Matic Corp., of Springfield, Ill., today announced a voluntary recall of about 1.75 million Bunn home coffeemakers. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The coffeemaker's plastic pour-in bowl and lid can melt or ignite due to an electrical failure, posing a burn and fire hazard to consumers. Bunn-O-Matic has received 17 reports of the bowl or lid melting, though no injuries have been reported. The recall involves Bunn home coffeemakers with model numbers GR-10B, GR-10W, B-10B, B-10W, and BT-10B (including any of those same model numbers ending in the additional letter D) with six-digit date codes ending in "01," "02," or "03." Also involved in the recall are the same models with dates

codes ending in "04" and middle digits between "01" and "21." (If the date code has a seventh digit, consumers should ignore the last digit and use the first six digits.) The model number and date code are stamped on a small white or silver sticker on the bottom of the coffeemaker. The 10-cup Bunn coffeemakers have either a black or white plastic base and top, and measure 14 1/2-inches high by 7-inches wide by 13 1/2-inches deep. The word "BUNN" is printed on the front of the machine in chrome. Sold at department and hardware stores nation-wide between February 2001 and August 2004 for about \$100. Manufactured in United States. Consumers should unplug the coffeemaker and allow it to cool (for at least three hours) before checking to see if they have one of the recalled units. Consumers can contact the firm to obtain a free repair or purchase a new unit at a discount. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

COMPUTER BATTERIES, WORLDWIDE

London, Jun 16 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Fujitsu-Siemens, Europe's biggest computer maker, recalled 250,000 notebook computer batteries today, saying they could overheat and there was a risk they could catch fire. The joint venture between Japanese electronics maker Fujitsu and German engineering conglomerate Siemens said the recall affected AMILO laptop batteries sold since October. Fujitsu-Siemens said it had received four reports of batteries overheating and no reports of injury. "The company recommends that on specific models, customers should stop using the batteries immediately, and operate their notebook with the AC power adapter only," the company said in a statement. It said it would replace the batteries free of charge. A Fujitsu-Siemens spokeswoman said the company did not make its own batteries.

DAIMLERCHRYSLER MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Jun 15 -- DaimlerChrysler Japan Co said yesterday it will recall 2,485 units of Smart coupe for repairs to shock absorber parts. In a report filed with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, the Japanese arm of DaimlerChrysler AG said the recall will affect those imported between October 2000 and March 2001 from Smart AG of France, a DaimlerChrysler group firm.

ELECTRIC SCOOTERS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Jun 14 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of about 246,000 Razor Electric Scooters in voluntary co-operation with Razor USA LLC, of Cerritos, Calif. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. A weld can break, causing the handlebar to detach from the scooter. This can cause the rider to lose control and fall

from the scooter. Razor USA has received 261 reports of handlebar welds breaking or bending. This has resulted in reports of 16 injuries, including three broken arms and one laceration. The recall involves models E300, E300S, E200 and E200S Razor Electric Scooters which are powered by battery motors. The model numbers appear on the down tube attaching the handlebars to the deck. The scooters are collapsible for storage, and are equipped with a stepping plate and kickstand attached to the base. The E300 and E300S models are silver and green. The E200 and E200S models are silver and red. Models E100 and E125 scooters are not included in this recall. Sold at discount department, auto parts and toy stores nation-wide from October 2003 through May 2005 for between \$180 and \$250. Manufactured in China. Consumers should stop using the scooters immediately and contact Razor to arrange a free repair. The recall repair also will include a new battery charger to address a risk of overheating.

FORD MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Ford Motor Company is recalling about 260,000 vehicles to fix certain engines and fuel line-related problems associated with these vehicles. The US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said in a statement today that the US-based automotive giant is recalling 258,779 trucks and SUVs due to sudden engine stalling and fuel line-related issues. The federal regulatory agency said that 180,104 Ford Superduty, Excursion and E-Series 2004-2005 diesel models are affected by the recall due to engine-stalling problems. The company also plans to recall 78,765 Ford Superduty pickups and chassis cab vehicles of the 2005 model due to fuel line-related problems, the NHTSA said.

HOLDEN MOTOR VEHICLES, NEW ZEALAND

London, Jun 15 -- A press report, dated today, states: Holden has issued a recall for some models of VZ, VZ wagon, VZ LCV and WL series cars over a front brake hose problem. The recall affects vehicles produced from May 10 2004 and December 14 2004, with production numbers ranging from L315240 to L384758. Holden corporate affairs manager Brodie McClellan said it had recalled 4445 cars after it discovered a customer's brake hose had detached. "It will cause no issue with brake performance (as the rear brakes will still be effective), so there's no risk of total failure," she said. The condition is understood to be caused by the front brake hose sliding out from the retaining bracket on the front strut, and then contacting the tyre, resulting in brake wear and an eventual leak.

HYUNDAI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Jun 15 -- A press report dated today, states: Hyundai Motor Japan Co. said today it will recall about 3,300 XG passenger cars produced between March 2001 and November 2004 due to defects in their braking system. In a report filed with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, the Japanese subsidiary of Hyundai Motor Co. of South Korea said errors in the brake pipe attachments cause the antilock braking system to work on the right rear tire when it should be working on the left one, and vice versa. The ABS is a system for preventing a car from skidding when braking suddenly. The company also fears the wrongly attached pipes might be damaged and cause leakages of brake fluid.

KENMORE COFFEE MAKERS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 14 -- A press report, dated Jun 13, states: A recall has been announced of about 100,000 Kenmore coffee makers, manufactured by Chiaphua Industries Ltd and distributed by Salton Inc, because they may leach lead, posing a health hazard. The Kenmore 12-Cup Percolators were sold exclusively at Sears department stores nation-wide from July, 2001, to April, 2004.

KIA MOTOR VEHICLES, CHINA

London, Jun 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: As of Jun 16, a total of 2,443 Kia Carnival vehicles with defective axletrees will be recalled in China, the country's market watchdog said today. The latest report released by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine said that the problematic vehicles manufactured from Jun 24 to Oct 29 in 2004 were found to have inferior covers on their rare wheels. When water penetrates into the cover, lubricators do not function well. The outer bearings of wheels are gradually corroded.

LIQUID PROPANE FUELED STOVES, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Jun 14 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Jotul North America, of Portland, Maine, today announced a voluntary recall of about 3,200 Jotul Gas-Fired Stoves. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Movement or misplacement of the stove's burner can allow propane gas to settle in the heater, resulting in delayed ignition. The delayed ignition could shatter the door glass and pose a laceration hazard to consumers. Jotul has received six reports of delayed ignition resulting in glass breakage. One laceration injury has been reported. The recall involves two Jotul models of gas-fired stoves, the GF 100 DV II Nordic QT and the GF 200 DV II Lillehammer. The stoves are fueled with liquid propane gas. The model

number (either GF 100 DV II or GF 200 DV II) can be found on the metal rating plate attached to the back of the stove. Dealers and distributors of Jotul products nation-wide sold the GF 100 DV II Nordic QT model for about \$1,100 and the GF 200 DV II Lillehammer model for about \$1,300 from June 2004 through early April 2005. Assembled in Portland, Maine, manufactured in Norway, cast iron components. Consumers should stop using their LP fueled stoves immediately, shut off the gas supply and contact their J'tul dealers to make arrangements for a free repair. Consumers with recalled units are being personally contacted by dealers who sold the products. Consumers who think that they have recalled units and who have not yet been contacted, should call their dealer for information. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Jun 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Corp said yesterday it was recalling a total of about 42,000 trucks and buses due to five defects, two of which were found much earlier. In one of the five cases, Mitsubishi Fuso will recall some 37,000 vehicles manufactured from 1998 to 2004 due to a defect in the clutch system. The attachment device is not strong enough and could crack, making gear changes impossible. The clutch problem is among 15 defects found more than a year ago that the company reported to the Land, Infrastructure and Transport Ministry on Tuesday (Jun 14). Another recall is intended to repair more than 1,000 large buses because of a problem in the air compressor for the braking system. The defect surfaced when the company looked at old repair documents.

NISSAN MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES, CANADA, GUAM AND PUERTO RICO

London, Jun 13 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Nissan is recalling 49,000 2005 Sentra sedans because of concerns over possible fuel leakage. Nissan has told the government that some of the Sentras may have faulty fuel tank vapor hoses that could cause excess fuel to spill onto the ground -- potentially starting a fire. So far, Nissan says there have been no injuries or fires reported. The automaker says 43-thousand of the vehicles were sold in the US and the remainder in Canada, Guam, and Puerto Rico. Nissan will begin notifying customers about the recall in August.

SCOOTERS & MINI BIKES, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Jun 14 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of about 29,000 Fisher-Price Power Wheels Lightning PAC Scooters and 5,000 Fisher-Price Power Wheels MX3 Mini Bikes in

voluntary co-operation with Fisher-Price, of East Aurora, N.Y. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. If tyres are over-inflated, the plastic rim within the wheel can break, causing the tyre to rupture. This poses the risk of facial and hand injuries while inflating the tire. These scooters and mini bikes were previously recalled in 2003 due to motor control circuits that could malfunction causing the scooters and mini bikes to continue to run after the power or throttle button was released. For the Lightning PAC Scooter, Fisher-Price has received six reports of incidents, including two reports of facial injuries and two reports of hand injuries to children and adults. For the MX3 Mini Bike, Fisher Price received one report of a facial injury. The recalled Lightning PAC Scooters and MX3 Mini Bikes are battery-powered ride-on toys designed for children ages six and older. The product names are located on the side of the scooter or mini bike. The recalled scooter's model number is 73530. The recalled mini bike's model number is 73535. The model numbers are located inside the battery compartment. The recalled scooters or mini bikes have a warning label located near the inflation valves. If the warning label reads "Never inflate above 30 psi," the scooter or mini bike is not subject to this recall. Recalled units had warning labels that did not warn about inflating higher than 30 psi. Sold at discount department and toy stores nation-wide from November 2001 through April 2003 for about \$250 for the scooters and \$200 for the mini bikes. Manufactured in China. Consumers should take the recalled scooters and mini bikes away from children immediately and contact Fisher-Price to receive new warning labels and a free tire gauge to provide assistance during inflation. To prevent over-inflation, Fisher-Price recommends using a manual pump to inflate the tyres. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Port Conditions**GREECE**

See under "Labour Disputes."

ITALY

Genoa, Jun 13 -- Port situation Jun 13: Genoa: One bulk carrier and one container vessel waiting for berth. Average number of days delay in berthing 12 hours. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting normal berths. Savona: No vessels awaiting normal berth. Average delay in berthing 24-72 hours. Three vessels awaiting special berth. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Azerbaijan		
Apsheron	13-Jun-2005	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 5 vessels berthed, 3 completed discharge (2 crude oil, 1 fuel oil), 1 discharging gasoil, 1 waiting to discharge crude oil; 2 vessels due by 14/6, both to discharge fuel oil
Baku	13-Jun-2005	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; Azerneftiyag terminal: no vessels; Azer Trans terminal - Nobel avenue: 2 vessels due by 14/6, 1 to discharge crude oil, 1 gasoilne; Sangachal district: no vessels; Transserve terminal: closed.
Brazil		
Paranagua	14-Jun-2005	Twelve vessels berthed of which 1 full container discharger, 5 fertiliser dischargers, 1 reefer loader, 5 other loaders/dischargers; 11 vessels waiting in roads, of which 4 to load (3 sugar, 1 other vessel), 7 to discharge (5 fertiliser, 2 containers); 46 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Santos	14-Jun-2005	Seventeen vessels berthed of which 6 sugar loaders, 2 other loaders/dischargers, 1 bulk fuel oil loader, 1 pellets loader, 1 bulk oil loader, 1 chemical products loader/discharger, 2 bulk juice loaders, 1 bulk sulphur discharger, 2 full container loaders/dischargers; 18 vessels waiting in roads; 37 vessels due over the next 7 days; Private terminals: Terminal 37: 1 full container loader/discharger; Tecondi: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Termares: no vessels; Rodrimar: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Cosipa: 1 steel products loader; Ultrafertil: no vessels; Cargill: 1 bulk sugar loader, 1 pellets loader; Santos Brasil: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Cutrale: 1 pellets loader; Dow: no vessels.
Rio Grande	14-Jun-2005	Two vessels berthed of which 1 phosphate discharger, 1 potassium chloride discharger; 10 vessels waiting in roads; 31 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Sao Sebastiao	14-Jun-2005	Four vessels berthed, 2 waiting in roads; 5 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitoria	14-Jun-2005	Two vessels berthed of which 1 wheat discharger, 1 pig-iron loader; Terminal Vila Velha: 1 granite loader; Tubarao: 1 soya loader, 2 iron ore loaders, 1 fertiliser discharger; Praia Mole: 3 steel products loaders, 2 coal dischargers; Portocel: 1 cellulose loader; Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 19 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	13-Jun-2005	Eight vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 cigarettes, 3 coils, 1 wheat, 1 manganese ore, 1 empty vessel; 5 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 grain, 1 wheat, 1 barley, 2 empty vessels; 5 vessels due, of which 3 to load (2 coils, 1 copper anodes), 2 to discharge (1 jet oil, 1 coal).
Varna	13-Jun-2005	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 6-12 June:Forty vessels in port operating of which 25 loading (1 bran, 2 bulk wheat, 9 soda, 1 silica sand, 1 cement, 1 NPK, 2 vegetable oil, 1 kaolin, 1 manganese ore, 1 cigarettes, 2 misc. cargo/wheat, 1 scrap, 1 TSP/NPK, 1 bulk coal), 10 discharging (1 raw phosphate, 2 copper, 6 bulk coal, 1 petcoke), 5 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.
Chile		
Antofagasta	13-Jun-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 13 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Arica	13-Jun-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 13 vessels due this week.
Iquique	13-Jun-2005	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 14 vessels due this week.
San Antonio	13-Jun-2005	Five vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 20 vessels due this week
San Vicente	13-Jun-2005	Three vessels berthed, 2 berths vacant; 12 vessels due during the week; Steel pier: 1 vessel at terminal, 1 berth vacant; no vessels due this week; Coronel pier: 2 vessels at terminal, 2 berths vacant; 3 vessels due this week; Oil terminal: 1 tanker at terminal, 1 berth vacant; no tankers due this week.
Valparaiso	13-Jun-2005	Two vessels berthed, 6 berths vacant; 1 vessel anchored; 11 vessels due this week.
Egypt		
Adabiya	13-Jun-2005	Eleven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 6 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 2 containers; 1 tug.
Alexandria	13-Jun-2005	Thirty-four vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 32 general cargo, 1 container vessel, 1 tanker; 17 vessels dry-docked; 15 vessels at inner anchorage, 15 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	13-Jun-2005	Twenty-two vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 14 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 Ro/Ro, 4 containers; 1 vessel at inner anchorage, 16 at outer anchorage..
Dekheila	13-Jun-2005	Eleven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 5 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 2 containers; 1 vessel at outer anchorage.
Port Said	13-Jun-2005	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 5 containers.
Suez	13-Jun-2005	Nine vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier, 1 Ro/Ro, 1 reefer, 4 passenger vessels; 4 tugs.
Suez Canal	13-Jun-2005	Thirty vessels transiting Northbound, 32 Southbound.

Port Conditions

Estonia

Tallinn 13-Jun-2005 Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 3 vessels loading at berth (1 fertiliser, 1 coal, 1 iron ore), 3 vessels discharging at berth (1 coal, 1 cocoa beans, 1 other vessel); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 6 vessels due, with 7 days berthing delay expected.

Georgia

Batumi 13-Jun-2005 Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, both loading, of which 1 kerosene, 1 gasoil; 1 vessel in roads to load fuel oil; 9 vessels due by 22/6, all to load, of which 5 crude oil, 1 naphtha, 1 fuel oil, 1 gasoil, 1 TS-1.

India

Kolkata 13-Jun-2005 4 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading Containers, 3 vessels discharging (Containers, Timber Logs, Pulses); 2 vessels under repair; 2 vessels waiting to sail; 2 vessels due (Containers, General Cargo);

Haldia 13-Jun-2005 13 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading Iron Ore, 7 vessels discharging (Coke-2, POL-3, Coaltar, Met Coke), 3 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth to discharge; 5 vessels due (Containers, POL, Molasses, Iron Ore-2).

Paradip 13-Jun-2005 8 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Iron Ore-2, Thermal Coal-2), 4 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, S.Coal, Rock Phosphate); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load. 14 vessels operating at berth of which 7 loading (Iron ore-2, Wheat Bags, Thermal Coal, Soya, POL, Ilmenite Sand), 7 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, LPG, Steam Coal-2, Timber Logs, Bentonite); 9 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 7 to load); 29 vessels due (Iron Ore-5, Food Grains, Feldspar-2, Granite Blocks-2, B.F.Slag-2, Alumina Powder, Containers-2, Rock Phosphate- 2, Met Coke, Coking Coal-3, Steam Coal, Steel Scrap, Liquid Ammonia, Caustic Soda-2, Urea, Product-2).

Chennai 13-Jun-2005 14 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (Bary, Furnace), 10 vessels discharging (P.Fin, H.M.Scrap, Coking Coal, S.Scrap-2, Sulphur, Met Coke, Thermal Coal, S.Coal, CBFS), 2 vessels loading and discharging (Granite Blocks/Logs, Containers); 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (3 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge); 4 vessels due (Coal, MSO, Crude Oil, Iron ore).

Tuticorin 13-Jun-2005 8 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (General Cargo, Phosphoric Acid); 6 vessels discharging (Timber Logs, Thermal Coal, Rock Phosphate, Copper Concentrate, Furnace Oil, MOP); 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load).

Cochin 13-Jun-2005 2 vessels operating at berth of which 1 discharging Coal, 1 vessel waiting to load General Cargo; 1 vessel awaiting berth to load and discharge.

New Mangalore 13-Jun-2005 7 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (POL Product, Iron Ore Fines-3), 3 vessels discharging (Bentonite, LPG, POL Crude); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 18 vessels due (Granite Stone-2, POL Crude-2, Iron ore (P)-3, C.S.B.O., POL Product-3, Iron ore Fines-3, LPG, Phosphoric Acid, Timber, Benzene).

Mormugao 13-Jun-2005 4 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (Iron ore, Alumina), 2 vessels discharging (Phosphoric Acid, Coal), 1 vessel working at mid stream and loading Iron ore; 1 vessel awaiting berth to load; 4 vessels under repairs/dry docked (Repairs/dry docking is being carried out by the Western India Shipyard Ltd. in their yard); 6 vessels due (Coal-2, Containers, Iron ore-3).

Mumbai 13-Jun-2005 12 vessels operating at berth of which 3 loading (General Cargo-2, POL), 7 vessels discharging (General Cargo-3, Fertilizer (RM)-2, POL-2), 2 vessels loading and discharging (Containers, General Cargo); 1 vessel awaiting berth to discharge; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load; 15 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 12 vessels under arrest, 18 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 10 vessels due (Containers-2, General Cargo-8).

J.N.P.T. 13-Jun-2005 9 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading NAPH; 8 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth to load and discharge; 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge; 2 Container vessels due.

Ennore 13-Jun-2005 1 Iron Ore vessel loading at mid stream; 3 vessels due

Kandla 13-Jun-2005 14 vessels operating at berth of which 7 discharging (Timber Logs, Scrap-3, St. Scrap, Vegetable Oil, F.O), 5 vessels loading (St. coil, Agriculture Product-2, Met Coke, DEG), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel under repairs/dry docked; 3 vessels due (Timber Logs, Salt, Agriculture Product).

Kazakhstan

Aktau 13-Jun-2005 Oil products: Three vessels berthed, 1 completed loading of crude oil, 2 loading crude oil; 4 roads, all to load crude oil; 2 vessels due by 13/6, both to load crude oil.

Mozambique

Maputo 13-Jun-2005 Seven vessels are currently in port berthed, of which 5 loading (1 bagged sugar, 1 bulk sugar, 1 ferro chrome, 1 bulk mineral coal, 1 aluminium), 1 discharging aluminium, 1 discharging/loading containers; 2 diesel/petrol vessels due to berth 13/6; 20 vessels due by 25/6 of which 10 to load (2 citrus, 1 cattle cake, 1 bulk sugar, 3 bulk mineral coal, 1 iron bars, 1 ferro chrome, 1 magnetite), 6 to discharge (2 petcoke, 1 bulk maize, 1 bricks, 1 bulk aluminium, 1 citrus), 4 to discharge/load containers.

Port Conditions

Nigeria

Qua Iboe terminal (Eket) 10-Jun-2005 Production at Oso platform remains low. No vessels berthed, 2 anchored, 8 due

Pakistan

Karachi 14-Jun-2005 One cement vessel loading at berth, 6 vessels discharging at berth (1 coal, 2 DAP, 1 general cargo, 1 phosphate, 1 SBM), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (2 containers, 1 cement), 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 7 vessels due (2 containers, 2 urea, 1 palm oil, 1 naphtha, 1 chemicals), with no berthing delays expected.

Port Qasim 14-Jun-2005 One rice vessel loading at berth, 3 vessels discharging at berth (1 fish, 1 MEG, 1 iron ore), 1 container vessel discharging/loading at QICT berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 peas, 1 iron ore).

Poland

Gdansk 13-Jun-2005 Seven vessels loading at berth (2 coal, 3 general cargo, 2 bulkers); 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 19 vessels due.

Gdynia 13-Jun-2005 Five vessels loading at berth (1 general cargo, 1 bulker, 2 coal, 1 grain), 4 discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 grain, 2 bulkers); 18 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 50 vessels due.

Russia

Novorossiysk 13-Jun-2005 Fifteen vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading (1 bulk cement, 2 scrap, 2 steel billets, 2 wheat, 1 coils, 1 aluminium, 1 UAN solution), 5 discharging (4 bulk sugar, 1 citrus); 9 vessels waiting in roads, of which 3 to discharge bulk sugar, 6 to load (2 aluminium, 2 wheat, 1 scrap, 1 bulk cement); 47 vessels due, of which 43 to load (1 HBI/flowers/steel sheets, 1 bulk NPK, 4 aluminium, 3 steel billets, 2 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 oil, 2 wheat, 2 scrap, 3 coils, 1 DRI, 1 slabs, 1 coils/lumber, 1 steel billets/scrap, 2 paper, 1 bulk cement, 6 copper, 1 pig-iron, 2 steel sheets/coils, 1 pipes, 1 coils/steel billets, 2 diesel oil, 1 barley, 1 bulk urea, 1 paper/cellulose), 4 to discharge (3 bulk sugar, 1 bulk fertiliser); Oil terminal: 1 tanker berthed loading crude oil; 4 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 4 tankers due, all to load, of which 3 crude oil, 1 fuel oil.

Slovenia

Koper 13-Jun-2005 Port working normally. Ten vessels berthed of which 3 discharging/loading containers, 2 bulk carriers discharging coal/minerals, 3 vessels loading sawn timber/steel products/paper products, 1 Ro/Ro loading general cargo, 1 tanker discharging liquid chemicals; 14 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 3 to discharge/load containers, 2 bulk carriers to discharge cement/grain, 4 bulk carriers to load coal/grain, 3 vessels to load sawn timber/steel products/general cargo, 1 car carrier to discharge/load vehicles, 1 passenger vessel.

Spain

Bilbao 14-Jun-2005 Fifteen vessels operating (4 tankers, 11 others), of which 7 loading, 3 discharging, 5 loading/discharging.

Cadiz 14-Jun-2005 Nineteen vessels in port of which 7 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 1 sugar, 2 clinker, 1 oil), 2 passenger vessels, 10 vessels under repair; no delays.

Sagunto 14-Jun-2005 Sixteen vessels in port operating of which 10 discharging (9 steel products, 1 vehicles), 3 loading bulk fertiliser, 2 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo, 1 vessel discharging/loading steel coils; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

Sri Lanka

Colombo 13-Jun-2005 Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Six container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 18 vessels discharging at berth (10 containers/feeders, 1 bagged fertiliser, 1 cement blocks on pallets, 1 general cargo, 2 bulk palm oil, 1 bagged maize, 1 bulk cement, 1 Ro/Ro); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 6 vessels dry-docked; 8 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.

Turkmenistan

Aladja 13-Jun-2005 Oil products: 1 vessel due 13/6 to load crude oil.

Turkmenbashi 13-Jun-2005 Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, of which 1 completed loading gasoil, 1 discharging crude oil; 6 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 heating oil, 1 gasoil, 2 fuel oil, 2 unknown cargo; 1 vessel due 13/6 to load unknown cargo.

Ukraine

Ilichevsk 13-Jun-2005 Ten vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (3 steel products, 1 oil, 1 wheat, 1 sulphur, 2 oil), 2 discharging/loading containers; 1 vessel in roads to load steel plate; 10 vessels due, of which 4 to load steel products, 1 to discharge steel products, 5 to discharge/load containers.

Port Conditions

Mariupol	13-Jun-2005	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading (3 steel, 2 fire-clay, 2 coal, 1 sunflower beans, 1 barley, 1 equipment), 1 discharging equipment; 10 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 4 steel, 1 coal, 1 sulphur, 2 fire-clay, 1 wheat, 1 bran; 47 vessels due, of which 43 to load (22 steel, 8 coal, 10 fire-clay, 1 sulphur, 1 sunflower beans, 1 ammonium nitrate), 2 to discharge (1 magnetite, 1 equipment), 2 to discharge/load (1 steel, 1 containers/fire-clay).
Odessa	13-Jun-2005	Eighteen vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (7 metal, 1 scrap), 6 discharging (1 luggage, 1 citrus, 3 sugar, 1 sand), 2 discharging/loading containers, 2 passenger vessel; 6 vessels in roads, of which 4 to load (2 metal, 1 ferro alloy, 1 metal/wood), 2 to discharge (1 metal, 1 citrus); 43 vessels due, of which 23 to load (17 metal, 1 scrap, 1 wheat, 2 oil, 1 wood, 1 ore), 3 to discharge (1 metal, 1 oil, 1 cars), 17 to discharge/load (16 containers, 1 ore).

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