

Piracy attacks leave owners facing ransom cover

P&I clubs reluctant to pay out after spate of kidnappings in the Malacca Strait, writes Marcus Hand in Singapore — Friday June 24 2005

IF THE worst happens and crew from your vessel are kidnapped by pirates in the Malacca Strait your P&I insurer may well not pay out if a ransom is paid to secure their safe release.

The spate of kidnapping crew for ransom by heavily armed pirates over the last year in the Malacca Strait has left owners with little choice than to pay up if they want to see their crew alive again.

However, when owners have tried to claim for ransom payments they have found they are treated as discretionary claims by their P&I insurer and whether the Club has paid out in full, part or not at all varies from case to case.

"There is no express inclusion or exclusion of cover in P&I Club rules," said an insurance industry source.

"A shipowner might seek to submit a claim to his P&I club under principles of mitigation costs or other discretionary cover, but it can not be predicted how such discretion would be exercised and any decision is likely to be confidential."

Simply not paying the ransom has proved not to be an option, with weak law enforcement in particular on the Indonesian side of the Malacca Strait where kidnapping is prevalent. Last year an Indonesian owner negotiated a ransom with the pirates but then decided not pay. As a result, the hostages were killed.

One owner said that while the payment of ransoms was not covered under

standard P&I policies, some clubs would consider payment if the member concerned appealed. The source said he was aware of at least one case where this had happened, although in such cases the club would only pay part of the ransom, not the full amount.

In other cases, clubs are reported to have refused to pay out over ransom payments and owners have accepted this. An International Group Club recently issued a circular saying the best course of action to ensure cover was to take out a standalone kidnap and ransom policy. Despite having been circulated among insurance brokers, it is understood the club has since claimed this was an internal document and not its official position.

Ironically though, if the seafarer is shot dead by the pirates, the Club is liable to pay a death compensation claim and this has led to one possible avenue for appealing claim for a ransom payment.

In at least one case an owner has been able to successfully appeal based on the application of sue and labour claims. The owner was able to show that he both acted prudently in securing the release of the seafarers and the ransom was less than the Club would have had to pay in death compensation.

The wide range of scenarios that have played out illustrates the lack of a common policy when it comes to the

payment of ransoms.

Robert Gordon, managing director of Singapore-based P&I correspondents Seasia P&I Services, believes Clubs need to clarify the situation.

"The Clubs need to stop sweeping this under the rug. It is not right that owners are left in limbo," he said.

He feels that it should be made clear that claims will be assessed on the merit of each case or, "If they want to say 'No, we do not pay ransoms', they should say No".

Should the latter be the case they should advise owners how to seek kidnap and ransom cover.

Even if clubs do cover ransom payments it is not something they are likely to publicise though. One source noted that if the pirates knew the seafarers they kidnapped were covered by insurance they would make much higher ransom demands banking on the insurer having far more money than an owner and operator of tugboats.

"If these people know the owners have insurance the demands are going to become phenomenal," one insurance executive stated.

As it stands the demands of kidnappers in the Malacca Strait have generally stayed in the US\$50,000 to US\$100,000 range with room to negotiate to lower sums which they know the shipowner can afford to pay, and at the same time, the pirates are guaranteed a handsome return.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>ELISABETH</i>	general	MLT	RI	2,813	4,650	1981	Sustained main engine damage & adrift 120 nm from Ponta Delgada Jun 18. Tug Sao Miguel proceeded same day, took in tow. Arrived Ponta Delgada Jun 20 for repairs.
<i>JOHANNES</i>	fishing	NLD	—	462	—	1982	Had fire on board about 17 nm west of Texel Island in lat 53 07N, long 04 15E, Jun 21. The five crew were rescued. The vessel was towed back to home port of Stellendam.
<i>NICHOLAS M.</i>	product tanker	—	—	1,251	1,803	1965	While transitting Dardanelles grounded near Dogan Aslan in lat 40 32 75N, long 26 57 9E, Jun 21. Still aground Jun 23.
<i>NORDIC AMANDA</i>	general	NLD	BV	1,999	3,005	1991	Sustained severe engine breakdown in Lake Vanern after leaving Kristinehamn Jun 20. Awaiting an engineer.
<i>SEASPAN SOVEREIGN</i>	tug	CAN	—	432	—	1944	Had fire in engine-room in lat 50 30N, long 126 12W, Jun 15 while towing barge <i>Seaspan Phoenix</i> . Engines disabled. Towed to Vancouver (CAN).
<i>SIMEIZ</i>	fishing	UKR	—	1,105	—	2001	Had fire on board while moored at Montevideo Jun 22. 11 crew reported missing. Vessel towed from quay and burnt out.
<i>TRADEWIND SUNRISE</i>	chem/oil carrier	PAN	NV	4,094	6,330	1991	Had explosion on board while moored off Chaguaramas, Trinidad, for repairs, Jun 22. Four shipyard workers killed. Large hole in front deck. Large oil spill. Fuel also leaking.
<i>VIEIRASA SIETE</i>	fishing	SEN	BV	393	200	1985	Sank about 80 miles off Dakar Jun 15. Crew rescued.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AIVIK (Canada)

London, Jun 16 -- At 0410 hrs, Jun 16, during docking manoeuvres, the ro/ro Aivik (7048 gt, built 1980) struck bulk Talisman (26062 gt, built 1996), moored at section 46 in the port of Montreal.

ARKLOW SPIRIT (Republic of Ireland)

London, Jun 21 -- General cargo Arklow Spirit arrived Belfast Jun 20 from Bromborough.

BALSA 54 (Panama)

Kingston, Jam, Jun 20 -- While approaching the berth in Kingston this morning, general cargo Balsa 54 (4358 gt, built 1996), with corn and soya, ran aground. The vessel arrived with a draught of 6m even keel and is presently sitting in 4.94m water. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Balsa 54 sailed Chesapeake Jun 15 for Jamaica.)

Kingston, Jam, June 22 -- Understand general cargo Balsa 54 refloated 1515, June 21. Vessel was sitting on a sand and understand only minimal damage sustained to paint work. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BASTO III (Norway)

London, Jun 17 -- Following received from Sandnes, dated today: Passenger Basto III has completed repairs in Drammen, and is now back in normal service.

London, Jun 19 -- Information received from Sandnes, dated Jun 17, states: When arriving Moss at 1600, local time, today, passenger ro/ro Basto III (7310 gt, built 2005) made hard contact with the quay. One person injured and some cars damaged. The ferry is damaged in the bow section.

London, Jun 20 -- Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro Basto III is now in Horten, undergoing repairs. ETC about three days.

BETATANK II (Liberia)

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

BURAKBEY (Malta)

Istanbul, Jun 23 -- General cargo Burakbey (2683 gt, built 1984), Nemrut Bay for Diliskelesi, sustained engine breakdown while transiting Dardanelles at 2200, local time, Jun 21, and anchored near Karanlik Liman. Vessel completed necessary repairs/formalities by own means and sailed from Canakkale at 1613, local time, Jun 22. ETA at Diliskelesi is 0630, local time, Jun 23. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CALIFORNIA (Panama)

London, Jun 22 -- Bulk California arrived Tampico 1800, Jun 11, from Puerto Ordaz.

CAMILLA DESGAGNES (Barbados)

London, Jun 22 -- Ro/ro Camilla Desgagnes sailed New York 2025, Jun 20, for Quebec.

CAMILLA DESGAGNES (Canada)

New York, Jun 20 -- Ro/ro Camilla Desgagnes is still at Berth B4PN, New York. -- Maritime Association of the Port of New York/New Jersey.

CANADIAN LEADER (Canada)

London, Jun 20 -- A report, dated today, states: Bulk Canadian Leader (18045 gt, built 1967) grounded in Mission River, Thunder Bay, Ont, in lat 48 21 20N, long 88 13 15W, at 1705, EDST, Jun 19. Vessel freed with tug assistance; no damage.

CARIBE STAR (Panama)

Curacao, Jun 22 -- Cement Caribe Star is currently lying alongside the Curacao Drydock awaiting repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CARNIVAL LEGEND (Panama)

London, Jun 22 -- Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1350, UTC: Passenger Carnival Legend (85942 gt, built 2002) struck pier on arrival at New York this morning, causing a 15-ft gouge in the side of the vessel. (Note -- Carnival Legend sailed San Juan, PR, Jun 17.)

CEC ASIA (Bahamas)

Freeport, Bahamas, Jun 20 -- General cargo CEC Asia: Agents report vessel departed Freeport after repairs on Jun 8. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CJK LINHAI (Panama)

London, Jun 23 -- General cargo CJK Linhai was reported arriving Fukuyama Jun 19, from Tongling and was then reported arriving Mizushima Jun 22.

CLIPPER LANCASTER (Bahamas)

See under "Miscellaneous."

CMA CGM ST.MARTIN (Marshall Islands)

Ponta Delgada, Jun 20 -- C.c. CMA CGM St.Martin (10752 gt, built 1998) arrived Ponta Delgada outer roads 1430, local time, today, for repairs on account of reported propeller damage. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- CMA CGM St.Martin sailed Le Havre Jun 14 for Guadeloupe.)

DOCTOR HOOK

See Quickcat.

DOOYANG VICTOR (South Korea)

London, Jun 20 -- Bulk Dooyang Victor was reported passing Tarifa, westbound, at 0026, Jun 19, on passage Karabiga for San Juan (PRI).

EDWARD HENRY (U.K.)

London, Jun 21 -- A Maritime & Coastguard Agency press release, timed 2209, UTC, Jun 20, states: At 1951 hrs fishing Edward Henry, ZIQE7, (279 gt, built 2002), with 10 crew on board, put out a pan pan call

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

(urgency call) on channel 16 requesting assistance, having fouled its propeller in the Pentland Firth area. Michael Coull, Aberdeen Coastguard Watch Manager, said: "fishing Boy Shane took Edward Henry under tow. Thurso lifeboat then escorted Edward Henry into Scrabster just after 2130 hrs.

ELEFThERIA (Panama)

Gothenburg, Jun 17 -- Bulk Eleftheria is believed to have left Kalundborg Fjord and resumed voyage pm, Jun 13. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

ELISABETH (Malta)

Ponta Delgada, Jun 20 -- General cargo Elisabeth (2813 gt, built 1981) sustained main engine damage Jun 18 and was adrift about 120 nautical miles from Ponta Delgada. Local harbour tug Sao Miguel proceeded to casualty same day and towed it to Ponta Delgada, where safely arrived at 0900, local time, today. Estimated time for completion of the repairs to main engine unknown at present. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ENA 2 (Germany)

London, Jun 20 -- The official investigation of last year's accident between non specific tanker Ena 2 and c.c. Pudong Senator, in Hamburg port, laid the blame squarely on the former vessel's master, who is thought to have had 220 mg blood alcohol concentration at the time of the accident. The report by the Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation, released last week, said the master's intoxication clearly led to the collision between Ena 2 and Pudong Senator on Jun 28. Ena 2 later capsized. This was not the first time that the unidentified master had attracted attention with workplace intoxication, having been found drunk on an occasion in December, 2003. HTL rejected Norddeutsche Affinerie's claim that HTL had been informed about the incident when employing the master from Eckelmann. HTL also contends that the master had been warned that alcohol use on board would lead to immediate termination which in turn would mean that he would never receive equivalent employment in Hamburg port. On this basis, the report pointedly notes that the accident is poor evidence that the man was otherwise suitable. It was later found during the salvage operation that almost all 960 tonnes of the acid cargo had leaked into the Elbe river. Although a few thousand fish in the immediate area were killed, the acid was quickly diluted to harmless concentrations. Although the bureau suggests the obligatory use of radar in the harbour as well as a revision of regulations dealing with the right of way in port, both shipowners and vessels' crews who strongly advised to enforce rules involving alcohol use. The report also notes that the accident has since helped to provide the impetus for new shipping regulations dealing with

alcohol consumption. German Transport Minister Manfred Stolpe announced the new rules at the beginning of this month.

EVERISE GLORY (Malaysia)

Manila, Jun 16 -- A week after general cargo Everise Glory sank, the body of the missing chief officer was found off Pulau, Tioman island, Pahang, Malaysia, on Jun 11, the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said today. The body is expected to be flown back to the Philippines in the next few days, officials said. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jun 16 -- Following Navigation Warning received Jun 13, states: General cargo Everise Glory showing mast, exists in lat 01 25.4N, long 104 29.4E. Light buoy with radar beacon established.

FREY (Malta)

Brest, Jun 21 -- The situation of general cargo Frey remains unchanged. It is still at Brest awaiting a decision concerning towage towards another port for repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

GARNATA (Libya)

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro Garnata (13868 gt, built 1974) caught fire yesterday while undergoing maintenance in Tripoli port. The fire, which broke out in one of the ship's electrical generators, was caused by an "electrical shock", sources at the General Committee for Transportation said. The vessel's crew were on board when the fire erupted and no damages were reported, the same sources added. Security officials have set up an inquiry into the incident to establish the cause of the fire.

GEORG ESSBERGER (Madeira)

London, Jun 20 -- Chem.tank Georg Essberger arrived Tees 1113, Jun 16 and departed 1352, Jun 19, for Soderhamn, Sweden.

GEORGE T. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jun 22 -- Understood bulk George T. (91164 gt, built 1990), Port Hedland for Tees, cargo iron ore, is under repair at Pylos following main engine problems. Vessel sailed Port Hedland May 15 and passed Port Said Jun 12.

Piraeus, June 22 -- According to Pylos Port Authority bulk George T. arrived Pylos port June 16 with engine problems. The vessel remains in port and a likely sailing date is not available todate. -- Lloyd's Agents.

HALA

London, Jun 17 -- A press report, dated Jun 16, states: General cargo Hala, which was on its way to Kochi with a huge quantity of copra cake, has sunk near Colombo. The vessel, which was bringing in cargo for the Kerala Solvents and Extracts Ltd (KSEL), sank, the ship's agents said. KSEL chief general manager, Anand

Menon, said that the vessel was carrying about 1,700 tonnes of copra cake. As per the information they had received, the vessel was "presumably lost" in the Lankan waters. According to preliminary information, the crew are said to be safe. The vessel, which was to have reached Kochi on May 26, developed some technical problems and began drifting to the Andamans. A tug was sent from Colombo and it was being towed to Sri Lanka, when it suddenly sank. The vessel had left for Kochi from the Betung port in Indonesia three weeks ago.

INDEPENDIENTE (Panama)

Freeport, Bahamas, Jun 22 -- Bulk Independiente is still at Freeport and apparently awaiting a decision by the owners as to its future. No indications as to what this might be, as yet. -- Lloyd's Agents.

JIMILTA II (Malta)

Rotterdam, Jun 20 -- Bulk Jimilta II (24942 gt, built 1985) was refloated by SMIT Salvage BV tugs on Jun 18 after grounding in the River Parana earlier that day. Vessel is not believed to have sustained significant damage. -- SMIT Salvage BV.

JOHANNES (Netherlands)

London, Jun 23 -- At 1422, Jun 21, the Dutch Coastguard received a message from Dutch fishing Johannes (462 gt, built 1982) (SL 27 from Stellendam) that there was a fire on board, in the wheelhouse. Johannes was in lat 53 07N, long 04 15E, about 17 miles West of Texel Island. The fire caused a lot of smoke. The Coastguard alerted the lifeboats of Den Helder, Texel and Vlieland of the Koninklijke Nederlandse Redding Maatschappij. In addition, a Lynx helicopter and the Dutch Royal Naval M-frigate Hr.Ms. Van Nes were alerted. The sport/fishing vessel T SOP, which was near Johannes, took the five crew off the fishing vessel. There were no injuries. Later the five crew were transferred to the frigate Hr.Ms. Van Nes, by helicopter. The fire was extinguished by several ship in the vicinity. The cause of the fire is not known yet.

London, Jun 23 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0650, UTC: Fishing Johannes, PEZN, was subsequently towed back to its home port of Stellendam.

JOHN B.AIRD (Canada)

London, Jun 21 -- A report, dated today, states: Bulk John B.Aird (22881 gt, built 1983), cargo thermal coal, ran aground off Stokes Point, Ont, lat 42 44 10N, long 82 29 00W, at 1434, EDST, Jun 20. It freed itself and proceeded to the Lambton Generating Station dock for inspection.

KABALEGA (Uganda)

London, Jun 17 -- A report from LaSalle, PQ, states: A press report, dated Jun 16, states: Rescue calls from ro/ro Kabalega to base stations in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania were not answered for four hours after the

crash on Lake Victoria, the commission of inquiry into the accident heard yesterday. A witness said they sent messages at 0330 hrs but the first response came at 0730 hrs. The First Officer on Kabalega, John Agiru, told the commission chaired by former Attorney General Bart Katureebe: "We called the shore before abandoning Kabalega but there was no response until 0730 hrs. It was strange but maybe it was because it was a Sunday," Agiru said.

KIPEROUSA (Malta)

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated Jun 18, states: A 15cm deep layer of oil was pumped out of the stranded bulk Kiperousa's engine-room and stored in one of the ship's top ballast tanks, the South Africa Maritime Safety Authority's Captain Peter Kroon said yesterday. The removal of the oil floating on the water in the engine-room would make the area safer and make the job of the diver's easier when looking for where the water came into the engine-room. Another positive thing that the pumping of the oil would do, apart from prevent spillage into the ocean, would be to aid the divers when it came to emptying the vessel's bunker tanks, which still contain 30 tons of mixed heavy oil and diesel fuel, should it become necessary to empty the tanks. Specially designed Smit Brackets have been welded onto the stern of the vessel. "All the equipment is in place and we are now waiting for a high tide to try and pull it off by the stern," Kroon said yesterday. He added that there was the possibility of bad weather at the weekend and tug Nikolay Chiker had a tow rope attached to the vessel and would ensure it would not get any closer to the shore than the mile and half it currently is. "We are expecting to try and pull it off on the high tides on Monday or Tuesday," Kroon added.

London, Jun 20 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1010, UTC: Bulk Kiperousa is still aground with salvors in attendance, including tug Nikolay Chiker, awaiting spring tides.

London, Jun 20 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1120, UTC: Bulk Kiperousa is still aground with tugs Nikolay Chiker and Toto in attendance. Fuel oil is being pumped from the vessel to Toto.

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Maritime authorities are looking to tomorrow's spring tide off the coast of East London to assist in refloating bulk Kiperousa. "Weather permitting and progress permitting, the first real attempt to refloat Kiperousa will be made tomorrow because the spring high tide is tomorrow, that's when we want to float it off if possible," SA Maritime Safety Authority (Samsa) spokesman Captain Peter Kroon said. He said no attempt had been made yet to refloat the vessel as they were awaiting bigger swells.

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Salvors are

expected to begin further attempts at refloating grounded bulk Kiperousa. With the advent of spring tides this week new attempts are likely from tomorrow. The salvage team is currently attempting to plug a hole in the ship's hull leading to the engine-room, ahead of further attempts to pull the ship clear. Although the Tsavlis tug Nikolay Chiker is the appointed salvage tug for this operation, the nearby port of East London had two additional tugs on standby this morning Pentow Service from Smit Salvage's Durban base and Smit Amandla from Smit Dudula in Cape Town.

London, June 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Close to one hundred oiled African penguins have been found on Bird Island in Algoa Bay near Port Elizabeth, and 65 of them have been flown to Cape Town for cleaning and rehabilitation. But conservationists do not believe the birds were oiled by fuel spilled from the stranded bulk Kiperousa which is still firmly stuck on a reef near East London. Rather, the culprit is believed to be a ship illegally cleaning its bilges as it sailed past Algoa Bay. The oiled birds, which were flown to the city as SAA cargo, are being treated at the Rietvlei headquarters of Sanccob (the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds).

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Bulk Kiperousa will remain beached off the Eastern Cape coast at least until this afternoon, according to maritime authorities. SA Maritime Safety Authority (Samsa) spokesman, Captain Peter Kroon, said salvors still had to come up with a plan as to what stability they could guarantee for the operation - particularly with regard to 8,000 logs it was carrying. Kiperousa was scheduled to have been refloated yesterday. "We want to know what they plan to do with the logs," Kroon said. However, Kroon was optimistic that the refloating operation would take place around 1500 today during spring high tide. He said the afternoon tides were suitable yesterday. However, they were expected to prevail today and tomorrow. Meanwhile, tugs chartered by the salvors have continued their mission to take dirty oil out of the vessel and pump it into railway tanker trucks at the East London harbour quayside, said East London National Ports Authority spokesman, Terry Taylor. Two tugs were presently involved and another was in East London ready to be made available should it be needed, he said. Taylor said the dry dock at East London harbour was likely to be vacant soon.

Piraeus, Jun 23 -- Bulk Kiperousa: Tug Nikolay Chiker and two small tugs are still connected to the vessel. It is anticipated that an attempt to refloat will be made at high water this afternoon. -- Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

LAGARFOSS (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jun 17 -- C.c. Lagarfoss arrived Reykjavik Jun 13.

LIBERTY ISLAND (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: The rebuilding of Broward's beaches is on hold for a week after dredging equipment accidentally poked a hole in the hull of its hopper dredger Liberty Island (4898 gt, built 2001). On Friday night (Jun 17), the drag head, which vacuums sand off the ocean floor, got caught in shallow water between the bottom of the ship and the ocean floor. The steel attachment ripped a two-foot hole in a ballast compartment. There was no environmental impact and never any danger of capsizing. "They did not run aground," said Stephen Higgins, Broward County's beach erosion administrator. "When this incident occurred, they were in the sand borrow site where they were supposed to be." The contractor is Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co., of Oak Brook, Ill. After the incident, the crew on the dredger pumped their load of sand onto the beach, then headed to the ship anchorage outside Port Everglades, where divers photographed the damage. Officials from the Coast Guard and the American Bureau of Shipping determined that the hole had to be repaired. The dredger left for Tampa at 1000, Sunday and arrived Monday afternoon. Higgins expects the dredger to be back on Broward's shores near the Hollywood-Hallandale Beach line by early Saturday (Jun 25). "It is not going to damage the project in any way," Higgins said. "They are going to resume where they left off." Since the May 14 start, 4,000 linear feet has been restored to beaches in southern Hollywood.

LIBRA RIO GRANDE (Germany)

London, Jun 20 -- C.c. Libra Rio Grande sailed from New Orleans on Jun 18.

MADEIRA (Comoros)

Lisbon, Jun 21 -- Following received from Sines sub-agents: Cement Madeira (3881 gt, built 1979), during berthing manoeuvre and due to unexpected reasons, master and pilot believe to be due to wind, contacted bulk Mineral Oak (85721 gt, built 1996) which was berthed, by starboard side, to discharge coal, at Pier 1A of TMS (Multipurpose Terminal), Sines, Jun 18. The damages reported are: Mineral Oak: Bosun storage ventilator, forepeak ventilator and bow working rail. Madeira: Rail on gangway area, gangway and gangway winch. Mineral Oak is carrying out repairs at Classification Society (ABS) request. Madeira will land gangway and gangway winch for repair and replacement on board during next call. Madeira is presently transporting cement between Sines and Praia da Vitoria -- Lloyd's Agents.

MARTINA M (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Tunis, Jun 17 -- General cargo Martina M is still under repair, date of completion unknown. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MARY NOUR (Panama)

See "Cement Dispute, Mexico" under "Miscellaneous."

MINERAL OAK (Panama)

See Madeira.

MIRELLA (Panama)

Istanbul, Jun 23 -- General cargo Mirella (1042 gt, built 1985) while entering Dardanelles drifted toward Gelibolu Lighthouse due to engine breakdown at 2330, local time, Jun 22. Towed by tug Kurtarma 4 and anchored off Gelibolu anchorage area at 0455, local time, Jun 23. Reportedly vessel completed repairs by own means and is waiting necessary inspection/formalities. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Mirella was last reported passing Tarifa Jun 13, Lome for Piraeus.)

MOUNTAIN BLOSSOM (Bahamas)

London, Jun 22 -- Chemical/oil carrier Mountain Blossom arrived Gibraltar 0043, Jun 21 and sailed 0626 hrs later the same day for San Lorenzo (ARG).

MSC AL AMINE (Morocco)

Tunis, Jun 17 -- General cargo MSC Al Amine is still under repair at CMR Menzel Bourguiba. Repairs are expected to be completed by the end of this month. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MSC KATIE (Panama)

Port Louis, Mauritius, Jun 17 -- After preliminary repairs, c.c. MSC Katie was taken in tow for Durban May 30 for permanent repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MURMAN 2 (Russia)

Bergen, Jun 23 -- Fishing Murman 2 is still at Fitjar Mek. Verksted under repair. As far as we know, the repairs will not be completed for several weeks. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MYLINGUR (Faroe Islands)

Torshavn, Jun 23 -- Fishing Mylingur has left Faroes. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NEPLINE DELIMA (Malaysia)

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

NEW GLORY (Dominica)

Singapore, Jun 21 -- General cargo New Glory is still at Raffles Anchorage, Singapore. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NICHOLAS M (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Istanbul, Jun 23 -- Bulk Nicholas M (22912 gt, built 1980), Bourgas for Santos, 27,490 tonnes ammonium nitrate, transiting Dardanelles, grounded near Dogan Aslan, in lat 40 32.75N, long 26 57.9E at 2230, local time, Jun 21. Vessel is reportedly still aground in the same position. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Nicholas M sailed Bourgas Jun 20 for Santos.)

NIKOLAY CHIKER (Russia)

See Kiperousa.

NIKOLAY KOLOMEYTSYEV (Russia)

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated Jun 18, states: Research Nikolay Kolomeytsyev (1200 gt, built 1972), Toyama for Zarubino, cargo of used cars, anchored 37km north of Noto Peninsula in the Sea of Japan trying to repair malfunctioning main engine. Weather is good, no threat for crew in the area.

NIKOLLA (Panama)

Trieste, Jun 22 -- The present position of general cargo Nikolla is unchanged. The vessel is stuck on the rocks with its aft section, which is tidal owing to a large hole. All fuel and lubricating oil has been removed to avoid pollution. It is understood that nothing is being done to refloat it or to recover its cargo of tiles. Rumours are that neither the hull nor the cargo are insured. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NORDIC AMANDA (Netherlands)

London, Jun 21 -- Following received from Port of Boston Ltd, dated today: General cargo Nordic Amanda (1999 gt, built 1991), sailed Kristinehamn yesterday evening for Boston (Lincs) and sustained severe engine breakdown in Lake Vanern. Vessel is awaiting an engineer.

NUEVO BALUEIRO TERCERO (Spain)

Vigo, Jun 22 -- Information indicates that fishing Nuevo Balueiro Tercero has not been able to be refloated. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ODIGITRIA (Liberia)

London, Jun 20 -- Bulk Odigitria arrived Djibouti Jun 3 and sailed Jun 15, bound for Hodeidah.

PREMPUTLI (India)

See "Iraq" under "Piracy."

PUDONG SENATOR (Germany)

See Ena 2.

QUICKCAT (New Zealand)

London, Jun 17 -- A report from LaSalle, PQ, dated today, states: A press report, dated today, states: The master of ferry Quickcat and the skipper of fishing Doctor Hook, involved in a collision near Waiheke Island in January, are facing charges under the Maritime Transport Act and the Maritime (Offences) Regulations. Seven family members were injured on a fishing trip on Jan 4 when Doctor Hook was in contact with the Waiheke-bound Quickcat. One of the injured died three weeks later in hospital. The collision, in the Motuihe Channel, was investigated by the Transport Accident Investigation Commission. In the Auckland District Court yesterday, Wayne Williams, the master of Quickcat, and Bruce Newbury, the skipper of Doctor Hook, each faced four charges in common. These included operating a vessel in a manner causing unnecessary danger or risk to other persons or property, failure to keep a proper lookout and

failure to use all appropriate means to determine if the risk of a collision existed. Newbury was also charged with failure to take appropriate action to avoid a collision and Williams was charged with failure to keep out of the way of a vessel he was overtaking. Newbury pleaded not guilty and elected trial by jury and Williams entered no plea. Both cases were adjourned until next month.

RADWAN (Cyprus)

Cape Town, Jun 20 -- Product tanker Radwan sailed Cape Town Jun 18, destination Alang. -- Lloyd's Agents.

RITA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Passenger Rita (38376 gt, built 1960) missing from the line up at Alang, apparently broke down off the Indian coast. If its fuel line can be reattached, it will proceed under its own power, if not, the vessel will be towed to the beach within days.

ROSALIA D'AMATO (Italy)

Corunna, Jun 22 -- Bulk Rosalia D'Amato (40562 gt, built 2001) Corpus Christi to Corunna, loaded with full cargo 68,000 tonnes of petcoke, manoeuvring for berthing inside Corunna, grounded and sustained crack in one double bottom ballast tank, yesterday afternoon. Vessel refloated at 0500, today. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Rosalia D'Amato sailed Corpus Christi Jun 6 for Spain.)

Vigo, Jun 23 -- Bulk Rosalia D'Amato ran ground in Corunna harbour entrance and was refloated by Spanish Search and Rescue tugs during sping tide at 0430 hrs. Vessel now alongside and divers investigating possible damage to bottom of vessel. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ROYAL KLIPPER (Netherlands)

See "Seizure Of Drugs From Netherlands Vessel At Sheerness, United Kingdom" under "Miscellaneous".

SCAN BALTIC (NIS)

Hamilton, Bermuda, Jun 20 -- Ro/ro Scan Baltic left Bermuda Jun 15 destined Liverpool, Canada after repairs had been completed in Bermuda. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SEA ASTRIDE (Panama)

London, Jun 17 -- Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1210, UTC: General cargo Sea Astride is still at Mayaquez, subject to inspections.

SEASPAN PHOENIX (Canada)

See Seaspan Sovereign.

SEASPAN SOVEREIGN (Canada)

London, Jun 16 -- At 0340 hrs, Jun 15, tug Seaspan Sovereign (432 gt, built 1944), with barge Seaspan Phoenix (7766 gt, built 1980) in tow, reported fire in the engine room, in lat 50 30N, long 126 12W, near Broken Islands, Johnstone Straits, B.C.

London, Jun 16 -- Following received from Victoria BC, RCC, timed 2045, UTC: The fire on tug Seaspan Sovereign disabled the vessel's engines and it and barge Seaspan Phoenix were subsequently towed into Vancouver.

SELENDANG AYU (Malaysia)

London, Jun 20 -- An Unified Command press release, dated Anchorage Jun 15, states: Two months into the resumption of the bulk Selendang Ayu response spring and summer shoreline cleanup, the Unified Command and its response teams report progress following the carefully worked out recommendations of the Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Teams (SCAT). Progress is being made to the 768 sites, which have been surveyed, marked and prioritized for cleanup. A community of workers made up almost exclusively of Alaskan residents and Alaska Native Corporations is doing the work. Alaskan residents staff more than 88% of the response effort. Fifty percent of the response is drawn from Native Corporations.

SILBA (Liberia)

London, Jun 16 -- Crude oil tanker Silba, from Kerch, passed Suez Jun 12.

SIMEIZ (Ukraine)

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fishing Simeiz (1105 gt, built 2001) with international crew on board burnt at the port of Montevideo yesterday. Eleven crew members of the vessel have been reported missing - the captain, who is a Ukrainian citizen, an Indonesian and nine Chinese citizens. The 56-metre vessel called at Montevideo port after a six-month fishing in the Atlantic. Aside from the catch of fish, the vessel had in its holds 160 tonnes of fuel and six tonnes of ammonia for the vessel's refrigerator unit. The blazing vessel was towed away from the quay due to the danger of an explosion and ammonia leak. Fire-fighting boats were engaged in the effort to extinguish the fire. They used water cannons to put out the flames, but failed to totally liquidate the fire and the vessel burnt out.

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated Jun 22, states: Eleven of 39 crewmembers of Ukrainian longliner Simeiz moored in Montevideo which caught fire early today remain missing. The vessel had to be towed out to the bay because it was carrying six tons of ammonia and had recently refuelled. According to Montevideo port and Fire Department officials the fire started at 0312 hrs and among the missing are the Ukrainian master, an Indonesian and nine Chinese crewmembers. "Given the time the fire broke out, most probably the missing crewmembers were locked in their cabins and because of the smoke presumably have died", reported Montevideo port authorities. After 12 hours of combating the blaze, "the situation is under control but the fire

is not entirely extinguished", said a spokesman from the Fire Department who revealed that nine hours had to elapse before the firemen working from a tug could board Simeiz. Dense smoke could still be seen at mid day today from the vessel in Montevideo's bay. Although flagged in Ukraine Simeiz belongs to a Spanish company, "normally operates from Montevideo" and called in Jun 20 to unload approximately 112 tons of fish presumably toothfish. Uruguayan naval authorities reported that Simeiz has been operating in the South Atlantic for the last six months catching toothfish. Besides the six tons of ammonia for the freezing equipment, the longliner also was carrying 300 tons of heavy fuel. Forensic experts and judicial authorities were waiting for safety clearance to board the vessel and begin the investigation. The Montevideo Port Administration report shows Triomar as Simeiz maritime agents, a company which works with Spanish companies. The vessel was scheduled to leave Montevideo Jul 4.

Vigo, Jun 23 -- Ukrainian fishing Simeiz, which is Galician owned, caught fire Jun 22, at Montevideo and although in principle the fire seemed controlled, at time of writing, reports indicate that the fire still not fully controlled. Vessel, formerly named Florens 1 and Florence had a crew of 30 of which 11 missing, but not necessarily dead, as they might be on leave or ashore. Three Spanish crew members have been located and on their way back to Spain. The remaining crew are Chinese, Indonesian, and Ukrainian. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SIR CHARLES PARSONS (U.K.)

Truro, Jun 16 -- Bulk Sir Charles Parsons (14201 gt, built 1985) arrived Falmouth during the afternoon of Jun 8 from Belfast with engine problems and, with the aid of the harbour tugs, moored at Cross Roads Buoy for repairs. Vessel sailed Jun 10 for Le Havre on completion of same. -- "West Briton." (Note -- Sir Charles Parsons subsequently arrived Le Havre Jun 11 and sailed Jun 12.)

STAVANGER (Norway)

London, Jun 17 -- Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro Stavanger completed repairs and returned back to normal service at 0300, local time, today.

STENA SAGA (Sweden)

London, Jun 17 -- Stena Line has had to withdraw the sole vessel it operates on the Oslo-Fredrikstad route after engine-room cabling short-circuited. Passenger ro/ro Stena Saga (33750 gt, built 1981) was forced to turn back 40 minutes after leaving Fredrikstad after glowing cable triggered fire alarms and smoke filled the engine room. Stena Line communications director Joakim Kenndal stressed that no one had been injured in the

incident. He added that the disembarkation of 350 passengers on returning to Fredrikstad proved a formality. Mr Kenndal said the vessel's emergency generator cabling was being replaced alongside at Fredrikstad and the vessel would be out of service until Jun 22. "It is not good losing a vessel this close to the peak season," he continued. "It is very important that we get this vessel back in service as soon as possible." Passengers affected by cancellations would be offered alternative routing by way of Copenhagen to Gothenburg. "Alternatively they can travel later in the summer or have their money refunded," Mr Kenndal added.

Gothenburg, Jun 17 -- Passenger ro/ro Stena Saga had the fire which resulted in it being removed from service on Jun 14. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

SVANOY (Norway)

London, Jun 22 -- Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Ro/ro Svanoy has completed repairs and is now trading between Skarberget and Bognes and will continue here this summer.

TAKO INVADER (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated Jun 21, states: An accident that shut the Intercoastal Waterway down for more than 12 hours was still under investigation today, a U.S. Coast Guard spokesman said. A barge being pushed on the Intracoastal Waterway by tug Tako Invader (170 gt, built 1976) crashed into the foundation of the downtown bridge yesterday morning. More than 50 boats were backed up for more than two miles after the tug master lost control of his vessel and ploughed the barge through the bridge's southeast concrete bulkhead. The barge was carrying 1,400 tons of salt. No one was injured, according to the Coast Guard. The barge was the lead of six 195-foot loaded hopper barges bound for New Orleans, being pushed by Tako Invader, owned by Tako Towing of Harvey. The tug master lost control after his steering failed, but officials said they don't know why that happened. The Intracoastal Waterway was closed to east- and west-bound boats from 0500 hrs to 1930 hrs, and the remaining five barges were towed to the northeast side of the twin span. In the meantime, the Coast Guard worked with the Department of Transportation and Development on ways to dislodge the barge from the bulkhead, according to Ensign Paul Steiner, chief of the Coast Guard's Houma response branch. After the barge was secured, the Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Water Patrol guided boats around it until 2230 hrs. The Coast Guard then placed personnel on scene to monitor boat traffic. Deciding it was too risky to save the barge overnight, the Coast Guard halted efforts about 1800 hrs and ordered the tug to push the barge's stern closer to the northeast bulkhead so the waterway could be reopened. The

barge still blocked part of the waterway however, so vessels 54 feet wide and smaller were the only ones allowed to pass. The barge was finally removed at 1330 today. The waterway was opened again at 1430 hrs. The remaining five barges were then moved to port in Arcadia, according to Steiner. Coast Guard officials said there is no cost estimate available for crash damage at this time.

TALISMAN (Marshall Islands)

See Aivik.

TEXAS GATOR (U.S.A.)

Houston, Jun 15 -- Inland push boat Texas Gator ex Logloader, 86 gt, built 1967, is lying partially sunk on the east side of the Houston Ship Channel, in the approximate vicinity beacon 100, at the Fred Hartman Bridge. The vessel is in the process of being salvaged. Ship traffic is not obstructed. The vessel is owned by Estis Well Service LLC. -- Lloyd's Agents.

THERASSIA (Greece)

New Orleans, Jun 16 -- Local agents of crude oil tanker Therassia have advised that the vessel passed through New Orleans on June 16, on its way to Baton Rouge for drydock. No other details are available. -- Lloyd's Agents.

THIA CHRYSOULA (Cyprus)

Busan, Jun 20 -- Before completion of cargo discharge at the port, bulk Thia Chryssoula was arrested by local courts and then later released on Jun 14. At about 1600 hours on Jun 14 the vessel sailed from Pohang bound for Shanghai for repairs. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

TRADEWIND SUNRISE (Panama)

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: An explosion blasted through chemical/oil carrier Tradewind Sunrise (4094 gt, built 1991) moored for repairs off Trinidad's west coast yesterday, killing at least four people, the Coast Guard said. Heat from the fire was so intense that Coast Guard boats and helicopters were unable to approach the blazing vessel for two hours after the blast, said Coast Guard Lt. Hadyon Poonon. He said 26 islanders were working on the vessel when the blast occurred. Several workers were welding on the vessel, another Coast Guard officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to reporters. Twenty-two of the workers escaped on lifeboats, but four died in the blaze that erupted around 1430 hrs, Poonon said. The vessel had been docked for repairs at the Inter-Island Construction company for a month but was moved a few days ago and anchored about half a mile off the CrewsInn Marina and the port of Chaguaramas, he said. A large oil spill spread around the tanker, said the officer who did not want his name published. Inter-Island Construction said it would not comment while an investigation continued.

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Four Trinidadians are feared dead following an explosion on chemical/oil carrier Tradewind Sunrise moored off Chaguaramas. It is understood that workers were welding on the deck of Tradewind Sunrise at about 1430, yesterday when the explosion occurred. The names of those who are missing have not yet been released. The vessel has been docked at the Inter-Island Construction facilities in Chaguaramas for the past month. A few days ago it was moved to the anchorage and then anchored about half-mile off the CrewsInn Marina. The vessel had been considered too bulky to remain docked and a maintenance crew was sent out to work on it at sea. There were 26 people on board at the time of the explosion. Intense heat prevented Coast Guard boats and helicopters from getting close to vessel within the first two hours. It took about 10 minutes for the thick black to clear, revealing a massive hole in the front deck. While fire raged through the torn deck, the workers managed to escape on lifeboats. Four of their colleagues have however not been so lucky. The blaze was eventually brought under control by Fire Service boats. In the meantime, the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard struggled to maintain order, keeping vigil around the flaming vessel and quickly chasing away any private boats. Although the tanker was said to have been free of cargo, a large oil-spill soon spread in water around it. Fuel also appeared to be leaking out of the vessel.

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: As the search continues today for four people following an explosion on chemical/oil carrier Tradewind Sunrise a few hundred metres off the Chaguaramas coast, police and the Coast Guard are yet to release the identities of two men who died in the accident. According to reports, at around 1445 hrs welding repairs were being conducted on the tanker, which resulted in a loud explosion in the left front area, close to the bow. Coast Guard sources said two men died, although radio and television reports mentioned four deaths. Sources said the dead men's bodies were found floating among debris. The explosion left a gaping hole at the top of the port side of the tanker, and its lower portion was partially torn open. The air in the area was filled with the odour of fuel, and the waters were dirtied with a petroleum, rainbow-coloured coating. An eyewitness who asked to remain anonymous said when she heard the explosion, the building in which she worked shook. She said the nearby BG office dispatched a tug to help extinguish the fire, which, with the help of another tug, was done in quick time. The ship had docked close to her office earlier this week, but had to go back out to make room for a rig coming in today, she added. BG Communication officer Aleem Hosein said the Coast Guard had called on

vessels in the area to assist in extinguishing the fire. He said BG was fortunate to have a vessel at the time to assist, but had not yet received any feedback from its health and safety officers. By the time the media had arrived, the Coast Guard was circling the area, trying to find those unaccounted for, while at the same time trying to cordon off the disaster area. Another ship was seen spraying a chemical substance into the water, supposedly to break down the fuel.

London, Jun 23 -- V. Ships Shipmanagement regrets to report that an explosion and fire of unknown nature occurred onboard chemical/oil carrier Tradewind Sunrise yesterday. The vessel is at anchor at Chaguaramas undergoing repairs to its crankshaft. The explosion occurred in the forward part of the ship and the cause is unknown at this time but appears to be unrelated to the work going on in the engine-room. The fire is out. The ship is stable. All ships crew are accounted for but regretfully it is reported that four shipyard workers have died in the incident. All authorities have been notified and an investigation is underway.

UNI-CONCORD (Taiwan)

London, Jun 20 -- Reported c.c. Uni-Concord sailed Singapore 1015, Jun 9, destination Kaohsiung.

URSULA LEONHARDT (Malta)

Rijeka, Jun 17 -- General cargo Ursula, ex Ursula Leonhardt, is still at Mali Losinj. Completion of works is expected by end June/beginning July. -- Lloyd's Agents.

VIEIRASA SIETE (Senegal)

Vigo, Jun 17 -- Fishing Vieirasa Siete (393 gt, built 1985) sank about 80 miles off Dakar, early morning, Jun 15. All 24 crew members were saved and proceeded to Dakar where they arrived on board fishing Vieirasa Seis, Marsor Primero and Nuevo Andres. -- Lloyd's Agents.

VOLGO-BALT 234 (Russia)

See under "Miscellaneous."

VOLGONEFT 107 (Russia)

St. Petersburg, Jun 16 -- Owners of product tanker Volgoneft 107 reported that vessel refloated May 18 by means of three tugs. Upon completion of rescue operations, vessel was moored alongside the berth on the right side of River Neva. At this moment the vessel is under repair in Nizhny Novgorod region, Rabotki village. According to owners the cause of the casualty was failure of the steering gear. -- Lloyd's Agent.

YAMAL (Russia)

London, Jun 20 -- General cargo Yamal sailed Southampton 1236, Jun 19, bound Cardiff.

London, Jun 22 -- General cargo Yamal arrived 1645, Jun 21.

YAMBURG (Georgia)

London, Jun 17 -- Following received from Etel MRCC, timed 1120, UTC:

General cargo Yamburg (1801 gt, built 1977), Marin for Rochefort, is anchored with broken down main engine in lat 46 00N, long 01 11W, since yesterday. At present there is no information regarding possible departure time.

YUE SHAN (Panama)

London, Jun 22 -- Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 1150, UTC: Bulk Yue Shan left Singapore sometime between 0600 and 0800, local time time, today, in tow, stern first, by tug De Hong for China for repairs.



IRAQ

London, Jun 16 -- Armed pirates raided crude oil tanker Preputli (153642 gt, built 1993) anchored close to Iraq's Basra oil export terminal in the early hours of today, regional shipping agent Gulf Agency Company (GAC) said today. "The alert was sounded when watchmen found three men carrying long knives, a rifle and a machine gun onboard the vessel. The pirates fled in a speed boat and no casualties have been reported," GAC said. The agent said merchant vessels should be extremely cautious in and around the deepwater terminals and anchorages. "In light of this latest incident, robust anti-piracy procedures should be adopted," it said.

LANGKAWI AREA, MALAYSIA

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Product tanker Nepline Delima is ready to resume its journey to Myanmar tonight. Nepline Berhad executive chairman Datuk Dr Nik Mohd Zain Omar said new crew members had been assigned to the vessel and some of the damaged safety equipment had been repaired to enable the ship to continue its journey. The tanker with 6,300 metric tonnes of diesel worth RM12mil was en route to Myanmar from Singapore when pirates took over the ship off Langkawi last Tuesday (Jun 14). Police have detained the 10 pirates and two of the 19 crewmembers for questioning. "Most of the (old) crewmembers are reluctant to continue the journey because they are still haunted by the unpleasant memory of being held hostage for 12 hours," Dr Nik Mohd Zain said.

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Police have arrested two more suspects in the bungled hijacking of product tanker Nepline Delima off northern Malaysia last week and have identified the pirates' ringleaders, a news report said today. Special task force officers tracked down and detained the two men in Malaysia's largest city, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday. Police have already arrested several other

suspects, including two crew members from the briefly captured tanker. Police believe the pirates may have arranged international buyers for the 30,000 barrels of diesel on the vessel, which was bound for Myanmar. The vessel has since resumed its journey.

NIGERIA

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated Jun 21, states: Vessels are being urged to exercise extreme caution and to stay at least 20 km off Lagos Roads at night-time, only reporting back during the day once their pilot booking has been confirmed. This follows two recent piracy attacks on Lagos Roads, one involving serious injury to a crew member. At 0300, Jun 13, pirates armed with knives and machetes boarded a vessel drifting about 15 nautical miles off the coast. They attacked and seriously injured the watchman on the poop-deck. Despite his injuries, the watchman managed to alert the officer on watch and the alarm was raised, after which the pirates left the ship. A second attack happened at 0500 hrs, the same day, about five nautical miles south-southwest of Lagos lighthouse. Two pirates were spotted on the poop-deck of a bulk carrier vessel, cutting ropes and throwing them overboard to a wooden boat where five men were waiting. The men in the boat - which was not seen on the radar screen - threw empty bottles and metal parts at the deck patrol whilst the two pirates on board left the ship. No-one was hurt in this incident. The Shipping Association of Nigeria intends to report these incidents to the management of Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and request that immediate action is taken to ensure safety on Lagos roads. Consequently, the Presidential Implementation Committee on Maritime Safety and Security has increased security to Level 2. There has been an increase in pirate attacks in Nigeria recently, including one incident at the end of May on Bonny roads, in which a container feeder vessel was boarded by armed pirates who injured the Master and a member of the crew.



UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 23 -- A press release from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated today, states: The Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) announced today that they had detained product tanker Betatank II (58086 gt, built 1989), anchored off the coast at Southwold, at a distance of 10.4 nautical miles. This vessel is due to undertake a ship to ship transfer at this position, where it will be offloading cargo to chemical/oil carrier Elka Apollon on Friday (Jun 24). This transfer will not take place until

Betatank II has corrected its deficiencies and been re-inspected. Elka Apollon will also be inspected by the MCA before the ship to ship transfer takes place. Liberian flagged Betatank II was detained on Jun 21 at anchor off Southwold. As this vessel was at anchor in UK territorial waters the MCA Surveyor had to contract a vessel to transport him to the vessel to undertake the inspection. The attending Inspector found the following detainable items: GMDSS reserve battery bank defective. EPIRB Inoperative. The crew unable to launch lifeboats satisfactorily. The vessel was last inspected in the Paris MOU Region in January 2000. (Note -- Betatank II sailed Jambnagar Terminal May 29 and subsequently passed Cape Finisterre Jun 18 bound for Lowestoft.)



ANGELIKA S. (Germany)

Corunna, Jun 23 -- General cargo Angelika S. (at Corunna) was sold at public auction on Jun 8, and it is going to be broken up shortly. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Angelika S. was reported half sunk in lat 43 49.2N, long 07 38W, previous to Jun 14, 1995. The vessel was arrested and towed to Corunna shipyard on Aug 12.)

BOURBON ALADIN (France)

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated Jun 18, states: The Indonesian navy has seized anchor handling tug/supply Bourbon Aladin (1500 gt, built 2004), owned by Singapore's Keppel Shipyard and its 65 crew and passengers from seven nations for allegedly entering the country's waters illegally. A navy patrol boat apprehended the vessel about 3.2km off Nipah Island, said Colonel Joko Haryanto. The vessel did not carry proper documentation and was about 6.4km off the border, on Wednesday (Jun 15), Joko was quoted as saying. Authorities towed the support vessel which Keppel claims was on a sea trial to the nearby port of Batu Ambar in Batam. "We think we have grounds for suspicion because if it was going on a sea trial, why would the vessel have such a large crew on board" Joko said. The Indonesian navy has in the past intercepted other vessels without proper documentation, he noted. Twenty-two of those on board were Singaporeans and permanent residents, the company said. There were also two Frenchmen, two Norwegians and citizens of Bangladesh, India, Myanmar and the Philippines. A Keppel spokesman said the newly built vessel was on a sea trial and is "an offshore support vessel being

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built for a European owner." "We are in talks with the Indonesian authorities to secure the release of the vessel and the men," he added.

ELLA L. (Panama)

Algeciras, Jun 22 -- Chemical/oil carrier Ella L. sailed May 13 from CRINAVIS Shipyard. Lloyd's Agents.

JACKIE MOON (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jun 22 -- General cargo Ash, ex Jackie Moon, sailed Rotterdam 1750, Jun 15, for Flushing. (See issue of Jun 15.)

LAMA (Belize)

Beirut, Jun 3 -- General cargo Lama, which sank at moorings, while under arrest, at Beirut Jan 7, 2002, is still lying in a sunken condition at Beirut. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MAE YEMANJA

Corunna, Jun 23 -- Fishing Mae Yemanja was sold at public auction and it is being repaired and will enter into service shortly. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Mae Yemanja was arrested at Corunna previous to Jun 14, 1996.)

MERCAN A. (Turkey)

Bahrain, Jun 23 -- Bulk Mercan A. is still at Bahrain and under arrest by the local Coast Guard authorities. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PISHVA (Iran)

Abu Dhabi, Jun 22 -- Ro-ro Pishva is still under arrest at Mina Zayed, under a court arrest for disbursements, for which a settlement has not been reached. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PONGSU (North Korea)

Sydney, Jun 20 -- General cargo Pongsu is still under arrest in Sydney port. It is unknown when the vessel will be released. -- Lloyd's Agents.

THIA CHRYSOULA (Cyprus)

See under "Marine."

VOLGO-BALT 234 (Russia)

See under "Miscellaneous."

XING ZHONG MEN (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jun 22 -- General cargo Xing Zhong Men (5511 gt, built 1985), J8VO8, which arrived Hong Kong 1058, Jun 21, is today reported at South West Lamma Anchorage, Hong Kong, under arrest.

London, Jun 23 -- General cargo Xing Zhong Men sailed Hong Kong 2022, Jun 22.

YAN TONG (Panama)

London, Jun 20 -- C.c. Yan Tong (6256 gt, built 1981), which arrived at Hong Kong at 0316 hrs, today, is currently reported at North-west Lama Anchorage, under arrest.

London, Jun 22 -- C.c. Yan Tong sailed Hong Kong 2212, Jun 21.

Pollution



ALGOA BAY, SOUTH AFRICA

See Kiperousa under "Marine."

UNALASKA ISLAND, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

See Selendang Ayu under "Marine".

Weather & Navigation



AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Jun 17 -- Floods caused by heavy rains have destroyed hundreds of homes and may have killed up to 48 people in northern Afghanistan in the past few days, a minister said today. Minister for Rural Development Hanif Atmar said flash-floods had hit 21 districts of the provinces of Badakhshan, Takhar, Sar-i-Pul, Faryab, Jozjan, Samangan and Faryab. He said he had received reports from the provinces that a total of 48 people had been killed and 14 injured but these still had to be confirmed. "Badakhshan has been badly affected. Thirty-six of the 48 reported deaths were in Badakhshan alone," Atmar said. He said the government planned to carry out an aerial survey of the remote and mountainous province to assess the damage. Emergency food supplies had been sent to affected families, but there was shortage of tents. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Airplanes loaded with food, tents and other emergency supplies rushed to northern Afghanistan today after floods left dozens dead and thousands homeless, officials said. About 700 homes and several roads were washed away in floods over the previous four days, said Abdul Majid, the governor of Badakhshan province, which was the worst hit. No overall death toll was available. Majid said at least 25 people were believed killed in Badakhshan. An official with a government disaster management team in Kabul, Abdul Hamid, said the province's toll was thought to be 36, while more than 50 were estimated to have died across all of northern Afghanistan. Martin Battersby, a UN spokesman in Kabul, said three teams of UN and government officials were surveying the area by helicopter and road. "Initial assessments suggest this has been a serious flood," he said. Two aircraft loaded with relief aid flew to the region today and additional aircraft were to join the airlift in the next few days. Heavy rains had pounded the region over the previous

four days and low-lying areas also were flooded by water running off mountains. The UN World Food Program said in a statement that much of the damage was done by a hail storm that swept through the province Thursday. It said the agency was working closely with the government to assist with emergency relief.

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: The United Nations is providing emergency aid to Afghanistan's north-eastern province of Badakhshan after a hailstorm and heavy floods last week killed an estimated 29 people, injured 40, and destroyed over 1,000 homes. The UN's World Food Programme said today it would distribute 88 tonnes of food, including wheat, oil, salt and pulses to nearly 9,000 people after an assessment of affected areas after Thursday's (Jun 16) storm. A WFP statement said the agency's trucks are also delivering blankets, tarpaulins and tents to flood-affected families. WFP said the storm caused widespread destruction in 65 villages. Thousands of farm animals had been killed and more than 658 hectares of farmland, 28,000 trees and 92 km of road damaged. "Badakhshan is one of the most remote and poverty stricken provinces in Afghanistan. The floods will have a devastating effect on people who already live with a great deal of food insecurity," WFP' Afghanistan representative Charles Vincent said in the statement. Afghanistan's Minister for Rural Development Hanif Atmar said last week he had reports that the floods may have killed as many as 48 people in several northern provinces, including 36 in Badakhshan, the worst affected.

AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Damage from flooding in south-west Queensland this month has been estimated to cost more than \$3.5 million. However, that figure could rise, with some areas still assessing the situation. Emergency Services Minister Chris Cummins has activated disaster relief arrangements so councils can recoup the repair costs. Stephen Young, from the Counter Disaster Rescue Service, says most of the damage is in the Barcoo, Diamantina and Bulloo local government areas. "The damage is mostly roads in the low lying areas. Obviously that's been washed away and that's going to cost local governments a significant amount of time, money and effort to restore those roads," he said. (See issue of Jun 14.)

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Residents at Wangary on South Australia's Lower Eyre Peninsula are still feeling the impact of yesterday's storms, with electricity yet to be restored to the area. At Tumby Bay and Port Lincoln, heavy weather blacked out about 6,000 homes. Strong wind gusts also tore the roof off a house at Coffin Bay. ETSA spokesman Graham Baker says

it could be some time before Wangary's power is restored. "Damage is quite significant by the mini-cyclone as it's been put to us, or mini-tornado that went through that area. It did significant damage to the rural lines in that district and also we suffered some damage on the backbone," he said. "The enormity of the damage was such that the protection systems at our major substation actually saw it and, of course, tripped, causing a disruption to a larger section of the community." There were sporadic blackouts across the Adelaide metropolitan area overnight as well, with the most disruption experienced in Adelaide's south, down to Victor Harbour. Meanwhile, police are asking motorists to take care on the roads this morning with many reports of trees down and other hazards as a result of the overnight storm. The State Emergency Service received more than 200 calls for help when severe squalls hit the settled areas from late yesterday afternoon. The weather bureau says the worst of the storm is now over, although further hail is expected in some areas during the day.

CANADA

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Flooding has forced the evacuation of about 1500 people in Calgary and swamped or cut off hundreds of homes in the city after two rivers overflowed their banks following days of heavy rain. A state of emergency remained in force for a second day as officials feared the Elbow and Bow rivers that merge in the city could swallow more homes in eight vulnerable neighbourhoods. The rain that has pounded the western Canadian city of nearly one million people for more than a week finally stopped, but authorities said the danger had not passed. "It's very extensive damage," Mayor Dave Bronconnier said. "The flows along the Elbow River have peaked and they are currently holding steady, although the flows along the Elbow and the Bow rivers are of extreme concern to us. "There are literally hundreds of homes that have been impacted. It is still critical. "This is why the mandatory evacuation order has not been lifted." Despite a major effort by hundreds of city workers and residents to lay sandbags, two major roads close to the centre core were closed as water gushed against bridge decks. The Elbow River in some low-lying districts lapped up above the ground floors of buildings.

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fears of flooding in Alberta shifted yesterday as parts of the province began cleaning up while others waited for rivers to crest. Some areas of central and southern Alberta remain in a state of emergency, as the worst floods in living memory sweep into more communities and recede from others, leaving destruction behind. As two weeks of torrential rain finally abated, thousands of Albertans returned home

yesterday to find their possessions destroyed and houses wrecked. Rivers and streams in parts of the province began to slowly recede yesterday. In Drumheller, and in Red Deer, thousands of people were told to leave their homes as the Red Deer River flowed at double its normal capacity. Alberta's Environment Minister, Guy Boutilier, told a news conference in Red Deer, about 150 km north of Calgary, that the disaster expected today in the two central Alberta cities is "something that we've never witnessed before." In Drumheller, more than a third of the community of 8,000 were told to leave their homes, as the raging river is expected to breach its dikes at noon. Drumheller, about 125 km north-east of Calgary, is in a state of extreme preparation for what is expected to be the largest major incident to hit the town since 1945.

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated Jun 20, states: A thunderstorm has downed power lines, damaged homes and derailed train cars south of Winnipeg. The path of destruction cut through the towns of Gretna, Emerson, Altona, and Letellier south of Winnipeg Sunday morning and resulted in several tornado sightings throughout the region. Winds of up to 140-kilometres per hour ripped through the Altona airport, sweeping two hangars away and flipping over an aircraft. Steven Kiansky of Southeast Air Service says other aircraft are badly damaged and won't fly for weeks. Streets in Altona are littered with broken power lines, and uprooted trees lay everywhere. Manitoba Hydro spokesman Jim Peters says they lost eight wooden power poles during the wind. Power has been restored to most areas. Environment Canada meteorologist Ron Mark says tornadoes were spotted in Altona and Grunthal, noting the storm wreaked havoc in much of the southeast corner of the province before moving on to the Kenora region.

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Calgary police have called off the search for a 15-year-old girl feared drowned in a rain-swollen river, in what could be the province's fourth flood-related death. More than 100 police and rescue personnel spent two days searching for Caitlin Sharpe, who disappeared early Sunday (Jun 19) near a footbridge across the Bow River. The bridge washed out the same day. As water levels receded, more Alberta flood evacuees headed home today. The pricetag for fixing the flood damage won't be known for weeks, but it's expected to be double the \$100-million cost of the last big Alberta floods in 1995. Residents started returning last night to their homes in Drumheller, where the swelling of the Red Deer River forced 3,200 people to leave their homes Sunday. The water flow crested yesterday just below the height of nearly four kilometres of dikes that workers had spent 55 hours shoring up. Shortly after, the water level began to fall back. The majority

of homeowners were expected to return home by the end of today, with schools slated to reopen tomorrow. Emergency operations spokesman Ross Rawlusk said at least 25 homes in Drumheller were flooded, and about 200 homes using private water wells were under a boil-water order. Several other Alberta waterways also swelled with heavy rains and thousands have been forced out of their homes and lost belongings.

CHINA

London, Jun 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least eight people have been killed and hundreds injured after a hurricane and hailstorms whipped through parts of China, destroying nearly 200,000 homes. The worst-hit province was Jiangsu in eastern China, where seven people were killed and "several hundred" injured when torrential rains and hail accompanied a hurricane on Tuesday (Jun 14) night, Xinhua news agency said. The affected areas included Shuyang, Siyang, Huai'an and Xuzhou. According to Shuyang deputy head Sun Shujin, 825,000 people were affected, with 223 injured and five dead. Advertisement: The hurricane toppled trees and destroyed 194,487 houses, Xinhua reported.

Power and telecommunications infrastructure were also badly hit, although they had been restored, the agency reported. A deadly hailstorm also pounded Guzhen county in the eastern province of Anhui, which borders Jiangsu, killing one person and injuring 65 others when it swept through on Wednesday morning, Xinhua said in a separate report. The storm toppled or damaged 36,800 houses and destroyed cotton, vegetable, water melon, tobacco and other crops, inflicting million of dollars in economic losses. According to earlier figures, at least 255 people have been killed in floods and storms since last month, which marked the start of the rainy season. These numbers did not include the 103, mostly children, who died when a mountain torrent swamped the Shalan Township Central Elementary School in Heilongjiang province last Friday.

Beijing, Jun 22 -- China has evacuated 100,000 residents of a southern city to escape a swollen river in one of three provinces where heavy rains have triggered landslides and floods killing more than 20 people. Floodwaters forced the mass evacuation overnight of residents in low-lying areas of the industrial city of Wuzhou, where the Xijiang river had reached 24.42 metres by yesterday night, more than seven metres higher than the warning level, state television said. Notices on the mass evacuation were posted on walls, warning sirens blared in the dark of night and Wuzhou residents began to load up cars, trucks and carts with valuables and flee the area for higher ground. With much of southern China under threat, Premier Wen Jiabao urged local governments to step up the

fight against the flooding, which kills hundreds in China each summer and causes millions of yuan in damage to homes and croplands. Authorities expected the Xijiang to peak tonight at a hydrographic station in Wuzhou, in Guangxi autonomous region, near the border with the southern province of Guangdong. Heavy rains have killed nine people since Saturday (Jun 18) in Guangdong, where a landslide disrupted traffic on a rail line linking the mainland with Hong Kong, the official Xinhua news agency said. Rainstorms in eastern Guangdong caused cave-ins on part of the Beijing-Kowloon railway line, forcing dozens of trains to either delay or turn back while repairs were made, it said. Water levels on two other rivers in Guangxi -- the Qianjiang and Xunjiang -- were above warning levels and the province had suffered nearly \$45 million in economic losses as of Monday (Jun 20) due to the recent deluges, Xinhua said, citing local flood control headquarters. In the southeastern province of Fujian, floods and landslides had killed 12 and left five missing, it said. In Shunchang county alone in northern Fujian, dozens of landslides had buried nine people, killing five. Three were missing. While the south is suffering a deluge, much of northern China is sweating through a heat wave, which has driven temperatures to nearly 40 C in the capital Beijing and convinced the southwestern city of Chongqing to open air raid shelters to provide shady relief. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 46 people have died in torrential rain lashing southern China as Premier Wen Jiabao called for an "all-out effort" to combat floods devastating the area. The 46 were confirmed dead in flash floods and landslides in three southern provinces and regions, with another 28 were reported missing, according to the state-run Xinhua news agency and China News Service. In response to the rapidly worsening situation, Wen sent written instructions to flood control officials, ordering them to identify duties, improve emergency plans and enforce monitoring, Xinhua said today. Huge numbers have been evacuated in recent days to prevent even higher death tolls. In southern Guangxi alone, 333,000 have been moved from their homes and taken to safer places, Xinhua reported. The new casualty figures bring the reported death toll from heavy rains and flooding in China since May to more than 400. The worst hit province in recent days, according to the official figures, is Guangxi, home to many of China's ethnic minorities. Twenty-four people were confirmed dead and 23 others missing there, the regional disaster relief headquarters said early today, according to Xinhua. Many of those who escaped with their lives would have no homes to return to since more than 50,000 houses have been damaged by the severe weather, the agency reported. Meanwhile, 12 people

were confirmed dead in south-eastern Fujian province. Five of them were buried alive when landslides engulfed their villages, Xinhua said. Five others remain missing and feared dead. In Guangdong province, just north of Hong Kong, 10 people were reported killed, while more than half a million had been affected by the bad weather, the China News Service said.

Beijing, Jun 23 -- Heavy flooding across south China has killed at least 80 people, left dozens missing and forced almost 700,000 to evacuate their homes, state media said today. The worst may be to come with torrential rain forecast to pound south and southeast China at least until the end of the week. Rivers swollen by days of heavy rain had done much of the damage, particularly in the Guangxi region, where at least 32 people had died and 330,000 people had been moved to safe ground, the China Daily said. Military planes were dropping food, medicine and other urgent supplies to some of Guangxi's worst-hit counties, with around 10,000 people trapped in areas cut off by flood waters, state television said. Wuzhou, an industrial city in Guangxi where more than 20,000 people were moved to higher ground, was swamped in flood waters up to four stories high, state television said. Everyone in homes less than 28 metres above ground level was evacuated, it said. People were shown paddling through muddy water partly covering traffic signs. The Xijiang river, which runs through Wuzhou, had swelled to over 26 metres, nearly nine metres above the warning level, the China Daily said. "The worst flooding on record was seen on the Mengjiang, a tributary of the Xijiang river," a national flood control official was quoted as saying. China had sent more than 2,000 troops to help with flood control efforts in Wuzhou and sent Guangxi 20 million yuan (\$2.4 million) in emergency funds and tents, Xinhua news agency said. Floods and landslides had killed at least 48 people in Guangdong and Fujian provinces and left 15 missing, the China Daily said. More than 350,000 people had been evacuated across Fujian and Guangdong and the southwestern municipality of Chongqing, it said. The government sent 15 million yuan in relief funds to Fujian, Xinhua said. Flood waters have hammered infrastructure in Guangdong and Fujian, sweeping away highways, river dykes and bridges, the newspaper said. A national highway was blocked in Fujian by 1,100 landslides, Xinhua said. More than 20,000 travellers in Guangdong were delayed after a landslide damaged part of the Beijing-Hong Kong railway, it said. Thousands of passengers were stranded or delayed at Guangzhou airport. -- Reuters.

GUATEMALA

Guatemala City, Jun 16 -- A huge mudslide killed at least 21 people when it buried houses and cars in a Guatemalan highland town, and the

government fear more may be dead. Torrential rain pushed thousands of tonnes of mud and rocks down a hill above the town of San Antonio Senahu, north-east of the capital, last night. "The reports are worrying," President Oscar Berger told national radio as he traveled to the town today. Officials said at least 45 people were injured and an unspecified number were unaccounted for. Benedicto Giron of Guatemala's disaster prevention network, Conred, said the death toll could rise much higher. "Many houses are destroyed and if many houses are destroyed, there could be many more victims," he said. "Because of the magnitude of the mudslide, we fear that more people are buried," he said. A rescue worker at the scene told local radio that the force of the mudslide buried 21 homes and dragged several cars into the town square. Guatemala is at the height of its rainy season. Heavy rain continued to fall on the town this afternoon but authorities played down the risk of further landslides. Relief services were unable to reach the town until dawn today due to power outages, communications failures and another mudslide that blocked an access road. San Antonio Senahu is in the Central American nation's coffee growing region of Alta Verapaz. -- Reuters.

IRAQ

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: There is still rough weather at Basrah terminal with speeds of 16 knots - 18 knots. Expected to resume berthing operation at 1200, local time.

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Navigation operations at Basrah Oil Terminal were temporarily suspended in the early hours of this morning, due to rough weather. Tugs are still at the terminal.

SOUTH ASIA

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 375 people have died from sunstroke and dehydration in a month-long heatwave sweeping India, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Temperatures hit 50C in some parts of South Asia this week.

TAIWAN

London, Jun 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: Flooding and landslides in southern Taiwan caused by heavy rains left 10 people dead and two others missing, and damaged crops, the Ministry of Interior reported. Rain since Jun 12 has caused NT\$1.16 billion, \$36.9 million, of crop damage, mainly in Tainan, Kaohsiung and Pingtung counties, and forced 130 schools to shut yesterday, the ministry said. The rain also damaged 77 roads and forced several airports to cancel some flights or close temporarily, the ministry said. The island's Central Weather Bureau has issued torrential rain advisories for southern Taiwan, urging people to take caution against mudslides, flooding, and falling rocks.

Taipei, Jun 17 -- Taiwan began mopping up today after six straight days of heavy rain in the south caused floods and landslides which killed 14 people. Floodwaters swamped streets and rice fields, causing T\$1.66 billion (US\$53 million) worth of crop damage, the Council of Agriculture said in a statement. Weather forecasters said more downpours were likely in the next few days. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: The total damage to Taiwan's agricultural industry after the severe floods over the past few days was estimated at NT\$2.14047 billion, the Cabinet-level Council of Agriculture (COA) said yesterday. The COA has also advised counties and cities hit hardest by the rains and the resulting floods to do their best to help farmers and flood victims by providing them with cash subsidies and low-interest loans. Of the NT\$2.14047 billion, losses suffered by agricultural producers were registered at NT\$1.2437 billion, with 42,808 hectares of farmland damaged by floods, the COA said. Agricultural products suffering the most damage were: rice, peanuts, kaoliang, watermelons, papayas and pineapples, and 45 bee boxes were destroyed, the COA said. Losses incurred to animal farmers were registered at NT\$199.02 million after ranch operators reported the death of 14,963 pigs, 74 sheep, 1.484 million chickens, 177,000 ducks, 77,000 geese and 20 ostriches, the COA said. Losses suffered by aquacultural operators were registered at NT\$686.26 million, after the destruction of 310 hectares of fish farms in Pintung County, 1,885 hectares in Tainan City, 1,692 hectares in Tainan County, 3 hectares in Kaohsiung County, 3,481 hectares in Yunlin County, and 2,298 hectares in Chiayi County. A total of 74 hectares of forests were destroyed in the floods, with losses estimated to be NT\$2.52 million.

TROPICAL STORM "BEATRIZ"

London, Jun 23 -- Following received from Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Beatriz" near lat 16.1N, long 108.7W at 0600, UTC, Jun 23. Movement for the past six hours 290 degrees at 12 knots. Position accurate to within 75 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots. Forecast position lat 16.8N, long 111.0W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Forecast position lat 17.4N, long 113.0W at 0600, UTC, Jun 24. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Residents hit by flash floods which struck North Yorkshire are beginning a massive clean-up operation. Villages were cut off, roads washed away and nine people were reported missing during a night of heavy storms. Two RAF helicopters were scrambled to rescue

the missing people when they were tracked down in the market town of Helmsley, which was worst hit. The flooding followed a weekend of high temperatures across the UK which left four people dead from drowning. In Yorkshire, drivers were forced to abandon their cars and climb trees to escape rising waters after the River Rye burst its banks. The flood waters forced many residents to leave their homes and spend the night in the town hall. The downpour over the North York Moors cut off a number of villages, with Selby, Thirsk, Carlton and Sutton-under-Whitstonecliffe among those affected. The storms struck suddenly yesterday evening, at about 1700 BST. The weekend's heatwave led to four drowning incidents as people tried to cool off in the sea, in lakes and in rivers. Two men drowned in Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire while the body of a 23-year-old man was pulled from the sea near Babbacombe in Devon. A boy of 16 died in hospital after being pulled from the River Thames at Sunbury in Surrey.

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Damage caused by intense flash floods which cut off parts of Yorkshire will cost tens of millions of pounds to repair, insurers said. A major clean-up operation is in full swing after the freak weather washed away roads, caused landslides and isolated whole villages yesterday. Rescue services in North Yorkshire scrambled a helicopter to trace nine people reported missing after the deluge, which sent floodwaters coursing through the town of Helmsley and closed off the A170 and the B1257. Police said the missing were found safe and well and confirmed that a motorist was plucked from the roof of her car and two others rescued from a gate. The incessant downpour over the North York Moors which sparked the flood cracked a bridge leading into Helmsley and left it in a "perilous" state, officers said. A bridge in Hawnby, in North Yorkshire, was also washed away by the floods.

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 2,500 homes remain without electricity after flash floods swept across North Yorkshire. Residents in North and East Yorkshire found themselves without power yesterday after a night of heavy storms. Villages were cut off, roads washed away and nine people were rescued by RAF helicopter crews when a deluge of flood water swept through the area. A spokesman for electricity company YEDL said it was hoped to have all power restored by this evening.

UNITED STATES

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Wind up to 67 mph ripped off roofs, knocked over trucks and outbuildings and blacked out thousands of customers as thunderstorms rumbled through Minnesota and Iowa. Emergency crews had to rescue a man whose tractor-trailer rig was blown over at the

central Iowa town of Nevada, just east of Ames, said Rob DeRoy of the National Weather Service. Part of the roof of the town's high school was torn off. South of Lake Crystal in southern Minnesota, the wind toppled a 15,000 bushel grain bin at Inez Rollings' farm. Boats were overturned on Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis and Gray's Lake in Des Moines, Iowa, tree limbs were snapped and siding was torn from houses in some areas. Hail nearly 2 inches in diameter was reported in Minnesota's Ramsey County, which includes St. Paul. Takeoffs and landings were halted briefly during the afternoon storms at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, said airports commission spokesman Patrick Hogan. About 35,600 Xcel Energy customers lost power in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area and more than 4,000 MidAmerican Energy customers were blacked out in central Iowa.

VENEZUELA

London, Jun 17 -- Floods caused by heavy rains over the past three weeks in Venezuela have left 12 dead, one missing and 105 injured, Civil Protection Director colonel Antonio Rivero said yesterday. Rivero said that 12 of the 23 states in the country have been hit hardest by the rains. Rains also affected some of the poorest neighbourhoods in the southwest part of the capital, said the official. Floods caused by the rains have damaged 3,879 houses across the country, affecting over 19,000 people, he added. In the north-east state of Anzoategui, heavy rains have caused traffic problems, while some states in the plain region have been affected by river overflows which flooded thousands of hectares of plantations.

Earthquakes



CHILE

Valparaiso, Jun 16 -- A strong earthquake struck northern Chile Jun 13, killing at least eleven people, toppling several houses and sparking alarm on the country's border with Peru, authorities said. The quake cut power in Iquique, 2,460 kilometers north of Santiago. The United States Geological Survey measured the quake at 7.9 on the Richter scale. The quake lasted for about 50 seconds, according to local reports. It was barely felt in the copper mining centre of Calama, 1,230 kilometers north of Santiago, but was not felt at all in the capital itself. The epicentre was located deep under the Andes mountain range, near Chile's border with Bolivia. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Jun 17 -- A press report, dated Jun 15, states: The massive earthquake that rocked northern Chile two days ago killed 11 people and destroyed or damaged 9,235 houses in

several Andean mountain villages, authorities reported today. As President Ricardo Lagos toured several affected communities today, 835 people were still sheltered at schools and other public buildings, and thousands more remained at their damaged homes to fend off looters. Lagos arrived in Iquique early today after cutting short a European tour in the wake of the magnitude 7.9 quake. He said that in addition to the damage of thousands of homes, the other main problem in the area, 1,200 miles north of Santiago, is the lack of water due to broken pipes. Water supply was being gradually restored, "but the hardest task now is restoring the service in the villages in the interior," Lagos said. Electric power supply is also irregular at many places. Alberto Maturana, head of the government's Emergency Bureau, said 544 houses were completely destroyed by the quake and 8,691 more were damaged, some of them seriously and will probably have to be demolished. The government has sent massive aid to the area to attend nearly 70,000 people who live in the area, including tents, mattresses, blankets, food and medicines.

London, Jun 19 -- A press report, dated Jun 18, states: BHP Billiton said work was continuing on clearing an access road for key supplies to its 115,000 tonne-a-year Cerro Colorado copper mine in Chile, after it was shut down by a massive quake on Monday (Jun 13). Operations have not been resumed pending a thorough evaluation of the integrity of the installations and because of a lack of an appropriate access road for key supplies like petroleum, sulphuric acid, etc., the company said. It said power had been restored to the mine. BHP Billiton shut operations at the mine on Monday night after a magnitude 7.9 quake that caused landslides and power cuts throughout northern Chile. The company's giant Escondida mine, also in Chile, is operating normally.

London, Jun 21 -- A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0511, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in Tarapaca, Chile, in lat 20.02S, long 68.87W, depth 107 km.

FIJI

London, Jun 21 -- A report, dated Jun 20, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0244, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.8 event has been located south of the Fiji Islands in lat 26.76S, long 176.19W, depth 10 km.

INDONESIA

London, Jun 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 5.6-magnitude earthquake struck Indonesia's tsunami-ravaged Aceh province today, forcing residents to flee their homes but inflicting no damage, seismologist and witnesses said. The quake, centered 75 kilometres west of Banda Aceh beneath the Indian Ocean, struck at 0937, local time, the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said in Jakarta.

JAPAN

London, Jun 20 -- An earthquake registering 5.6 on the Richter scale jolted Tokyo and Chiba at 0115, today, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. There were no reports of casualties or damage and no tsunami warning was issued. The quake was centred in Chiba Prefecture east of Tokyo.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 5.6 magnitude quake off the New Zealand coast has been felt along the North Island's east coast from the Bay of Plenty to Wellington. The quake, which came at 1655 hrs, was centred around 100 kilometres north of White Island at a depth of 270 kilometres. Seismologists are not expecting any reports of damage.

UNITED STATES

London, Jun 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake has hit off the coast of northern California early today. The US Geological Survey says the quake had a magnitude of 6.4 on the Richter scale and occurred in the Pacific Ocean about 482-kilometres north-west of San Francisco. There are no immediate reports of injuries or damage. Yesterday a 5.3-magnitude earthquake struck southern California. And earlier this week, a 7.2-magnitude quake off the coast of northern California triggered a brief tsunami warning.



MOUNT ANATAHAN, MARIANA ISLANDS

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Anatahan Volcano north of Saipan has resumed rumbling in recent days, spewing steam and ash as high as 50,000 feet, the U.S. Geological Survey said today. The latest satellite images from the Air Force Weather Agency showed a cloud of ash and steam rising 10,000 feet in the air and extending about 375 nautical miles from Anatahan island. Thin ash and volcanic smog, or vog, also spread 815 nautical miles northwest of the island, the satellite data indicated. An eruption Sunday afternoon (Jun 19) was the latest since the volcano had its largest historical eruption on Apr 6.



AFGHANISTAN

Kandahar, Jun 17 -- The Taliban said they had captured 11 Afghan soldiers,

a senior police officer and a district chief in Kandahar, just days after U.S.-led and Afghan forces staged a joint operation there against the guerrillas. Taliban commander Mullah Rahim said the 13 were captured in a raid on Mian Nishin district in the southern region of Kandahar yesterday. "We have hidden them somewhere and will decide on their fate following instructions from our leadership," Rahim told Reuters, using a satellite phone belonging to the district police chief. A senior police officer in Kandahar city confirmed that the phone belonged to the police chief and that authorities had lost touch with the 13. Mian Nishin was the scene of joint operations by Afghan and U.S.-led forces this week in which government officials said nine guerrillas were killed. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: United States warplanes have killed up to 20 suspected rebels in an air strike in Afghanistan, the US military said. The strike came after a patrol came under attack from rebels in the southwest province of Helmand and called for air support. A US military spokesman said there were no casualties in the patrol, which was made up of both US and Afghan forces. There has been renewed violence by suspected militants in the area in recent months. Suspected Taliban rebels had pinned down the convoy with rocket and small-arms fire in Grishk district today, the US military said. US aircraft and attack helicopters were then called in. Initial battle-damage assessments indicate 15 to 20 enemies died and an enemy vehicle was destroyed, a US statement said.

London, Jun 23 -- A press report dated today, states: US and Afghan forces, backed by warplanes and attack helicopters, mounted a major offensive in the south in which up to 60 suspected Taliban and three Afghan policemen were killed, officials said. Five US soldiers and another three police officers were injured during the battle overnight Tuesday (Jun 21), one of the bloodiest since the ousted Islamic fundamentalist regime launched a comeback earlier this year. The firefight broke out when Afghan and coalition units, hunting insurgent safe havens in a restive region where Zabul, Kandahar and Uruzgan provinces meet, came under fire from small arms and rocket-propelled grenades. Afghan officials said 60 Taliban were killed, while the US military put the militants' death toll at 49.

ALGERIA

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two Algerian policemen and a local guard have been killed in separate bomb attacks blamed on Islamic militants, newspapers reported overnight. The policemen died on Saturday (Jun 18) when their vehicle ran over a homemade bomb buried by rebels in a mountainous area near Djelfa, about

260km south east of the capital Algiers, Liberte newspaper said, quoting unnamed sources. A local guard died and a soldier was seriously wounded in a separate bomb explosion on Friday in the same area, newspapers reported.

BURUNDI

London, Jun 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: Eight people were killed and seven wounded in Burundi in attacks by Hutu rebels that included a raid on a church near the capital Bujumbura, the army said. Army spokesman Adolphe Manirakiza said the attacks were carried out by the hardline Forces for National Liberation, the only rebel group still fighting government forces in the small country's 12-year-old civil war. The FNL was not immediately available for comment. "The first criminal attack was committed in one church at Muhuta district where a group of FNL fighters fired in the church and killed six people including a pastor. They also injured seven others," he said. He said the rebels shot dead a local government official and his brother and also kidnapped a policeman in the same district. On Tuesday (Jun 14), delegations from Burundi's government and the FNL met again in Dar Es Salaam and agreed to probe violations of the cease fire agreed last month.

COLOMBIA

Bogota, Jun 21 -- Colombia's Congress today passed a bill setting the rules for disbanding the country's paramilitary militias, ignoring objections from rights groups that the law is lenient toward murderers. President Alvaro Uribe, who is in peace talks with the 15,000-member militias, considers it a key step in efforts to end Colombia's 41-year conflict. Under the rules those who turn in their arms and co-operate with state investigators are offered reduce prison time. But Jose Miguel Vivanco, executive director of the Americas Division of Human Rights Watch said the law would allow core criminal organisations of the paramilitaries to go untouched. The paramilitaries fear being sent to the United States, where they have little influence over the courts, to face long prison terms for drug smuggling. "Under this law, drug-smuggling charges made by the U.S. government will, as a practical matter, be included in the package of leniency offered to those who turn in their arms," Vivanco added. "So this law will not begin to dismantle their criminal networks." The law passed today also will apply to demobilisation of the guerrillas, should they ever enter peace talks. Conservative Party Congressman Santiago Castro told Reuters he voted for the bill, which is subject to formal approval by a bicameral committee later this week, because it was the best compromise possible. The paramilitaries would have walked away from the talks had the bill set tougher conditions, he said. The maximum prison term to be faced

by paramilitary criminals is eight years, which can be increased to 10 for those who lie to investigators when they turn in their arms. The bill establishes a committee to review confessions of demobilised militia fighters in order to provide reparations for their victims. "We still don't know where the money for reparations will come from. We are going to need a lot of aid from outside governments to provide the money for that," Castro said. Alfredo Rangel, who runs the Bogota think tank Seguridad y Democracia, said when militias leave areas they control, the already overstrained Colombian army would have to move fast to make sure the rebels do not take over those territories. "This law will succeed by disbanding perhaps up to 70 percent of the paramilitaries," Rangel said. "The other 30 percent will probably not turn in their guns and the state will have to take them on by force." -- Reuters.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Kinshasa, Jun 22 -- More than 15,000 gunmen have joined a U.N. disarmament process in Congo's Ituri district but militias are still rearming and regrouping despite intense U.N. military operations, senior peacekeepers said today. In an effort to quell violence in Ituri, where more than 60,000 people have died since 1999 in ethnic clashes and fighting over gold and border revenues, the U.N. mission initially said 15,000 fighters needed to be disarmed. That target has been reached and the disarmament centres are being closed but U.N. officials are concerned about the slow pace of reintegration into society of ex-combatants. They say militias are regrouping, sometimes joining forces across traditional ethnic divides to confront a more robust challenge from U.N. forces. "There are over 15,000 people who have disarmed but we have reasons to have concerns in Ituri," William Lacy Swing, the head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Democratic Republic of Congo, known as MONUC, told a news conference. "They (the armed groups) are regrouping and it is not so much about ethnic alliances -- they are uniting to protect what they have left," he added. Long accused of failing in its mandate to protect civilians from attacks by the militia, the United Nations has stepped up military operations in Ituri this year, especially after gunmen killed nine Bangladeshi peacekeepers in late February. Hundreds of soldiers, backed by armoured vehicles and helicopter gunships, have been dismantling militia camps, seizing weapons and arresting fighters. More than six million dollars have been earmarked for a programme launched in September to educate, train and find employment for fighters and children who lay down their weapons. Critics say the programme needs to have more of an impact. "We need to do more and do it quicker to ensure that

the (the gunmen) don't go back to the bush and take up arms again," Swing said. U.N. officials say 4,000 ex-combatants have been supported by community projects from road building to skills training, emphasising it may take time to secure lasting change. Despite the U.N. military operations, the militia are still able to mount large-scale attacks. U.N. peacekeepers fought a four-hour gun battle with militiamen on Jun 2, firing thousands of rounds and having to call in helicopters to fire 70 rockets. One peacekeeper was killed and three others were wounded during the operation. U.N. and diplomatic sources say concerns are mounting that neighbouring Uganda, which has backed militias in Ituri in the past, may be still playing a role in destabilising the district. Lieutenant-General Babacar Gaye, force commander for the 16,000 U.N. peacekeepers in Congo, said the situation in Ituri demanded that MONUC continue intensifying its operations but he declined to speculate on who was rearming the militia. -- Reuters.

INDIA

Srinagar, Jun 17 -- Soldiers shot dead six Muslim rebels in a gunbattle that erupted after they tried to cross into Indian Kashmir from Pakistan overnight, an army spokesman said today. The fighting took place near the Line of Control or ceasefire line that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan, which have twice gone to war over the Himalayan region. More than 45,000 people have died since the launch of an insurgency there in 1989. Kashmiri separatist leaders crossed the line earlier today, returning home from a historic visit to Pakistan. It was the first time India had allowed a visit to its nuclear-armed rival by the leaders, who now hope to join the India-Pakistan peace process. -- Reuters.

INDONESIA

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Three Indonesian soldiers and three civilians have been killed in an ambush staged by separatist guerrillas in the tsunami-hit province of Aceh, residents and the military said today. The ambush by Free Aceh Movement rebels occurred Monday (Jun 20) in the Simpang Keuramat area of northern Aceh, a known separatist stronghold, local military spokesman Eri Sutikno said. The six were travelling in a crowded bus when it came under fire from rebels who were hiding on a hill, he said. Two soldiers and five other civilians were wounded in the attack, residents said. They said one passenger, a 14-year-old boy, took part in the skirmish by returning fire on the rebels using the rifle of a wounded Indonesian soldier.

Banda Aceh, Jun 23 -- A woman aid worker was shot in the neck in Indonesia's Aceh overnight, prompting the United Nations and other agencies to halt some road travel in the

tsunami-battered province, officials said today. Police blamed separatist rebels for the shooting and said they would step up protection for foreign workers in Aceh. Eva Yeung, 28, a relief delegate for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from Hong Kong, was in a stable condition in a hospital in the North Sumatran city of Medan, Red Cross officials said. Yeung was travelling in a single car north of the town of Lam No, 80 km south of the provincial capital Banda Aceh yesterday night when she was shot, Grandfield said. Indonesia and Free Aceh Movement (GAM) rebels have been holding a series of peace talks in Helsinki to try to end a three-decade conflict, but clashes are still common. The shooting was the first involving a foreigner since the tsunami hit the province on the northern tip of Sumatra island on Dec. 26. Michele Lipner, acting area security coordinator for the United Nations in Aceh, said road travel around Lam No, including travel from Banda Aceh, would be temporarily halted. Grandfield said the federation had suspended road travel from Banda Aceh all the way to the city of Meulaboh, 250 km to the south. He said he could not comment on why Yeung had been travelling at night. United Nations workers are forbidden from doing so. Her car had federation markings on it, he added. Paul Dillon, a spokesman for the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), said that at the request of the Jakarta government, its convoys had been travelling with Indonesian military escorts. "This is where we operate, in an area where there are weekly gunbattles," Dillon said. -- Reuters.

IRAQ

London, Jun 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: A car bomb has exploded next to an Iraqi police commando convoy in western Baghdad, killing six police and wounding 25 others. The blast occurred on Baghdad's airport road, one of the most dangerous stretches in the country where roadside and suicide bombs are detonated almost every day. A source in the Iraqi Interior Ministry said most of those wounded were police.

Baghdad, Jun 16 -- Iraqi rebels killed five U.S. marines in a bomb attack in the city of Ramadi, the second time in a week an entire armoured Humvee crew has died there in what U.S. officers said today could be a new insurgent tactic. Senior officers said it was too early to tell but they are reviewing the two incidents in the west and possible responses. The military released few details of yesterday's bomb attack in Ramadi, an insurgent stronghold west of Baghdad. It said in a statement five marines were killed when their vehicle was blasted by an improvised explosive device. Announcing the capture of the suspected leader of al Qaeda in the northern city of Mosul, the U.S. military's chief spokesman in Iraq said

there were signs that more Iraqis were prepared to offer information on suspected insurgents and that Iraqi troops and police units were becoming more effective. But ahead of a motion in Congress later in the day to press the administration to set a timetable for withdrawing from Iraq, Brigadier General Donald Alston said it was too early to tell how long Americans would have to go on fighting. A mixed picture on the military campaign to quell revolt among the Sunni Arab minority, dominant under Saddam Hussein, has been accompanied by difficult negotiations, involving the new Shi'ite-led government, to bring Sunni politicians into the process of drafting a constitution over the next few months. But after weeks of wrangling, a compromise deal appeared to have been struck today; leaders on both sides said Sunnis, under-represented in parliament because Sunni voters stayed away from January's election, would get a sevenfold increase in their number of seats on the drafting committee. -- Reuters.

Baghdad, Jun 17 -- A suicide car bomber blew up his vehicle as an Iraqi army patrol was passing in front of a Shi'ite mosque in Baghdad today, destroying vehicles but causing few casualties, Iraqi police said. The attack occurred near a mosque in the Kamaliya district in the east of the city as prayers were ending on the Islamic holy day, police said. An Iraqi army patrol was passing the mosque at the time and may have been the target, they said. A reporter at the scene said four people were wounded in the blast. No one but the bomber was killed. A fuel tanker parked nearby caught fire after the explosion, sending clouds of smoke into the air. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 19 -- Following received from the BBC, dated today: A suicide bomber has killed at least 23 people in a restaurant near the Green Zone in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. At least six of those killed were policemen. The blast, claimed by the group of Iraq's most wanted rebel Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, injured 36 people. The bomber walked into the restaurant and set off his charge, as people were having lunch, police said. The attack came despite an operation by about 1,000 US and Iraqi troops north-west of Baghdad aimed at improving security in the Iraqi capital. The bomber entered the Ibn Zambour (Son of the Wasp) kebab restaurant at 1445 (1045 UTC), killing many policemen and security guards. The restaurant, near a police checkpoint, was popular with both Iraqi army soldiers and police officers. It is located about 400 metres from the main gate of the heavily fortified Green Zone, home to the Iraqi government and major embassies, and one of Baghdad's most patrolled areas. Today's attack comes as US-led forces claim success in a major raid near the Syrian border. About 1,000 US and Iraqi troops are engaged in a fierce battle there. Some 50 rebels have been killed and another 100 captured since the start of

Operation Spear on Friday (Jun 17), the US military said. British warplanes were called in to support the American-led operation in an unusual move.

London, Jun 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Royal Air Force warplanes have been called into action in Iraq alongside American forces fighting close to the Syrian border. The British GR4 Tornados were supporting a US operation against insurgents, the American military said. However earlier reports that the planes fired missiles and dropped bombs on a building have been denied by the MoD. Around 1,000 US troops are targeting insurgent hide-outs in the offensive, known as Operation Spear. The operation has seen heavy fighting in Karabila and other areas around the city of Qaim, in north-western Iraq's Anbar province, correspondents said. A Ministry of Defence spokesman said the aircraft "loitered in the air" while the US forces conducted their offensive on a district in Karabila. They did not engage any enemy, he said. Vehicles and buildings in Karabila were bombed by the US in the offensive. The US military said a car bomb factory, Iraqi hostages and a house where captives were tortured had been found in the raids. Reports from the city said around 100 people, waving white flags, emerged from areas in the city's north, after a US warning, over a loudspeaker, that an assault on the district was imminent. Yesterday, the US military said 50 insurgents had been killed as a result of the operation. Another offensive, known as Operation Dagger, was also under way closer to Baghdad involving US and Iraqi troops.

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: A suicide attacker in Iraq has killed at least 20 policemen in the northern city of Irbil. The bomber drove his car into a large group of traffic police recruits in the Kurdish city. More than 100 were also injured in the attack. It coincided with an assault on a police station in Baghdad, which killed at least six today. In the Irbil attack, the traffic police recruits were gathering for morning roll-call when the suicide bomber raced his car from a nearby building site. Security forces desperately opened fire, but no one could stop the car from exploding in the middle of the crowd. In the Baghdad incident, insurgents used a car bomb and rocket-propelled grenades in an assault on a police station in the southern Baya area. Both of today's attacks came a day after a suicide bomber killed 23, including six policemen, at a restaurant in Baghdad. In that blast - claimed by the group of rebel leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi - the bomber set off his charge as people were having lunch.

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated Jun 22, states: A Filipino has been released in Iraq after nearly eight months in captivity. Roberto Tarongoy was taken hostage on Nov 1,

from his Baghdad office. He worked as an accountant for a Saudi firm providing catering to Iraq's army. Philippine President Gloria Arroyo said Mr Tarongoy was now with Philippines diplomats and would be flying home at an unspecified date.

London, Jun 23 -- More than 30 people have been killed in a series of car bombings in Baghdad within 12 hours. Three early morning blasts in the Karrada commercial district left at least 15 dead and 50 wounded. The attacks targeted a Shia mosque and a police patrol, killing at least three officers. The third blast took place outside a public bath-house, or hamam. The explosions came hours after at least 18 people died in five blasts in a Shia district of the city. The bombs yesterday exploded as dozens of political leaders pledged support for Iraq at a conference on the future of the country in Brussels, co-hosted by the EU and the US.

ISRAEL

Jerusalem, Jun 20 -- Palestinian gunmen killed an Israeli civilian in a drive-by shooting on their car in the West Bank today, a day before an Israeli-Palestinian summit meeting, the Israeli army said. The militant group Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack, another blow to a shaky ceasefire declared at the first summit in February between Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. The summit will focus primarily on co-ordinating Israel's planned evacuation in August of settlers from Gaza, where Palestinian militants killed an Israeli soldier in an ambush yesterday. One of the attackers was shot dead. The West Bank attack occurred between the Jewish settlement of Hermesh and the Palestinian town of Baqa al-Sharqiya in the north of the territory. An army spokesman said the assailants escaped the scene and a search had been mounted in the area. "The civilian vehicle was fired upon from at least one other car in a drive-by shooting," an army spokesman told Reuters. The car's fuel tank exploded from the gunfire, Army Radio said. Islamic Jihad said it carried out the ambush to avenge what it called "the desecration of the Koran by occupation soldiers in Megiddo prison" in Israel. Israeli authorities have denied Palestinian allegations that prison guards ripped pages of the Koran, saying Palestinian inmates had done it themselves. A spokesman in Sharon's office said the flareup of militant attacks showed that Abbas's Palestinian Authority needed to make a greater effort to halt violence against Israelis. -- Reuters.

Jerusalem, Jun 22 -- Israel has resumed an assassination policy against Islamic Jihad militants, a sign of how far a truce with the Palestinians has deteriorated. An Israeli aircraft fired missiles at four Islamic Jihad men in the Gaza village of Beit Lahiya today as they launched rockets into Israel. No one was hurt but a rocket was destroyed. The army

said the strike targeted the launchers, not people. A government official earlier said Israel could stage air strikes in Gaza, even at the risk of civilian casualties, to ensure its planned summer pullout from Gaza did not come under fire. Israel shelved "targeted killings" of militants in February as part of a new truce deal, but resurgent violence has raised fears Israel's planned August withdrawal from Gaza could be disrupted and has dimmed hopes for peace talks afterwards. Word that the assassination policy had been dusted off came with Israeli confirmation of a failed missile strike yesterday while Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas were holding tense talks in Jerusalem. "An opportunity presented itself. Any means to neutralize the organization are relevant and possible," Public Security Minister Gideon Ezra said. Islamic Jihad has resumed mortar bomb and rocket salvos against Jewish settlements in Gaza in what it calls retaliation for continued Israeli raids to capture wanted militants. "The attempt yesterday to kill an Islamic Jihad leader in Gaza signaled the resumption of the targeted killing policy," an Israeli security source told Reuters. Khaled al-Batsh, a senior Islamic Jihad leader, warned of "terrible consequences" if Israel carried out assassinations. "The calm would thereby end. We will not be dictated to by Israel," he said. A senior adviser to Sharon also said today Israel could stage air strikes in Gaza if militants tried to attack departing settlers to try to show they were chasing them out of occupied territory. "Israel will act in a very resolute manner to prevent terror attacks ... while the disengagement is being implemented," said Eival Giladi, head of the government team co-ordinating the plan. Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said Israel could respond to any Palestinian attacks from Gaza even after the pullout. "If needed, Israel will return to Gaza after the disengagement for a few days in order to stop the terrorism," the Haaretz daily quoted Shalom as telling foreign diplomats. Sharon and Abbas agreed at their meeting to cooperate on the evacuation of 8,500 settlers from Gaza and a few hundred among 230,000 in the West Bank, making it as smooth as possible. But aides to Abbas said Sharon brushed aside his requests for goodwill gestures to relieve burdens of occupation, such as open borders for Gaza, a removal of a roadblock network in the West Bank and further releases of jailed Palestinians. -- Reuters.

KYRGYZSTAN

Bishkek, Jun 17 -- More than 1,000 Kyrgyz troops and police sealed off the main government building after it was seized by protesters today, to prevent any more breaking in. A Reuters correspondent said that the police and troops were not carrying firearms. Earlier, officials fled the building after

more than 150 protesters, backing an opposition candidate in Jul 10 presidential polls, broke in. -- Reuters.

LEBANON

Beirut, Jun 21 -- George Hawi, the Lebanese Former Leader of the Communist Party has been assassinated in his car when a hidden bomb under his seat was detonated around 1000, this morning. Mr. Hawi is another anti-Syrian figure to die in Beirut this month after the journalist Samir Kassir who was killed in the same way when a bomb was exploded under his seat. -- Lloyd's Agents.

LIBERIA

United Nations, Jun 21 -- The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously today to extend a ban on Liberia's diamond exports for six months because the government was unable to prevent illegal gem sales from fuelling wars among its West African neighbours. In a British-drafted resolution, the council also expressed "deep concern" at reports that former President Charles Taylor, now in exile in Nigeria, and his associates continue "to engage in activities that undermine peace and stability in Liberia and the region." The council banned Liberian diamond exports after finding that Taylor was fomenting civil war in the region, especially through an illicit trade in guns for gems and other natural resources. An arms and timber embargo remains in force until Dec 21 along with travel and assets freeze against Taylor, his family and associates. The resolution expressed concern at the government's "limited progress" in "establishing transparent financial management systems that will help ensure that government revenues are not used to fuel conflicts." It also noted with "serious concern" the increase in Liberia of unlicensed mining and illegal diamond exports, the absence of government control over diamond-producing areas, and "the lack of transparency" in the authorities' recent decision to grant extensive exclusive mining rights to a single firm. Liberia's interim government, installed to run the country until democratic elections due in October, has repeatedly urged the council to end the ban to boost the ailing economy, but a panel of U.N. experts reported in March that Liberian authorities had secretly signed a deal with the West Africa Mining Corp., or WAMCO, a new company 90 percent-backed by the London International Bank Ltd., a private investment firm. The deal would give WAMCO a de facto monopoly over much of Liberia's diamond-producing regions and preclude other dealers from competing for diamond purchases, the experts said. On Taylor, the resolution did not ask for him to be extradited to a special war crimes court in Sierra Leone, which has indicted him. His exile agreement prevents him from being handed over to the court, providing he refrains from meddling in

Liberian affairs. Nigeria has refused to expel him until violations of his exile terms are proven, but Britain's U.N. ambassador, Emyr Jones Parry, told reporters, "Taylor cannot avoid coming to justice and at some stage his impunity will have to end. The only question is how do we do it. We didn't believe this was the vehicle to achieve that." U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan told the council recently that Taylor was reported to be in regular contact with former business, military and political associates. Annan's report said Taylor was "suspected of sponsoring a variety of presidential candidates, with a view to ensuring that the next Liberian government will include his sympathisers." -- Reuters.

NEPAL

Kathmandu, Jun 20 -- Hundreds of Maoist rebels stormed a town in the hills of eastern Nepal, broke into a jail, freed prisoners and bombed or set on fire government offices, the army said today. Five policemen were killed and the bodies of two guerrillas recovered after the attack, which took place late yesterday at Diktel in Khotang district, a rebel stronghold 400 km east of Kathmandu, an army officer said. "We are searching for 63 inmates who fled after the raid on the jail," he told Reuters. He said it was not clear if the inmates included Maoists. The officer said soldiers forced out the rebels, but he did not have more details because communication lines with the remote town had been cut. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Nepal's human rights commission has said that Maoist rebels have kidnapped 12 security personnel in the eastern hill district of Bhojpur. The commission has urged the rebels to free the hostages who it says were kidnapped after clashes yesterday. Casualties were feared on both sides, but the authorities said they had not received any details.

NIGERIA

London, Jun 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: Militants in southern Nigeria released six oil workers, taken hostage by a group demanding \$20 million from Shell for local communities, a government official said yesterday. A group called the Iduwuni National Union for Peace and Development had claimed responsibility for kidnapping the two German and four Nigerian workers subcontracted to Shell, demanding the company pay the money as compensation for pollution and environmental degradation due to oil activities. "They were released unconditionally," said Preye Warriwei, a spokesman for the Nigerian state of Bayelsa. He said the two Germans were now in the care of their direct employer, the German firm Bilfinger Berger AG. Warriwei said the hostages were unharmed. Shell has said the Iduwuni were also dissatisfied with the company's efforts to deliver promised jobs and amenities to nine

communities bordering a key offshore oil field in Africa's largest oil producer. Shell has acknowledged it agreed to provide the communities with development assistance, but said finding the funding for the projects had caused delays.

PHILIPPINES

London, Jun 20 -- Five rebels of the New People's Army were killed in a clash with the government troops in the central Philippines, the military said today. Military spokesman Bartolome Bacarro said in a statement that the fighting between an infantry patrol and the rebel group near Jiadong town in the central island of Samar on Wednesday (Jun 15). The bodies recovered by the soldiers included that of a woman, he said. He also said that another two rebel suspects were arrested in the southern and central Philippines on Saturday, Bacarro said. One of the arrested, named Benjie Lastimosa, was a senior leader of the North Central Mindanao regional committee of the NPA's mother organization Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), and the other one, identified as Isidoro Encinares, was from the Bicol regional CPP committee, he said.

SOMALIA

Jowhar, Jun 21 -- Somalia's fledgling government has set up base in the city of Jowhar until security is restored to the capital Mogadishu, the prime minister said today. The interim government, formed in the relative security of neighbouring Kenya late last year, has repeatedly postponed plans to return to Somalia, citing lawlessness following 14 years without a central authority. A row over whether the government should be installed in Mogadishu, or the provincial towns of Jowhar and Baidoa had caused a major split in the government, further contributing to the delays. But, Prime Minister Mohamed Ali Gedi who arrived in Jowhar on Saturday (Jun 18) with several ministers, said the government had begun to install itself in the city 90 kms north of Mogadishu. "My government has finally moved to Somalia. Jowhar is our base until when Mogadishu is pacified," Gedi told Reuters in Nairobi by telephone. He said there was no intention of changing the capital from Mogadishu. Somalia's interim constitution stipulates that it must be the capital, and the government has established a liaison office there. "Mogadishu is our capital, but its security is not good," Gedi said from Jowhar, where he attended a ceremony to mark the expansion of the city's airport today. President Abdullahi Yusuf was expected to arrive in Somalia later this week after a visit to Yemen to discuss peacekeeping forces in Somalia. Residents in Jowhar said business is booming in the city along Shabelle River, known for its fertile farmlands. The airport is being expanded to accommodate bigger planes. Property prices have jumped

since government officials began discussing a relocation there. "A villa that was going for \$50, now costs \$500," said businessman Haji Hussein. "This is because people from all regions have come to Jowhar since the government moved in on Saturday." "Food prices have gone down as demand has increased. Things will be much better once the president settles in Jowhar. People are ready to hand over their weapons as they have realised the value of peace," he added. -- Reuters.

SPAIN

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated Jun 19, states: The Basque separatist group ETA says it will no longer attack Spanish elected political officials, the Basque newspaper Gara has reported. In a communique sent to the newspaper, ETA said that as of Jun 1 it had closed "the front against elected officials from Spain's political parties." The group said the decision was motivated by "the political changes" it has recently observed. The announcement said it was up to Madrid and Paris "to respond positively to the will shown by ETA in the last months." Senior government officials had no immediate reaction. The previous killing of several dozen Spanish political figures has prompted thousands of elected officials to travel with bodyguards. Its targets have also included journalists, police and military.

SUDAN

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fighting has broken out in north-eastern Sudan, where government forces are battling rebels for control of a town south of the main port. The fighting around Tokar, some 120 km from Port Sudan, began on Sunday (Jun 19). Both sides say there have been heavy casualties. The Beja Congress, which complains of marginalisation, says it has launched its biggest offensive in years. Officials also blame attacks on rebels from the western Darfur region.

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated Jun 22, states: Rebels in north-eastern Sudan say they have captured 20 government troops following clashes near the country's main port on the Red Sea. A statement signed by an alliance of two groups, including one from Darfur, said they had also seized a significant numbers of weapons. Both sides say there have been heavy casualties in fighting since Sunday (Jun 19). The Beja Congress, which complains of marginalisation, says it has launched its biggest offensive in years. "This is war. It is a real war," said Salah Barqueen from the Beja Congress, one of two groups forming the Eastern Front. The Beja people are backed up by the Free Lions from the region's smaller Rashaida community. The rebels say they have attacked three garrisons near Tokar, some 120km from Port Sudan, which is vital to Sudan's growing oil industry. Jem leaders are currently involved in peace talks with government officials

in the Nigerian capital, Abuja but officials say the fighting has not affected the talks. Although Darfur is on the other side of the country, inhabitants of both regions complain that they have been ignored by the central government. "Our region lacks hospitals, schools, water, transport systems, everything," says Eastern Front President Musa Mohamed Ahmed. The leader of the southern rebels, John Garang, who this year signed a deal to end 22 years of war, has said he sympathised "with the Darfur and eastern Sudan question" while on a visit to Asmara, reports the Eritrean news agency. Mr Garang is set to become Sudan's vice-president under January's deal. The clashes are a setback for efforts to bring peace to Sudan, which were boosted at the weekend when a deal was signed between the government and the biggest opposition grouping, the National Democratic Alliance.

THAILAND

Bangkok, Jun 21 -- Suspected Islamic militants burst into a house in southern Thailand, where more than 700 people have been killed in 18 months of violence, and shot dead three young Muslim men as they prayed, police said today. About five militants drove to the house in Pattani, now one of five Muslim-majority southern Thai provinces covering the old sultanate, late yesterday, opened fire with handguns and fled, police captain Thaweesak Thengwarawit told Reuters. "All three victims died at the scene, with one of them still holding the sacred Koran in his arms," he said. This morning, a bomb planted under a car exploded outside a bank in Narathiwat shortly after it opened but did not cause any casualties, police said. -- Reuters.

UGANDA

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated Jun 20, states: Insurgents from Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) today hacked to death four villagers and wounded five others after rounding them up from their fields, the army said. Army spokesperson Lieutenant Kiconco Tabaro said the rebels attacked a group of villagers who had gone to work in the farmlands in Oryang village in the northern Pader district early in the morning. The rebels used farm tools "to kill four of them and left five others unconscious and have since been rushed to Kitgum hospital where they are admitted", he told reporters. Relief agencies in Gulu confirmed the attack. Tabaro said the raid followed an incident over the weekend in Atanga in Aru County - about 40km from the scene of today's attack - in which the army claimed it killed six rebels and recovered guns and ammunition yesterday. "This was a revenge attack on the innocent people after we killed six of them," said Tabaro, adding that the army was pursuing the insurgents.

ZIMBABWE

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated Jun 21, states: Police have begun destroying vegetable gardens planted by Zimbabwe's urban poor, extending a demolition campaign that initially targeted shacks and street vendor kiosks. Senior assistant police commissioner Edmore Veterai said urban farming on vacant plots of land was causing "massive environmental damage," state radio reported today. The crackdown, at a time of food shortages in Zimbabwe, is the latest escalation in the government's monthlong Operation Murambatsvina, or Drive Out Trash, which has seen police torch the shacks of poor city dwellers, arrest street vendors and demolish their kiosks. President Robert Mugabe was quoted today as saying concern about the campaign was misplaced and agreeing to allow in a U.N. observer. Mugabe defends the campaign as a cleanup drive. The political opposition, which has its base among the urban poor, says the campaign is meant to punish its supporters. The United Nations estimates the campaign has left at least 1.5 million people homeless in the winter cold. Police say more than 30,000 have also been arrested, most of them street vendors the government accuses of sabotaging the failing economy by selling black market goods. The current crackdown comes when Zimbabwe needs to import 1.2 million tons of food to avoid famine. Years of drought and the seizure of thousands of white-owned farms for redistribution to black Zimbabweans have slashed agricultural production. Many poor families depend on their vegetable patches for food and a tiny income at a time of 144 percent inflation and 80 percent unemployment. Many of the capital's two million residents use any vacant ground they can find for an annual production of 50,000 metric tons of corn over a fifth of their total food requirements according to Richard Winkfield, an expert on Zimbabwean farming. The main opposition Movement for Democratic Change has accused the 81-year-old Mugabe of imitating Cambodia's former Pol Pot regime by driving pro-MDC urban voters back to rural areas for "re-education." It alleges food access is being used as a weapon of political reprisal following Mar 31 parliamentary elections won by Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front. Mugabe expressed surprise at the "misplaced hue and cry over Operation Murambatsvina" in a recent telephone conversation with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, presidential spokesman George Charamba told The Herald newspaper. Mugabe agreed in the phone call to let Anna Tibaijuka, Tanzanian head of the United Nations Habitat agency, come as Annan's envoy to assess the impact of "Operation Murambatsvina," Charamba confirmed.

Kidnappings



NEPAL

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

Labour Disputes



FINLAND

London, Jun 22 -- Finland's ro-ro ferry owner Finnlines says strikes that have paralysed the nation's paper industry have made the first half "exceptionally difficult." Strikes and lockouts in Finnish paper and pulp mills have since May brought "remarkable losses" for Finland's transport sector. "The paper line traffic of Finnlines has almost totally stopped", said the group in a stark stock exchange announcement. "About 10 vessels have been out of the traffic. Some have been put on a premature yearly docking." The Baltic Sea operator added that the ban on overtime and illegal strikes in Finnish ports also affected business in April.

FRANCE

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: A strike by French power and gas workers challenging the partial privatisation of Gaz de France hit electricity production and reduced gas pipeline supplies yesterday, the CGT union said. Workers at Electricite de France said they had reduced power supplies at the state-owned electrical utility by as much as 2.6 percent of France's capacity as part of the same protest against the plans, which also call for selling stakes later in the electricity provider. Electricity output was lowered by 3,000 megawatts yesterday evening, the CGT, or Confederation Generale du Travail, said. The strike continued today, said Maurice Marion, a CGT spokesman. The CGT said workers had stopped injecting gas into the French network at underground stores at Gournay and Manosque. All five unions at the utilities called the strike yesterday, with the CGT alone also calling for another strike today.

GREECE

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Bank employees continue their strike for a 10th day demanding the withdrawal of a clause, already in Parliament for approval, concerning their social security. According to the General Confederation of Labor Unions, the clause brutally hurts the social security rights of bank employees. The General Confederation of Labour Unions announced a 24-hour strike to

take place Friday (Jun 17) while negotiations will be launched next month between the Ministers of Interior and Finance and the public employees labor unions to draw up a new wage scale for public employees.

London, Jun 23 -- Stevedores at Piraeus port have announced a new 48-hour strike for Jun 23 and 24, in the continuing dispute over wages and pension rights. They have been working today (Jun 22) and yesterday but have been refusing to work overtime shifts. This has affected weekend operations, which are considered to be overtime. Meanwhile, stevedores at the Port of Eleusis have announced a 24-hour strike Jun 24, also in support of wage and pension demands.

INDIA

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of dealer-operated petrol stations in India remained closed today as part of a nationwide shutdown demanding an increase in dealer commission. But the 24-hour strike called by Federation of All India Petroleum Traders (FAIPT) did not affect normal life, as hundreds of company-run and private outlets remained open across the country. FAIPT president Ashok Badhwar, however, claimed that "the strike is total. We have shown our solidarity." The dealers, who observed a similar strike in April, have been demanding an increase in their commission to five per cent from 1.59 per cent on petrol and 1.27 per cent on diesel paid currently. Badhwar told PTI that the petrol station dealers would go on an indefinite strike from next month if their demands were not met. All but 24 petrol pumps out of the 375 in Delhi were closed. In Maharashtra, about 1,700 dealer-run pumps were closed as were 1,400 outlets in Bihar, 1,300 in Tamil Nadu and 1,200 in Kerala. Over 3,300 petrol outlets were closed in West Bengal. Reports from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Orissa, Punjab and Tripura said all dealer operated petrol stations in these states joined the nationwide shutdown.

PANAMA

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated Jun 20, states: The strike against government attacks on social security rights in Panama is now in its fourth week. On Jun 16, Social Security employees along with striking workers and university students in Panama City fought off police armed with tear gas. Other protests took place in the cities of Colon and David. The strike involves teachers, construction workers and government employees. At issue is government legislation to resolve a US\$3,700 million deficit in the Social Security system on the backs of the working class by adding three years to the age of retirement, raising payroll taxes from 7.5 to nine percent for workers and employers, and increasing the number of necessary payments to retire. President Martin

Torrijos announced last week that the strike has already cost the country US\$100 million dollars.

PHILIPPINES

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated Jun 16, states: Over 1,600 miners employed at the Philippines' largest gold mine have defied a government order to return to work and are maintaining their pickets at several gates leading into the complex. The mine is owned by the Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corporation (LCMC) and is located 348 kilometres north of Manila. The miners went on strike on Jun 2 in support of their Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and the return-to-work order was issued on Jun 9 by Labour Secretary Sto Thomas. On Jun 10, Thomas ordered the deployment of 85 troops to the villages surrounding the gold mine, just two days before a mandatory cooling off period lapsed. The miners are seeking a daily pay increase over three years of just 29 pesos for the first two years and 33 pesos for the third (\$US0.52 and \$0.60). While this is far short of their original demand of 100 pesos per day, LCMC is refusing to shift from its offer of 21 pesos, 27 pesos and 29 pesos over three years. The miners are manning five pickets around the mine, and are determined to stay until their latest demands are met by the company. Lepanto Employees Union (LEU) president Ninian Lang-egan said police in full riot gear were positioned near two of the picket lines.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Jun 21 -- On Jun 7 the railway engine drivers union went on strike demanding higher salaries and better work conditions. Although resumption of work was intended every day, the strike is still going on, today. Yesterday, four other railway unions joined the strike. The subject strike reportedly affected heavily the Romanian ports activity and vessels operation as well as other economic sectors, although part of goods and passenger traffic has been taken over by road carriage. -- Lloyd's Agents.

faulty manifolds, which route air to an engine's cylinders. Ford didn't admit liability in settling the case. Car owners alleged in a class-action lawsuit that Ford used plastic intake manifolds that were prone to cracking and causing coolant leaks on some 1996 to 2001 models. The settlement could cost Ford as much as \$375 million if every customer files a claim, said customer lawyer Richard Dorman.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: An East Baton Rouge Parish jury has awarded \$5.4 million to a brain-damaged Pierre Part man for injuries he suffered while at work. The incident that led to the injuries occurred on Sep 22, 1999, while Felicien Sanchez, 52, was working at the Air Liquide Process and Construction Inc. plant in Geismar. Sanchez' attorney, Locke Meredith of Baton Rouge, said Sanchez was working in the plant while a company -- ITEQ Tank Services -- was testing a 3-inch PVC pipe. During the testing, Meredith said, the pipe and a metal spigot exploded, sending pieces of debris flying. Some of the flying debris hit Sanchez in the left forehead, fracturing some bones in his face and causing his brain to bleed, Meredith said. Click here to continue reading or scroll down. Brain cells in the area of the injury also died, leaving behind a hole in Sanchez' brain, Meredith said. During trial, doctors who have evaluated Sanchez testified that he is severely injured and the injuries will remain. "All of the doctors testified that he will never work again and he will need someone to care for him for the rest of his life," Meredith said. Meredith said that before the trial began ITEQ admitted it was negligent in the way it tested the pipe and because it did not clear away all people while the tests were being performed. The trial was held to determine the extent of Sanchez' injuries and to award damages, Meredith said.



CLASS-ACTION SETTLEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ford Motor Co. agreed to settle customer lawsuits over alleged defects in the intake manifolds of as many as two million vehicles. Under the settlement, filed late Thursday (Jun 16) in U.S. District Court in Oakland, Calif., Ford will pay owners of some Mercury Grand Marquis, Lincoln Town Cars and Ford Crown Victorias at least \$735 to reimburse them for repairs made on

AMAGASAKI, JAPAN

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Services on the JR Fukuchiyama Line were fully resumed this morning nearly two months after a deadly derailment that left 107 people dead. The company estimates that it lost 25 to 30 million yen per day from the suspension of operations on the Takarazuka-Amagasaki section, totaling some 1.5 billion yen. It projects that it will be required to pay Hankyu Railway about 800 million yen for providing substitute transportation for passengers on this

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section. The Land, Infrastructure and Transport Ministry allowed JR West to resume services on this section after the company installed the most advanced automatic train braking system, which automatically slows down trains if they exceed the speed limit.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: Four rail cars left their tracks in a railyard in east Houston this morning, but officials say there is no danger to the surrounding area. The derailment happened about 0330 on tracks near Sakowitz and Wallisville. One of the cars is leaking but hazardous material crews said the substance, sodium hydroxide, poses no airborne danger, and no evacuations have been conducted.

KIRYAT GAT TOWN, ISRAEL

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: An initial estimate of the money to be paid to victims from the tragic train crash near Kiryat Gat on Tuesday (Jun 21), which resulted in the deaths of seven people and close to 200 injured, places compensation at more than NIS 150 million (£18.16 million). The cost would be shared between the Defense Ministry, the National Insurance Institute and the insurance companies. In addition, the train accident will cost Israel Railways an estimated \$10 million. Israel's bureau of insurance agents says the people injured and killed on Tuesday are classified as road accident victims and are therefore entitled to coverage under Israel Railways' mandatory insurance coverage. The only exceptions are soldiers, who are covered by the Defense Ministry, says the bureau, and people who were taking the train to or from work, who are covered by the NII. Under the law governing road accidents, each victim is entitled to legal representation, the costs of which Israel Railways' insurer, the Phoenix insurance company, must cover. People with personal accident coverage have to file their claims via their insurance agents. Phoenix' losses will be limited to \$2 million, as it had spread its risk through reinsurance overseas. The results of an Israel Railways' examination show that one railcar was a total loss. It was an advanced model, worth 1.5 million euros. Damage to the railroad track and related infrastructure is estimated at dozens of millions of shekels. Evyatar Reiter, a expert in public transportation and trains, says a relatively small investment spent to isolate railway tracks from roads could have prevented Tuesday's accident. There are approximately 200 crossings in Israel where roads cross the tracks, and Israel Railways has a list of about 30 "red crossings" that it says require immediate attention. Reiter says that NIS one billion would be enough to essentially solve the problem. "Obviously, its impossible to build overpasses at all the railway crossings," he says, "but we could

certainly minimize the damage." Israel Railways CEO Yossi Mor said yesterday that the railway is currently building overpasses at seven critical crossings, and it intends to increase such spending under its five-year plan.

KIRYAT GAT, ISRAEL

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least seven people have been killed and more than 100 injured in a train crash in central Israel, say officials. The packed passenger train was going south from Tel Aviv when it is thought to have collided with a truck at a level crossing near Kiryat Gat town. Witnesses spoke of horrific scenes, with passengers thrown from carriages and at least two rail cars derailed. Rescue teams were working to free people from the wreckage as helicopters evacuated casualties from the scene. Some rescuers spoke of difficulty reaching the site, because the crash had happened away from the main roads. Uri Bar Lev, the southern police commander, said there were "apparently" deaths, but figures would not be provided until later. An official of the Magen David Adom ambulance service said at least seven people, while more than 100 people had been injured, at least three of them seriously.

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: A passenger train collided with a coal delivery truck in a remote field in central Israel today, killing at least seven people and injuring nearly 200. Police said the crash appeared to be an accident. Passengers were thrown from the train cars. Three train cars derailed and were left mangled and twisted wrecks. Splinters of metal were strewn on the side of the tracks, some dozens of yards away. "One of the railroad cars is upside down, and it's impossible to tell what's inside," Dudi Greenwald, a medic at the scene, said. "It's the worst accident I've ever seen." Helicopters arrived to help transport the injured, and rescuers climbed over the train seats in their efforts to pull the wounded out of the trains. The collision happened in a field off the main road, near the town of Revadim, about 25 miles south of Tel Aviv. Rescue workers said they had a difficult time moving the wounded to the ambulances over rough terrain. The train, carrying 300 to 400 people from Tel Aviv to the southern city of Beersheba, was travelling as fast as 80 mph when it hit the coal delivery truck at about 1800, local time, on a remote section of the track that contained a crossing but no traffic light, said Avi Zohar, a spokesman for the Magen David Adom rescue services. The truck weighed about 40 tons, he said. Israeli police said five were dead at the scene and two others died in hospitals. Also, 191 people were treated for injuries, police spokeswoman Anat Gil-Zuberi said. Israel TV also reported that a female soldier was in critical condition. Authorities said the crash appeared to

be an accident and there was no reason to suspect it was an intentional attack.

KRASNODAR, RUSSIA

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: A mudflow triggered landslides on the railway line Lazarevskoye-Vodopadnoye overnight to today. Fifteen cargo wagons derailed overnight to today as a result of landslides, chief of the Krasnodar department of the North Caucasus railway Yevgeniy Gorlakov emphasized. According to him, "a big section of the railway was blocked." According to preliminary information, four landslides went down. The railway traffic from Sochi and Tuapse was suspended. The situation is complicated by the fact that the only highway Sochi-Tuapse on the Black Sea coast is landslide stricken. Two repairing trains are working at the incident site, emergency teams are clearing up the highway.

MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA

London, Jun 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Metro train derailment took place yesterday morning at the Honore-Beaugrand station in the east of Montreal. According to a local TV station, the incident occurred around 0750 at the end of the green line at the switch where the train turns around to change directions. No one was injured in the accident and the driver was the only person aboard the train. Repairs are expected to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. The regular passenger platform has been closed for an unspecified period.

PINGTUNG, TAIWAN

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Tzichiang express train from Kaohsiung to Taitung derailed at 0025 today in Pingtung, southern Taiwan, injuring 15 passengers, Taiwan Railway Administration (TRA) officials reported. The accident, which occurred 8.5 kilometres south of the township of Fangliao, forced the temporary closure of the South Link Line for repairs, the officials said. A preliminary investigation revealed that several steel rails had been deliberately removed from a section of the rail line, they said, adding that railway police are continuing their investigations. The rail line is not expected to be re-opened until about 1700 today, the TRA said.

RZHEV DISTRICT, TVER REGION, RUSSIA

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated Jun 19, states: A total of 126 tons of fuel oil have been recovered from the soil and water of the rivers Gostizha, Vazuza and Volga following the derailment of a tanker train in the Tver region, the Itar-Tass news agency reported today. Emergencies Ministry helicopters have treated an area of two square kilometers with 89 tons of special bio-products, the agency reported, adding that 427 people, three engineering trains and three Mi-

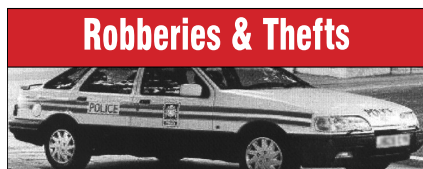
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8 helicopters were taking part in the clean-up. Of the 126 tons of liquid petroleum products collected, 90 tons have been pumped out of a ditch running alongside the track at the accident scene, according to Interfax news agency. The agency was quoting Emergencies Ministry spokesman Viktor Beltsov. Oil slicks have practically disappeared from the River Vazuza following chemical treatment, Interfax reported. "We have just flown over the banks of the River Vazuza by helicopter, and there are practically no fuel oil patches there," the agency quoted the head of the Emergencies Ministry's central regional headquarters, Pavel Plat, as saying. The clean-up headquarters has issued an appeal for local volunteers because of a "shortage of helpers". "We have a great need of people with shovels, rakes and other tools capable of helping to eliminate the consequences of the accident," the agency quoted an unnamed source in the HQ as saying. Meanwhile, the Tver region's administration said today it planned a legal action against JSC Russian Railways. Twenty-four railway tankers carrying fuel oil ran off the tracks in the region, northwest of Moscow, last Wednesday (Jun 15.).

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: According to preliminary estimates, last week's black oil spill in the Tver region has caused dozens of hundreds of million roubles worth of ecological damage, the Volga inter-regional prosecutor for environmental issues, told a news conference in Moscow yesterday. The accident occurred in the Zubtsov district of the Tver region on Jun 15 as 26 tanks of the Volokolamsk-Rzhev freight train derailed. Twenty-three tanks overturned, spilling nearly 700 tonnes of petroleum products and contaminating the soil and the water areas of the nearby rivers, the Russian Emergencies Ministry reported. Soldatova said that ecological lawsuits demanding compensation for ecological damage could be filed against the Russian Railways Company after the investigation was over. Prosecutors say that the permissible levels of concentration of toxic agents exceeded 4,000 times in the first hours after the accident. The concentration was 1, 026 times higher in the Gostyushka River, 326 times higher in the Vazuza River and 51 times higher in the Volga River. The contamination concentration had been reduced by Jun 19.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA

See "Canada" under "Weather & Navigation."



GOLD FROM AIRCRAFT ON A FLIGHT FROM MUMBAI TO DELHI

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: About 25 kg of

gold worth over Rs100 million was reported stolen from the cargo of an Indian Airlines flight from Mumbai to Delhi on Jun 7. The gold was apparently booked in flight number IC-658 and went missing from the cargo. The Commissioner of Police, on Monday (Jun 20), declared a reward of Rs100,000 for any person who gives information about the case.

JEWELLERY, TOKYO, JAPAN

London, Jun 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: The last two of a four-member gang who robbed a jewelry store in Tokyo last year have been arrested, the Serbian Ministry of Interior said Thursday. Djordje Rasovic and Snezana Panajotovic, both Serbian citizens, were arrested in Belgrade and Podgorica respectively, on suspicion of committing the crimes of theft, robbery and document forgery, said the ministry in a statement. The statement said the gang robbed a jewelry store in Tokyo in March last year, taking with them 3.491 billion yen (some US\$33 million) worth of jewellery. Since the robbery, the Serbian Ministry of Interior and Belgrade prosecutor's office were sharing information with the Japanese Embassy in Belgrade and Japanese police officers, who arrived in Belgrade prior to the arrest operation. The statement said that another two of the gang had been arrested. Aleksandar Radulovic from Belgrade is currently in a prison in Denmark, where he was arrested with forged documents while committing a criminal act. British resident Dorothy Fasola May is being prosecuted in Japan.



CARD SECURITY BREACH, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated Jun 22, states: Banks that issue credit and debit cards are moving rapidly to contain the damage caused by the potentially massive theft of card information from a transaction-processing company that was disclosed last week. Some 22 million Visa-branded cards and 14 million MasterCard-branded cards were exposed to the security breach at CardSystems Solutions Inc. that was disclosed by MasterCard last week. The breach was reported by CardSystems to Visa and MasterCard in late May. Washington Mutual has cancelled 1,400 cards whose numbers were stolen and is issuing replacements. J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., which with 94 million cards outstanding is the nation's largest card issuer, hasn't cancelled or reissued any cards as a result of the incident but is monitoring the situation closely, a spokesman said.

Visa and MasterCard are relaying information picked up by their fraud-detection systems to issuing banks, which then decide whether to cancel or reissue cards. The 1,400 cards cancelled by Washington Mutual are known to have been used to commit fraud; an unknown but presumably higher number may be at risk for fraud, a bank spokeswoman said. Of the 14 million MasterCard-branded card records that were exposed, 68,000 are known to have been stolen. Visa hasn't said how many of its records were stolen but hasn't yet detected any unusual fraud patterns resulting from the security breach, according to a spokesman. The full extent of the damage may not be known until consumers receive their monthly statements and begin reporting fraudulent charges to their banks. But Visa and MasterCard, as well as the banks themselves, have sophisticated fraud-detection systems in place and will promptly shut down any card accounts suspected of being used for fraud. The security breach involved an infiltration into CardSystems' network by an unauthorized individual who accessed cardholder data. Visa won't say how or when the discovery of the incident took place, nor what actions it has taken against CardSystems. The company may have violated provisions of the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard, a set of security requirements for merchants and payment processors that includes implementing strong access-control measures, regularly monitoring and testing networks, and maintaining an information security policy. CardSystems was certified as being in compliance with Visa's Cardholder Information Security Program--which implements the PCI provisions--in June 2004 by an independent security-assessment firm but was later determined to be no longer in compliance when it was discovered that it was inappropriately storing cardholder data. Companies have until Jun 30 to be in compliance with the PCI standard. Hefty fines can be levied against those found not to be in compliance. In the wake of the CardSystems incident, which caps a string of similar incidents involving lost or stolen card data, banks are likely to lean heavily on third-party payment processors to comply with PCI. For one thing, it costs a bank between \$50 and \$75 to cancel and reissue a card. Based on the number of cards already known to have been stolen, the cost to the banking industry of this latest incident could be staggering. There is also the risk of class-action lawsuits stemming from liabilities by banks for failing to protect personal information under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act. "Ultimately, it's the bank's responsibility for safeguarding the data," says Nigel Tranter, a partner at Payment Software Company LLC, which conducts security audits for payment processors.

CEMENT DISPUTE, MEXICO

Tampico, Jun 23 -- According to information gathered from the harbour-master, storage ship Mary Nour sailed from Tampico at 1100, Jun 20, bound for Kingston, Jamaica. The vessel was released after a payment to customs of 29,453,322 Pesos, about US\$2,678,000, in fines. The 26,200 tons of Portland cement will be commercialised in the African continent. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CLIPPER LANCASTER (Bahamas)

London, Jun 20 -- Bulk Clipper Lancaster, which was held in quarantine on suspicion of carrying the deadly Marburg virus, has been allowed to resume its voyage. Clipper Lancaster spent a week at anchor off the Indian Ocean island of Reunion, as authorities investigated the death of a seafarer and the illness of a second. Samples were sent to a laboratory in France for analysis and were given the all-clear. It now remains for an autopsy to determine the cause of the fatality. In the meantime, the vessel has been allowed to continue its voyage from Durban to China, laden with logs. A spokesman for the operator confirmed on Friday (Jun 17) that the test had definitively ruled out Marburg as present on the vessel. Nevertheless, the vessel has already been fully disinfected as a precaution.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Jun 16 -- A press report, dated today, states: Indonesia has confirmed its first case of bird flu in humans. A farm worker in South Sulawesi has tested positive for the H5N1 strain of the virus, although he has shown no outward symptoms of the disease. Indonesia's agriculture ministry has reported sporadic H5N1 outbreaks in birds in various parts of the country, including Sulawesi, in the first three months of this year. Just last month the authorities confirmed the first case of the virus in pigs. Health officials say the farm worker's case came to light during routine testing of people who had worked with infected poultry. Blood samples from 79 farm workers were sent to Hong Kong for examination in March. The worker in question was found to have produced antibodies, indicating that he had been exposed to the bird flu virus. A second test confirmed this. It is unclear exactly when he contracted the virus, but due to the low level of antibodies found in his blood, the infection is unlikely to have been recent. Health authorities are now testing other people who could have been exposed to the disease, such as poultry workers and veterinarians.

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two more Vietnamese have contracted bird flu in the country's north, a state-run newspaper reported today, as more than 6000 chickens were slaughtered in the southern Mekong Delta following a fresh outbreak. The two

were among five people admitted to a hospital in Hanoi with sore throat or bronchitis, the Saigon Gai Phong daily quoted hospital officials as saying. The latest infections took the number of Vietnam's bird flu patients since December to 64, 18 of whom have died. The disease also killed 12 Thais and four Cambodians. Health workers slaughtered and buried more than 6,000 chickens last week at a farm in the province of Ben Tre in the Mekong Delta after the birds were found to carry the H5 component of the bird flu virus, a state health official said.

POWER OUTAGE, NEW ZEALAND

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: A major outage in Telecom Corp.'s cable network today disrupted data services, electronic cash transactions, mobile phone and Internet services as well as shutting down the nation's stock exchange for hours, the telecommunications provider said. Widespread disruption to business and private services was caused by two cable breaks on its North Island network. They were repaired by mid-afternoon today - at least five hours after they occurred. The stock market ground to a halt at 1101, local time, suspending all trading just 11 minutes after Telecom detected the first impact of the outage. It was the third time that data link failures have halted trading in the past nine months. Other faults have also closed the exchange on three other occasions during the period. The crash also cut data services, retail electronic cash systems, broadband Internet access and mobile phone services, leading to an overload of landline telephone systems across much of the country. Telecom spokesman John Goulter said the widespread break in services was the result of a "totally unforeseeable circumstance." The outage was caused by two separate incidents, including a fibre cable break north of the capital, Wellington, and a second cable being cut in Taranaki province on the west coast of North Island, more than 300 kilometres north of Wellington, he said. The stock market reopened trading at 1600, local time, and extended the afternoon session by half an hour to try to cope with a trading rush of banked-up orders.

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: A telecommunications blackout that threw phone and Internet connections in New Zealand into chaos was likely to have been caused by rats, the country's top telecoms company said today. The outage also disrupted banking and air travel and closed the country's stock exchange, with communications disrupted throughout much of the country for five hours yesterday. Rats apparently chewed on a fibre optic cable running up the east side of the North island near the capital Wellington, Telecom New Zealand spokesman John Goulter said. The problem was compounded

when the fibre optic cable on the west side of the island was accidentally cut at the same time by workmen in Taranaki on the west coast. Communications Minister David Cunliffe downplayed the problem as an accident and said: "I think getting two accidents of this type at the same time is a freak occurrence".

POWER OUTAGE, SWITZERLAND

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Switzerland's entire state railway network came to a shuddering halt yesterday after a power failure left about 100,000 people stranded at the height of the rush-hour, Swiss Federal Railways (SBB) said. Power began to be re-established about three hours later, at 2115, local time, and some trains were operating again. It was the most serious power cut in the history of the Swiss rail system. The system was not expected to be operating normally until the morning. During the incident practically all trains in the country were at a standstill, spokesman Jean-Philippe Schmidt said. "We have a power failure, a problem with power regulation," he said. "The problem started towards 1800 and we are trying to find the source," he said. It appeared to have originated in the south of the country. About 100,000 people were thought to be stranded on trains on a hot summer evening, Swiss television SF1 reported, although most travellers were able to leave halted trains an hour after the incident. The problem first occurred in southern Switzerland following a drop in the 15,000 volt power supply that spread to the rest of the system, SBB said.

POWER OUTAGE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

London, Jun 20 -- A press report from Abu Dhabi, dated today, states: A power outage due to heavy pressure on main transformers yesterday hit the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs building creating chaos and taking the ministry to the old manual system in handling transactions. Electronic equipment and computer systems ceased to operate and the processing of transactions in all sections came to a jolting halt leading to a state of anarchy, for both the public and the staff. The power outage started at 1100 hrs and continued till the end of the working hours, though electricity was restored several times, but the current was not stable. A few procedures, which were not of much help to the public were manually handled. On Saturday (Jun 18), a partial power outage occurred at the Facilities Unit. However, officials at the department said power supply resumed within a short time and that the process of work was not disturbed. When contacted, Ahmed Khajoor, Assistant Undersecretary for Manpower and Planning, said repeated power outages adversely impeded the process of work and

created problems in making various transactions. "We have discussed the electricity outage with the Abu Dhabi Electricity Authority and have been promised that no more electricity failures would occur," said Khajoor. The official attributed the cause of the power failure to heavy power consumption that increased the pressure on the main transformers. "It seems the load on the transformers has become greater as most of the departments have recently introduced electronic devices, peripherals, ACs and computer systems."

SEIZURE OF DRUGS FROM NETHERLANDS VESSEL AT SHEERNESS, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 17 -- Cocaine worth £1.3 million has been seized on board ref Royal Klipper (11382 gt, built 2000), on charter to banana major Chiquita. The seizure was made by British Customs and Excise at Sheerness on May 30. However, news of the haul was not made public until yesterday. Some 25 kg of the narcotic was discovered hidden under a stack of slings on the starboard side of number one deckhouse. The crew were questioned but released without charge and the vessel was allowed to sail for Antwerp the following day. The vessel was laden with bananas from Colombia, the world's main producer of cocaine. The vessel has since returned to the Colombian port of Santa Marfa and is now heading back to Europe. Customs only made details available after a police announcement that a bag of cocaine had been washed ashore on Burgh Island in Devon. Subsequent investigations linked the nylon sack with the drugs on board Royal Klipper, which were in similar packaging. Peter Koets, operations manager of Dutch owner Jazon, said he believed the company had done all it could to ensure security on the ship. "It is a Colombia-related problem," he added. "Criminals always try to find a way round things." The vessel is operated as part of the Seatrade pool. Seatrade's Fiona Schimmel said the vessel was on time charter to a major banana producer which she declined to name. However, Chiquita confirmed market reports that it was indeed the charterer of Royal Klipper. A spokesman in Cincinnati said the company was aware of the incident and co-operating with the British authorities. He declined to specify what measures Chiquita takes against drug trafficking, citing the need for such arrangements to remain secret.

VOLGO-BALT 234 (Russia)

Beirut, Jun 23 -- General cargo Volgo-Balt 234 is still under detention. The law office Baroudi & Associates are still waiting for documents from the vessel's owners in Russia. As and when these documents are completed the arrest order will be lifted, after receiving the judicial orders. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Fires & Explosions

BUILDINGS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, MESA, ARIZONA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ten housing units under construction in east Mesa went up in flames yesterday in a wall of 40-foot flames. The loss was set at \$2 million. More than 50 firefighters and 20 fire trucks from three cities battled the blaze, which started about 1600 hrs at the Barclay Village development near Greenfield Road and Main Street. Nobody was injured. A Mesa fire spokeswoman said a cause had not been determined. Four buildings - two duplexes and two triplexes ranging from 1,200 to 1,600 square feet - were in the framing stages and burned to the ground. All the units were sold and were valued at about \$200,000 each, fire officials said.

CHEMICAL PLANT, EMEI, SICHUAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: A chemical plant explosion left three workers killed, two missing and eight injured in Hongya County in Emei, in southwest China's Sichuan Province today. The plant, Hongya Qingyijiang Chemical Company Limited, was built in 1996 to produce mirabilite, or Glauber's salt, in Hongchuan Township. Preliminary investigation shows the accident was caused by worker error when fixing detonators, according to local police. Further investigation is still underway.

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: Seven people were confirmed dead with eight others injured from yesterday's detonator explosion at a chemical plant in Hongya County of Meishan City, south-west China's Sichuan Province, local police sources said today. Another two people are still missing, the sources said. Three out of the eight wounded are seriously injured and hospitalized in the provincial capital of Chengdu. The blast happened yesterday morning, levelling a row of bungalows at the chemical plant. Local police are clearing up the site, searching the two missing persons. Preliminary investigation shows the accident was caused by operation error when workers were fixing detonators, according to the police sources. There were about 13,000 detonators when the accident took place, the sources said.

CHURCH, PHOENIX, ARIZONA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Authorities think a fire that yesterday gutted the House of Rhema Full Gospel Baptist Church,

was deliberately set. Damages are estimated at more than two million dollars. Phoenix fire officials are working with Phoenix police and the U-S Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. They're canvassing the neighborhood for witnesses and evidence that will lead them to the person or persons responsible.

FACTORY, DONCASTER, YORKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated Jun 21, states: Firefighters have spent the night tackling a blaze at a South Yorkshire paper factory. Emergency crews were called to Cutt Brothers on Milethorn Lane in Doncaster after plastic bottles caught fire yesterday evening. The flames then spread to 1,500 tonnes of paper and there was a danger of gas canisters exploding, a fire service spokesman said. He added it could be several days before the fire finally burns out.

FACTORY, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated Jun 20, states: Fire investigators said an electrical problem started a blaze at an industrial park off Old St. Augustine Road this morning. Investigators said the fire broke out when an employee showed up to work at Snowbird Environmental Systems Corp. on Victor Street and turned on the lights at about 0630 hrs. Fire crews used a ladder truck to put out the two-alarm blaze from up above. While part of the building's roof collapsed, no one was hurt and firefighters said no hazardous materials were involved. The building houses a company that makes air conditioning units for the Navy. Officials estimate the fire caused about \$1 million in damage.

FACTORY, RHYMNEY, SOUTH WALES, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated Jun 21, states: Hopes of saving 130 jobs at a blaze-hit factory in Rhymney have been hit by news that the plant will not reopen. Plastics packaging firm Budelpack, on the Heads of the Valleys industrial estate, was ravaged by a large fire in March this year. There were hopes the company would restart operations in a nearby factory unit, but the company has now said this was "economically unjustifiable". The company said some staff may be offered work elsewhere in the firm. The factory manufactured pharmaceutical packaging including sachets, bottles and tissues at the site. AndrÉ Nieuwkerk, Chief Executive of Budelpack International, said managers highly regretted the decision not to reopen, "especially because of the social consequences for the staff involved". He added that, "under current market circumstances... we cannot justify the high investments in a new plant in Wales. The considerable time it'll take

to enable the restart of operations further influences this negatively." Budelpack, which employs around 1,900 people in seven European countries, has said it has worked out a short-term closure plan for the plant. It will also offer support to employees who could not find an alternative job. The overall cost of the damage caused by the blaze has been estimated at just under £10m. Two buildings were destroyed, while a fire in the third building was under control several hours later. No one was injured by the blaze.

FACTORY, TAKAKA, NEW ZEALAND

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: About 3,000 people in the small town of Takaka, on New Zealand's South Island, were evacuated this evening as a massive fire raged through the region's biggest factory. Most were taken to a school about five kilometres away as firemen fought to keep flames from silos containing sulphuric acid and caustic soda, reports said. Authorities warned residents to avoid inhaling smoke from the blaze that threatened to destroy the factory, about 120kms from Nelson, which processes milk into powder for the Fonterra dairy co-operative company. A report from a radio station said that the factory was still blazing about four hours after it started.

MINE, NORTHAM, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Northam Platinum has received a final R71.9 million (£5.85 million) lump sum from its insurers as a result of the fire that swept through the company's mine in September. Northam recouped R10.5 million for material damage and R61.4 million for the loss of business during the mine shutdown. The package is the final stage of the settlement. Northam Platinum said it lost more than 10,000 troy ounces of precious metals as a result of the fire, which affected the firm's mine located near Thabazimbi on the northern limb of the Bushveld in the Limpopo province. Nine people were killed and the mine was shut for the whole of October, only reopening in November. The South African miner revealed in February that its pgm output fell by 18.3 per cent in the first half of the current financial year, with the blaze playing its part in a sharp decline from 2003-04 figures.

OIL WELL, HENAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Firefighters and workers successfully blocked a blowout and fire of an oil well of the Zhongyuan Oilfield in Henan Province today. After the blowout and the consequent oilfield fire, 23 fire engines and more than 140 firefighters were dispatched for the emergency. The flowout was successfully blocked and fire extinguished later this evening.

No casualties were reported in the accident, and investigation is under way.

PAPER FACTORY, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire in a paper factory in Sydney's inner west has been brought under control. It took almost three and a half hours and 12 fire trucks to control the blaze at the paper recycling plant in Smithfield. Fire Superintendent Ross Brogan says the fire has been contained but will still take some time to extinguish. "The fire's died right down now, it's been contained to the large compactor," he said. "We have about 20 firefighters from four local stations still in attendance, they're expected to be there probably another hour or two. It's just a long hard slog now, pouring water onto this fire with all this scrap paper, and trying to work it out of the compactor to make sure the fire's out completely."

PREMISES, DETROIT, MICHIGAN, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: A five-alarm fire consumed a Detroit city block late yesterday night as firefighters struggled to contain the blaze in a New Center-area warehouse. The blaze started at about 2300 hrs, yesterday night, Detroit officials said. It burned into the early hours this morning. Through the night, walls of the building continued to crumble, but no injuries or fatalities were reported early this morning. Chunks of the building, which was located northeast of the John R and Piquette intersection, fell into the streets. At one point, flying debris crushed a traffic light nearby. The four-story building housed Piquette Market, a grocery store; and a furniture store but much of the building had been vacant for years. Fire Chief Dennis Schroyer, chief of operations at the scene said the fire "engulfed the entire building" up to the intersection of Brush and Piquette, and wood floors and high winds made fighting the fire difficult. Schroyer said it is possible there were propane tanks in the basement of the building but he could not confirm that information. The cause of the fire has not yet been established.

PREMISES, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Jun 19 -- A huge fire broke out at the 19-storey Uttara Bank Building at Motijheel Commercial Area in Dhaka, Bangladesh, yesterday morning causing damage to a private firm located at the building. According to the Fire Service and Civil Defence, the fire originated from an electric short circuit at Aftab Group of Companies on the 4th floor of the building at about 0530 hrs. The fire immediately engulfed the 4th, 5th and 6th floors of the building and gutted all electronic goods along with computers, furniture and other office

equipment including important documents. Fire fighters from Dhaka city's five stations Sadarghat, Palashi, Mohammadpur, Khilgaon and Headquarters rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control about 0940 hrs. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PREMISES, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jun 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fire swept through the Rand Club yesterday, Johannesburg's most historic building at the heart of the world's greatest goldfield, destroying priceless artworks, century-old teak floors and mahogany panelling, furniture and other memorabilia. The fire in the 101-year-old neo-Baroque building wiped out the longest bar in Africa, 103ft of curving oak brooded over by stuffed heads of lion, buffalo, eland and kudu and old photographs of British monarchs. The club was founded in 1887, although the present five-storey building was completed in 1904. David Williams, a spokesman for the club committee, said the fire appears to have been triggered by an electrical fault just before midnight on Wednesday (Jun 15). It climbed a lift shaft and set ablaze four of the granite building's five floors. The inferno was fed by the club's parquet floors and extensive wooden wall panelling.

PREMISES, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated Jun 19, states: The San Francisco Fire Department is releasing more details on a two-alarm fire yesterday in the city's Sunset District. The fire burned a three-storey residential building, located at 1666 10th Ave., as well as a neighbouring building, a dispatcher for the San Francisco Fire Department said today. Firefighters received word of the blaze just after midnight and had it under control by 1230 hrs, the Fire Department reported. Four residents and one firefighter were injured during the blaze, but the dispatcher was unsure of the extent of their injuries. Damage to the property is estimated to be \$1 million, according to the Fire Department. Damage to the contents of the building is estimated at \$350,000. The cause of the fire has yet to be established.

TYRE SHREDDING PLANT, HIGHAM FERRERS, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews are attending a serious blaze at a tyre shredding plant in Higham Ferrers, Northants. More than 1,000 tonnes of tyres are alight at the World Rubber site on Upper Higham Lane which police believe started at about 0915, BST, today. The B645 Higham Ferrers to Chalveston Road has been closed as a result. Northants fire service said the fire which ignited a nearby

building will take up to three days to burn out. Northants police are advising nearby residents to stay indoors.

WAREHOUSE, TAIYUAN, SHANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: A powerful explosion ripped through a warehouse in north China where explosives confiscated by police were stored, injuring 336 people, state media said. The blast occurred on Tuesday morning (Jun 21) at a warehouse in the Xinan explosives company in suburban Taiyuan, capital of Shanxi province, the Xinhua news agency reported. The force of the explosion was felt up to one kilometre away and caused damage in 27 villages, including to six schools, the State Administration for Work Safety said on its website. Of the injured, 174 remained hospitalised, with six in a serious condition. It was unclear what type of injuries were suffered but an official at SAWS said some of the victims were injured when the blast damaged homes and buildings. High temperatures in the area, caused by a heatwave affecting many parts of China, was blamed for igniting the explosives which had been placed in the warehouse by Taiyuan city police.

WAREHOUSES, ST.PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

St.Petersburg, Jun 23 -- According to the Department of Information and Public Relations in St.Petersburg, the first announcement about ignition in the industrial zone "Parnas", where the warehouses with the production of the "Elis" company (construction and finishing materials) are located, was received at about 2005, Jun 21. According to the tentative data, the fire began at the warehouse with carpets. The fire began quickly and spread from one section of the warehouse (size 20 x 30 metres) on the nearest storage facilities (the warehouse consisted of four sections) due to the ample quantity of the combustible materials. By 2100 hrs the area of ignition was already about 2,500 m2 and the conflagration was given the highest rank of extinguishing - the 5th one. About 30 fire trucks all over the city were working at the scene of the fire. But in spite of their efforts the fire led to the roof collapse first at one hangar and then at two nearest ones. The fire at the industrial zone was under control by midnight. The fire was still roaring on the area of 6,000 m2. At the scene of the fire, the spilling and dismantling of damaged constructions are still being conducted. Fire investigators are also working there. They shall have to establish the cause of the fire, when the fire will be extinguished and the amount of loss. However, even now the specialists say that the fire could re-ignite because of the insufficient fire control system at the warehouse. -- Lloyd's Agents.

WILDFIRES, RUSSIA

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thirty five wildfires have engulfed 1,280 hectares of forests in Russia's Far East. The biggest one was ravaging at 500 hectares of taiga in the Maritime territory, the Far Eastern Centre for Emergency Situations said today. More than 290 people, 17 aircraft and two dozen heavy ground machines were involved in the firefighting efforts.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Strong wind more than doubled the size of a forest fire outside Fort Yukon, but the blaze remained north of the Porcupine River, keeping the community out of immediate danger. Fire officials said the Sheenjek River fire, fanned by winds to 30 mph, grew from 23,500 acres early Saturday (Jun 18) to 59,000 acres by Saturday night. Wind diminished somewhat yesterday, but inclement weather in Fairbanks kept airplanes grounded and no new assessment, information officer Tom Kempton said. Weekend rain that doused much of the state did not reach the fire, Kempton said. By Friday, the flames had covered 15,000 acres, and winds gusting to 35 mph pushed that number to 23,500 by early Saturday. Fort Yukon, a community of about 600, is at the confluence of the Yukon and Porcupine rivers 145 miles northeast of Fairbanks. The west flank of the fire remains eight miles from Fort Yukon, Kempton said. Helicopters dropped water loads Sunday, but the bad weather kept CL-15 fixed-wing scooper tankers from flying out of Fairbanks, Kempton said. Crews were busy trying to stop a westerly spread of the fire. Others were working along the southern edge attempting to protect Alaska Native land allotments and cabins, Kempton said. About 250 firefighters are working on the fire out of Fort Yukon and four spike camps.

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews continue to battle a wildland fire in Brunswick Canyon that has consumed 730 acres as of 0730 today. The Badger fire is burning in pinon and juniper trees on federal land in the south-west portion of Brunswick Canyon, said Lee Miller, spokeswoman with the Sierra Front Interagency Dispatch Centre. Brunswick Canyon is about four miles east of Carson City. Miller said nine engines, one bulldozer, six crews and seven aircraft were working the blaze. Two additional tankers were ordered by 1900 hrs, she said. The fire, that started at 1537 hrs, was an estimated mile and a half long at 1830 yesterday.

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Wildfires raced through a national forest in Arizona and a desert community in Southern California yesterday, burning several homes and threatening hundreds more in an outbreak fueled by gusting winds and scorching temperatures. A 4,500-acre grass fire in California raced through the Mojave Desert

about 100 miles east of Los Angeles, an area that includes about 2,000 ranches and homes, said Dave Dowling, a spokesman for the San Bernardino County Fire Department. Although the flames had threatened as many as 700 homes at one point, only seven had burned and about two dozen remained in danger by late afternoon, said California Department of Forestry spokesman Bill Peters. A second fire, about 35 miles away, burned more than 2,000 acres but was not threatening any structures, authorities said. In Nevada, firefighters took advantage of calm winds to tame a fire that burned 750 acres near Carson City and sent up a plume of swirling smoke visible 30 miles to the north. No homes were threatened and no injuries were reported.



5N-BCF

London, Jun 20 -- Boeing 727, 5N-BCF, operator Chanchangi Airlines, with 129 persons on board, overshot the flooded runway at Lagos-Murtala Muhammed Airport, Nigeria, by about 100 metres on landing and came to rest in a drainage ditch at 0915, Jun 12. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. There were no fatalities.

5Y-SFE

London, June 20 -- Hawker Siddeley HS-748, 5Y-SFE, operator 748 Air Services, suffered landing gear problems, causing the airplane to end up on its belly, blocking Lokichoggio Airport's single 1800-metre runway 09/27 at around 1300, June 10. Later that day at 1455 hrs Lockheed L-100 Hercules S9-BAS, operating for United Nations World Food Program, leased from Transafrik, attempted to land on the remaining runway. The airplane made a hard landing, causing the fuselage to break in two, just behind the wing. Both aircraft formed part of an air-bridge consisting of several planes from various aid organisations that transported food from Lokichokio to Sudan.

ACCIDENTS, LOKICHOKIO, KENYA

See 5Y-SFE.

AIRCRAFT DAMAGED, ALTONA, MANITOBA, CANADA

See "Canada" under "Weather & Navigation."

C-GGTR

London, Jun 17 -- Cessna A188B Ag Truck, C-GGTR, operated by Unger Holdings, was engaged in a low level canola seeding operation near Altona, MB. While the pilot was aligning the aircraft for the next pass the aircraft's right wing contacted the soft earth and the aircraft yawed violently to the

right and struck the ground at 1825, CDT, Jun 13. The pilot sustained serious injuries and the aircraft was destroyed. TSB investigators were deployed to the site to assess the occurrence.

CRASH INTO BURNTWOOD RIVER, MANITOBA, CANADA

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated Jun 20, states: An investigation is underway after a float plane crashed near Thompson on Saturday (Jun 18), killing its pilot. The aircraft crashed into the Burntwood River about two kilometres north of the seaplane base around 1630 Saturday afternoon. Two passengers survived the crash but were unable to free the pilot. They swam ashore to get help, then walked a kilometre through thick forest before they reached a home. Meanwhile, the aircraft drifted downriver, making it difficult for emergency officials to find it. After three hours of searching, the aircraft was located and the 47-year-old pilot pulled from the cockpit. He was pronounced dead on the scene. Officials believe strong winds may have been a factor in the crash. In its investigation, the Transportation Safety Board will examine weather conditions as well as the mechanical condition of the 60-year-old aircraft and how it was flown.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF BINTULU, MALAYSIA

London, Jun 20 - A press report, dated Jun 18, states: A Malaysia Helicopter Services (MHS) chopper crashed at sea near the Shell Malaysia B11 oil rig, some 170km off Bintulu in Sarawak, at about noon, today, but all 13 people on board, including the two pilots, are safe. Shell Malaysia said all the 11 passengers -- eight Malaysians, two New Zealanders and a Briton -- and the Malaysian pilots were evacuated by another helicopter to Miri for observation and medical treatment. One of the passengers is reported to have sustained bruises, according to Shell Malaysia officials who were contacted. The oil company said all family members of the passengers and pilots had been notified. "The company's emergency response team continues to monitor the situation and will lend full assistance to later investigations into the incident," it said. The oil company said the mishap happened at about 1205 hrs when the helicopter, on a routine flight, encountered difficulties near the B11 platform and crashed into the water. The chopper, one of three contracted from MHS for Shell Malaysia's upstream activities, was enroute to B11 from the Miri helibase.

CRASH, FRANKLIN, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated Jun 21, states: This afternoon, authorities using a helicopter sighted what appeared to be airplane wreckage on a mountain in Franklin in Sussex County, according to state Trooper Stephen Jones. A search party

was on its way up the mountain on foot to take a closer look shortly after 1700 hrs, he said. Authorities said the material could be parts of a single-engine Cessna that disappeared from radar while flying over the hilly northern woodlands near Sussex Airport about 0730 hrs, Sunday (Jun 19). The pilot was identified as Roland Anthony Melanson, 58, of Wantage. The Cessna 182 left Sussex Airport for Sikorsky Memorial Airport in Stratford, Conn., on Sunday, officials said. The plane was only four miles south of the airport, in the Hardyston Township area, when radar showed the pilot starting to turn back and then the aircraft disappeared, the FAA said.

CRASH, HAMILTON, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated Jun 21, states: Searchers located a downed helicopter and two bodies today after a nearly three-day hunt in thick woods in southern New Jersey. The helicopter was found near the Atlantic City Expressway in Hamilton Township, state Trooper Stephen Jones said. "The ship was fairly intact, but both occupants were found dead," Jones said. They were believed to be Thomas Navickas, 61, of Clearwater, Fla., and Christian Gafke, 34, of New Orleans, he said. The cause of the crash was not immediately known. Bulldozers from the state Forest Fire Service began ploughing a path to the helicopter soon after it was found about 1230 hrs, Jones said. The helicopter went down near a highway exit about 12 miles northwest of Atlantic City International Airport, said Jim Peters of the Federal Aviation Administration. The helicopter took off from Elmer, Salem County, and was reported overdue Sunday (Jun 19) afternoon for an expected refuelling at Hammonton Airport in Atlantic County.

CRASH, MISSOULA, MONTANA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two Missoula men survived the crash of a twin-engine private plane that went down and burned in a hayfield shortly after takeoff from Missoula International Airport about 0900 hrs, yesterday. Ed Lovrien, the plane's pilot, and his passenger, Scott Karr, were taking off on a job for MAP Inc., a Missoula aerial photography company, according to Missoula County Undersheriff Mike Dominick. Both suffered serious injuries, according to Dominick. The two men were sitting about 20 yards from the burning plane wreckage when fire department personnel reached the scene within minutes of being dispatched, Newman said. He said he didn't know how they got out of the plane, but no one was there to help them. The crash occurred at 0903 hrs, just after Lovrien radioed the airport's control tower and reported he had lost power in one engine of the 1966 twin-engine Cessna 320E and was losing altitude,

Dominick said. "The next call to the tower was that an aircraft had crashed," Dominick said. The plane crashed in a hayfield a couple of miles west of the airport, near LaValle Creek, between Mullan Road, West Broadway and Deschamps Lane, Newman said. The plane hit the ground at the top of a hill, Dominick said, and came to rest about 80 yards away near an irrigation ditch. Fire and rescue crews were hampered in reaching the crash site because of the difficult access, Newman said. About 15 fire and rescue personnel responded to the accident, he said, including the crew of two airport fire trucks, as well as two fire engines, two water-tank trucks and a wildland medical vehicle from the Missoula Rural Fire Department. The fire in the plane wreckage was extinguished in about 10 minutes, according to Newman. Only the tail section of the plane was intact after the crash, he said. The rest of the plane had significant fire damage. FAA officials from Helena were investigating the crash scene yesterday afternoon, said Joe Easton, interim director of the Missoula International Airport. Following the crash, Easton said, the airport was closed for 50 minutes for safety concerns. "We close the airport to be sure the situation is under control, locate the crash, and make sure planes about to take off are not at risk," he said.

CRASH, MOUNT SHASTA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated Jun 20, states: A 69-year-old Washington man was presumed dead after the small plane he was piloting crashed on the east side of Mount Shasta, the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department said today. Robert F. Ayres, of Ferndale, Wash., was flying home from a visit with his family in Southern California on Saturday (Jun 18) when his plane crashed, the sheriff's department said in a news release. Authorities did not know if anyone else was on board at the time. Ayres left Gillespie Airport near Santee at about 0930 hrs, Saturday, but did not file a flight plan because the airport was not open. Based on previous trips Ayres made, authorities believe he refueled his Piper Cherokee in Red Bluff before beginning the last leg of his trip to the airport in Bellingham, Wash., where he kept his plane. The Civil Air Patrol was notified Saturday evening that a satellite signal had been picked up in the area by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center in Langley, Va., the sheriff's department said. Crews have been unable to get to the crash scene because of strong winds and extremely high avalanche danger, but the sheriff's department said that based on photos from the scene there appeared to be no survivors.

CRASH, NAPLES, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated Jun 20, states: Federal

investigators were today going over the wreckage of a small plane that crash-landed in North Naples. The pilot and student pilot aboard the Cessna 152 escaped serious injuries following the 1845 hrs, yesterday, crash in a field at the corner of Vanderbilt Beach Road and County Road 951, sheriff's spokeswoman Kristin Adams said. According to sheriff's reports: the crash in North Naples happened after instructor Joachin Kromboln, 22, and student pilot Karl Collacchi, 31, reported that their two-seat Cessna 152 was having engine problems. The two were returning to Naples from Fort Pierce. Kromboln took over the controls after the plane's engine stopped. The instructor steered the aircraft into the field, where it crashed through a fence and into a light pole next to an access road for the Sweetbay grocery store. The plane was heavily damaged, but Collacchi walked away from the wreckage uninjured and Kromboln was treated for a minor cut to his hand. The wrecked plane was towed to Naples Municipal Airport. Investigators from the Federal Aviation Administration were sent to the airport today to investigate the accident and to look over the damaged plane, agency spokesman Butch Wilson said.

CRASH, SALA AREA, SWEDEN

Gothenburg, Jun 21 -- A helicopter with six persons onboard crashed this morning at Sala. During take off, one of the blades hit a tree and the helicopter crashed to the ground at around 0930, this morning. The reason for the crash is not known yet. A 100 year old man was taken to hospital at Upsala by an ambulance helicopter whereas the others on board were taken by ambulance to a hospital at Vasteras. A full investigation and average commission will be presented later. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Swedish man celebrating his 100th birthday with a helicopter ride survived a crash today, along with five other people, including his son, grandson and great-grandson, police said. Carl Zetterlund was to fly to the Stockholm archipelago with his son, grandson and 7-year-old great-grandson from a nursing home in Heby, about 60 miles north-west of the capital, Stockholm, police spokesman Ulf Palm said. But something went wrong shortly after the helicopter took off, and its rotor blades clipped a tree and a lamp post before the aircraft went down in a cloud of dust and smoke. The four family members, along with the pilot and a nursing home worker on board, escaped with cuts and bruises, Palm said. After the 100-year-old was pulled from the wreck, he was flown on another helicopter to Uppsala University Hospital, where he was in stable condition, hospital officials said. A local TV crew filming the family gathering got dramatic footage of the crash. Their video showed the rotor blades of the Lithuanian-registered MI-2 helicopter hitting a tree, then clipping the top off a lamp post.

CRASH, SARASOTA, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: A seaplane hit an elementary school in Sarasota and crashed yesterday, bursting into flames and killing the pilot, officials said. According to the Federal Aviation Administration, the Seawind 3000 departed from Sarasota en route to Venice. The pilot reported a problem and tried to turn back. But the aircraft clipped the roof of the Tuttle Elementary School and then crashed. The FAA doesn't have any information about ground injuries. The aircraft was registered to Wilfred Frost of Newalla, Okla.

CRASH, SENATH, MISSOURI, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated Jun 19, states: The pilot of a crop-dusting plane is dead after his plane crashed into a radio tower in Senath, Missouri last night. Federal Aviation officials are investigating the scene today. No one else was aboard the plane and no injuries on the ground were reported. The pilot apparently clipped a wire supporting the tower and lost control. The plane then crashed to the ground along with the 1,100 foot tower.

CRASH, TURIN, ITALY

London, Jun 17 -- A press report, dated Jun 16, states: A helicopter crashed on the slalom ski slope for the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin today, injuring the pilot and a worker on the ground, organisers of the games said. The helicopter was ferrying a load of light poles to illuminate the slope in Sestriere at night during the Feb 10-26 games, said Claudio Agnese, spokesman for the management arm of the organising committee. Neither the pilot nor the worker appeared to be seriously injured and were taken to a hospital in Turin, Agnese said. "The helicopter was hovering very close to the ground, due to the work required," he said, adding that officials would investigate the crash. Sestriere's mayor told the ANSA news agency he saw the crash from a window at city hall. "We saw it spin like a top and then crash to the ground. Then there were flames and a tall column of smoke," Mayor Andrea Maria Colarelli told the agency.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BEVERLY AIRPORT, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A pilot walked away without injuries this afternoon after his small aircraft made an emergency landing at Beverly Airport. FAA spokesman Jim Peters says the pilot of a twin-engine Piper Navajo reported a "rough-running engine" shortly after taking off from Beverly Airport around noon. The pilot decided to return to the airport, where he landed on the grass. The pilot was the only person aboard the aircraft. He was taken to a local hospital for observation. The FAA is sending

investigators to the scene. The aircraft belongs to Northeast Equipment Leasing Corporation of Somerville.

EMERGENCY LANDING, GRAND CAYMAN, CAYMAN ISLANDS

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: An American Airlines Boeing 757 carrying nearly 200 people made an emergency landing in Grand Cayman today after stopping in Miami, and two passengers suffered minor injuries, officials said. "The pilot declared an emergency after a problem with the de-icing equipment," airlines spokesman John Hotard said. "As the plane was clearing 28,000 feet on its descent into Grand Cayman, the aircraft experienced moderate turbulence." American flight 953 had originated in New York City at LaGuardia airport, stopped in Miami and was on its way to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The 188 passengers and six crew members were staying overnight in Grand Cayman, waiting for another aircraft to arrive and take them on their final leg of the journey, Hotard said. One passenger suffered a scraped foot and it was not clear what happened to the second, but both were taken to the hospital and treated for minor injuries, Hotard said by telephone from the airline's headquarters in Dallas.

EMERGENCY LANDING, ITAMI AIRPORT, OSAKA, JAPAN

London, Jun 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: An All Nippon Airways passenger aircraft made an emergency landing at an Osaka airport today morning after reporting that the cockpit was filled with smoke while in flight, firefighters said, adding that no one was injured. The aircraft, which was bound for Kochi, returned to Itami airport, which serves Osaka, just past 1100 hrs but there was no fire onboard, they said. Smoke from somewhere in the aircraft is believed to have entered the cockpit through a duct, they said.

London, Jun 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: An All Nippon Airways twin-propeller passenger aircraft on a domestic flight made an emergency landing at Osaka airport this morning after reporting that smoke had filled the cockpit two minutes after take-off, airport officials said, adding that no one was injured. The Bombardier, bound for Kochi with 60 passengers and four crewmembers, returned to the airport at 1109 after the incident occurred at around 1050. There was no fire onboard. The smoke came from the air outlet of an air-conditioner in the cabin, said officials of the Land, Infrastructure and Transport Ministry's office at the airport. Passengers said the cabin was also filled with smoke at the time of landing.

EMERGENCY LANDING, KANSAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, OSAKA, JAPAN

London, Jun 21 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Japan Airlines aircraft enroute to Okinawa made an emergency landing today at Kansai

International Airport due to engine trouble, airport authorities said. The JAL aircraft from Tokyo's Haneda airport landed safely at around 2140 hrs, they said

**EMERGENCY LANDING,
PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT, CALIFORNIA,
UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Cessna 210 aircraft out of Thermal made an emergency landing at Palm Springs International Airport this morning. No injuries were reported and officials with the National Transportation Safety Board are on scene investigating the incident, said airport spokesman Bryant Francis. At about 1030 hrs, the aircraft's pilot reported some kind of trouble with the landing gear. The aircraft, however, was able to land with the landing gear in the up position. Palm Springs firefighters were on scene working to remove the aircraft from the runway onto a flatbed truck. Francis said there were two people in the privately-owned aircraft.

**EMERGENCY LANDING,
QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA**

London, Jun 20 -- A press report, dated today, states: A light aircraft with three people aboard was forced to make an emergency landing in far north Queensland today. A police spokesman said a mayday was received from the aircraft around 1350, AEST, and a helicopter and three fixed-wing aircraft were used in the search. The aircraft was spotted at 1530 hrs near the Kendall River between Aurukun and Pormpuraan on the western side of Cape York. Police said the three people on board did not appear to have suffered any major injuries. A helicopter was on route to take them to Weipa for medical checks.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, TEHRAN,
IRAN**

London, Jun 19 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Northwest Airlines DC-10 made an emergency landing in Tehran today after reporting a technical problem in its cargo section, airport officials said. The aircraft was en route from Bombay to Amsterdam with 255 passengers and crew, according to a spokesman for the Iranian civil aviation authority. No injuries were reported. The aircraft was expected to continue its trip after repairs, Iranian authorities said. Northwest Airlines is headquartered in Eagan, Minn.

**EMERGENCY LANDING,
VENANGO REGIONAL AIRPORT,
OHIO, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 17 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Emergency crews were put on alert this morning when a private airplane with a cargo of puppies had to make an emergency landing at the Venango Regional Airport after experiencing engine and instrument problems. The pilot, a

passenger and the 15 puppies in individual cages were uninjured as the small plane touched down without incident at about 1015 hrs, officials said. Air traffic controllers at the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport in Ohio called the local airport at about 0945 hrs after the single-engine aircraft reportedly experienced engine and instrument troubles while in area skies, said Otho Bell, manager of the Franklin airport. Youngstown controllers requested the Franklin airport put its emergency equipment on standby as the Piper Cherokee was diverted there, Bell said. A commuter aircraft from USAir Express circled the local airport and was held up for about 20 minutes until the private aircraft and emergency crews were cleared from Runway 21 where the private aircraft touched down.

HK-3014

London, Jun 21 -- Cessna 185, HK-3014, operated by Saer, as an air taxi flight, crashed into a residential area during a forced landing while on approach to Benitos Salas Airport, Nevia, Colombia, at approximately 1700, AST, Jun 1. The co-pilot and one of the passengers were killed. The pilot and two of the passengers, and three persons on the ground, were seriously injured.

**INCIDENT AT HANEDA AIRPORT,
TOKYO, JAPAN**

London, Jun 17 -- A press report, dated today, states: A transport ministry investigation panel suspects low air pressure in the right tyre of a Japan Airlines Corp aircraft's nose gear was too low, causing it and the left tyre to blow and the wheels to eventually break off on landing at Tokyo's Haneda airport on Wednesday (Jun 15), officials said. The tyres of the JAL Boeing 767-600 came off on landing Wednesday morning, causing the nose wheels to be destroyed as the aircraft came to a stop on the runway. The ministry's Aircraft and Railway Accident Investigation Committee believes the air pressure on the right tyre was too low, causing the tyre to rupture and come off on contact with the ground, according to the officials. The damage to the right tyre found on the taxiway indicated it had low pressure when it touched the ground, the officials said. The committee said it was possible the nitrogen gas in the tyre leaked out due to small cracks on the right wheel, a problem with the tyre itself or poor maintenance, according to the officials. Committee investigators suspect that after the right tyre came off, the left tyre burst under the full weight of the aircraft. Two of the 210 passengers on the JAL Flight, which was arriving from New Chitose Airport, reported neck pain. After checking the damage, JAL said Wednesday evening that the left tyre had apparently ruptured.

**INCIDENT AT MANCHESTER
AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM**

Karachi, Jun 18 -- Pakistan International Airlines said this

morning that one its 747's, flying from New York to Karachi, was grounded for over 30 hours after a technical problem developed as one of its engine covers fell off as it landed at Manchester Airport. The spokesman said a team of airline's engineer was immediately sent to Manchester by PK-715, while the passengers were taken to hotels. It was reported that the cowling of the 747 became detached as it landed on one of the runways at Manchester Airport. It was spotted by the pilot of a British Airways' aircraft, which was about to take off. PK-722, carrying 289 passengers and two bodies, was scheduled to reach Karachi at 2230, Thursday (Jun 16). However, it landed at 0730 today. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

N1A

London, Jun 17 -- Goodyear GZ-20A, N1A, operated by Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co, crashed into a public storage facility approximately nine miles west of Pompano Beach, Florida, at 2252, local time, Jun 16. The blimp was forced down by a thunderstorm. Damage unknown and no injuries are reported.

N317MY

London, Jun 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: A helicopter with eight people on board has crashed into New York's East River, four days after a tourist helicopter went down in the same river. Today's crash occurred near the United Nations' riverside headquarters in Manhattan. Eyewitnesses said the helicopter sank within one minute of hitting the water. "At this point we have no casualties," a fire department spokeswoman said, adding that everyone on board had been rescued from the river and at least two had been taken to hospital. "We're treating the others on site," the spokeswoman said. The precise cause of the crash was not immediately known, but one eyewitness told ABC television that he heard a loud bang and then saw the helicopter go down in the river.

London, Jun 21 -- Sikorsky S-76C, N317MY, owned by Corporate Aviation Inc, crashed shortly after take-off, into the East River, New York, at 1650, Jun 16. There were seven persons on board, of which one was seriously injured.

N8768F

London, Jun 17 -- Hughes 269A N8768F crashed near Rusk, Texas, at 1445, Jun 15. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The one person on board was killed.

N925UA

London, Jun 21 -- United Airlines Boeing 737-522, N925UA, was being towed by a tractor for re-positioning at the gate at Wichita, in the moving process, the tow bar was disconnected, and aircraft rolled into Airtrans Boeing 717-200, N996AT, that was parked, at 1215, May 22. Both aircraft

sustained damage. There were no passengers on board, no injuries reported.

N996AT

See N925UA.

S9-BAS

See 5Y-SFE.

Space Vehicles



MOLNIA-M

London, Jun 21 -- A Russian rocket carrying a military satellite into orbit crashed to earth in Siberia soon after launch today, Russian news agencies reported. Officials said they believed no one on the ground had been hurt when the unmanned Molnia-M rocket came down in the thinly populated Tyumen region in western Siberia. The rocket was launched from the Plesetsk military cosmodrome. Helicopters were being used to help search for wreckage from the rocket, officials said. "The military communications satellite has not been delivered into orbit because the rocket ... suffered engine failure," Itar Tass news agency quoted Alexei Kuznetsov, a spokesman for Russia's military space program, as saying.

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated Jun 21, states: An unmanned Russian rocket carrying a military satellite has crashed to Earth in Siberia soon after its launch, Russian news agencies have reported. Officials say they believe no one on the ground was hurt when the Molniya-M rocket came down in a thinly-populated region of Siberia. The rocket was launched from the Plesetsk military cosmodrome. Helicopters were used to search for wreckage from the rocket, a spokesman for the Russian Space forces said. "The military communications satellite has not been delivered into orbit because the rocket...suffered engine failure," Alexei Kuznetsov, of Russia's military space programme, said. The Molniya-M lifted off normally, officials said, but the second and third stages failed to separate in the sixth minute and the rocket crashed down into the isolated region of Tyumen, Siberia. According to the Space Forces, there are no reports of damages on the ground and the environmental impact will be "minimal" since the main fuel components are kerosene and liquid oxygen. "Either the third-stage engine failed, or the control system did not respond to a command to separate," Russian Space Agency chief Anatoly Perminov told Interfax news agency. Military prosecutors have opened a criminal investigation into a possible violation of flight rules, Interfax said.

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Mi-8 helicopter and AN-2 aircraft today continue the search for the Molnia-M carrier rocket

that fell after an aborted launch in the Uvatsk district of the Tyumen region at about 0700, local time, Tuesday (Jun 21). Yesterday, the search party examined from the helicopter and aircraft an area of 140x70 kilometres in the centre of the Uvatsk district, according to head of the regional emergencies department Alexander Ogorodnikov. He said, "Neither fragments of the rocket nor signs of its fall were detected." Specialists continue the search in the same area today. (See issue of Jun 22.)

Product Recalls



CHILDREN'S FISHING POLES, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Jun 17 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of about 438,000 Children's Fishing Kits in voluntary co-operation with Shakespeare Fishing Tackle Division, of Columbia, S.C. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The paint on the rods of these fishing poles contains lead. Lead is toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health effects. The firm has not received any reports of complaints related to this product. This voluntary recall is being conducted to prevent any possibility of injury or illness. The recalled Shakespeare brand fishing kits feature the following characters: TAZ (Tazmanian Devil), Tweety, Mucha Lucha and Spider-Man. Other fishing kits feature Fishing Heroes, sold with a silver-coloured badge; Kids Kits, sold with tackle boxes; and Shark and Dolphin Kits, which have reels in the shape of a shark or dolphin. The fishing kits have brightly coloured red and yellow fishing rods, and "Shakespeare" is written on the reels. Fishing kits with purple, blue and pink rods are not included in this recall. Certain translucent red and yellow and metallic-coloured red rods also are not included in this recall. Sold at discount department, sporting good and toy stores nation-wide from August 2001 through June 2005 for between \$9 and \$13. Manufactured in China. Consumers should stop using the recalled fishing poles and contact Shakespeare Fishing Tackle for information on receiving a free replacement fishing kit. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

GO-KARTS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Jun 21 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with FF Acquisition Wheeled Goods Corp. of West Point, Miss., today announced a voluntary recall of about 10,000 Yerf-Dog Go-Karts. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The suspension assembly can crack causing the rider

to lose control of the go-kart. The manufacturer has received five reports of the suspension assembly cracking and causing the rider to lose control, including reports of bruises and head and back injuries. This recall involves one- and two-seater model Yerf-Dog Spiderbox series go-karts. The go-karts have full suspension and 150cc engines. Date codes and model numbers are located on a plate attached to the engine casing. Date codes and model numbers included in this recall are: 3206, July 20, 2004 through March 4, 2005. 4209, July 20, 2004 through February 18, 2005. 42092, July 20, 2004 through November 22, 2004. 42093, August 9, 2004 through November 19, 2004. 42101, July 28, 2004 through October 12, 2004. Sold at Yerf-Dog dealers nation-wide from July 2004 through May 2005 for between \$1,500 and \$1,800. Manufactured in United States. Consumers should stop using the recalled go-karts immediately and contact FF Acquisition Wheeled Goods for repair information. Registered owners will be notified directly about the recall.

IMPLANTED HEART DEVICES, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 18 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of heart patients must decide whether to have surgery to remove their defibrillators after a company recalled 50,000 of the implanted devices, which are supposed to shock the heart back into a normal rhythm. Guidant Corp. said yesterday it was advising physicians about the safety of several defibrillator models, including 28,900 that could develop a short circuit and another 21,000 that could malfunction due to a computer memory error. At least two patients with defibrillators made by the Indianapolis-based company have died, and Guidant said its devices had failed at least 45 times. The Food and Drug Administration advised patients to talk to their doctors and said it would not recommend whether individual patients with one of the recalled devices should have them removed and replaced. The company said people who recently received a defibrillator shock should consult their physicians. An implantable defibrillator, smaller than a pack of cigarettes, is intended to sense an irregular heart rhythm and shock the heart back into correct beating. Vice President Dick Cheney has one made by another company, Minneapolis-based Medtronic. The devices are implanted under the collarbone and one or more wires are threaded into the chambers of the heart. The recall came less than a month after The New York Times reported that Guidant failed to alert physicians about a potential problem with the Ventak Prizm 2 DR model defibrillator, one of those included in the recall. Patients with the Contak Renewal and Renewal 2 also are affected; all three models will be replaced at no charge because of the short-circuit problem. More

than 20,000 of those models are used by Americans. Also being recalled are the Ventak Prizm AVT; Vitality AVT; Renewal 3 AVT; and Renewal 4 AVT ICDs. The company said those models can be reprogrammed at a doctor's office without being removed to fix a potential computer memory error. Some 18,000 of those are used by U.S. patients. Overall, the company said about 63,000 of the devices had been implanted, with nearly 50,000 still in use. Company spokeswoman Annette Ruzicka said the devices cost between \$20,000 and \$35,000. Vanderbilt University Medical Center cardiologist Jeff Rottman said he was not surprised by the recall and expected to hear from concerned patients over the weekend. "My view is these are extraordinarily complex and truly amazing technologically sophisticated devices," he said. "That they have problems and failures isn't at all surprising. But their communication was poor." Dr. David M. Salerno, a cardiac electrophysiologist at the Chattanooga Heart Institute in Tennessee, said about 50 of his patients have the potentially faulty defibrillators. "I don't think every patient with one of these should panic," Salerno said. "There's no defibrillator out there that's infallible." FDA spokeswoman Julie Zawisza emphasized that the recall was voluntary. "Patient safety is paramount and our highest priority," Guidant CEO Ronald W. Dollens said in a statement. "Guidant takes

seriously its responsibility to create the most reliable products and services, enhance patient outcome and limit adverse events to patients." A lawyer representing a Pennsylvania man who sued Guidant on Jun 1 over the faulty defibrillators disagreed, saying yesterday's recall supports the lawsuit's allegations. His client, John Brennan, 74, claims the company is financially liable to all patients implanted with one of its heart defibrillators because it did not tell them the devices could short-circuit. "This is a health products corporation who for three years sold ticking time bombs, knowing they were doing so," Indianapolis attorney Irwin Levin said. Shares of Guidant fell \$1.20, or 1.6%, to close at \$72.46 in trading on the New York Stock Exchange, where they have traded in a 52-week range of \$49.95 to \$75.15.

PEUGEOT MOTOR VEHICLES, SCANDINAVIA

London, Jun 22 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: French automaker Peugeot today widened a recall of cars in the Nordic countries to nearly 60,000 of its 307 models. PSA Peugeot Citroen SA last week recalled 28,000 cars in Norway, Denmark and Sweden after it found a short-circuit had caused at least nine 307s to burst into flames. The problem was found in models made from 2001 to 2003. But Peugeot widened the recall today in Norway and Denmark to include all 307 models in an

attempt to restore consumer confidence. That means owners of another 15,000 vehicles in Denmark and 9,000 in Norway were asked to bring their cars to Peugeot dealers for a checkup. Another 5,000 models would be recalled in Finland. Jens Andersen, a spokesman for Peugeot in Denmark, said the additional recalls were meant to calm owners of the 307 and "to get a complete overview of the problem." The expanded recall was only necessary in Denmark and Norway, said Maria Lantz, a company spokeswoman in Sweden.



GREECE

See under "Labour Disputes."

ITALY

Genoa, Jun 20 -- Port situation Jun 20: Genoa: One general cargo 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. One vessel awaiting special berth. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ROMANIA

See under "Labour Disputes."

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		
Apscheron	20-Jun-2005	Oil products: Three vessels at berth of which 2 discharging (1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil), 1 waiting to discharge crude oil.
Baku	20-Jun-2005	Oil products: Bay of Baku: No information; Azerneftiyag terminal: no information; Azertrans terminal: Nobel Avenue: 1 vessel discharging naphtha at berth; 2 vessels due by 21/6 to discharge (1 gasoil, 1 other); Sangachal District: no vessels.
Brazil		
Paranagua	21-Jun-2005	Fourteen vessels berthed of which 2 sugar loaders, 2 pellets loaders, 2 soya loaders, 3 fertiliser dischargers, 1 reefer loader, 4 other loaders/dischargers; 23 vessels waiting in roads, of which 16 to load (1 reefer, 6 pellets, 2 soya, 3 sugar, 4 other vessels), 7 to discharge fertiliser; 44 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Santos	21-Jun-2005	Eighteen vessels berthed of which 6 sugar loaders, 1 other loader/discharger, 1 bulk salt discharger, 1 wheat discharger, 1 bulk oil loader, 3 chemical products loaders/dischargers, 2 soya loaders, 2 fertiliser dischargers, 1 full container loader/discharger; 21 vessels waiting in roads; 31 vessels due over the next 7 days; Private terminals: Terminal 37: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Tecondi: no vessels; Termars: no vessels; Rodrimar: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Cosipa: 3 steel products loaders; Ultrafertil: 1 fertiliser discharger; Cargill: 1 bulk sugar loader; Santos Brasil: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Cutrale: 1 pellets loader; Dow: no vessels.
Rio Grande	21-Jun-2005	Three vessels berthed of which 1 phosphate discharger, 1 ammonium nitrate discharger, 1 fertiliser discharger; 7 vessels waiting in roads; 25 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Sao Sebastiao	21-Jun-2005	Six vessels berthed, 1 waiting in roads; 3 vessels due over the next 10 days.

Port Conditions

Vitoria	21-Jun-2005	No vessels berthed; Terminal Vila Velha: 1 granite loader, 1 container loader/discharger; Tubarao: 1 soya loader, 1 coils loader, 3 iron ore loaders; Praia Mole: 3 steel products loaders, 1 iron ore discharger, 1 coal discharger; Portocel: 2 cellulose loaders; Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 23 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	20-Jun-2005	Seven vessels in port of which 5 loading (1 empty, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 (Jun 20) copper anodes, 1 coils, 1 scrap), 2 discharging (1 concrete iron, 1 pig iron); 5 vessels in roads of which 4 to load (2 empty, 1 repair, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate), 1 to discharge coal; 9 vessels due of which 6 to load (1 container, 1 coils, 1 steel sheets, 1 barite concentrate, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 coke), 3 to discharge (1 container, 1 pig iron, 1 iron ore).
Varna	20-Jun-2005	Varna East, Varna West, Balchik: Thirty vessels in port operating of which 19 (Jun 19) loading (1 bran, 7 bulk wheat, 4 soda, 2 silica sand, 1 kaolin, 1 manganese ore, 1 TSP, 1 bulk maize, 1 chamote, 1 hard board), 5 discharging (1 raw phosphate, copper concentrate, 2 bulk coal, 1 petroleum coke, 6 containers), 6 discharging/loading containers.
Chile		
Antofagasta	21-Jun-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 14 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers, general cargo.
Arica	21-Jun-2005	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 14 vessels due this week.
Iquique	21-Jun-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 12 vessels due this week.
San Antonio	21-Jun-2005	Six vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 22 vessels due this week.
San Vicente	21-Jun-2005	Three vessels berthed, 2 berths vacant; 14 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	21-Jun-2005	Two vessels berthed, 6 berths vacant; 2 vessels at anchorage: 10 vessels due this week.
Cyprus		
Limassol	21-Jun-2005	Five container vessels discharging/loading at berth; 1 conventional vessel discharging at berth; 10 vessels due 22/6 of which 4 containers, 1 Ro/Ro, 5 passenger vessels; no delays expected
Egypt		
Adabiya	20-Jun-2005	Ten vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 4 general cargo, 5 bulk carriers, 1 tanker.
Alexandria	20-Jun-2005	Thirty-six vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 22 general cargo, 8 bulk carriers, 3 container vessels, 3 tankers; 19 vessels at inner anchorage, 9 at outer anchorage; 12 vessels dry-docked.
Damietta	20-Jun-2005	Twenty-one vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 12 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 Ro/Ro, 4 container vessels; 1 vessel at inner anchorage, 8 at outer anchorage,
Dekheila	20-Jun-2005	Ten vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 1 general cargo, 9 bulk carriers; 1 vessel at outer anchorage.
Port Said	20-Jun-2005	Nine vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 3 general cargo, 6 container vessels.
Suez	20-Jun-2005	Nine vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 2 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier, 2 reefers, 4 passenger vessels; 3 tug boats; 2 vessels dry-docked.
Suez Canal	20-Jun-2005	Nineteen vessels transiting Northbound, 25 Southbound.
Estonia		
Tallinn	20-Jun-2005	No labour problems. City port: No vessels at berth, none at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected; Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 2 vessels loading at berth (1 fertiliser, 1 cacao beans); 2 vessels due, with 8 days delay expected; Muuga: no vessels at berth, none at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected.
Georgia		
Batumi	21-Jun-2005	Oil products: Three vessels loading at berth (1 fuel oil, 2 crude oil); 2 vessels in roads, both to load (1 crude oil, 1 naphtha); 8 vessels due by 30/6, all to load (3 crude oil, 3 gasoil, 1 fuel oil, 1 gasoline).
India		
Kolkata	20-Jun-2005	5 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading General Cargo, 4 vessels discharging (Timber Logs-2, Containers-2); 1 vessel under repair. 2 vessels due (General Cargo, Pulses)
Haldia	20-Jun-2005	12 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading POL, 6 vessels discharging (POL-3, Sulphur, Rock Phosphate, Net Coke), 5 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 2 to load); 2 vessels due (Containers, Butadiene).
Paradip	20-Jun-2005	6 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading Chrome Concentrate, 4 vessels discharging (S.Coal-3, Machinery); 1 vessel awaiting berth to discharge; 5 vessels waiting at anchorage (3 to discharge, 2 to load).

Port Conditions

Visakhapatnam	20-Jun-2005	12 vessels operating at berth of which 6 loading (Iron ore-3, Feldspar, Thermal Coal, Soya Bean), 6 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, Met Coke, Steam Coal, Urea, Project Cargo); 5 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (4 to discharge, 1 to load); 31 vessels due (Iron Ore-7, Soya Bean-2, Feldspar-2, Granite Blocks, B.F.Slag-2, Alumina Powder, Containers, Methanol, Phosphoric Acid, Coking Coal-8, Styrene Monomer, Rock Phosphate-2, Hard Coking Coal, Molten Sulphur).
Chennai	20-Jun-2005	13 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Bary, IOL, Granite Block, Containers), 5 vessels discharging (S.Scrap-2, HM Scrap, Coal, Crude Oil), 4 vessels loading and discharging (Lubricant Oil, Cars, Granite Blocks/Steel pipes, Granite Blocks/Urea); 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge); 3 vessels due (S.Coal, Passenger, Containers).
Tuticorin	20-Jun-2005	9 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (General Cargo, Maize), 6 vessels discharging (Timber Logs-2, Thermal Coal-2, Ethyl Alcohol, Raw Sugar), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load.
Cochin	20-Jun-2005	6 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels discharging (Crude, Sulphur, Palmoil), 2 vessel loading and discharging containers, 1 vessel waiting to load General Cargo; 2 vessels awaiting berth (1 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge); 1 vessel awaiting order to discharge.
New Mangalore	20-Jun-2005	9 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (Iron ore Fines-4, POL Product, Iron ore (P), Containers), 2 vessels discharging (Timber Logs, LPG); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load); 16 vessels due (POL Product-2, Iron Ore Fines-2, Phosphoric Acid, Coal, POL Crude-2, Iron ore (P), Benzene, Granite Stone-4, Methanol, Ammonia).
Mormugao	20-Jun-2005	2 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading Iron Ore, 1 vessel discharging S.Coal; 1 vessel awaiting berth to discharge; 4 vessels under repairs/dry dock; 5 Iron Ore vessels due.
Mumbai	20-Jun-2005	9 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading General Cargo, 4 vessels discharging (Oil-2, Fertiliser (RM), POL), 4 vessels loading and discharging (Containers, General Cargo-3); 1 vessel awaiting order (1 to discharge, 1 to load); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load); 16 vessels under repairs/dry docked, 13 vessels under arrest, 21 vessel under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 12 vessels due (Containers-4, General Cargo-8).
J.N.P.T.	20-Jun-2005	7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading Naphtha, 1 discharging Furnace Oil, 5 vessels loading and discharging Containers.
Ennore	20-Jun-2005	1 Iron Ore vessel loading at mid stream; 3 vessels due
Kandla	20-Jun-2005	17 vessels operating at berth of which 12 discharging (Timber Logs-2, I.Scrap-3, Hr. Coils, POL-2, Chemical-2, Vegetable Oil, Phosphoric Acid), 4 vessels loading (Salt, Rice, Zinc Concentrate, C. Molasses), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 3 vessels awaiting berth (1 to discharge, 2 to load); 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge; 7 vessels due (Timber Logs, Salt, Agriculture Product, Phosphoric Acid, Butane, Chemical, Neptha).
Israel		
Ashdod	21-Jun-2005	Four general cargo vessels loading at berth, 13 vessels discharging at berth (10 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 6 vessels loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 1 tanker); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	21-Jun-2005	Three vessels discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 1 bulker), 10 vessels loading/discharging at berth (6 containers, 4 tankers); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 general cargo, 1 bulker), 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (2 containers, 4 tankers); 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 25 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	20-Jun-2005	Oil products: Three vessels loading crude oil at berth; 3 vessels in roads to load crude oil; 3 vessels due to load.
Mozambique		
Maputo	21-Jun-2005	Four vessels at berth of which 3 loading (1 sugar, 1 citrus, 1 steel bars), 1 discharging petcoke; 19 vessels due by 5/7 of which 6 to load, 9 to discharge, 4 to discharge/load containers.
Pakistan		
Karachi	20-Jun-2005	Four vessels loading at berth (2 rice, 1 cement, 1 ethanol), 8 discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 chemicals, 2 urea, 1 DAP, 1 general cargo, 1 phosphorus, 1 jute), 3 loading/discharging containers; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load containers, 5 waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 fertiliser, 1 general cargo, 2 crude oil, 1 MEG); 1 vessel awaiting orders; 2 vessels due (1 container, 1 MOL), with no delays expected.
Port Qasim	20-Jun-2005	Four vessels discharging at berth (1 palm oil, 1 sugar, 1 fertiliser, 1 paraxylene); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 coal, 2 palm oil); QICT berth: 2 vessels loading/discharging containers.

Port Conditions

Poland

Gdansk	20-Jun-2005	Two vessels in port operating of which 1 loading coal at berth, 1 tanker discharging at berth; 2 vessels in roads (1 bulker, 1 tanker): 10 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 21 vessels due.
Gdynia	20-Jun-2005	Three vessels in port operating of which 1 loading coal at berth, 2 discharging at berth (1 grain, 1 bulkers); 16 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 37 vessels due.

Russia

Novorossiysk	20-Jun-2005	Thirteen vessels in port operating of which 8 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 DRI, 1 copper, 1 scrap, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 aluminium, 1 wheat, 1 D/O), 4 discharging bulk sugar, 1 discharging/loading containers; 9 vessels in roads of which 6 to load (3 steel billets, 1 gulk cement, 1 paper, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 coal, 2 urea, 1 pipes), 3 to discharge bulk sugar; 41 vessels due of which 39 to load, 2 to discharge (1 bulk fertiliser, 1 copper ore); Oil terminal: 5 tankers in roads to load crude; 7 tankers due, all to load (6 crude oil, 1 fuel oil).
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Slovenia

Koper	20-Jun-2005	Eleven vessels berthed of which 2 vessels discharging/loading containers, 3 bulk carriers discharging ore/coal/minerals, 4 vessels loading paper products/sawn timber/general cargo, 1 Ro/Ros loading timber products/paper products, 1 reefer discharging refrigerated goods; 24 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 4 vessels to discharge/load containers, 1 bulk carrier to discharge cement, 4 bulk carriers to load coal, 1 vessel to discharge products, 6 vessels to load steel products/sawn timber/general cargo, 1 reefer to discharge refrigerated goods, 3 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 3 tankers to discharge mineral oils/liquid chemicals, 1 passenger vessel to discharge/load.
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Spain

Bilbao	20-21-Jun-2005	Thirty-two vessels in port operating (7 tankers, 25 others), of which 7 loading, 14 discharging, 11 loading/discharging.
Cadiz	20-21-Jun-2005	Nineteen vessels in port of which 7 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 1 sugar, 2 clinker, 1 oil), 2 (Jun 21) passenger vessels, 10 vessels under repair; no delays.
Sagunto	20-21-Jun-2005	Twenty vessels in port operating of which 2 loading (1 cement, 1 bulk fertiliser), 15 discharging (13 steel products, 1 vehicles, 1 anhydrous ammonia), 1 discharging/loading steel coils, 2 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo; Outside commercial wharf: no vessels; no delays expected..

Sri Lanka

Colombo	20-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 berthing at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion; conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 & 2 are facing delays in navigation after commissioning of SAGT 1 & 2 berths (former QEQ 1 & 2). Fifteen container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 16 vessels discharging at berth (15 containers/feeders, 1 bagged fertiliser); 4 vessels dry-docked, 1 under arrest; 1 vessel at new tanker berth; 8 vessels due (6 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement, 1 tanker), with no delays for general cargo, bagged cargo, containers/feeders expected.
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Turkmenistan

Aladja	20-Jun-2005	Oil products: One vessel due 20/6 to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	20-Jun-2005	Oil products: Two vessels loading at berth (1 gasoline, 1 heating oil); 5 vessels in roads, all to load (1 jet fuel, 2 gasoil, 1 kerosene, 1 other); 2 vessels due by 20/6 to load.

Ukraine

Ilichevsk	20-21-Jun-2005	Two vessels in port operating, both loading (1 ore, 1 wheat), 1 other; 2 vessels in (Jun 21) roads, both to load steel products; 25 vessels due of which 14 to load (10 steel products, 3 oil, 1 ore), 2 to discharge (1 steel products, 1 ore), 9 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	20-21-Jun-2005	Fourteen vessels in port operating of which 13 loading (6 steel, 2 fire-clay, 1 sun flower beans, 1 wheat, 1 coal, 2 sulphur), 1 to load/discharge groove/steel plates; 9 vessels in roads all to load (7 steel, 2 fire-clay); 37 vessels due of which 36 to load (17 steel, 10 coal, 8 fire-clay, 1 coke), 1 to discharge equipment..
Odessa	20-21-Jun-2005	Eighteen vessels in port operating of which 11 loading (8 metal, 1 scrap, 1 corn/wheat, 1 metal/wood), 6 discharging (3 passenger vessels, 1 baggage, 1 sugar, 1 equipment), 1 to load/discharge containers; 7 vessels in roads of which 4 load (2 metal, 1 wheat, 1 barley), 1 to discharge oil, 2 to load/discharge (1 sugar/wheat, 1 metal/wood); 47 vessels due of which 19 to load (16 metal, 1 wood, 1 oil, 1 cars), 4 to discharge (2 metal, 1 general cargo, 1 sugar), 24 to discharge/load containers.

Port Conditions

United States

Houston	21-Jun-2005	Pilots report normal 40 ft. 0 ins. max. draft in Houston ship channel; Cargill terminal: 1-2 days delay; LDC Dreyfus terminal: 1-2 days delay.
Kalama, WA	21-Jun-2005	Kalama export terminal: 4 days delay; United Harvest terminal: 2 days delay.
New Orleans	21-Jun-2005	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1-2 days delay expected; maintenance will be carried out from 26/6 to 10/7; Cargill-Westwego: 1 day's delay expected; ADM/Ama: 2-3 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 2-3 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 2-3 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: no delays; Peavey/Paulina: closed; planned re-opening 5/9; Zen-Noh/Convent: 1-2 days delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; maintenance being carried out until 5/9; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: no delays; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 2 days delay expected; Nine-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to increase to 4.5 ft. by 30/6. Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to New Orleans (Mile 090.0) - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 090) to Baton Rouge (Mile 233.5) - 45 ft. for all vessels; vessels with drafts up to 47 ft. have been handled up to Mile 180 in the past, but are approved by pilots on a case by case basis, based on current river conditions; Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 34 ft. from Buoy 1 - Mile 28.3 and 36 ft. from Mile 28.3 - Mile 66.9.
Portland, OR	21-Jun-2005	Columbia Grain terminal: 1 day's delay; CLD Irving terminal: no delays; CLD, O Dock terminals: 2 days delay.
Tacoma, WA	21-Jun-2005	Temco terminal: 2 days delay.

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