

Jun 16 2006

Smit steps up bid to remove Ocean Seraya bunker fuel

Extra equipment brought in to empty stricken bulk carrier's second tank, writes Shirish Nadkarni in Mumbai— Wednesday June 14 2006

SALVORS are still battling to remove bunker fuel from the bulk carrier Ocean Seraya, which broke in two after foundering on rocks off the Karwar coast in southern India.

"Pumping from fuel tank No 1 directly into the fuel tanks of the tug Onyx, anchored alongside, commenced on June 7 and is progressing," the vessel's managers said.

Smit Salvage, hired by the owners of the 2001-built, 38,906 dwt vessel, is arranging for pumping to begin from the stricken ship's No 2 bunker tank.

"The salvors have also arranged for extra pumping equipment to be available to ensure that pumping is as efficient as possible," said the Ocean Seraya's managers.

"Additional equipment, including disc skimmers, for removal of oil from damaged tanks is to be supplied by the Indian Coast Guard Authority."

The International Tanker Owners' Pollution Federation, which remained on site providing expert assistance to all involved in the casualty, reported that its focus had been to assist the coast guard and local authorities in containing the spread of the oil slick.

"On June 8 we carried out inspections of three separate beaches in southern Goa," said an Itopf spokesman.

"On the first, Polem Beach, we found only very scattered traces of oil contamination,

mostly tar balls. No contamination was reported on any of the rocky shores adjacent to the beach.

"On Talpona, the second beach investigated, only the occasional tar ball was found on the upper shore."

The third beach examined, Palolem, is a prime tourist location and local authorities had expressed concern in the early stages.

Following the cleaning up of scattered tar balls during the previous week, Itopf found only one in this location.

The federation also reported that fishing activity was observed at all three inspection

sites and there was apparently no concern in the fishing sector regarding oil contamination.

Itopf is working closely with the local Pollution Control Board and sampling of beach sand and seawater is continuing.

It was reported that after the Indian PCB tested samples of seawater from the Devbagh beach no detectable levels of oil pollution were found.

The second officer of the vessel is still reported missing, and has been presumed to have died.

Construction chaos jams Zanzibar box port

ABOUT 350 containers of food and other goods for Zanzibar from the Gulf region have been stranded at Kenya's Mombasa port for over a month because ships cannot dock at Zanzibar's unfinished port, Reuters reports.

The port is being repaired at a cost of 31bn Tanzanian shillings (\$24.6m) funded by the European Union. Repair work began late last year and is expected to be completed by December.

"I admit that foreign cargo ships [have] stopped for about a month now from using the Zanzibar port due to its poor condition," said Zanzibar Ports Corporation's director general, Mustafa About Jumbe. Ships were dropping containers in Mombasa and continuing their journeys elsewhere.

Another 150 empty containers destined for different countries were stranded in Zanzibar after foreign ships stopped sailing to the port, Mr Jumbe added.

Mr Jumbe said the ships were now required to anchor away from the port and wait for barges to offload goods from containers in small quantities, which was disrupting ships' schedules.

Some businessmen use dhows to collect small quantities of cargo from Mombasa and bring them to Zanzibar.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>AURORA</i>	general	ANT	BV	3,900	5,780	2005	Taken in tow due cylinder problems in lat 49 11 06N, long 04 33 30W, Jun 4. Arrived Rotterdam Jun 7. Sailed Jun 12.
<i>BILLY STAR</i>	barge	—	—	477	—	1997	Rptd Jun 2 trapped Sibuyan Island since grounding May 13 due tropical storm "Chanchu" while being towed by tug <i>Lucky Star</i> . Holed starboard amidships below waterline. Patched/pumped. Refloated Jun 9. Arrived Batangas Jun 11.
<i>BRASA</i>	chem/oil tanker	MLT	LR	22,607	40,395	1991	Reported not under command in lat 40 56.16N, long 28 50.40E, Jun 4, due engine failure. Passed Istanbul Jun 10 bound Jeddah.
<i>DS FIESTA</i>	general	BHS	ABS	19,354	29,516	1997	Had fire in cargo of petro coke while at Immingham Jun 8. Fire crews currently damping down. Sailed Jun 10.
<i>LONG FU</i>	general	PAN	ABS	10,208	14,440	1980	Struck the floating wharf at Ho Chi Minh City Jun 7. Damage to jetty and two ferries lying at anchor. Investigation under way. Wharf out of action for 2-3 months, \$5,000 daily losses.
<i>NORWEGIAN CROWN</i>	passenger	BHS	NV	34,242	5,186	1988	Grounded between St. Georges and Hamilton, Bermuda Jun 7. Refloated same day and berthed at Kings Wharf Dockyard. Investigation under way. Reef damaged. Denting damage. Sailed Jun 9.
<i>PRIOZYORNY</i>	fish carrier	RUS	RS	677	495	1985	Sank deliberately by crew off west coast of Kamchatka Peninsula Jun 5 to avoid inspection by border guards. Oil spilled over 20,000 square metres.
<i>SAMSKIP COURIER</i>	general	ATG	GL	7,852	9,341	2006	In collision with <i>Skagern</i> off Salt Eand Jetty, River Humber, Jun 7. Holed in forepeak. Anchored at Tetney Terminal. Departed from Humber. Arrived Rotterdam Jun 11.
<i>SEA DIAMOND VII</i>	tug	PAN	ABS	867	1,200	1982	Reported engine-room flooding while towing barges <i>Skopelos III</i> & <i>Sikinios</i> and subsequently sank in approximately lat 05 54N, long 84 54E, prev Jun 7. All crew rescued.
<i>SKAGERN</i>	general	SWE	LR	4,426	6,150	1983	In collision with <i>Samskip Courier</i> in thick fog off Salt End Jetty, River Humber, Jun 7. Sustained considerable holing damage & taking water. Alongside at King George Dock Jun 8. Still taking water & removing cargo Jun 9.
<i>ZEINA</i>	general	GEO	RS	4,759	7,830	1980	Had engine failure in lat 37 31N, long 24 23E, Jun 3. Towed to Piraeus anchorage Jun 5.
<i>ZHE YONG 18</i>	general	CHN	—	2,983	5,000	2005	In collision with <i>Arctic Voyager</i> and <i>Zhen Fen 9</i> near anchorage No.9, Wusong, Jun 6. At anchorage.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ADELE (Greece)

Piraeus, Jun 5 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Adele* sailed from Thessaloniki port on May 27, bound for Eleusis. — Lloyd's Agents.

AL SALAM BOCCACCIO 98 (Panama)

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated Jun 5, states: An Egyptian court in the Red Sea port city of Safaga started today the trial of six suspects over the capsizing of passenger ro/ro *Al Salam Boccaccio 98* in February, which claimed the lives of some 1,033 passengers with 385 others injured, the official MENA news agency reported. Of the six defendants, three were present at the court today while the other three, including the owner of the ferry, Mamdouh Ismail, were still at large. Ismail, a former member of the Shura Council, Egypt's parliamentary upper house, has fled the country after the tragedy. Egyptian Attorney General Maher Abdel Wahed has issued an international arrest warrant for Ismail and prepared for his extradition to Egypt, local media reported. The six defendants, including Ismail's son, are facing charges of negligence, failure to take actions to save the passengers and failure to inform the authorities after knowing the accident.

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated Jun 6, states: The owner of passenger ro/ro *Al Salam Boccaccio 98* that sank in the Red Sea last winter, drowning more than 1 000 people, will pay millions in compensation to survivors and victims' families, an Egyptian prosecutor said today. The owner, Mamdouh Ismail, fled the country with his son shortly before another prosecutor ordered the two, and four others, to face trial on charges of negligence and corruption. He is believed to be in Europe. Prosecutor Gaber Rayhan said a total of \$57-million would be paid. He did not specify how Ismail had paid the compensation money to the government to hand on to victims, or if it was money the owner had received from insurance payouts. The family of each victim will get \$52 000 and each survivor will get \$8 700, the prosecutor said. In addition, people who lost cars will get \$12 000 and truck owners \$24 000. He said the money would be paid within days. Rayhan said he had ordered the lifting of a previous freeze on the assets of the ship owner and family members because the owner had paid the compensation money. Ismail and his son, Amr, and a third defendant are being tried in absentia in the trial that began yesterday in Egypt's Red Sea port of Safaga. Three other

defendants were in attendance as the trial began and was adjourned to July 3.

ALFASHIP (Bahamas)

Chittagong, Jun 7 — Crude oil tanker *Alfaship* remains at Chittagong outer anchorage, awaiting a decision from the Bangladeshi Government inspection team regarding demolition. — Lloyd's Agents.

Chittagong, Jun 8 — It is reported that the Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (BELA) has filed a law suit against the crude oil tanker *Alfaship* which is presently "awaiting disposal from the court". As such, the inspection team formed by Government of Bangladesh "is pending for decision". — Lloyd's Agents.

ALGOLAKE (Canada)

London, Jun 2 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1452, UTC: Bulker *Algolake* (22851 gt, built 1977) anchored in Whiskey Bay, in lat 46 34.892N, long 84 39.282W, Jun 1 due to controllable-pitch propeller problems. The vessel is currently still at anchor.

London, Jun 7 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1442, UTC: Bulker *Algolake* is currently still at anchor, hopes to proceed in two hours.

London, Jun 7 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1835, UTC: Bulker *Algolake* left the anchorage in Whiskey Bay at 1639, UTC, bound for Sarnia Imperial Oil Dock.

ALIOS ARTEMIS (Greece)

London, Jun 1 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1518, UTC: Combined chemical and oil tank *Alios Artemis* and general cargo *Han*, loaded with iron, were in collision 16 nautical miles south-east of Hydra Island, in lat 37 10.9N, long 23 49.2E. *Han* sank as a result of the collision. *Alios Artemis* sustained damage to the port side.

London, Jun 2 — Greece's coast guard was scouring the seas off the island of Hydra yesterday evening as a search continued for five seafarers missing after a collision between general cargo *Han* and combined chemical and oil tank . The operation included helicopters, surface vessels and divers, reports said. One crewman, believed to be Turkish, was pronounced dead and seven more were saved and taken to hospital in Elefsina on the mainland after *Han* sank. *Han*, reported to be Turkish operated, was described as taking a steel cargo from Turkey to Casablanca. *Alios Artemis* was reportedly laden and bound for Crete. Investigators will ask how such a tragic accident occurred during a sunny day with perfect visibility and calm seas. There were no injuries reported on board the Greek tanker. The condition of the survivors from *Han* was being confirmed yesterday.

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

Athens, June 2 — Hopes of finding five missing crew of general cargo *Han* that sank after colliding with combined chemical and oil tank *Alios Artemis* in the Aegean Sea, were fading today after fruitless night-long rescue efforts, officials said. Several rescue helicopters, coast guard vessels and dozens of fishing boats worked through the night some 16 nautical miles southeast of Hydra Island, to locate the cargo ship's missing five crew members. "They have not yet found anything," a Greek Merchant Marine Ministry official said. "Hopes of finding them alive are fading quickly despite this very big rescue operation that has been ongoing for almost 24 hours." The cause of the collision was not known but Greek officials said the tanker, which had left the nearby oil refinery of Agii Theodori, had blown its horn to warn the cargo ship of the imminent collision but the ship did not change course. The Greek ministry official said the crash had not caused any oil leak.

AMBAR (Honduras)

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

APL PANAMA

(Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jun 6 — Container carrier *APL Panama*, in tow of salvage tug *Hua An*, is expected to arrive Subic Bay tomorrow morning to effect repairs.

ARCTIC VOYAGER (Malta)

See *Zhe Yong 18*.

AURORA (Netherlands Antilles)

London, June 6 — Following received from Corsen MRCC, timed 1020, UTC: General cargo *Aurora* (3900 gt, built 2005) was taken in tow by tug *Kingston* in lat 49 11.1N, long 04 33.5W, at 1520, UTC, June 4 following No.5 cylinder problems. Vessel is being towed to Rotterdam where ETA 0600 tomorrow. (Note — According to LMIU AIS *Aurora* was in lat 51 04 04N, long 01 44 28E, at 1025, UTC, today, course 52.3 degrees, speed 6.7 knots.)

London, June 8 — General cargo *Aurora* arrived Rotterdam 1155, yesterday.

BEVER (Antigua & Barbuda)

Taranto, Jun 5 — General cargo *Bever* finally sailed from Taranto at 1400, Jun 3, bound to Antwerp on its own means, laden with its scheduled cargo. Germanischer Lloyd's confirmed class after conducting an occasional visit. Cause of engine failure has been found being due to a shaft drive of fuel injection pump being broken in two pieces. Original spare replaced. Many tests performed afterwards with positive results. It is to be noticed that during exchange of lines among tugs upon vessel's arrival, it sustained a buckling (about 6 m long in way of centre area) causing consequent detaching of lower brackets in connection with poop

deck. Water tightness and structural integrity not affected, temporary repairs ordered by register to be permanently repaired at next class renewal. Temporary repairs consisting of stiffening bars welded. It seems no protest letter raised against local tugs who seems to maintain damage only due to poor conditions of the concerned steel structure. — Lloyd's Agents.

BILLY STAR (Philippines)

See "Typhoon 'Chanchu'" under "Weather & Navigation".

BOOMERANG II (Liberia)

See "Australia" under "Port State Control".

BOW PANTHER (Singapore)

Honolulu, Jun 2 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Bow Panther* arrived at the off port anchorage off Honolulu last evening, and technicians with parts were delivered to the vessel early this morning. At this point it is not known when repairs will be completed. — Lloyd's Agents.

Honolulu, Jun 5 — It was reported that repairs to combined chemical and oil tank *Bow Panther* were completed on Saturday, (Jun 3) and the vessel departed during the night of Jun 3 for Korea. — Lloyd's Agents.

BRASA (Malta)

London, Jun 6 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 2155 UTC, Jun 4, Limnos Radio advised that Combined chemical and oil tank *Brasa* (22607 gt, built 1991) was not under command, due to engine failure, in position lat 38 18N, long 25 07E, 26 nautical miles north-east of Andros. (Note: According to Informa's AIS system *Brasa* was reported in lat 40 56.16.8N, long 28 50.40.8E at 1153, UTC, Jun 6, 8.2.nautical miles off Istanbul, course 113.3 deg, speed 0.2 knots.)

BRP-SA-58 (Bulgaria)

Belgrade, Jun 6 — Barge *BRP-SA-58*: Bulgarian owners are still negotiating in respect of hiring floating crane. We are not in position to approach to owners in order to investigate their decisions. Harbour Master Office in Kladovo will issue the protest to officials and the owners for pulling out the barge, as the barge obstructs port operations in Kladovo. — Lloyd's Agents.

CAMPERDUIN (Netherlands)

London, June 4 — Understand tug *Camperduin* had a fire in its starboard engine during the night of Mar 13/14 due to leakage of the fuel system while enroute to the World Island project at Dubai. Fire alarm procedure was put in action and the crew extinguished the fire in minutes with carbon dioxide installation. There were no injuries and damage was restricted to the starboard engine. However, there was much smoke damage in the machine chamber. At Abu Dhabi shipbuilding

the annual survey was carried out and after the repairs the vessel left Abu Dhabi am Apr 30 for Dubai.

CAPE FLATTERY (Hong Kong)

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Negligence by the captain caused bulker *Cape Flattery* loaded with cement to go aground outside Barbers Point Harbor last year, a Coast Guard investigation has concluded. The 555-foot vessel came hard aground on a coral reef about 800 yards from the harbor entrance at about 0648 on Feb. 2, 2005. The vessel stayed aground for nine days until emergency workers removed enough of its 27,000-ton load to refloat it. The Coast Guard report estimated damage to the ship at \$21 million. Marine scientists said shortly after the incident that damage to the reef, sections of which were hundreds of years old, could be the most severe from a ship grounding in Hawaii's history. A report putting a cost on reef restoration efforts is expected later this year. No one was injured in the grounding, and no fuel was spilled, the Coast Guard reported. But significant quantities of granular cement were spilled into the ocean as a crane and barge offloaded it to get the vessel off the reef. The Coast Guard investigation of the incident, released in Washington last month listed the captain's missteps as including: Not waiting for a Honolulu-based harbor pilot to come aboard the vessel and guide it into port, as required by port rules. The *Cape Flattery* arrived at least nine minutes early at the appointed meeting place about a mile from the harbor, but did not stop and wait for its assigned harbor pilot, who was en route on a tugboat. Not responding to the pilot's radioed commands to alter the ship's course. The pilot on the approaching tugboat saw that the *Cape Flattery* was in danger of grounding by observing its direction and speed, he told investigators. Not using radar, not paying heed to channel lights and markers, and not following the charted course for harbor entrance that had been correctly plotted by another ship's officer. The investigation also faulted the vessel for not having a functioning echo depth-sounder and not having enough ship's officers on the bridge during its approach to the harbor. Tom Heberle, president of the Hawaii Pilots Association, called the rule of having a locally licensed pilot on board an incoming ship "one of the most basic things." He equated a ship captain's failure to have a harbor pilot aboard his vessel to "driving down the street and the street ends and there are signs that say 'dead end' but you just keep going." Heberle said Friday (Jun 2) that he is not aware of any other instances where a vessel failed to wait for its appointed harbor pilot to board and guide it into the harbor. The captain told Coast Guard interviewers that he had expected Aloha Tower to inform him if he needed to wait for the harbor pilot. He also was angry

that the Coast Guard or Aloha Tower had not warned him that he was in dangerous waters, the report said. The *Cape Flattery* captain, a Chinese national who was directing a 22-person, all-Chinese crew, held a Hong Kong China Marine Department licence as master of vessels greater than 3,000 gross tons and had 12 years' experience as a licensed mariner, the Coast Guard report said. It was the captain's first trip to Hawaii on his first contract with the *Cape Flattery*, which he had served on for 30 days prior to the grounding. In a statement released from its offices in Hong Kong, the *Cape Flattery's* owner, Pacific Basin Shipping Ltd., said: "We are in complete agreement with the recommendations of the Coast Guard in their report," which the company called "a most thorough investigation in which we participated fully." "We regret the accident caused by an error on the part of the Master (captain) and can confirm that the Master is no longer employed by the company," the statement continued. "The lessons learnt from this unfortunate incident were immediately promulgated throughout our fleet, and have been incorporated into our officer training program, with specific focus on the correct procedures to follow when entering any port." Pacific Basin wrote that the company will "continue to work with the relevant environmental organizations to best resolve the matters of environmental concern associated with the incident." The company praised Hawaii Coast Guard and emergency workers, "who by their professional actions helped avert a worse incident. Because the *Cape Flattery* is foreign-flagged, the Coast Guard has no jurisdiction over its crew, he said. Drug and alcohol use by the crew or harbor pilot were tested for and ruled out as factors in the accident, Masterson said. The Coast Guard report does not attempt to assess damage to the coral reef that was crushed by the grounding. John Naughton, Pacific islands environmental coordinator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service, said emergency reattachment of some live coral colonies seem to be holding up and that wildlife agencies hope the ship's owner will agree to pay for environmental restoration. Since the incident, the state Department of Transportation has re-emphasized the requirement for a harbor pilot on every incoming vessel, and vessels have been in compliance, said department spokesman Scott Ishikawa.

CHATON DE FOI

Honolulu, Jun 7 — A 33-foot yacht *Chaton de Foi* was discovered approximately three miles off Miloli'i, on the south-west coast of the Island of Hawaii by a fisherman on Jun 5 and towed into Hilo Harbour. The vessel was reportedly abandoned off the coast of Costa Rica by the owner, William Teper, in December 2005, due

to engine failure and rough weather. The owner was contacted by the U.S. Coast Guard and is now looking into salvage costs and possibly coming to Hawaii to claim his boat. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated Jun 6, states: A 33-foot sloop, abandoned in Costa Rica seven months ago, apparently drifted thousands of miles before being discovered off Hawaii late yesterday. Big Island fire officials say the *Chaton De Foi* from Channel Islands, California, was spotted by fishermen about three miles off Miloli'i Bay. Firefighters boarded the boat and reported that it appeared the vessel had been abandoned for months. The Coast Guard identified the owner as William Tepper or Temper of Southern California. The Coast Guard says he abandoned the sloop December second after experiencing engine trouble and severe weather off Costa Rica. He was rescued by a passing boat. The vessel was towed into Hilo while arrangements are being made to return it to its owner. Photos showed the white yacht in good structural condition with its mast still intact, but the sails missing. The name of the ship was clearly visible. It is approximately 4,700 miles from Costa Rica to Hilo.

CICLOPE (Panama)

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated Jun 2, states: A load of lumber from New Zealand caught fire in the hold of bulker with container capacity *Ciclope* (18977 gt, built 1985) tied up at the port of Vancouver this morning. More than 40 firefighters, from Portland to Ridgefield, swarmed to Terminal 2 shortly after 1000 to extinguish the fire, which sent a thin cloud of smoke wafting out of the front hold of the Panama-flagged *Ciclope*. The vessel carried imports of lumber and fiberboard from New Zealand. No one was hurt in the blaze. Vancouver firefighter Rick Steele said firefighters and members of the ship's 21-person crew closed the hatch and gassed the hold with carbon dioxide to displace oxygen and starve the fire. Steele said the fire may have started with a spark from a welding torch wielded by a longshoreman repairing a ladder in the hold. Firefighters were using a variety of methods to determine whether the fire had died down before pulling the hatch open, when they planned the laborious task of taking apart the burned lumber. "We're basically going to have to tear apart that whole pile of lumber," Steele said. Firefighters and port officials did not believe the vessel itself was seriously damaged. The vessel arrived early Friday from Los Angeles. Port spokeswoman Maureen Chan-Hefflin said it carried 12,469 cubic meters of lumber and fiberboard, 825 metric tons of aluminum and an unspecified amount of manganese ore to be offloaded later at the Port of Portland. She said the vessel was then due to carry a load of potash from Portland to Australia.

Portland, Oreg, Jun 6 — The cargo has been discharged from bulker with container capacity *Ciclope*. The vessel is currently at Terminal No. 2, Portland, discharging a cargo of manganese oxide. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated June 6, states: Firefighters stood by over the weekend as longshoremen undertook the laborious process of pulling a burnt load of lumber from bulker with container capacity *Ciclope* moored at the port of Vancouver (Wash). The fire began from a spark thrown from a welding torch wielded by a member of the ship's 21-man crew, investigators said. The crew member was repairing a ladder within the forward cargo hold, before longshoremen began unloading lumber imported from New Zealand. More than 40 firefighters, from Portland to Ridgefield, swarmed Terminal 2 to extinguish the blaze. Instead, the crew closed the hatch and piped carbon dioxide into the cargo hold to displace oxygen and starve the fire. Jim Flaherty, Vancouver firefighter spokesman, said firefighters stuck around through the night Friday until crew members opened the hatch and longshoremen began unloading the vessel Saturday morning. The unloading continued through Sunday. Lt. Janna Ott, a U.S. Coast Guard spokeswoman in Portland, said the Coast Guard is holding the ship in port to ensure there is no serious damage to the hull.

CONCEL PRIDE (Nigeria)

London, June 3 — An International Labour Organization report, states: As at Apr 13 product tanker *Concel Pride* was berthed at North Dock in Algeiras port. The ship was detained due to the multiple shortcomings found in several inspections on Port State Control. A shipowner's representative reported that their intention was to repair the ship but they have not done anything as yet. The crew are no longer on board following intervention by the Nigerian Consulate.

COVE (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 7 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1430, UTC: Fishing (general) *Cove* (83 gt, built 2004), 1155801, reported exhaust fire and no propulsion at 0440, local time, today in lat 41 26.6N, long 69 41.2W, about 20 miles offshore. Currently "dead" in the water. Tugs hopefully on scene this afternoon.

DA BAK SOL (North Korea)

See "Germany" under "Port State Control".

DANIELLA NATIVIDAD (Philippines)

Manila, June 6 — Class surveyors have approved the additional repair work performed on coastal tanker *Daniella Natividad*, its owner/operator Shogun Ships, Inc. reported. Last week, Bureau Veritas surveyors proposed that additional repair work had to be carried out on the ship's

void tank No.5. The work was completed June 2 and approved by surveyors after inspection. Maritime Industry Authority inspectors are scheduled to visit the tanker tomorrow. If all goes well, the tanker will be able to resume regular trading operations by Friday. The vessel will be assigned to southern Philippines where it will be transporting petroleum products between ports in Mindanao. — Lloyd's List Correspondents.

DS FIESTA (Bahamas)

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews were damping down a shipment of hot coal on board general cargo *DS Fiesta* (19354 gt, built 1997) docked at Immingham. It was originally reported that a blaze had broken out on the vessel, which is carrying petro coke used in power stations. (Note — *DS Fieta* arrived Immingham Jun 8.)

EIWA MARU NO.8 (South Korea)

London, June 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Tanker *Eiwa Maru No.8*, 733 gt, (built 1988), Wakayama for Yokkaichi, and chemical tanker *Hiko Maru No.7*, 199 gt, (built 1991), Chiba for Osaka collided off the Shima Peninsula, Mie Prefecture, yesterday, the Toba Coast Guard Office said. According to the office, the collision occurred about six kilometres from Daiozaki cape at approximately 0610 hrs. None of the four crew members of *Hiko Maru No.7* or the nine onboard *Eiwa Maru No.8* were injured. The central port side of *Hiko Maru No.7* and the bow of *Eiwa Maru No.8* reportedly were damaged in the accident, but the collision did not affect the vessels' navigation, and no oil leaked into the sea, the office said. The office was investigating the cause of the collision.

London, June 4 — Following received from Coast Guard Japan, timed 0620, UTC: Tanker *Eiwa Maru No.8* and chemical tanker *Hiko Maru No.7* were in collision in lat 34 18N, long 135 58E. Both vessels sustained minor damage.

EMERALD PRINCESS (Bermuda)

Trieste, June 5 — On June 2, while being towed out of the builder's dry dock at Fincantieri Shipyard, Monfalcone, the port bow of the new building passenger (cruise) *Emerald Princess* (116000 gt) struck the pier and a section of another new building "placed ashore on it". The wrong manoeuvre was caused by a strong gust of wind. Damages being assessed. — Lloyd's Agents.

EUGENIA (Honduras)

Mumbai, May 31 — General cargo *Eugenia* is still detained by Mumbai police authorities. — Lloyd's Agents.

EXXON VALDEZ (U.S.A.)

London, June 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The Justice Department and Alaska have asked ExxonMobil to pay an additional \$92 million to help repair damage caused by lingering oil that continues to sully

Alaska's Prince William Sound, where tanker *Exxon Valdez* spilt oil in 1989. Exxon has paid \$900 million for damage caused by the spill, but the 1991 agreement settling claims allowed the state and federal governments to ask for up to \$100 million more for damage that could not be foreseen at that time. The deadline for reopening the agreement is today. The oil is reducing survival rates of some marine species and disrupting fishing in the region, according to a joint statement yesterday by the Department of Justice and the state's Department of Law. "After extensive review, it is clear that populations and habitat within the oil-spill area have suffered substantial and unanticipated injuries that are attributable to the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill," said Alaska Attorney General David Marquez. Environmental groups, citing government reports, have said there are still 100 to 200 tons of oil in Prince William Sound, covering a total of six miles of shoreline. Exxon took issue with the governments' request. "Exxon will study this request carefully. Nothing we have seen so far, however, indicates that this request for further funding from Exxon is justified," the company said in an e-mailed statement. The company said the problem of lingering pockets of oil was anticipated in 1991: "Nothing surprising has occurred since 1991." Exxon also noted that \$145 million it has already paid has not been spent. Marquez said the remaining money has been earmarked, and the Justice Department said that in 1991 officials did not anticipate any oil would remain toxic so long. Alaska Sens. Ted Stevens and Lisa Murkowski sought to cut the process short by asking ExxonMobil last month to voluntarily commit \$100 million more to restoring the Sound. The company rejected that proposal. The federal agencies and Alaska can file a claim against Exxon Mobil on Sept 1 if the company does not agree with the governments' assessment. The claim is separate from an unresolved punitive-damage judgment of \$4.5 billion against the company, which it is appealing.

FALAK G. (Slovakia)

London, June 3 — An International Labour Organization report, dated Apr 13, states: General cargo *Falak G.* grounded Jan 23. Salvage operations concluded successfully but necessary repairs to the vessel were not completed. Vessel is not seaworthy and has been laid up in the Port of Rijeka. Crew on board without food and fuel. Owner is of Pakistani nationality operating from Greece. Vessel was abandoned Feb 23, and a court case started Mar 13. At Mar 29: One Ukrainian repatriated by ITF, six Pakistani seafarers repatriated by owner but thought to be claiming asylum in the Czech Republic and seven remain on board.

FPSO DALIA (Panama)

Cape Town, Jun 7 — Floating production tanker *FPSO Dalia* was towed into Cape Town on Jun 6, by the tugs *Fairmount Sherpa* and *Fairmount Summit*. Although not yet confirmed it is assumed that maintenance / repairs will be conducted at Cape Town. — Lloyd's Agents.

GAVIALIS (Netherlands)

Mannheim, June 2 — Tanker *Gavialis* was lightened into tanker *Taunus II* and was subsequently towed into Hanau harbour. River Main was open for navigation at approximately 2100 yesterday. — Lloyd's Agents.

GAZ HORIZON (Panama)

Piraeus, Jun 5 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Gaz Horizon* sailed from Piraeus port on Jun 3, bound for Malta. — Lloyd's Agents.

GECO SAPPHIRE (Panama)

Gdynia, Jun 6 — Research *EDT Protea*, ex *Geco Sapphire*, is presently at Navy shipyard in Gdynia. The owners of the vessel are repairing the vessel themselves; the shipyard rented their berth only. The repairs will be completed in two months. — Correspondent.

GESMER I (Canada)

See *Northern Princess*.

GOLDEN BELLS 2

Belfast, Jun 8 — Fishing *Golden Bells 2* is still undergoing repairs in Kilkeel, ETC Jun 16. — Lloyd's Agents.

GOLDEN DOMINIQUE (Panama)

London, Jun 3 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth (Va), timed 1733, UTC: Chemical tanker *Golden Dominique* (13402 gt, built 2006) was in collision with an inland barge in the Cape Fear river (North Carolina) at 0500 local time. The *Golden Dominique* has sustained a six by one and half feet gash to its hull 15 feet above the water line. The vessel is currently anchored off Wilmington awaiting inspection. According to LMIU AIS is stationary in 33 45 5.46N, long 78 6 13.8W at 1745, UTC, 11.7 nautical miles from Southport(USA).

London, Jun 7 — Chemical tanker *Golden Dominique* arrived Charleston Jun 5.

HAN (Panama)

See *Alios Artemis*.

HARVEST GAVINA (South Africa)

Cape Town, Jun 7 — Reported that the completion of repairs to trawler *Harvest Gavina* is delayed due to various strike actions. All going according to plan, repairs are now expected to be completed in the week Jun 19. — Lloyd's Agents.

HAWAIIAN LEADER (Bahamas)

See "Bourgas, Bulgaria" under "Pollution."

HESTIA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jun 2 — Following received from the operators of general cargo *Hestia*, dated today: *Hestia* is still under repair at Stavanger and is expected to complete repairs in about one week.

HIKO MARU NO.7 (Japan)

See *Eiwa Maru No.8*.

JOHN B.AIRD (Canada)

Toronto, Jun 2 — Bulker *John B.Aird* is repaired and back working. Today it is moving upbound. It left the Welland Canal, Wharf 16 at 1053 hrs, Jun 1. It is expected to arrive at Burns Harbor, Indiana at approximately 0700 hrs, Jun 4. — Lloyd's Agents.

JOUDI-S (Syria)

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control".

JUN LING (Panama)

London, Jun 8 — General cargo *Jun Ling* sailed Hong Kong Jun 6 for Keelung.

KALININ EXPRESS (U.S.A.)

London, June 2 — A press report, dated June 1, states: Allen Marine Tours' passenger (cruise) *Kalinin Express* was on a routine tour with passengers from the cruise ship *Statendam* when it struck the shore just north of California Head in George Inlet at approximately 1648 Wednesday (May 31). According to Allen Marine Tours' Vice President John Dunlap, forty-eight passengers and four crew were onboard at the time of the incident. The tour was returning from the George Inlet Cannery when the water-jet powered vessel due to an apparent mechanical malfunction nosed into a rock wall in George Inlet. The vessel's master reported that the vessel was intact and was not taking on any water. Dunlap said the master was instructed to begin heading towards the Allen Marine dock in Ketchikan at a safe speed. A Coast Guard boat escorted *Kalinin Express* back to Ketchikan and at 1733 hrs, the vessel tied up at the Allen Marine Dock and all passengers disembarked and those needing immediate medical attention were assisted by EMTs. One passenger of the *Kalinin* was transferred to emergency medical personnel immediately following the vessel's arrival in Ketchikan. Due to a possible injured arm, this passenger was then transported to Ketchikan General Hospital by ambulance and was released a short time later. *Statendam* was able to depart Ketchikan on schedule. According to the USCG, no pollution was reported and personnel from the Marine Safety Detachment Ketchikan are investigating the incident to determine the cause of the jolt.

KARIM I (Cambodia)

Bucharest, Jun 2 — Reported that the master of general cargo *Karim I* is under criminal investigation by

Constantza public prosecutors. A restraint order from leaving Romania was issued against him on May 31. It would further appear that the contract for the refloating/removal of the vessel was awarded by the shipowners to Atriamar Star SRL of Constantza, which is assisted by the Romanian Agency for Rescue of Life at Sea ("salvors"). — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Jun 7 — Reported that salvors actions progressed with removal of parts and fittings of general cargo *Karim I*, ie hatch covers, crane members, masts, life boats, etc. Salvors' reported intention is to reinstate the wreck on keel, upright, before starting its refloating, for which purpose they are currently fitting float cases. — Lloyd's Agents.

LAILA (Cambodia)

Santo Domingo, Jun 2 — General cargo *Laila* (815 gt, built 1970) arrived Santo Domingo Jun 2 in tow of tug *Neyba*. — Lloyd's Agents.

LIBERTY EAGLE (U.S.A.)

Karachi, Jun 4 — Bulker *Banglar Moni* has developed a problem with the propeller for which it had to return back and berthed at river mooring no.9 inside the port of Chittagong for repair. It is said that the vessel would be checked again and go alongside *Liberty Eagle* for lighterage. *Liberty Eagle* has continued to discharge cargo. Earlier, a top official of Bangladesh shipping Corp said, the *Banglar Moni* has no significant damage caused due to the collision with *Liberty Eagle* on May 25. However, he did mention that during monsoon season such accidents were common feature. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

LIN I (Panama)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy".

LNG ABUJA (Bahamas)

London, June 2 — According to LMIU AIS Liquid Natural Gas Carrier *LNG Abuja* was in lat 27 14 33.06N, long 16 27 13.81W, at 0802, June 1, speed 16.9 knots, course 194.9 degrees.

LUCKY STAR

See "Typhoon 'Chanchu'" under "Weather & Navigation".

LUCKY STAR (Bolivia)

Taipei, Jun 8 — According to the Kaohsiung Harbour Bureau, as of Jun 6, non specific tanker *Lucky Star* was still aground off Kaohsiung port and salvage operations (the "upright work", temporary repairs and oil removal, etc) are in progress. Once the work has been completed and the weather permits, the vessel "will be towed". — Lloyd's Agents.

MALITAM (Philippines)

See "Typhoon 'Chanchu'" under "Weather & Navigation."

MARIAM EXPRESS (Panama)

London, Jun 1 — Dangerous wreck of roll on roll off *Mariam Express* located

in lat 25 27.35N, long 55 06.22E, 14 nautical miles off Mina Hamriyah, UAE. Water depth is 18 metres and wreck has 5 metre clearance. Wreck represents a serious hazard to navigation. Mariners are requested to navigate with extreme caution at all times in the area.

MARINC III (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 6 — A press release, issued by USCG Houston, dated Jun 5, states: The Coast Guard, Harris County Pollution Control, Nassau Bay Volunteer Fire Department, Kemah Fire Department and Texas General Land Office are working together to contain and clean up an oil spill in Nassau Bay near Clear Lake, Texas. A tug boat owned by Payne Brothers Inc., sank Sunday (Jun 4) night while connected to a work barge. The partially submerged tug has leaked approximately 75 gallons of waste oil into the water. The tug is still leaking a small amount of oil. To prevent the spill from spreading, containment and absorbent booms have been set up around the tug and barge. However, three hundred feet of marsh across from the tug has been affected by the oil. Response crews are using absorbent sweeps to clean the marsh. The cause of the incident is currently under investigation.

London, Jun 6 — Following received from USCG New Orleans, timed 2250, UTC: The vessel which sank in Nassau Bay is tug *Marinc III* (22 gt, built 1979), Official No: 607613.

MARTHA DINI (Malaysia)

See "Philippines" under "Piracy".

MAX JACOB (GERMANY)

See "Slops Tanks, Corpus Christi, Texas, United States" under "Fires & Explosions".

MEOB BAY (Namibia)

London, June 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Namibia's worst-ever maritime disaster, the sinking fishing (general) *Meob Bay* with the loss of 19 lives on June 7 2002, had a sequel in one of South Africa's top two courts last week. With litigation over the sinking of *Meob Bay* still pending both in Namibia and South Africa, the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa on Thursday (June 1) gave the green light for the sale of a ship belonging to an associate company of the marine mining company blamed for the *Meob Bay* disaster. The court ordered that the proceeds from the sale are supposed to go into a fund, where it should remain until litigation that the owner of *Meob Bay*, the Luederitz-based Marco Fishing, has against the owners of the mining ship blamed for the *Meob Bay*'s sinking, has been resolved in South Africa. For Marco Fishing, the victory that it won in the Supreme Court of Appeal might be a substantially empty one, though, demonstrating the high price often associated with a failure to bring litigation to a speedy conclusion. According to the court's judgement, oceanographical research

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

The Spirit of Namibia (1104 gt, built 1966) has been stripped of millions of dollars worth of equipment in the almost four years it has lain docked in Cape Town. It has also accumulated liabilities of hundred of thousands of dollars in port dues and has deteriorated to such an extent that it is now deemed to be suitable only to be sold for scrap. The money that could be realised from the sale of the vessel might not even be enough to pay Marco Fishing's legal costs in the various court cases that have already been fought over the fate of the ship. *Meob Bay* set out to sea from Luederitz with a crew of 28 late on the afternoon of June 7 2002. Only a few miles out of port, the vessel's propeller caught a piece of drifting rope attached to an anchor on the ocean floor. The propeller became snagged in the rope and, in heavy swell, the fishing vessel quickly started taking on masses of water. Within less than two and a half minutes *Meob Bay* sank. Nineteen crew members died in what has to date been the most deadly maritime accident yet in Namibian waters. The anchor and rope, Marco Fishing is claiming, had been left at that spot by diamond mining vessel *Lady S*, which belonged to a South African-registered company, Gemfarm. Marco Fishing initially had *Lady S* attached in Cape Town as it launched legal proceedings in South Africa against Gemfarm. It soon agreed to an offer from Gemfarm to instead have *The Spirit of Namibia* take *Lady S*'s place, since Gemfarm claimed to urgently need that vessel to continue working. At that stage, Marco Fishing was informed that *The Spirit of Namibia*, which belonged to an associate company of Gemfarm, Big Red Incorporated, which is registered in the British Virgin Islands, was worth about R35 million. Big Red Incorporated and its South African-registered holding company, Quarterdeck Prospecting and Mining, were Marco Fishing's opponents in the case in which the court gave its judgement last week. On Dec 19 2002, Marco Fishing instituted legal action against Gemfarm, claiming damages of R7.98 million from that company, the events are related in the Supreme Court of Appeal judgement. The next court proceedings followed in August 2003, when Marco Fishing launched an urgent application in which it claimed that it had discovered that after *The Spirit of Namibia* had been attached, it had been stripped of a considerable amount of equipment, which was subsequently installed on another mining vessel in which Gemfarm also had an interest. At that stage a marine surveyor estimated that *The Spirit of Namibia* had been reduced to "a neglected hulk", worth between R5.5 and R6 million. The outcome of that urgent case was that Gemfarm was ordered to furnish security in the sum of R3.5 million to Marco. By July 2004, a marine surveyor had another look at *The Spirit of Namibia*, concluded that it

had deteriorated considerably, and expressed the view that its only remaining value was as scrap. By late September 2004, accumulated port dues amounted to over R837,000, which would have left no more than about R700,000 for distribution if the ship was sold at that stage, the Supreme Court of Appeal notes in its judgement. By the time the Cape High Court authorised the sale of *The Spirit of Namibia*, further outstanding port fees would have reduced that realisable amount by another R360,000. The remaining balance of R340,000 would not even have been sufficient to cover the legal costs that had already been awarded to Marco Fishing in litigation against Gemfarm, the court also noted. Relevant Links Southern Africa Transport and Shipping Namibia Legal and Judicial Affairs With the case between Marco Fishing and Gemfarm still pending, Gemfarm was provisionally declared bankrupt in November. It has since been finally liquidated. Big Red One Incorporated has however, at the time *The Spirit of Namibia* was substituted for *Lady S*, undertaken to be liable to pay any amount found due by Gemfarm, but how much more than a name registered in the British Virgin Islands that company is, still remains to be seen.

MRINAL (Liberia)

London, Jun 8 — Following received from the owners of bulker *Mrinal* (22773 gt, built 1980), dated Mumbai today: *Mrinal* is at Tuticorin having been towed in by tug *Salvage Challenger* with engine trouble. (Note — *Mrinal* was last reported to have sailed Singapore May 11.)

Kochi, June 8 — Understand bulker *Mrinal* was towed to Tuticorin outer anchorage May 30 due to engine breakdown. — Lloyd's Agents.

NANTUCKET CLIPPER (U.S.A.)

London, June 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The inauguration ceremony Bangor had planned for passenger (cruise) *Nantucket Clipper* has been rescheduled to June 14. The vessel's first voyage from Bangor, scheduled to begin Wednesday (May 31), was cancelled due to plumbing issues. *Nantucket Clipper* left for Portsmouth, NH, on Wednesday for repairs. When repairs are finished, the ship will head to Boston to begin a cruise on June 7, and arrive in Bangor the night of June 13. On June 14, *Nantucket Clipper* will leave for its first weeklong voyage from Bangor to Boston. The plumbing issue appears to have existed from the time Cruise West purchased the vessel in January, Mark McKernan, product development manager for Cruise West, said Wednesday.

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated Jun 2, states: Passenger (cruise) *Nantucket Clipper* came to Portsmouth for repairs, the vessel hardly limped into the State Pier at the New Hampshire Division of Ports and Harbors. The 207-foot vessel

cruised gracefully into the spot where it will dock for about a week. Co-Capt. Bruce Redmer said they came in on slack tide, which he explained as the interim time between when the currents change direction. Redmer said the repairs are minor plumbing problems in the lounge area, including some cabins. "The ship is fully operational," said Redmer. "We could have kept going but felt we just wanted to take care of it. The toilets are the issue. They are flushing but real slowly, like taking two minutes or so. Cruise ship guests pay money and like them to work correctly." "(The crew) called last week and said they needed to make internal repairs," said Geno Marconi, port director. "Part of our statutory charge is to assist in these types of situations, so they will dock here while they make their repairs." "We found that in about 10 cabins, the water flow has been increasingly getting slower and slower," said Gleaves. "It started getting bad enough so we decided that instead of putting up with it, we'd replace plumbing that has become restricted. The Boston cruise is Jun 7, and Redmer said he has no reason to believe they won't make it. Redmer said they will probably stay in Portsmouth until Jun 6. The affected areas will be isolated for the repairs, and the crew will remain on the vessel, with a fully operational, separate septic system.

NORONYA (U.K.)

London, Jun 7 — Following received from Coastguard Belfast MRSC: Timed 0800, UTC: Trawler *Noronya*, N906, (119 gt, built 1975) was reported at 2339, UTC, Jun 6 on fire in lat 53 33.06N, long 05 26.9W, and crew could not contain it. A mayday relay was broadcast, following which, fishing research vessel *Corystes*, tug *Svitzer Mull* and fishing *Sparkling Sea* proceeded to the vessel's position. *Corystes* located crew in a liferaft all safe and well and took them on board. Due to lack of wind it was considered prudent to leave the casualties on board rather than winch them to a rescue helicopter. Search and rescue operations terminated at 0109, UTC. Timed 0902, UTC: At 0720, UTC, radar and visual contact with burning remains of *Noronya* lost in thick fog in lat 53 33.075N, long 05 28.609W. Unable to confirm if *Noronya* had sunk. *Corystes* with four crewmembers from *Noronya* in board now proceeding towards Kilkeel to transfer crew ashore. Fishing *Tea Rose* released as conditions in vicinity considered too hazardous.

NORTHERN PRINCESS (Canada)

London, Jun 1 — Roll On Roll Off *Northern Princess* (2558 gt, built 1966) reported striking trawler *Gesmer I* (202 gt, built 1963) and Pier 8 while attempting to depart Pier 8, St John's, Newfoundland, in lat 47 33N, long 52 42W at 1257, UTC, today. Damage to dock and both vessels.

NORWAY (Bahamas)

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: The Supreme Court has allowed passenger (cruise) *Norway*, now renamed *Blue Lady*, to enter into Indian waters. The apex court said that the vessel has to conform to the recommendations of the special committee appointed on this issue. The vessel is being brought to the Alang ship-breaking yard in Gujarat. The court had earlier imposed a temporary ban on entry of the cruise liner sighting reasons that the vessel had significant quantities of asbestos contaminated material. Greenpeace has blacklisted the *Norway*. Alang Shipbreakers Association celebrated following the SC order allowing the *Blue Lady*. Gujarat Maritime Board will now work with private company for ensuring no pollution hazards are there following beaching of the huge vessel. A huge plot of land close to the Yard would be used for dumping asbestos and destroying the hazardous goods coming with the vessel. A team of GMB and GPCB officials will inspect all the arrangements before clearing anchorage of the vessel. A team of SCMC also expected to visit Alang shortly.

NORWEGIAN CROWN (Bahamas)

London, Jun 8 — Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 2302, UTC, Jun 7: At 1120, UTC, Jun 7, passenger *Norwegian Crown* (34242 gt, built 1988) grounded during the vessel's regular shift between the towns of St. George's and Hamilton, in Bermuda. The incident occurred on an ebb-tide and three local flagged tugs were unable to refloat the vessel during the morning. Checks on the hull confirmed that it was sound with no water ingress and there was no pollution. At 2124, UTC, the vessel was successfully towed into the deep water channel and at 2230 hrs, *Norwegian Crown* was safely berthed alongside Kings Wharf Dockyard. (Note — *Norwegian Crown* departed from Philadelphia at 1600 hrs, Jun 4, bound for Bermuda.)

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Norwegian Crown*, with 1,104 passengers on board, ran aground just off Bermuda yesterday, and after remaining stuck on a sandbar through the day, was pulled off by tugs during the evening high tide. She ran aground at about 0830 hrs at the top of Dundonald Channel as it sailed from St. George's, Bermuda, to Hamilton in heavy rain. Three tugs sought unsuccessfully to set her free, and finally decided to postpone further efforts until a late afternoon high tide. A spokesperson for Norwegian Cruise Lines' local agent said the ship offloaded ballast during the day to make it more buoyant. "All guests and crew onboard are safe and no one was hurt," the cruise line said. "Initial inspection indicates that the integrity of the ship has not been affected." After it was pulled free, the

ship headed for Dockyard, skipping Hamilton as a port of call. There was no immediate explanation as to how the incident occurred. *Norwegian Crown*, which departed Philadelphia on Jun 4 for a seven-night cruise to Bermuda, was expected to return as scheduled.

OCEAN SERAYA (Panama)

London, June 2 — A press report, dated June 1, states: Hectic efforts to arrest the spread of the oil spilling from bulker *Ocean Seraya* off Karwar's coast have met with mixed success, with some oil having reached the Devbagh shore. Besides the spraying of chemicals from helicopters by the Goa Coast Guard, officials and experts visited the ship to assess the damage and mobilised municipal workers, NGOs, NCC cadets and companies to curb the spread of oil. While officials in Goa fear that the oil spill is moving towards Goa due to the westerly waves, Manoj Badkar, Commandant of Karnataka Coast Guard insisted that the Goa coast was "free of the oil spill". "We have confirmed with authorities in Goa that the oil spill has not reached there (Goa) yet. Regular spraying of chemicals has controlled the spread of the spill," Commandant Badkar said. Addressing a press conference this evening, Karwar Deputy Commissioner Ritesh Kumar Singh said that the oil spill was being contained by spraying of OSD chemicals to disintegrate it. "Four experts who were flown in by a helicopter visited the ship at 1600 this evening. Tomorrow, an eight-member team will visit the site again," Mr Singh added. Salvage ship "*Mahor*" has reached the Karwar port and will commence operations to empty the oil tanks of *Ocean Seraya* starting Saturday. A team of six deep-sea divers of the Under Water Service Company from Navi Mumbai have reached Karwar to inspect *Ocean Seraya*. Speaking to Herald, a member of the team said they would cordon the ship with a steel plate and a rubber sheet. "Later, the salvage ship will remove the water from the engine-room and transfer the oil from its tank," the diver said. "The New Manglore Port Trust and MRPL Manglore are also supplying equipment required for the operation," said Mr Singh. In addition, two Goa Coast Guard helicopters are regularly spraying chemicals to control the oil, while two truckloads of coir, to be brought from Kumta, will be spread on the shores of Tagore Beach and Devbagh. Despite these efforts, the oil, however, found its way to Devbagh and has mixed with the sand on the shore. Municipality workers along with NGO's and NCC cadets were deployed at Devbagh Beach to remove the oil. "They, however, had to return due to heavy rain," Mr Singh said. "The same work will now be carried out only after the oil spill is totally controlled by offloading the oil from the ship." He has warned the people of

Karwar and Devbagh to keep away from Devbagh and Tagore beach, since the furnace oil mixed in salty water could cause skin diseases. Mr Singh also requested fishermen to avoid fishing in these areas.

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated Jun 2, states: Bulker *Ocean Seraya*, stranded off-Karwar coast near Devgad Island, broke into two pieces Friday afternoon (Jun 2). The oil which had began spilling from the vessel a couple of days ago today touched the south Goan beaches, triggering an alarm in the tiny Goa, on the tourism front. "The ship has broken into two pieces. But there is nothing to worry as the portion with the tank has parted into entire a separate piece," confirmed commander R M Sharma, deputy inspector general, Indian coast guard. The vessel has been stranded in the rocks near Devgad island since Monday night (May 29) when it drifted towards the island on account of rough weather. All 21 crew members, except one, were rescued safely by the coast guard. Even as the Indian coast guard helicopter, an aircraft and a vessel continued their operation to contain oil spill, riding on the westerly waves, the spill touched the Goan shores after hitting Karwar and Deobag coast. "The spill has touched Polem beach on Goa-Karnataka border but the quantity is marginal," Comdt Sharma said, ruling out the possibility of the spill running further down the coast. The Indian coast guard would continue their operations on Saturday to disintegrate the spill further. In the meantime, the Karwar port authorities and district administration have laid booms around one kilometre surrounding the wrecked vessel to contain the spill. "Various locally available material like coir fibre, palm tree leaves and others are used to control the spill from travelling further," the officials stated.

London, June 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Deputy Commissioner Ritesh Kumar Singh has said that the operation to remove fuel from bulker *Ocean Seraya* that ran aground off the Karwar coast and subsequently broke into two, would begin today. The company in charge of managing the ship was pressured to expedite the salvage operation. Fifteen experts would be engaged in the operation, he said. The pumping equipment for the purpose had arrived from Bangalore. Coast Guard Commander I. G. Rajashekar visited the town yesterday and made arrangements for providing an inflatable barge of 200 tonne capacity to help the operation. A Dornier aircraft of the Coast Guard sprayed oil-spill dispersant around the ship yesterday. Mr. Singh said a sample test carried out had shown that oil content in the seawater was 20 mg a litre, whereas it was 9,000 mg a kg in the sand on the beach.

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated Jun 4, states: Though oil spilled from a bulker *Ocean Seraya*, stranded

off the Karwar coast in Karnataka, has been largely contained, salvors are unable to empty the remaining tank, which has led to the possibility of another spill in the sea. "Around 60 per cent of oil onboard the *Ocean Serraya* is yet to be emptied and if tanks break away and oil flows into water, it would be a major hazard", Commander RM Sharma, deputy inspector general, Indian Coast Guard, said. Karwar authorities have given a deadline of today for the private salvors to initiate operation to empty the tanks. "Salvors visited the vessel yesterday but could not start the operation as they required more equipment to pump out the oil", a district administration official stated.

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Ocean Serraya* was wrecked on the Oyster Rock lighthouse in the Arabian Sea off Karnataka state's Karwar coast on May 30. The vessel split into two and its front portion keeps crashing into the rear portion, which is wedged against a rock. Stormy weather has delayed a 15-member team of expert divers and engineers from western Mumbai city and Singapore from launching emergency operations to pump out the oil on board, the Hindustan Times reported. Coast Guard officials estimated that 20 tons of oil had already spilled into the sea and that the oil slick was nine kilometres from the Karwar coast. Officials said the beaches and shoreline would be polluted if the spill is not checked.

London, Jun 5 — Owners and Managers of bulker *Ocean Serraya*, which dragged its anchor and grounded in a severe storm on the Karwar Coast, North Karnataka, Southern India, on Tuesday May 30, wish to provide the following update on the situation. Owners signed a LOF (Lloyds Open Form) shortly after the initial grounding with salvors, Smit Salvage. Smit are currently on site working with the local authorities on salvage and pollution control. The Managers report that, during the morning of Jun 2, the vessel sustained severe structural damage amidships due to its stranded position on the rocks and constant wave action. A small quantity of bunker fuel escaped from the bulk carrier following the initial grounding. Smit Salvage tug *Merou* is now on site are concentrating efforts on containing the spread of oil using booms and on extracting all oil and oily waste from the tanks to mitigate any further pollution. Work is currently under way to pump fuel oil from Bunker Tank No 1 & No 2 into the tanks on the salvage tug. Owners and salvors are optimistic that any further escape of bunker fuel, diesel or oily waste will be minimal and are currently working with the local Coast Guard to implement the anti pollution and salvage plans. Pollution expert scientists from ITOPF have also been engaged by the owners to assist with local pollution issues. There have

been some press reports describing pollution affecting two beaches (Tagore Beach, Karwar; and Devbagh beach, North of Karwar). The authorities now report no sign of oil pollution on the Tagore Beach, Karwar (requiring no clean-up), and only some slight oil contamination on the Devbagh beach. During a joint inspection both ITOPF and local authorities agreed that the level of contamination on the Devbagh beach was far less than had previously been reported and that a minimal level of clean-up will be required. It appears that naturally occurring deposits of black mineral particles (black sand) may have been confused with oil contamination, prompting inaccurate reporting of oil pollution. Owners and Managers wish to thank all those involved in the demanding rescue operation, carried out under difficult circumstances on May 30. Their thoughts, in particular, are with the family and friends of the Second Officer who remains missing; however search and rescue operations are ongoing and every effort is being made to find him. Owners and Managers also wish to thank all the Authorities, particularly the Goa and Karnataka Coast Guards, who are handling this incident in a sensitive and professional manner and who are working together with Owners to mitigate the effect of this unfortunate incident. At the time of the incident, the *Ocean Serraya* was in ballast and was anchored some 2.5 miles from Karwar Harbour, when a severe storm caused the vessel to break free and subsequently founder on the nearby coastline.

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Deputy Commissioner Ritesh Kumar Singh has expressed concern over the delay in carrying out operations to salvage bulker *Ocean Serraya*. He said yesterday that salvage operations could not be carried out yesterday because the sea was turbulent. Three tanks in the front portion of the ship carried 150 tonnes of oil each. But it had become difficult to insert pipes into the tanks to pump out oil. Hex blades should be used to cut open the tanks and insert the pipes, he said. The three tanks in the rear portion of the ship, carrying 126 tonnes of oil, were found breached yesterday. Oil from the tanks had accumulated in the cargo hold. Experts had said that skimming operations had to be carried out to pump out the oil, Mr. Singh said. Salvage operation was a slow process and it would take at least 15 days to complete it. Eight more salvage experts were expected to arrive by today, he added. Mr. Singh and Manoj Baadkar, commandant of Coast Guard, said the possibility of ship sinking could not be ruled out if the weather condition worsened.

Mumbai, Jun 8 — An oil slick from bulker *Ocean Serraya*, which sank off the India's western coast, is threatening to pollute popular tourist beaches in Goa, environmentalists said. Oil patches have begun washing

up on the beaches after the vessel broke in two on Monday (Jun 5), a week after it ran aground about five km off the Karwar coast of neighbouring Karnataka. A nine-km-wide oil slick is spreading northwards towards Goa, pushed by strong winds and choppy seas due to the monsoons. "Nothing has been done, I would say. The slick has impacted marine life because usually the worst happens in the first two days," said Ramapati Kumar, spokesman for Greenpeace. Officials played down the risk to wildlife or the beaches, which are popular with foreigners, but environmentalists said a serious threat remained as not all of the vessel's 690 tonnes of fuel had been pumped out. As much as half may have already spilled from the vessel. "It is not a very thick spill. We do not see any fresh spill now," said KBL Bhatnagar, a coast guard official. "The slick has been neutralised as of now, but a threat remains because the vessel's fuel tanks are still inaccessible." Newspaper and TV reports said the oil slick had affected Goa's Polem beach and was heading for the nearby Palolem beach, 70 km south of Panaji. Officials said 100 people were employed in a clean-up that involved spraying dispersants, cleaning beaches and would now focus on removing the remaining oil from the sinking vessel. Authorities have sought the help of a Singapore based company with expertise in cleaning up oil spills. — Lloyd's Agents.

OLYMPIA (North Korea)

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control."

OVERSEAS CAPEMAR (Marshall Islands)

Kochi, Jun 3 — Product tanker *Overseas Capemar* sailed for Fujairah after preliminary Survey on Jun 1. We understand that a detailed underwater survey was not feasible due to very bad weather. However, only minor scratches at the bottom of the vessel was noticed in the preliminary survey. — Lloyd's Agents.

PACIFIC SUN (Bahamas)

See "Outbreak Of Virus On Bahamas Flag Vessel" under "Miscellaneous".

PELANDER (Panama)

London, June 4 — Understand vehicle carrier *Pelander* (24891 gt, built 1979), Japan for Thailand and Israel with cars, had a fire in cargo hold No.8 on May 22, after it's departure from Laem Chabang. *Pelander* was taken into Singapore for surveyors to board to determine cause and extent of damage. Damage is so far reported to have been sustained to 32 Honda cars, 46 IOT cars, 192 Hyundai cars and 14 Daihatsu cars. (Note — *Pelander* sailed Yokohama May 9, arrived Singapore 2040, May 23 and sailed May 28 for Israel.)

PHAYOON 3 (Thailand)

Bangkok. Jun 2 — Yacht *Phayoon 3* sustained an indent in the starboard

bottom and starboard stabilizer was damaged assumeably from the impact with rocks. The interior of the yacht has also been damaged due to flooding. It was stated that the bottom has been repaired but the yacht is still on the slipway apparently waiting for agreement with the insurance company to pay for repair of the interior. — Lloyd's Agents.

PILGRIM 2 (Cambodia)

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

PLACENTIA PILOT (Canada)

London, Jun 1 — Pilot boat *Placentia Pilot*, with three people on board, grounded on Buffett Island, in the Eastern Channel, Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, in lat 47 31.38N, long 54 02.59W, at 0618, UTC, May 29.

PORTLAND (Panama)

London, Jun 5 — Following received from the owners of general cargo *Portland*, dated today: There were no deficiencies as stated in the report from Lloyd's Agents, Tenerife, on May 31. The vessel had been detained once in Spain for less than a day on account of minor non-conformities and subsequently cleared by the authorities on that same day. Further she had resumed trading in April after spending a considerable time in a shipyard undergoing conversion into a self-discharging cement carrier as well as significant maintenance and upgrading. Throughout its recent history and at the time of the casualty the vessel was fully classed. It was classed and registered by the Hellenic Register of Shipping.

PRIDE OF ALOHA (U.S.A.)

See "Outbreak Of Virus On United States-Flagged Vessel" under "Miscellaneous."

PRIDE OF ROTTERDAM (Netherlands)

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Bikers have filed claims for damage to their machines caused when passenger ro/ro *Pride of Rotterdam* (59925 gt, built 2001) swerved sharply following an electronic fault. She was arriving in Rotterdam last Friday (May 26) when it suddenly zigzagged. A passenger travelling on board the ferry said many people were left shocked and some panicked when the ship suddenly lurched from right to left. About 10 motorcycles were left in a heap on one of the car decks. The passenger said crew later told them it was to avoid a freighter. But a spokesman for P&O Ferries said the ferry was going into Europoort at slow speed and the incident had been caused by an electronic fault on the autopilot. He said: "In switching from autopilot to manual control an electronic fault started the ship on a starboard turn which was immediately corrected manually. It would have caught passengers by surprise and the captain apologised shortly afterwards. Anyone with any

nous would have said you had to turn to avoid something but it wasn't the case." He said they were dealing with claims for "scrapes and scratches" to the bikes. (Note — *Pride of Rotterdam* arrived Rotterdam May 26, sailed same day, arrived Hull May 27 and subsequently sailed same day.)

PRIOZYORNY (Russia)

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Crew of the fish carrier *Priozorny* (677 gt, built 1985) sank the vessel off the western coast of the Kamchatka Peninsula to avoid an inspection by border guards. All the 18 crew members were taken aboard the border patrol ship *Dzerzhinsky* that was cruising in the area of the incident, sources at the Kamchatka maritime salvage and coordination sub-center said. The incident occurred at around 2200, local time, yesterday after the border guards demanded that the vessel's captain stop the vessel and admit an inspection group aboard. Sources said the captain kept active radio communications with the vessel's owner, who instructed him not to admit the border guards under any circumstances and to take all the possible measures against their getting aboard, up to the sinking of the vessel. The *Priozorny's* crew followed that instruction precisely - they scuttled the vessel and left it by getting on to rescue rafts. The border guards picked them up afterwards. In the meantime, Kamchatka region's prosecutor Mikhail Simakhin said the office of prosecution on transport and the border service department is trying to establish the owner of the vessel. He indicated that the *Priozorny* might belong to a company registered in the city of Magadan, on the opposite coast of the Sea of Okhotsk.

PXXI P21

London, June 8 — Following received from Caope Town MRCC, timed 1100, UTC: It has been reported that oil platform *PXXI P21* has been located on a beach on Tristan da Cunha Island. The weather in the area is not very good so the platform cannot yet be inspected.

QUEEN OF SAANICH (Canada)

Vancouver, Jun 1 — Roll On Roll Off *Queen of Saanich* had a small fire caused by malfunctioning bun warmer in galley. Repairs were carried out by ferry personnel at their dry-dock involving re-wiring and vessel has returned to service. — Lloyd's Agents.

QUEEN OF THE NORTH (Canada)

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated Jun 5, states: According to the AP, B.C. Ferries says it will suspend and possibly fire a handful of crew members who were working on passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North* the night it sank (Mar 22) if they don't take part into an investigation into the sinking. The report indicated that CEO David Hahn told Canadian Press that less than four crew

members have refused to answer questions in the investigation. Hahn refused to say whether the crew members are critical to the investigation or include the two who were in the wheelhouse at the time of the crash. B.C. Ferry and Marine Workers Union president Jackie Miller says 10 to 12 crew members who were on the ferry that night have been assigned legal counsel and been advised not to speak to B.C. Ferries. Miller says that if the members are fired, the union will take some form of action. The Transportation Safety Board, Transport Canada, B.C. Ferries and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are investigating the sinking.

REINE (Panama)

Santo Domingo, Jun 7 — Additional repairs were completed to Roll On Roll Off *Reine*, renamed *Sea Mermaid*, and also payment was effected. The vessel sailed from Las Calderas on Mar 6, but to unknown destination. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAMSKIP COURIER (Antigua & Barbuda)

See *Skagern*.

SAN CHI 12 (Taiwan)

Brisbane, June 2 — Fishing (general) *San Chi 12* grounded on the Port Lock Reef about 80 nautical miles East of Yorke Island, outside Australian Waters, but within the PNG region. However, Australian services were best placed to assist and effect the rescue. The Taiwanese master and his 15 Chinese crewmen were brought to Thursday Island for a medical examination at the Thursday Island Hospital after being rescued by two helicopters from Yorke Island and Cairns. The group was not regarded as illegal fishermen but as distressed sea-farers, with the incident occurring outside the Australian Search and Rescue zone, but within the PNG Zone. Unfortunately two of the Chinese crew escaped authorities at Brisbane Airport while on a cigarette break and are still at large. The Member for South Fly, in the Papua New Guinea Government, Conrad Haoda has alleged in Parliament that the damaged fishing trawler was leaking fuel into the sea, creating environment concerns in his electorate after running onto the reef. Mr Haoda said the trawler was still grounded on Portlock Reef in the Western province after allegedly conducting illegal fishing activities in the area. He said the grounded vessel and the leak could pose a serious damage to the environment. He said the leaking fuel was drifting west to the wildlife reserve and may also spill into Australian waters. Mr Haoda said the vessel was one of over 40 Taiwanese vessels now operating in the electorate, especially in the highly protected Dog Leg area. With a number illegal fishing vessels in an around Australian waters, it is the custom of Australian Authorities to deport the crew and destroy the

vessel, however this vessel is in New Guinea waters and apparently has a fishing licence for that country's waters. It remains grounded on the reef at this time with neither Government giving any indication of future plans. — Lloyd's Agents.

SC BALTIC (DIS)

London, June 2 — General cargo *SC Baltic* arrived Terneuzen May 31.

London, June 3 — General cargo *SC Baltic* sailed Terneuzen 1634, June 1 and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 54 17 20N, long 05 08 26E, at 0943, June 2, speed 13.5 knots course 30.1 degrees.

SEA DIAMOND VII (Panama)

Piraeus, Jun 7 — Anchor handling tug/supply *Sea Diamond VII* (867 gt, built 1982) towing barges *Skopelos III* (3539 gt, built 2006) and *Sikinos*, bound Emirates, reported engine-room flooding. Salvage tug *Sumatras*, towing two new buildings, was first on scene and stood-by. The two barges were cut loose from the tug and the crew of the tug abandoned ship and were picked up by another vessel in the area. Tug *SB-408* proceeded from Colombo. Two Lloyd's Open Forms were signed one for the tug and the other for the barges. *SB-408* arrived on scene in approximately lat 05 54N, long 84 54E, pm Jun 3. *Sea Diamond VII* sank and *SB-408* is towing the barges to Colombo where ETA Jun 9. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

SEA PRINCESS (Bermuda)

See "Outbreak Of Virus On Bermuda-Flagged Vessel" under "Miscellaneous."

SEA-LAND VOYAGER (Marshall Islands)

See "Drugs Found On Marshall Islands Vessel At Mumbai, India" under "Miscellaneous".

SIKINOS

See *Sea Diamond VII*.

SINAR DEMAK (Singapore)

Jakarta, June 2 — According to the owners of general cargo *Sinar Demak*, PT. Samudra Shipping Service, the vessel has completed repairs and sailed Surabaya today for Pontianak. — Lloyd's Agents.

SKAGERN (Sweden)

London, Following received from Humber Coastguard, timed 0750, UTC: General cargo *Skagern* (1599 gt, built 1967) was in collision with general cargo *Samskip Courier* (7852 gt, built 2006) off Salt End Jetty, River Humber, at 2300 hrs, Jun 7. *Skagern* has sustained considerable holing damage and is currently alongside at King George Dock. *Samskip Courier* is currently anchored at Tetney Terminal assessing damage, believed to be a small hole in the forepeak.

SKOPELOS III (Singapore)

See *Sea Diamond VII*.

SPAR CETUS (NIS)

London, June 4 — Understand bulker *Spar Cetus* (25982 gt, built 1998) touched bottom and also struck Buoy 18. Afterwards vessel anchored at Terneuzen anchorage for bottom inspection.

Zeebrugge, June 4 — Bulker *Spar Cetus* sailed Teneuzen 0554, June 2 for Paranagua and later anchored at Terneuzen anchorage with "technical problems." Vessel was later reported passing Flushing roads at 1800 same day outbound for Paranagua. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — According to LMIU AIS *Spar Cetus* was in lat 49 23 30N, long 04 32 14W, at 1938, June 3 speed 13.5 knots.)

STOLT ZULU (Singapore)

London, June 6 — Chemical tanker *Stolt Zulu* sailed Baton Rouge May 24 and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 08 03 36N, long 79 37 56W, at 1057, June 2, course 197 degrees, speed 15 knots. (See issue of June 2.)

TINIAN EXPRESS (Panama)

Honolulu, Jun 5 — It was reported that ferry *Tinian Express* will be drydocked in Saipan at the end of June, or early July, for repairs to be completed. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Mar 21.)

TULLY (Virgin Islands, British)

London, June 2 — General cargo *Tully* arrived Curacao May 25 and sailed same day. According to LMIU AIS *Tully* was in lat 08 54 43.2N, long 79 31 13.2W, Balboa area, at 0853 today.

VENTSPILS (Russia)

Vladivostok, June 2 — Product tanker *Ventspils* arrived Slavyanka May 26 from Magadan. — Lloyd's Agents.

WESTPORT (U.S.A.)

Boston, MA, Jun 2 — Fishing (general) *Westport* is currently undergoing clutch repairs, ETC around Jun 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

ZEINA (Georgia)

London, June 5 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 2240, UTC, June 3, Iraklion Radio reported general cargo *Zeina* (4759 gt, built 1980), with 18 persons on board, was not under command due to engine failure in lat 37 31N, long 24 23E, 1.5 nautical miles off the eastern coast of Kea. Ships in vicinity were requested to keep radio contact and offer assistance if required.

London, June 5 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1115, UTC, today: General cargo *Zeina* was last reported being towed to Piraeus anchorage by tug *Atlas* where ETA was early today.

London, June 6 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1005, UTC, today: General cargo *Zeina* was taken in tow by tug *Atlas* at 2005, June 4 and tug and tow arrived Piraeus anchorage at 1430 yesterday.

ZHE YONG 18 (China)

Antwerp, Jun 8 — General cargo *Zhe Yong 18* (2983 gt, built 2005), that was sailing from anchorage No.9 of Wusong to fairway during the morning of Jun 6, collided with bulker *Arctic Voyager* (28420 gt, built 1994) and bulker *Zhen Fen 9* (12827 gt, built 1985), both sailing along fairway. *Arctic Voyager* was going to berth at Baoshan Terminal for discharging iron ore in bulk and has arranged repairing at anchorage after discharging. *Zhe Yong 18* is still at anchorage. — "DPS Teamhead Surveyors."

ZHEN FEN 9 (China)

See *Zhe Yong 18*.



PHILIPPINES

Manila, Jun 6 — Police recovered two Indonesian-owned hijacked vessels on May 16, following the arrest of their 11 Indonesian crew members, who had commandeered and sold the vessels in the Philippines. Found in Davao, in southern Philippines, was the Malaysian-registered tug *Martha Dini* (194 gt, built 2005). The Indonesian-registered barge *Sentana V* was recovered in a shipyard in Sangat, San Fernando town, in Cebu province, in central Philippines. Both vessels names had been changed and bodies repainted. The vessels are owned by Indonesian-based Piti Multi Jaya Samudera. The vessels, with a combined crew of 12, reportedly left the Indonesia port of Sumatra on Apr 13, for Kalimantan for drydocking. The crew, however, brought the vessels to the Philippines, where these were sold to an undisclosed buyer. Both vessels have been returned to their Indonesian owner. The crime would have gone unnoticed except for the untimely death of one of the hijackers, who suffered a fatal heart attack in Cebu City. The remaining hijackers were arrested by local police when they tried to dispose of the body. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SOMALIA

Manila, Jun 2 — The Philippine government will enter into negotiations with Somalian pirates who had hijacked the Panamanian-registered product tanker *Lin I*, manned by 19 Filipinos, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's chief aide said today. "Be assured that we are going to negotiate not only with the company of the Filipino hostages, not only with the hostage-takers but with all those concerned so that we would be able to know the situation and how we could help our fellow citizens who were abducted," Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said today. News of the government's intention to take a more active role followed

reports that one of the Filipino hostages had died in captivity. A Filipino crewman, who was able to talk to his wife by mobile phone, reported that one of the captives died accidentally. The crewman was not identified, however, and no other details were given. Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Gilbert Asuque said that the reported death of one of the hostages could not be immediately confirmed but the government was trying to contact the ship's owners, who have been negotiating with the hostage takers. These developments represent a reversal of the government's previous position of playing down the crisis and having the ship owners take the lead in negotiating with the pirates. The government has been forced to take a more active role after the wives of the kidnapped crewmembers went public, yesterday, about their plight. On the other hand, Defensor said that while all diplomatic efforts would be exhausted to secure the release of the hostages, the government was drawing the line in paying ransom. The hostage takers were reported to have demanded US\$500,000 from the Philippine crewing agency to have the seafarers released. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Port State Control



AUSTRALIA

Sydney, Jun 5 — The Australian Maritime Safety Authority has defended its action in allowing a vessel with obvious serious defects to sail from Sydney and Melbourne before being forced to undergo major structural repairs. The vessel, bulker with container capacity *Boomerang II* (18775 gt, built 1983), which had been chartered by nascent coastal shipping operator Pan Australia Shipping, has been placed off hire while she sits at a layby berth in Fremantle. Pan is understood to be seeking legal redress from the owners, Piraeus-based Alon Maritime, arguing that the vessel had not been presented as described by the owner and had failed to meet international safety standards. AMSA issued a statement saying it performed an initial port state control inspection of the ship on May 7 after she arrived in Sydney from overseas. AMSA detained the ship at Sydney because of major safety deficiencies, mainly involving the fire safety systems, Load Line requirements and the ships safety management system not complying with the requirements of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code. The ship was released from detention on May 10 after the major defects were addressed and on the basis that an ISM audit would be conducted within a month, AMSA said. The ship then sailed to Melbourne (arriving May

22). As the ship was leaving Melbourne (on May 23), a master aboard an AMSA tug noted that the shell plating on the ship's hull appeared to be cracked. The cracking would not have been visible from the wharf or deck of the ship, AMSA said. When the ship arrived at Fremantle on May 28, AMSA detained the ship again after confirming the crack in the ship's hull and that the ship's master was aware of the hull damage, but had failed to report this to the relevant authorities. AMSA then conducted an intensive inspection of the ship, in view of the seriousness of the unreported hull damage, and found a total of 68 deficiencies. It said most are not detainable deficiencies but will need to be addressed before the ship leaves Fremantle or within a prescribed time. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

Sydney, Jun 6 — The master of a containership with a crack in her side just 1.5 metres above the waterline disregarded advice from the vessel's charterer and set sail from Melbourne in an unseaworthy condition, it has been alleged. When the vessel arrived in Fremantle, it was discovered that there were two further cracks in the ship's hull. It is understood that the authorities also discovered that the Russian master did not have a valid passport while other irregularities were found in crew documentation. Lloyd's List DCN understands that it was a tug master who initially identified the structural problem with *Boomerang II* (ex *Comandate*, while it was berthing in the port of Melbourne. The pilot was made aware and the tug operator alerted the vessel's operator, coastal shipping company Pan Australia Shipping and its technical manager the Austral Asian Maritime Group. Concerned by the development, AAMG chief executive Anil Bhatia contacted the master requesting that action be taken to address the problem. He sent one of his managers down to the vessel to talk to the master. "The alarm bells started ringing when I phoned the master at 10 o'clock on the evening the ship was due to sail to discover that nothing had been done and the authorities (AMSA) had not been alerted," Mr Bhatia said. He then rang the owners in Greece, Piraeus-based Alon Maritime, who informed him that they were aware of the problem but that it was not a serious concern and that the ship would be repaired when she arrived in Fremantle. Mr Bhatia then tried to contact AMSA, but as it was out of hours he was put through to its message service. The operator asked if the matter was an emergency or urgent. He responded "urgent" and gave his phone number. AMSA did not respond to his call until the next morning, by which time the ship had sailed. It is understood that the operator had transposed the last two digits of his phone number when recording it. However, Mr Bhatia is well known in the Melbourne shipping community and his home number is in

the telephone directory. It would not have been too difficult to track him down given the urgency of the matter, he believes. Mr Bhatia said he had a couple of sleepless nights knowing the ship was sailing across the notorious Great Australian Bight in such a condition. When the vessel arrived in Fremantle on May 28, AMSA boarded her with representatives from the Department of Immigration, the International Transport Workers Federation and the vessel's flag state undertook immediately an International Safety Management (ISM) Code audit. AMSA detained the ship again after confirming the crack in the ship's hull and that the ship's master was aware of the hull damage, but had failed to report this to the relevant authorities. AMSA then conducted an intensive inspection of the ship, in view of the seriousness of the unreported hull damage, and found a total of 68 deficiencies. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

CYPRUS

Limassol, June 7 — General cargo *Joudi-S* (1299 gt, built 1966) which was reported to have sailed June 2 for open sea, is still at Limassol Roads under detention by the Port State Control. — Lloyd's Agents.

Limassol, Jun 7 — Passenger (cruise) *Olympia*, which arrived Limassol on Mar 4, from Port Said, and was detained by the Dept. of Merchant Shipping since Mar 8, has been released. Vessel changed name to *Sun*, flag KNA, call sign V4HF, and sailed Jun 1, for Port Said. — Lloyd's List.

GERMANY

Bremen, June 2 — According to a local press report general cargo *Da Bak Sol* has left Bremerhaven, after a stay of about two months for extensive repairs, with unknown destination. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Da Bak Sol* sailed Bremerhaven 1610, May 24.)

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Dublin, Jun 6 — General cargo *Emsland* was detained at Wicklow due safety equipment missing or out of date. The vessel was allowed to sail May 25 for Bremen after the deficiencies were corrected. — Lloyd's Agents.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 1 — Following received from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated today: Container Carrier *Pilgrim 2* is still under detention at Shoreham.

Seizures & Arrests



AL BIRUNI (Egypt)

Alexandria, Jun 5 — General cargo *Al Biruni* is still under arrest at Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

ANJUM (North Korea)

Karachi, Jun 6 — General cargo *Anjum* is still under arrest due to “a dispute between owners”. — Lloyd’s Agents.

BREEZE (Belize)

See “Poaching Vessels Arrested at Korsakov, Russia.”

C.H.M.T. (Egypt)

Alexandria, Jun 5 — General cargo *C.H.M.T.*, ex *Salem Two*, remains under arrest at Alexandria. — Lloyd’s Agents.

DAMANIA-1 (India)

Mumbai, Jun 6 — Ferry *Damania-1* is still docked alongside No “G” PD Mumbai, arrested by order of the High Court. — Lloyd’s Agents.

EMSLAND (Antigua & Barbuda)

See “Republic of Ireland” under “Port State Control.”

GRADIENT (Russia)

See “Poaching Vessels Arrested at Korsakov, Russia”

JAVA BASSET

See *Java Beagle*.

JAVA BEAGLE (Singapore)

Karachi, Jun 6 — Anchor handling tug *Java Beagle* and anchor handling tug *Java Basset* under arrest due to non payment of Port dues, now shifted to shipyard channel. — Lloyd’s Agents.

MALTESE FALCON (Malta)

Valletta, June 2 — A local press report, states: Roll On Roll Off *Maltese Falcon*, formerly owned by Sea Malta and which was at the heart of controversies during the company’s sale to a private firm, was auctioned yesterday to Grimaldi, the same company signed up to take over the national shipping line. The vessel was auctioned in court at Lm1.75 million, or just over Euro four million, which means some Euro 1.5 million shy of the much contended Euro 5.5 million price valuation, which turned the company’s losses into profits for the previous year. Atlantica SpA di Navigazione, the company forming part of the Italian Grimaldi Group, was geared to take over Sea Malta but the deal collapsed in the wake of a dispute with the General Workers’ Union and a section of seafarers, with the company then going into liquidation. The re-evaluation had been ordered by the Sea Malta board of directors two weeks before Grimaldi and the government signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the sale of the shipping line. The re-evaluation, carried out by the international firm Barry Rogliano Salles, pushed the price of the vessel to Euro 5.5 million, \$1 million more than the agreed price. The re-evaluation had led to an unexpected twist which indicated that Sea Malta had actually registered a profit of Lm235,764 for the year ending March 2005, a turnaround of Lm2.72 million

from the previous year for the company and Lm2.16 million for the group. The change suddenly placed the company in a more attractive position than the one it was sold at, a situation the Public Investments Ministry had branded as nothing more than “monkey business”, intentioned to disrupt the privatisation process through “window-dressing” tactics. The evaluators had explained the change through an increase in demand for the purchase of RoRo vessels and an increase in rates charged for the time charter of such vessels. Grimaldi’s offer was made by Ernest Sullivan on behalf of the company. Mr Sullivan, in fact, was the first person to make a bid of Lm1 million. — Lloyd’s Agents.

ORESTES (Panama)

Bari, Jun 5 — Passenger ro/ro *Orestes* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd’s Agents.

PANNONIA (Comoros)

Piraeus, June 3 — Comoros general cargo *Pannonia* was arrested at Patras for cigarettes smuggling yesterday, June 2. The vessel had discharged the contraband consignment at Itea. Preliminary investigation is effected by Patras port authorities. — Lloyd’s Agents.

PAULIJING (Belize)

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Decaying soya on board general cargo *Paulijing* anchored 10 nautical miles from Pasir Gudang has started to emit inflammable gas, and the crew is worried the ship might explode. The vessel has been impounded by the court since last September after a legal dispute over its ownership. Kyaw Aung Lin, a member of the ship’s eight-man crew, told the Johor branch of the Malaysian Trades Union Congress that their lives could be in danger. He said the cargo now emitted fumes and a pungent smell. “As a result of the humidity, the 6,600-tonne cargo has produced inflammable gas.” Another crew member, A. Martin, said living conditions on board were deplorable as there was no power supply. “We have to eat expired canned food as we have no money to buy food.” Martin said the crew, comprising four Indian and four Myanmar nationals, suffered dizziness, headaches, stomach pains and vomiting after inhaling the fumes from the decomposing cargo. They are seeking help from the MTUC to send them home and obtain their wages. MTUC Johor branch chairman A. Bosko said the crew had not been paid for the last six months. The MTUC has brought the matter to the attention of the International Transport Workers Federation.

PLAVA (Albania)

Bari, Jun 5 — General cargo *Plava* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd’s Agents.

POACHING VESSELS ARRESTED AT KORSAKOV, RUSSIA

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated Jun 6, states: Belize fishing (general) *Breeze*, a poacher ship was arrested by border guards and radioed SOS from Korsakov sea port today. Maritime rescue services of many countries received the signal, but it turned out that *Breeze* was neither sinking nor caught fire. The master radioed the ship was running out of fuel and would have no power supply by tonight, which might pose a threat to navigation in the area of Korsakov port. Another poacher trawler, *Gradient* (? refrigerated general cargo *Gradient*, 722 gt, built 1984) is in a similar position. There are six poacher ships lying out off Korsakov port at present that were detained by border guards for illegal fishing in the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk. Nikolai Ivanov, Captain on duty at the Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Rescue Coordination Center, said that *Breeze*, that has a Russian crew on board but sails under the Belize flag, radioed SOS in order to draw attention to a desperate condition of the detained sailors. A Public Relations group of the Sakhalin Border Guard Department declared that the ship owner should provide fuel, food, drinking water and other essentials to the ship’s crew. *Breeze* was detained in the Russian territorial waters on May 11. Inspectors found around two tons of crab fish on board, whereas the master had no permission for crab catches. The border guards detained *Breeze* and convoyed the ship to Korsakov for an investigation.

QUEEN CONSTANTINA (Cyprus)

Limassol, Jun 7 — Passenger (cruise) *Queen Constantina*, now renamed *Forest*, Tuvalu flag, sailed Limassol May 29, for Port Said. — Lloyd’s Agents.

RA NAM (North Korea)

London, Jun 5 — General cargo *Ra Nam* is currently still at Kellett Anchorage No.3, Hong Kong, under arrest.

THE SPIRIT OF NAMIBIA (Honduras)

See *Meob Bay* under “Marine.”

VIARSA I (Panama)

Fremantle, June 6 — Fishing *Viarsa I* is still at Jervoise Bay pending a Federal Court case for breach of fishing laws later this year. The crew were released some time ago and the vessel is manned by ship keeper only. — Lloyd’s Agents.



Pipeline Accidents

MOSCOW AREA, RUSSIA

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A gas pipeline

rupture during digging on a territory in the north of Moscow sparked a fire, a source from the city security structures said today. Four workers received serious burns in the accident. The victims were taken to hospital in ambulance cars. The accident occurred at 33, Leningradskoye Shosse (highway) at around half past noon today. The authorities are investigating.

Pollution



BOURGAS, BULGARIA

London, Jun 8 — Crude oil tanker *Hawaiian Leader* arrived Varna Jun 6 from Bourgas.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

See "Slops Tanks, Corpus Christi, Texas, United States" under "Fires & Explosions".

Weather & Navigation



CHINA

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated Jun 3, states: Rainstorms have whipped through southern China claiming 29 lives with floods and landslides destroying thousands of homes and forcing the evacuation of more than 100,000 people, state media said today. Seven residents of Meizhou city in Guangdong province, just north of Hong Kong, were killed in landslides over the past three days, said Xinhua news agency, which earlier confirmed 22 fatalities in neighbouring Fujian. There were fears worse was to come with another 10 days of heavy rains forecast to drench the provinces south of the Yangtze river, a vast area that is home to hundreds of millions of people, the China Daily newspaper reported. "Maximum rainfall may reach more than 200 millimetres in a few areas," an unnamed Beijing weather official warned, according to the paper. The non-stop rain, so far 20 percent worse compared with the same period last year, has forced the evacuation of more than 50,000 people in Guangdong, plus another 50,000 in Fujian, Xinhua said. The entire town of Chayang in Guangdong was flooded after officials released water from two reservoirs that had been brimming with water from a month's worth of precipitation, the paper said. As a result, the streets of Chayang were submerged in four metres of water, forcing 5,000 people to be evacuated. Major rivers have been brought under greater control and early warning

systems have been put in place, but flash floods and landslides caused by rains continue to cause major damage.

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A bank of a rain-swollen river collapsed early today in southern China, flooding 11 villages filled with sleeping people and causing an unknown number of deaths and injuries. The river bank collapse in Fujian province came amid what the government calls the worst summer flooding in parts of China in three decades. At least 55 people have been killed in Fujian and two other provinces since late May from heavy rains that have caused floods and landslides and washed away part of a rail-link between Beijing and Hong Kong. Twelve people are missing. Across southern China, at least 378,000 people have been evacuated from Fujian, Guangdong and Guizhou provinces due to floods, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said. Other provinces further inland and to the north have also reported scattered deaths and flood damage. The rains have disrupted transportation, flooded streets and required thousands of police and military officers to evacuate residents by boat.

INDIA

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities say the official death toll from lightning strikes and powerful storms in India has risen to 76, as annual summer monsoon rains tear through the country ahead of schedule. Police say lightning has killed three people while three others died overnight after gusting winds wrecked homes at Allahabad, in northern Uttar Pradesh. A total of 32 dead have been reported from Uttar Pradesh alone since May 18, when the monsoon hit India's Andaman Archipelago and then swirled up the west coast states of Kerala, Maharashtra and Gujarat. Maharashtra Government spokesman Bhushan Gagrani announced 19 rain-related deaths during the week in the western state. "All the deaths were caused due to lightning strikes or collapsing walls," he said. In Gujarat's Narmada, Dahod and Sabarkanta districts, six people were killed and four sustained burns in lightning strikes while two teenagers died in Ahmedabad as the first monsoon rains lashed the state yesterday. At least four others died in rain-related accidents in Gujarat.

PICTON, NEW ZEALAND

Wellington, Jun 7 — A local press report, dated Jun 6, states: The salmon farm that broke its mooring in March to drift into the Tory Channel was returned to Queen Charlotte Sound site today. New Zealand King Salmon had a 90 minute opportunity to get its Te Pangu farm, with 400,000 fish, secured in position at its home base this morning. The transfer of the 156m long and 25m deep farm began with the removal of temporary moorings in Ruakaka Bay from 0300 hrs. The massive structure was on the

move by 0430 hrs. New Zealand King Salmon Company Ltd general manager Stuart Hawthorn said "plan A" would see the farm towed down the channel on the outgoing tide and swung into position on the slack tide at about 1115 hrs. "Forty five minutes either side of that would be ok," he said. If the timing is not achieved, the farm would be pulled into Oyster Bay and held overnight, he said. However, he was optimistic everything would be in place today. One main and two support tugs maintaining a speed of one knot per hour had reached the entrance to Tory Channel at 0830 hrs, speed increasing to 1.5 knots after entering Tory Channel. Te Pangu farm manager Anton Perano said the farm structure was about half the size it was when it snapped free of its moorings in March. The removal of cages reduced the farm from 1.3 hectares to 0.9 hectares. The farm structure comprised an accommodation block and one cage comprised of 12 nets, eight of which were holding fish. The farm would initially be moored with 27 screw anchors and eventually 34 screw anchors. Before it snapped free in March, it was moored with a combination of screw anchors and concrete blocks. Engineering consultants had advised it was best to go with either one or the other type of anchors, he said. — Lloyd's Agents.

TYPHOON "CHANCHU"

Manila, June 2 — Philippine-registered non-propelled tank barge *Billy Star*, 476.93 gt, built 1997, is still trapped on the shores of Sibuyan island (lat 12 25N, long 122 34E) in Romblon province in central Philippines over three weeks since it ran aground at the height of tropical storm "Chanchu". *Billy Star* and its cargo of sulphuric acid was being towed by tug *Lucky Star* from Mindanao to Manila when it got caught by tropical storm "Chanchu". The two vessels were subsequently swept by heavy winds and seas to the shores of Sibuyan island where they both ran aground on May 13. *Lucky Star* was able to extricate itself but *Billy Star* remained stuck in the sandy shores of the island. The barge now poses a serious environmental and health hazard. Environmentalists warned that the longer the barge is exposed to the elements, the greater the danger that the sulphuric acid could escape and contaminate the surrounding area. Despite the obvious dangers, the owner of the barge, Manila-based Grand Asian Shipping Lines, has failed to move the ship and its cargo. Initially, the owners contacted Malayan Towing and Salvage Corp after it's barge ran aground. Grand Asian Shipping, however, reportedly balked from signing a salvage agreement when it learned it would cost US\$200,000 to refloat the barge. It is still unclear, if Grand Asian Shipping would attempt to salvage the barge or is negotiating with other salvors for a more favourable price. The barge's P&I

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coverage is provided by British Marine. Authorities, in the meantime, have taken no action to resolve the situation. Asked about the accident, the Philippine Coast Guard said that they were unaware of the marine casualty and would still have to investigate. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, June 5 — The owners of grounded tank barge *Billy Star* have finally signed a salvage agreement with Manila-based salvor Malayan Towage and Salvage Co for the recovery of the barge and its cargo of sulphuric acid. Manila-based Grand Asian Shipping Lines, owner and operator of *Billy Star*, signed the contract yesterday or 23 days since the barge ran aground off Sibuyan island. Grand Asian Shipping, which has been in negotiation with Malayan Towage since the barge ran aground, is reported to have been able to negotiate the contract cost down from the original asking price of US\$200,000. The agreement is reported to cover the refloating of the barge and the off-loading of its cargo of 1,200 tonnes of sulphuric acid and the towing of *Billy Star* to a still to be designated port. Following the signing of the agreement Malayan Towage salvage tug *Tabangao* was dispatched to *Billy Star*'s location. The barge (? tug) is expected to arrive tomorrow. The refloating of the barge is expected to be an extremely hazardous undertaking not only because of the highly toxic nature of the cargo but because the cargo tanks are reported to be submerged. If the salvor decides to offload the cargo before refloating, the tricky part would be preventing the escape of the sulphuric acid into the water. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, June 6 — The damage to the grounded tank barge *Billy Star* appears to be more serious than earlier reports indicated. A Philippine Coast Guard accident report released today said that the barge "sustained a 10 cm hole on its starboard amidships below the waterline." It is not clear, however, if its storage tanks which contain 1,270 tonnes of highly toxic sulphuric acid has been breached. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jun 7 — Batangas Bay Carriers, Inc., owner and operator of product tanker *Malitam*, reported that cleaning of the vessel's storage tanks was completed yesterday. It was also reported that the list of shipyards bidding for the repair of *Malitam* has been narrowed to three Manila-based shipyards. Batangas Bay Carriers is expected to award the repair contract before the end of the week. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jun 7 — Malayan Towage and Salvage, Inc. reported that its salvage tug *Tabangao* arrived at the site of the grounded tank barge *Billy Star* on Monday evening. *Billy Star*, which is loaded with 1,260 metric tons of sulphuric acid, is submerged up to deck level off the shoreline of Sitio Talaba on Sibuyan island in central Philippines. The Malayan Towage

salvage master has recommended not to offload the cargo but to keep the sulphuric acid in its storage tanks. Patching work will be done on the hull fractures after which the flooded compartments will be pumped out. When buoyancy is achieved, the barge will be pulled out of its resting place by the salvage tugs. Another salvage tug is set to leave Manila today bringing fuel, pumps and other equipment to the site. The tug is expected to arrive tomorrow morning and will assist *Tabangao* in the refloating.

Manila, Jun 8 — Product tanker *Malitam* is still moored at Pasig River. We were informed that Batangas Bay Carrier, Inc. officials are still looking for a suitable shipyard for the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

UNITED STATES

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The city of Lowell Massachusetts may be left high and dry when it comes to receiving federal aid to fix roads and bridges damaged by the coursing floodwaters. Lowell officials estimate the infrastructure damage at \$25 million, but federal officials will not accept the estimate because it includes properties that were already insured or where the damage cannot be seen yet, said Brian Hvinden, spokesman for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Middlesex County must log \$4.3 million in damages to qualify for federal help. Hvinden said FEMA officials must be very careful what they spend money on and can't count all damages because they are spending federal taxpayer dollars. MEMA officials believe they can prove Middlesex County qualifies, even if they don't have the hard numbers right now, said Peter Judge, spokesman for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. Gov. Mitt Romney formally asked President Bush yesterday to grant the state public assistance for flood damage to dams, bridges and roads in Middlesex, Essex and Suffolk counties. The state estimates damage to public infrastructure, excluding private property, at between \$10 million and \$20 million. FEMA reimburses communities for 75 percent of the approved costs if Bush signs off on the request. He could respond in seven to 10 days. Federal officials use criteria based on the population to see if a state or county hit by the flood qualifies for aid, Hvinden said. The state has already qualified because it has proved damage of more than \$1.18 per resident, or about \$7.5 million. Counties must qualify separately by proving the flood caused at least \$2.94 worth of damage per resident, according to FEMA standards. Essex County, which had a lot of heavily damaged (See issue of May 25.)

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Rain, hail, floods and frost have caused crop damage across wide swaths of California since

the first day of the year, and 31 of the state's 58 counties have sought federal disaster declarations for crop losses. Authorities tracking the damage estimates say the requests frequently mention damage to alfalfa, tree fruit and vegetables. Loss estimates to date total \$300 million, but the full extent of the damage probably won't be known until after harvest.

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected tornadoes ripped through southern and central Wisconsin on Tuesday (Jun 6), damaging dozens of buildings and overturning large trucks but causing only minor injuries, authorities said. About two dozen homes south of Portage in Columbia County, about 35 miles north of Madison, had significant damage, including ripped-off roofs, said Lori Getter of Wisconsin Emergency Management. There were no reports of injuries. Patrick Beghin, Columbia County's emergency management director, said the county's northwestern and western portions were hit. A likely tornado damaged homes, took out a barn and granary, downed power lines and trees and flipped over a car in Lewiston township. That tornado or another one hit the Sky High Camping Resort south of State Highway 33, flipping over rental trailers at the resort, Beghin said. The National Weather Service said it had received preliminary reports of tornadoes near Portage, Poynette, Waunakee, Wisconsin Dells and Barneveld.

Earthquakes



FIJI REGION

London, Jun 2 — A report, dated today, states: A magnitude 6.1 earthquake occurred in lat 20.73S, long 178.70W, Fiji region, depth 561 km at 0731, UTC, today.

INDONESIA

Yogyakarta, Jun 3 — Tens of thousands of people who survived Indonesia's killer earthquake ran out of their makeshift tent homes as fresh tremors overnight spread fear across the region. Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency told Reuters today that it had recorded several aftershocks of magnitude 4, each lasting about 30 seconds. A 6.3 magnitude quake struck Yogyakarta and Central Java provinces last Saturday (May 27), killing over 6,200 people and flattening over 100,000 houses. Many in the region are now living in flimsy shelters in front of the piles of rubble that used to be their homes. The government's official quake death toll remains at 6,234. The social ministry's disaster task force has also said 33,231 people had serious injuries and 12,917 people had minor injuries. — Reuters.

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: The 6.3-magnitude quake that struck central Java island on May 27, killed at least 5,857 people. The government revised its death toll downward from more than 6,200 after determining that some victims had been counted twice and others initially believed dead were found alive. The Indonesian government stepped up relief efforts for quake victims, sending some 200 truckloads of rice to hard-hit areas to help the more than half million people left homeless. The quake damaged or destroyed more than 130,000 homes and at least 835 schools, the U.N. children's agency and government officials said. But today, at least 10 damaged schools held end-of-year exams for eighth-grade students in tents, the agency said. About a third of the estimated 647,000 people displaced by the disaster are living in makeshift shelters, often just plastic tarps, with no toilets or running water, surviving on donated food. Aid agencies stepped up supplies of clean water and latrines but warned that unsanitary conditions could lead to a wave of diarrhea and skin diseases, as well as infections. Some 200 trucks, each filled with more than four tons of rice destined for the disaster zone, left the city square in the ancient royal capital of Yogyakarta. "The government will ensure everybody gets food," Vice President Yusuf Kalla said, seeing off the trucks. He promised the government would provide each survivor with 22 pounds of rice monthly until houses are rebuilt. The international relief effort has picked up pace in recent days, although aid has yet to reach some remote areas. The United Nations has appealed for \$103 million for recovery efforts over the next six months.

TONGA

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 6.1 struck today near the Pacific islands of Tonga, the United States Government says. The US Geological Survey says the epicentre of the quake was located 363 kilometres west of the island nation's capital Nuku'alofa. No reports of casualties or damage were immediately available.



MOUNT BULUSAN, PHILIPPINES

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Sorsogon officials alerted residents living near Mount Bulusan after the volcano spewed ash two kilometers into the sky last night, ABS-CBN Regional Network Group reported today. Noel Pura, chief provincial disaster co-ordinator, said no evacuation has been ordered but

town mayors were advised for the possible explosion. He said officials met with the mayors of Juban, Casiguran, Bulusan, Irson, Barcelona and Gubat for evacuation plans. He added that disaster management officials briefed town mayors of the impending explosion of Bulusan as early as December last year. He said town mayors already know the contingency plans when it comes to food, transportation and what government agencies to tap should an emergency occur. Volcanologists said the towns of Casiguran, Juban and Irosin experienced ashfalls following the ash explosion at 2017 yesterday. Elementary and high school classes were been suspended in Casiguran today. The town's Barangays Inlagadian, San Juan, Escuela and Mabini were heavily affected by the ash explosion. Barangay Sancayon in Juban and Barangay Bolos in Irosin also experienced ashfalls. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology raised the alert level to a second degree. It has also strongly advised residents to evacuate the four-kilometer permanent danger zone. The explosion yesterday was the biggest yet recorded after the volcano became active.

MOUNT MERAPI, INDONESIA

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Mount Merapi spewed streams of lava and clouds of gases, raising fears of another major eruption, while hundreds of Indonesian children attended classes under tents today in nearby areas devastated by the recent earthquake. Lava poured down the mountain's southwestern slope today. Merapi's lava dome has swelled since the quake to 330 feet, raising fears it could collapse, officials said. That could send clouds of gas and searing-hot debris pouring down toward thousands of people living on its fertile slopes, the government warned. The authorities ordered residents in a danger zone to evacuate, but many refused to abandon their livestock and crops.

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Indonesia's most dangerous volcano spewed a spectacular roiling cloud of hot gas and ash down its southern slope today, sending more than 15,000 villagers fleeing to safety, scientists said. Mount Merapi has been venting steam and ash for weeks, but this morning's burst was the largest yet, with billowing, dark gray clouds avalanching 3.5 miles down its slopes, said Sugiono, an Indonesian volcanologist who like many Indonesians goes by one name. It was one of a series of powerful explosions early today. Some scientists say a powerful May 27 earthquake that killed more than 5,700 people in an area just 25 miles south of Mount Merapi may have contributed to the volcano's volatility in recent weeks. The rumbling mountain's lava dome has swelled, raising concerns that it could suddenly collapse and send

scalding clouds of fast-moving gas, lava and rocks into areas that have yet to be evacuated. "A lot of people are panicking," said Sutomo, a government official at the scene, adding that 3,500 people had fled Sleman district on Merapi's southern side, some running and others piling in trucks and heading to nearby towns at the base. Another 12,000 left their villages in Magelang district on the west side, officials said. Stubborn villagers said today that the latest burst would not scare them off. "We are worried, but we won't leave," a villager named Supriatun told The Associated Press by mobile phone. "As long as the hot clouds do not reach us, we won't leave our village."

MOUNT SAKURAJIMA, JAPAN

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A volcano erupted in southern Japan today, spewing a plume of smoke about 1,000 metres into the air, the Weather Agency said. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. Mount Sakurajima erupted at 1730, local time, and registered as moderate on the agency's scale for both the sound and the strength of the tremors it caused, according to a volcano bulletin. There was no other significant change in volcanic activity, the bulletin said. "We do not believe that a large-scale eruption is imminent," said agency official Akira Otani. Authorities in the area have received no immediate reports of damage or injuries, according police official Shoichi Araki in Kagoshima city, across the bay from the volcano. There has been ash falling in the city for several days, he added. The 1,117-metre high Sakurajima is one of Japan's most active volcanoes. Clouds of ash constantly drift from its crater. It sits in Kagoshima Bay, about 950 kilometres southwest of Tokyo. Sakurajima's last major eruption was in Oct 2000, when smoke rose about 5,000 metres into the air and blanketed Kagoshima city in dust. That eruption did not cause any injuries.



AFGHANISTAN

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: US-led coalition and Afghan troops recaptured a district occupied by the Taliban, killing at least 35 militants, an Afghan official said. The troops took control of the Chora district of the southern Uruzgan province late yesterday, days after the Taliban had captured the area, the Defence Ministry spokesman said. "Fifteen bodies of the enemies of Afghanistan lie in the battle field and up to 20 of them have been killed. The operation is still going on against the enemies

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who are on the run," Zahir Azimi said in a statement. The statement did not say if there were any casualties among coalition or Afghan troops. Coalition and Taliban spokesmen could not be contacted for immediate comment about the incident. The operation comes during the bloodiest phase in a Taliban-led insurgency since US-led coalition forces overthrew the militants' radical Islamic government in 2001. When the Taliban took the district, they said they had killed more than a dozen policemen and had taken up to 40 as hostages. Twenty of them were later released. Separately, 12 Taliban were killed when they attacked a police station in Mia Neshin district of the neighbouring Kandahar province on Friday (Jun 2), said Dawud Ahmadi, a spokesman for the provincial governor. Some 900 people have been killed in the insurgency since the beginning of the year, half of them in May. Air strikes by US-led coalition forces inflicted heavy casualties on the insurgents in southern Afghanistan last month, according to Afghan and coalition officials. A rise in Taliban activity in the south coincides with preparations for NATO-led peacekeepers to take control of southern provinces from coalition forces, which have had a more offensive mission to hunt down Taliban and al Qaeda remnants.

Kandahar, Jun 4 — A suicide car bomber killed three Afghans in the southern city of Kandahar today in an attack aimed at the provincial governor, police officials said. Governor Assadullah Khalid survived the attack while travelling in a car through the heart of Kandahar, scene of several suicide attacks by Taliban insurgents in the past. — Reuters.

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 250 Afghans were arrested after a riot in Kabul last week that killed about 20 people and wounded more than 120, the intelligence chief said today. Amrullah Saleh said that 141 Afghans remain in custody and that 52 have confessed to crimes committed during the May 29 riot, which were sparked by a deadly crash involving a US military vehicle. A US military spokesman, Col. Tom Collins, meanwhile, said an Afghan investigator will have "full access" to US soldiers and equipment during the inquiry into the crash. US soldiers from the convoy involved in the accident will be made available for interviews, he said. Collins told a news conference that although more than 2.5 million people live in Kabul, only about 1,000 people took part in the riot. Saleh, speaking at a separate news conference, said that some people were forced to participate by small gangs wielding guns. Saleh said he could not yet say if a specific group, one opposed to the government of President Hamid Karzai, for instance, was behind the riot. He did say Afghan authorities had identified 10 people who led or encouraged the demonstrators. The Afghan

parliament has passed a nonbinding resolution calling for the US troops involved in the crash to be prosecuted in Afghanistan, but US officials say the United States and Afghanistan have an agreement that excludes US soldiers from being prosecuted locally. Afghans on the scene of the accident have accused US troops of firing into the rock-throwing crowd. The U.S. military has said only that there were indications a soldier may have fired above the crowd.

ALBANIA

Bari, Jun 5 — Product tanker *Ambar* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

BURUNDI

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Peace talks between the government of Burundi and the country's remaining rebel group, the Forces nationales de liberation (FNL), which began on 29 May in Tanzania, are still at an informal stage, an official of the rebel movement said today. "We are still deliberating on preliminary issues and [plan to] come up with a framework for formal talks," the official said in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's commercial city, venue of the talks. He described the discussions held so far as "informal consultations". The South African government is facilitating the talks, under the auspices of a forum established by heads of state of the Great Lakes, known as the Regional Initiative on Burundi. Uganda chairs the forum. The talks are aimed at bringing the FNL into the government in Burundi, a country emerging from 12 years of civil war in which at least 300,000 people have died and hundreds of thousands others displaced. When the talks opened on 29 May, Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete told the delegates: "Today is the opportunity for us to effect a new, hopeful and inclusive political dispensation in Burundi. Battles leave social, psychological and political scars among the belligerents as well as innocent bystanders, but every war must end."

EAST TIMOR

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Increasing numbers of East Timorese are fleeing their homes in fear of rampaging gangs, who have been burning houses in the capital Dili. Relief agencies say they are now struggling to look after 65,000 people in sometimes appalling conditions. The unrest began last month when about 600 soldiers, or around 40 per cent of the armed forces, were sacked after protesting over alleged discrimination against soldiers from the country's west. The first United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) emergency team will arrive in East Timor this weekend with tents, blankets and other essential supplies. UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres says he puts a lot of trust

in the international security forces. Meanwhile, the commander of Foreign Forces in East Timor says he does not want the leader of some 600 soldiers sacked from the East Timor defence forces to come down from the hills and surrender. Brigadier Mick Slater says he may meet Lieutenant Commander Alfredo Reinado face to face in the next few days. Political instability has continued with the resignations of the Interior Minister Rogerio Lobato and the Defence Minister Roque Rodriguez. The East Timorese Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri will remain in office, despite the renegade soldiers calling for his resignation. In resigning, Mr Lobato and Mr Rodriguez have accepted responsibility for the crisis currently facing their country. Mr Lobato has blamed the unrest on anti-Government sentiment. Mr Lobato denies he had been made a scapegoat. This afternoon, President Xanana Gusmao took to Dili's troubled streets, pleading with the country's feuding security forces to show national unity as foreign peacekeepers appeared to take control. Isolated clashes between youth gangs, the product of East Timor's desperately poor economy and massive unemployment, were reported throughout the day, but the city appeared mostly calm. Mr Gusmao, who on Tuesday (May 30) assumed emergency powers and sole responsibility for security, went on a tour of the city, urging thousands of displaced residents to return to their homes and promising security would be restored soon.

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: East Timorese lawmakers met in Parliament today to discuss the country's turmoil and a top Cabinet minister met with rebel soldiers for reconciliation talks, as the fragile government showed signs of reviving. Violence again erupted in parts of the capital, Dili, and foreign troops fired tear gas to break up clashes between rock-throwing gangs. Foreign Minister and Nobel laureate Jose Ramos Horta visited several rebel commanders whose dismissal in March helped trigger the crisis. Earlier, Parliament convened for the first time since fighting surged last month in Dili, although lawmakers said some colleagues did not attend because they feared for their safety or lacked transport. Fifty legislators turned up, enough for a quorum in the 88-seat house. Speaker Francisco Guterres, a leader of the ruling Fretilin party, urged authorities to investigate the missing lawmakers' whereabouts, and shrugged off criticism that the government should quit. A U.N. High Commission for Refugees cargo aircraft arrived today with 220 tents and 1,000 plastic sheets, said UNHCR spokeswoman Ariane Rummery. She said it was unclear when people would return to their homes. Australian forces fired three rounds of tear gas at dozens of rock-throwing youths at a bridge near the airport. The mob dispersed. Despite the flare-up, violence has

dwindled since the arrival of more than 2,000 troops from Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia more than a week ago. Scores of Australian federal police and Portuguese paramilitaries are also present. Elsewhere in the city, a row of houses near an old market were set ablaze by a gang and were burning freely when Australian soldiers arrived. Australia has suggested a long-term U.N.-backed security force is needed in East Timor.

INDIA

Ranchi, India, Jun 1 — At least 12 Indian policemen were killed today when suspected Maoist rebels triggered a powerful landmine in the eastern state of Jharkhand, police said. The attack, in the iron-ore hub of Kiriburu, killed the men as they were heading to defuse a bomb in a school building, Naveen Kumar Singh, a senior police officer, told Reuters. The explosion was so powerful that the vehicle in which the men were travelling was blasted several metres from its course, he added. — Reuters.

Srinagar, Jun 6 — The Indian army said today it had killed at least five suspected Islamist militants as they attempted to enter Indian Kashmir from the Pakistani-controlled part of the restive Himalayan region. Islamist rebels are known to cross the mountainous border into Indian-ruled territory to wage their war against Indian forces. An army spokesman said today's infiltration bid in the border district of Kupwara, 200 km north-west of the state capital, Srinagar, was the biggest this year. — Reuters.

INDONESIA

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Australian troops in East Timor have fired tear gas to break up rock-throwing gangs in Dili. The fighting continued as East Timor's Parliament convened to discuss the violence, but some lawmakers were unable to attend because of safety concerns or lack of transportation. A quorum of at least 45 lawmakers in the 88-seat parliament met, as foreign troops patrolled the streets of Dili, some of them firing tear gas to break up clashes between rock-throwing gangs near a bridge leading to the airport. Lawmakers said some colleagues could not attend today's session because they were holed up in compounds and Parliament Speaker Francisco Guterres, a leader of the ruling Fretilin party, said authorities should investigate. One lawmaker said he was worried about reports of weapons caches in his district and another asked for security to escort him to future Parliament meetings. In what has become an almost daily occurrence, Australian soldiers backed by Malaysian troops and Portuguese police clashed this morning with stone-throwing youths near the Comoro bridge, which links the city to the airport. In the

distance, smoke poured from a burning house and Australian soldiers detained one person near the scene of the fire. Today's trouble began when a group of youths from the eastern faction returned to their homes near the Comoro bridge to discover they had been burned and looted in recent days. They gathered rocks in preparation for a showdown but were dispersed by Australian soldiers, who fired three tear gas canisters. The incident was the first engagement for the recently arrived Portuguese special police, who have a reputation for a no-holds barred response to unrest. It came ahead of an expected sitting of East Timor's parliament today, an occasion likely to be marked by large scale demonstrations.

IRAQ

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A car bomb has left at least 27 people dead and another 62 wounded in the southern Iraqi city of Basra. Police said the explosion took place in the main market place in the old part of the port city. The blast came just days after Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Maliki visited the city and declared a state of emergency to try to impose calm. The premier has vowed to crack down on gangs in the city who he said were threatening the country's oil exports. A large number of people were shopping in the market at the time of the explosion, police said. Pools of blood and the charred remains of several vehicles were seen at the site of the blast where hundreds of onlookers gathered to watch the rescue efforts. The latest bloodshed came just hours after a Russian diplomat was killed and four others kidnapped in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. Officials said gunmen used cars to block a road in the western Mansour district before opening fire on the Russian diplomatic vehicle.

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated Jun 4, states: At least 20 people have been killed by gunmen in Iraq, who pulled them out of their cars and shot them "execution style", police say. Children, students and elderly men were among those shot dead in the volatile Diyala province, north of Baghdad. In Basra, at least nine people were killed in clashes between police and Sunni worshippers at a mosque. The violence comes as a parliamentary session, which was due to vote on three crucial cabinet posts, was postponed. Deputy parliamentary speaker Khaled al-Attiya announced an indefinite delay amid speculation there was still no agreement on the interior, defence and national security posts. The motorists were killed at a makeshift checkpoint on a road 100km north-east of Baghdad, police said. AFP news agency reports that seven of the dead were drivers. In Iraq's second city, Basra, a Sunni religious group accused the police of killing unarmed worshippers at a mosque. The police said they had come under attack and returned fire, leading to the death of nine

"terrorists". AFP says two policemen were also killed. The police said weapons including mortar shells and hand grenades had been found at the mosque. The formation of a unity government last month, following months of political deadlock, has raised hopes of ending the violence, but there is still no agreement on the three remaining ministerial posts. Today had been the third deadline given by Prime Minister Nouri Maliki for the ministers to be named. Sources said Shia parties could not agree on the candidate for the interior ministry. Hassan al-Sunaid, a member of Mr Maliki's Dawa Party, had earlier named three former military men as those likely to get the nominations. However, another Shia source said the choices were not so clear cut. He said Mr Maliki might present two candidates for each post and let parliament vote on them.

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen in police uniforms raided bus stations today in central Baghdad, kidnapping at least 50 people, including drivers and passengers preparing to travel outside Iraq, an Interior Ministry official said. The attackers also grabbed people working in the area, where several travel agencies are based and buses pick up passengers traveling mostly to Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, Lt. Col. Falah al-Mohamedawi said. The victims, including two Syrians, were herded into more than a dozen vehicles, according to witnesses. It was not known who was behind the attack. The Interior Ministry denied any police involvement. "The chief of the Iraqi national police, Maj. Gen. Adnan Thabit, has denied the involvement of Iraqi police in the abduction of 50 persons from the Salihiya area," it said in a statement. Also today, a 30-year-old Iraqi man accused of helping the kidnappers of British aid worker Margaret Hassan was sentenced to life in prison, while two other suspects were acquitted, a court official said. Hassan, 59, the director of CARE international in Iraq and a citizen of Britain, Ireland and Iraq was abducted in Baghdad in October 2004. She was killed a month later and her body has never been found. A judge convicted Mustafa Salman of aiding and abetting the kidnappers and sentenced him to life in prison, according to the official, who declined to be identified because he was not authorized to release the information. Muhssin Ahmed, 39, a guard at a mosque that figured in the case, and Qassim Muhammad, 33, who attended the mosque, were found innocent of helping the kidnappers. Salman denied any links with the kidnappers. The dramatic attack in central Baghdad came a day after masked gunmen stopped two minivans carrying students north of Baghdad, ordered the passengers off, separated Shiites from Sunni Arabs, and killed the 21 Shiites. In predominantly Shiite southern Basra, police hunting for militants stormed a Sunni Arab mosque early Sunday

(Jun 4), just hours after a car bombing. Nine people were killed in the ensuing firefight. The surge in attacks has dealt a blow to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's pledge to curb sectarian violence. He also failed again to reach consensus yesterday among Iraq's ethnic and sectarian parties on candidates for interior and defense minister, posts he must fill to implement his ambitious plan to take control of Iraq's security from US-led forces within 18 months. Today, gunmen in a car killed two Sunni brothers as they were driving to college in the religiously mixed neighbourhood of Sadiyah in southwestern Baghdad, police Lt. Maitham Abdul Razzaq said. The victims were in their early 20s. Police also found the blindfolded and bound body of a man who had been shot in the head and chest, as well as another body that had been shot in the head in separate locations in Baghdad. Elsewhere, US-led forces fired artillery at the train station in the western city of Ramadi, in volatile Anbar province, "targeting four military-aged males unloading a weapons cache," according to the US-Iraqi Joint Operations Centre. A hospital official, Dr. Omar al-Duleimi, said five civilians were killed and 15 wounded by American forces in Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad. In other developments today: Gunmen in two cars killed a member of the Badr Brigade, the armed wing of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, near his home in western Baghdad, police said. A huge fire erupted in a house near a gas station in the western Baghdad neighbourhood of Yarmouk, but no casualties were reported, al-Mohamedawi said.

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated Jun 6, states: The bodies of 6,000 people, most of whom died violently, have been received by Baghdad's main mortuary so far this year, health ministry figures show. The number has risen every month, to 1,400 in May. The majority are believed to be victims of sectarian killings, but observers say the real death toll could be much higher. Meanwhile police said nine severed heads were found near Baquba to the north of Baghdad - days after a similar discovery there. In another development, Iraq's prime minister says he plans to release 2,500 prisoners. Nouri Maliki said the move, starting tomorrow, is a gesture of "national reconciliation". Most of those to be released are Sunni Arabs, Iraqi officials say. Mr Maliki hopes that by announcing such a large release in one go it will help win over more members of the Sunni community and undermine support for the insurgency. In other developments: Five people were killed and more than 12 wounded when a car bomb exploded near to where a funeral was being held in southwestern Baghdad. The Iraqi army has taken over from the US military in a part of the restive Anbar province.

Three British soldiers were cleared at a court martial in London of killing a 15-year-old Iraqi boy who drowned in a canal in Basra three years ago.

Baghdad, Jun 7 — The first batch of a planned mass release of 2,500 prisoners walked free in Iraq today as part of efforts to heal sectarian wounds and defuse an insurgency. Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi, a Sunni Arab leader, said a total of 562 detainees had been let out from "U.S. occupation prisons", a day after new Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki announced the move to help foster national reconciliation. It was one of the biggest such releases of prisoners held in Iraqi or American jails since U.S.-led forces invaded the country three years ago. Many of those in detention — estimated at more than 28,000 — are believed to be held on suspicion of involvement in a Sunni rebellion against the U.S.-backed, Shi'ite-led government. The move by Maliki also appeared to be an attempt to shore up his own authority at a time when rivalries within his ruling Shi'ite Alliance have cast doubt over his effectiveness. Maliki, under intense pressure to end violence, said yesterday that the prisoner release would free those who had no clear evidence against them or had been detained mistakenly. But "Saddam loyalists" or "terrorists" would stay in jail. It was not clear how many of those to be released were in Iraqi custody and how many were held by the U.S. military. Maliki's prisoner release came at a time when his fractious, Shi'ite political Alliance is blocking his efforts to name new interior and defense ministers, who he hoped would lead his charge against insurgents and sectarian violence. The two key security jobs were left vacant when the self-styled government of national unity took office on May 20 because of a failure to agree on names. Maliki said this week he would present his candidates to the next session of parliament. The assembly's deputy speaker later said it would be held tomorrow. Violence has continued to rage across Iraq since his grand coalition of majority Shi'ites and minority Sunnis and Kurds took office less than three weeks ago. In Baghdad, 13 out of some 50 Iraqi transport workers who were abducted this week were found alive but some showed signs of torture and had been shot in the foot, police said. In two separate roadside bomb and shooting attacks, six members of the police force — including a lieutenant colonel and an aide — were killed in the capital. In the northern city of Mosul, gunmen shot dead three university students, police said, in what appeared to be the latest in a spate of attacks against Iraqi students. The United States has said it would not withdraw its 133,000 troops until Iraqi forces can handle security on their own, but one coalition partner: Italy has other plans. Visiting Italian Foreign Minister Massimo D'Alema said he believed his country's troops would

return home by end-2006. Prime Minister Romano Prodi, who took office last month, has vowed to live up to promises for a swift pull-out of Italy's 2,600 troops. He has called the Iraq war a "grave error". — Reuters.

ISRAEL

Jerusalem/Cairo, Jun 2 — An Israeli military patrol killed two Egyptian border policemen today in what the army described as self-defense by its troops after the Egyptians stormed across the frontier firing at them. Egyptian security sources cast doubt on the Israeli account of the incident near Israel's Mount Saguy, opposite the Egyptian town of Bir el-Ma'in, saying the policemen were shot after wandering across the unfenced desert border by accident. A senior Israeli military commander said soldiers patrolling near the Egyptian border saw three men infiltrating at least 100 metres into Israel and opening fire on them. He said the troops shot back and killed two, while the third fled. The soldiers later identified the men to be uniformed Egyptian border policemen, he said. Egyptian security sources suggested the shooting was one-sided and said they did not believe the men had opened fire. "During their border patrol they lost their way and went onto Israeli land, where the Israeli army fired on them," one source said, adding that the two dead policemen were armed. The Egyptian security sources had no details of a third man. Israel's Army Radio said Defense Minister Amir Peretz ordered an investigation into the shootings. — Reuters.

Gaza, Jun 4 — Palestinian gunmen killed five bystanders in two separate shooting incidents in the Gaza Strip today as tension between rival factions in the impoverished territory deteriorated even further. In the southern Gaza Strip town of Khan Younis gunmen killed a pregnant Palestinian woman and another family member and wounded her husband and his brother, a Hamas militant, hospital sources said. Witnesses said gunmen, whose identity was unclear, shot at local Hamas leader Mohammad al-Ghalban as he was travelling in a car with family members after dark in the town. The motive for the shooting was not known, but local Hamas militia blamed rival Fatah gunmen and deployed in the streets as tensions rose. In a separate incident in Gaza City, three bystanders were killed in the crossfire as Hamas militants returned fire at unknown gunmen, local witnesses said. The three victims, all male, were pronounced dead at a Gaza hospital, medics said. The deaths are the first since a Palestinian security officer was killed and seven were wounded in clashes between rival Fatah and Hamas factions in Gaza last Thursday, underscoring growing tension in the coastal strip. The clashes have disrupted a tenuous peace in place since President Mahmoud Abbas, Fatah's leader, and Haniyeh's Hamas-

led government began talks last month to try to end violence in Gaza. — Reuters.

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated Jun 6, states: Israeli Apache attack helicopters launched before midnight today an airstrike at a training military camp that belongs to the popular resistance committees in Gaza city, security sources and witnesses reported. According to witnesses, the helicopters fired at the camp, which was empty on that time. There were no reports of casualties in the air strike that targeted the camp for second time in two months. The earlier strike killed four Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) militants who were training in the camp located in southern Gaza City. The strike came hours after the PRC and the Islamic Jihad's armed wing announced responsibility for firing Russian-made Katyusha rocket at an Israeli community in a development seen by Israel as unprecedented. This morning, two rockets fired by Palestinian militants from the northern Gaza Strip hit the southern Israeli city of Sderot, slightly wounding one Israeli woman. In response, the Israeli army shelled the suspected rocket launching sites in the Gaza Strip. Israel's defense establishment today accused Palestinian ruling Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) of directly involving in the Qassam attacks. In response to the reported Hamas involvement in the rocket fire, Israeli Defense Minister Amir Peretz has threatened to "hunt down the Qassam gunners" and increase IDF retaliatory measures, according to Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz. Peretz was also cited as saying that Israeli army would start targeting Hamas if it would not reign in its members who were behind the rocket attacks.

Gaza, Jun 7 — The Fatah faction of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and the Hamas group agreed today to halt their clashes even as they headed for a showdown over Abbas's threat to hold a referendum on a statehood proposal. Violence flared at the Gaza border with Israel as Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian policeman and two civilians and wounded five other people, medics and witnesses said. The Israeli army said troops opened fire at three men they suspected were trying to infiltrate the tense frontier near the Karni commercial crossing. Witnesses said the troops fired more than once and shot artillery and a missile from a pilotless drone. Medics said some of the injuries suggested artillery fire was used. The army denied using artillery fire. Witnesses said Israeli artillery gunners also pounded other parts of Gaza, in an apparent response to rocket launchings, setting off loud explosions. Abbas has given the Hamas government until the end of the week to accept a manifesto calling for a Palestinian state that implicitly recognises Israel or face a vote on the issue. Hamas trounced Fatah in

January parliamentary elections and has been locked in a power struggle with Abbas ever since. The president would issue a decree on Saturday (Jun 10) setting the stage for the referendum if the Hamas Islamists still refused to back the proposal, Abbas's spokesman, Nabil Abu Rdainah, said. With shootouts between Hamas and Fatah now frequent, many Palestinians fear a referendum could trigger more violence, but after a meeting in the impoverished Gaza strip brokered by Egyptian officials, Fatah and Hamas leaders urged calm. Fatah lawmaker Majed Abu Shammala said both sides hoped to end internal violence that has killed nearly 20 people in Gaza in the past month. Previous agreements to end factional bloodshed have not lasted long. A government spokesman, Ghazi Hamad, said members of a 3,000-strong new paramilitary force set up by Hamas would be pulled off Gaza's streets and redeployed to limited locations to ease tensions. The force inaugurated last month despite Abbas's opposition, has been a key source of tension with Fatah. The Islamists, who refuse to recognize Israel, reject the statehood manifesto penned by prisoners in an Israeli jail and say a referendum would be illegal so soon after elections. "Palestinian law does not give the president the right to hold a referendum," a Hamas spokesman said in response to Abbas's plan to issue a decree for the vote. "If the decision is made, we will express our rejection by the means we see suitable," Abu-Zuhri added. Abbas, a moderate elected separately in early 2005, had set a Tuesday (Jun 6) deadline for the Islamists to embrace the manifesto but held off after appeals by Arab leaders. A referendum would be seen as a confidence vote on the Hamas government, whose election led the West and Israel to cut off funds to the Palestinian Authority. The document implicitly recognises Israel in its call for a Palestinian state on all of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war. The European Union has proposed an aid mechanism to avoid a collapse of crucial services to Palestinians despite a world financial boycott of the Hamas-led government. A copy of the proposal obtained by Reuters calls for a monthly \$42 million, including funds for civil servants not paid since the aid freeze. It needs the approval of the Quartet of Middle East mediators — the United States, Russia and the United Nations. — Reuters.

KENYA

Marsabit, Kenya, Jun 6 — Ten people were killed and five others wounded when suspected Ethiopian bandits attacked a Kenyan village in a region along the Ethiopian border plagued by conflict over livestock and grazing land. The gunmen killed five people on Monday (Jun 5) in a raid on a village in Kenya's northeastern Marsabit district before police arrived to repel the attackers. In a firefight

that lasted the whole day, police shot dead five bandits, a local official said. "The bandits had crossed over to Kenya and attacked a settlement at Bale-Saru," the district commissioner for the area, Mutea Iringo, told Reuters today. He said the raiders made off with more than 2,000 sheep and goats stolen from the same village where bandits shot and killed two people on Saturday. Cattle rustling and cross-border raids are common for pastoralist communities living along the porous border where fighting over scarce resources like pasture and water has been exacerbated by a drought in the region. Residents of Marsabit appealed to the government to help secure the border. Kenya sent hundreds of security forces to the border in April to try to quell a wave of raids from Ethiopian cattle rustlers. — Reuters.

LIBERIA

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated Jun 6, states: The United States will introduce a U.N. Security Council resolution to lift the arms embargo on Liberia, U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said today. The resolution would help bring peace and stability to Liberia as its president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, tries to rebuild the country after years of war and civil strife under Charles Taylor, Bolton said. Johnson Sirleaf requested the embargo be lifted. "It may seem counterintuitive to start with this, but this was what the president herself thought was important," Bolton said of the resolution, which was expected to be introduced later today. Bolton called the move "quite logical when you consider the importance of making sure the government is able to be sovereign throughout its entire territory and to provide law and order and conditions of stability for the people, which they sorely need." Lifting the embargo is also necessary for the U.S.-funded effort to rebuild the Liberian military, said Princeton Lyman, director of Africa Policy Studies for the Council on Foreign Relations. Liberia's army disintegrated as Taylor fled into exile in August 2003, but dangerous militia factions still exist in the region, Lyman said. Those factions are currently monitored by 15,000 U.N. peacekeepers. The Security Council imposed arms and diamond embargoes on Liberia in 2001 - when Taylor ruled the country - to stop the flow of arms into the country and to keep the clashing groups from using diamond revenues to fuel the conflict. Johnson Sirleaf has also asked that other sanctions, including those on diamonds and timber, be lifted. Bolton said the Security Council would consider Johnson Sirleaf's request only after the country is stabilized "to make sure that the commodities go into legitimate commerce." "As those conditions are returned, the level of foreign investment and development will be increasing," Bolton said.

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NEPAL

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated Jun 3, states: More than 100,000 people have turned out for a mass rally by the Maoist rebel movement in Nepal. There was a big show of force by an insurgent group, which after 10-years of ruthless violence claims to want a legitimate role as a peaceful political movement. The Government says many people living in Maoist-controlled areas had been intimidated into attending the rally. The rebels have been demanding fresh elections to a new Parliament along with a new republican constitution that does away with the centuries-old monarchy.

NIGERIA

Port Harcourt, Jun 7 — Armed militants kidnapped five Koreans and killed several soldiers in an attack on a small natural gas plant in Nigeria's southern delta today, authorities said. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) claimed responsibility and said the Koreans would be freed in exchange for a jailed militia leader who is on trial for treason and was denied bail by a Nigerian court yesterday. The attack on the plant operated by Royal Dutch Shell comes three days after eight foreign oil workers were released by a different group of kidnapers, and is the latest sign of rising militancy in Africa's top oil producer. MEND, whose attacks have already forced the closure of a quarter of Nigerian oil output since February, had previously demanded the release of militia leader Mujahid Dokubo-Asari as one of several conditions for ending the violence. Dozens of militants came in nine boats armed with assault rifles and rocket propelled grenades, engaging troops in a firefight lasting almost half an hour, a navy source said. The tactics and firepower were similar to those used in a wave of militant attacks in January and February. "In the next few weeks our attacks will increase (in) frequency with the destruction of several facilities of crucial importance to the oil industry," MEND said, advising workers to leave the oil-producing wetlands region in Nigeria's far south. MEND, whose leadership is unknown, is pressing for more local power over the Niger Delta's oil resources and has said it aims to bring the OPEC nation's exports to a complete halt. In today's pre-dawn raid, MEND said it captured and burned a houseboat used by army and police assigned to protect the Cawthorne Channel natural gas plant, and several security forces were killed in a fierce firefight. The militants then kidnapped the five Koreans, whom they said had been taken to a MEND base where they were safe and would not be harmed unless the base was attacked. As the militants left the facility, they came under attack from four Nigerian army boats. The militants said they sank one of the boats, killing at least five of its six occupants, while the other boats

suffered an unknown number of casualties. A security source said nine navy staff and a policeman were killed. Military spokesmen confirmed four dead. MEND said one of its fighters was killed, but a navy source said they fished four enemy corpses from the water. In Seoul, a Foreign Ministry official said three of the kidnapped South Koreans worked for Daewoo Engineering and Construction Co. and the other two were with Korea Gas Corp. — Reuters.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, June 4 — Subversive activities allegedly by tribes in Balochistan Province of Pakistan are going unabated in two districts of western Province of country. In their latest attacks, two gas pipelines were blown up in Pir Koh gas field area yesterday. According to media, armed tribesmen planted high explosives under two pipelines of 16-inch diameter near Pir Koh gas field area and blew them up in the early hours of yesterday. "Pipelines were supplying gas to Pir Koh gas plant from wells which were suspended after explosions," sources said and added that security forces also recovered a powerful landmine, rockets and bomb planted close to the gas well No 10 in Pir Koh. However, sources said that gas supply was not suspended to any area after the explosion. The concerned staff and engineers started replacing the damaged portions of the affected pipelines. — Lloyd's List Correspondent

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A major gas pipeline was blown up with explosives yesterday night in southwestern Pakistan's Baluchistan, causing low pressure in a gas plant that might result in suspension of supply to vast areas of the country. The explosion occurred near the town of Sui after suspected militants planted explosives with the pipeline of 18 inches diameter taking gas to the Sui plant from the gasfield, the newspaper Dawn said today. A large portion of the pipeline on the outskirts of Sui town was destroyed, causing a significant drop in the gas pressure needed to run the gas plant. The plant has been closed temporarily as a precautionary measure, which will resume operation as soon as the required pressure is restored, the Dawn quoted sources as reporting. The region to which the gas supply has been affected stretched from Baluchistan to Sindh to Punjab to North West Frontier Province, the Dawn report said.

PHILIPPINES

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated Jun 3, states: Communist insurgents killed at least three soldiers in the mountains of Kalinga province, police and rebel spokesmen said today. The three soldiers were killed in an ambush by communist New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas in Balaban town on Wednesday (May

31), said provincial police chief Superintendent Pedro Ramos. The information was confirmed in a separate interview by regional NPA spokesman Tapon Gil-ayab. The NPA also said they killed two more soldiers and wounded four troops in an attack on an army outpost in Pinukpok town, also in Kalinga province, on the same day but the government could not confirm this. The 7,400-strong NPA is the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, which has been waging a 37-year Maoist insurgency.

SOMALIA

Mogadishu, Jun 3 — At least eight militiamen were killed today and a dozen others wounded in clashes between Islamic militia and a self-styled anti-terrorism coalition of warlords near Somalia's capital Mogadishu, residents said. Witnesses said the militia, linked to Islamic courts, was trying to seize control of a crucial bridge near Balad town, 30km northeast of Mogadishu, that would enable it to control a major route to the rich agricultural area of Middle Shabelle. "Before they attack us, we have to move to their areas and seize them as soon as possible," militia leader Moallim Hashi Mohamed said. — Reuters.

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated Jun 4, states: Somalia's Islamic Courts militia has seized a key town outside the capital, Mogadishu, from a member of the warlord alliance it is fighting. Balad, 30km north of Mogadishu, lies on the main road to Somalia's most fertile regions. It was controlled by warlord Muse Sudi Yalahow, who is officially trade minister in the transitional government set up to bring peace to Somalia. The latest Islamist victory comes after they had seized much of the capital. At least 15 people were killed in the fight for Balad, local residents said. Mr Yalahow's gunmen fled towards the town of Jowhar, they said. Meanwhile, another member of the warlords' Anti-Terror Alliance, Mohamed Qanyare Afrah, is reported to have left his base in the Dayniile district of Mogadishu, with a dozen battlegroups, known as "technical". He had planned to help in the battle for Balad but has now moved on to Jowhar. Yesterday, UN aid workers pulled out of Jowhar in case the fighting spread there. After seizing Balad, on the road from Mogadishu to the Lower and Middle Shabelle regions, Islamic Courts leader Sharif Sheikh Ahmed called on the warlords to stop fighting and take part in a dialogue to unify the Somali people. He also urged them to vacate a hospital they seized last week - which the United Nations condemned as a violation of international law.

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated Jun 5, states: An Islamist militia says it has seized Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, after weeks of fighting against an alliance of warlords allegedly backed by the US. The warlords have controlled the

capital since they toppled Somalia's last effective government 15 years ago. Talks are taking place with fighters still loyal to the warlords, Union of Islamic Courts officials said. Interim Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Ghedi says his government wants to begin dialogue with the group. Earlier, Mr Ghedi sacked four powerful Mogadishu-based warlords who had been serving as ministers. Nine of the 11 Mogadishu-based warlords have now left the city, according to local sources. The four sacked ministers include Security Minister Mohammed Qanyare Afrah and Trade Minister Muse Sudi Yalahow who over the weekend lost control of their Mogadishu strongholds. Most of Mr Qanyare Afrah's fighters have joined the Islamic militia, but Mr Sudi Yalahow and his commanders remain in the capital and are locked in talks over their next move. In a statement read over local radio stations, the Union of Islamic Courts leader Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed said the control of Mogadishu by warlords was over and he urged residents to accept the new leadership. "The Union of Islamic Courts are not interested in a continuation of hostilities and will fully implement peace and security after the change has been made by the victory of the people with the support of Allah," he said. "This is a new era for Mogadishu," he told AFP news agency, adding that the Islamic Courts were ready for dialogue. Local people in Mogadishu gave a cautious welcome to the news. "They said they would work with residents to improve security in the capital," city resident Ali Abdikadir told Reuters news agency. "This is good news for us because the warlords were always engaged in battles. We are looking forward to a life without fighting." But some seemed unconvinced that the weeks of bloodshed were really over and others expressed concern about what the future might hold with Islamists who want to introduce Sharia law in control.

Mogadishu, Jun 6 — Islamic militia vowed to turn Somalia into a religious state today, pushing north to take more territory after winning a three-month battle for Mogadishu. But thousands of Mogadishu residents protested against the takeover and defeated warlords said they would fight back. Clan elders warned the Islamic side against more advances. Fighters loyal to Sharia courts seized the lawless capital yesterday from a self-styled anti-terrorism coalition of warlords widely believed to be backed by Washington. Some 350 people, mostly civilians, have died since February in fighting for Mogadishu interspersed by tense lulls. The United Nations says about 1,500 civilians were wounded in the close-quarter battles using mortars and anti-aircraft guns. It was the first time the warlords had been dislodged from Mogadishu since ousting former ruler Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991. Somalia's interim prime minister,

Mohamed Ali Gedi, earlier congratulated the Islamic side on their victory over warlords who many Somalis believe tried to undermine the government. "They were hurting reconciliation, stabilization and pacification of Somalia," Gedi told Radio France Internationale. The Islamic fighters advanced today toward the warlord stronghold of Jowhar, about 90 km north of Mogadishu. "Our forces are in the village of Qalimoy, 20 km south of Jowhar. We are just waiting for orders from our leaders to capture it," militia leader Siyad Mohamed, who is allied to the Islamic courts, told Reuters from Balad on the road to Jowhar. Ali Nur, a warlord coalition militiaman, said clan elders threatened to mass militia against Islamic forces if they attacked Jowhar. Nur said the Islamic side told the warlords to hand over weapons but their fighters were preparing an assault to regain lost Mogadishu strongholds, notably the Kilometre Four area. But resident Fahren Gure said he did not expect violence. "We feel there is a big change, peace is in the air, no gunshots can be heard. It is calm, businesses are fully operational. People are now moving freely everywhere." Aid workers fear the violence may have exacerbated an existing humanitarian crisis in drought-hit Somalia. Some 400,000 displaced already live in squalid conditions across Somalia but scores had fled Mogadishu during fighting. The United States has refused to discuss persistent reports it is covertly funneling \$100,000 a month to the warlords but has said it will work with anyone combating terrorism. In Washington, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the United States had serious concerns about the presence of "foreign terrorists" in Somalia where he said al Qaeda was active. "We also have an interest, as well as the rest of the world, in combating the presence of foreign terrorists in that Horn of Africa region," said McCormack. — Reuters.

Mogadishu, Jun 7 — Scores of Somali residents fled the warlord stronghold of Jowhar today fearing a bloody offensive for control of the town by Islamic militia who took Mogadishu two days ago. Locals said the warlords were preparing to defend their last redoubt of Jowhar, 90 km north of the capital, including an advance line outside the town. "There are so many fighters and weapons in Jowhar but most of them have been taken to the Congo military camp five km away," Abdi Warsame, a farmer, said by telephone. Fighters loyal to Jowhar warlord Mohamed Dheere had been reinforced by allies defeated in Mogadishu and the strategic town of Balad, on the road north, which fell on Sunday (Jun 4). Warsame said. "Most people are saying they have no option but to support whoever takes over Jowhar." He said some warlord militia were leaving for Mogadishu after not being paid. Islamic

militiamen said their men, camped south of Jowhar, have been ordered to prevent planes from landing at the town's airstrip to block any escape by the warlords. Political analysts say if the Islamic militia captures Jowhar, they will control most of the south of Somalia, raising questions about whether they will help install a weak interim government in the capital or set up a rival administration. The government, too weak to enter Mogadishu, has been based in the provincial town of Baidoa since February. Mogadishu resident Ali Abdikadir said a family member of a senior Islamic cleric told him they had a government in waiting. "The day they take over Jowhar they will announce their government," Abdikadir said. "I don't think they plan to co-operate with the interim government. Some of them even said the government should surrender to the Islamic courts." The Islamic victory dislodged warlords from Mogadishu for the first time since they ousted military ruler Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991, but clan fighters vowed to reclaim lost ground. Ali Nur, a warlord fighter, said a new war against the Islamic side would be waged by the Sa'ad clan of slain warlord Mohamed Farah Aided. "We are strengthening our defenses, digging trenches and putting up sand bags, preparing for war as a clan and not as the coalition," Nur said in a clan district of Mogadishu. The United States said today it might be open to dealing with the Islamic militia, possibly signaling a new approach to Somalia which Washington fears may become a base for terrorists. Washington, which has shied away from direct involvement since a humiliating 1994 exit of U.S. and U.N. troops, has refused to discuss reports that is funneling \$100,000 a month to warlords, but says it will support anyone fighting terrorism. The chairman of the Mogadishu Islamic courts, Sheikh Sharif Ahmed, appeared today to back away from comments made at a rally in which he vowed to turn Somalia into an Islamic state. "Socialism was tested as a way of ruling the world but failed, democracy has been tested and is failing, the only way now is to try Islam. But it's up to the people to decide," he told Reuters. — Reuters.

SRI LANKA

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people have been wounded in a bomb attack blamed on Tamil Tiger rebels outside a naval base near the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, the army says. The bomb exploded as a bus pulled up outside the Welisara navy camp, injuring the driver and a conductor. Officials say the bomb, believed to be anti-personnel mine, was intended to hit a naval convoy. The navy camp targeted today is close to a highway connecting Colombo with the country's only international airport. No group has said it carried out the attack, but the government pointed the finger at

the rebels. The attack comes two days before the Sri Lankan government and the rebel leaders are due to meet for talks in the Norwegian capital, Oslo, to review their faltering ceasefire.

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels set off a mine in northern Sri Lanka, killing an army officer, and clashed with a rival faction elsewhere leaving at least 15 dead, military officials said. The violence comes ahead of a meeting in Oslo later today between the government and the Tigers to discuss the safety of Scandinavians monitoring a truce that is close to collapse. The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) set off a powerful Claymore mine attack in the Wannu region and ambushed an army pick up truck, killing the officer and wounding two others, a military official said. In the island's north-eastern district of Trincomalee, the LTTE clashed with a breakaway faction, leaving at least 15 guerrillas killed in a pre-dawn exchange of fire, officials said today. There was no immediate comments from the Tigers about military claims of internecine clashes. Yesterday, eight civilians were killed and 14 wounded in the east of the island in a mine attack the Tigers blamed on government forces. The International Committee of the Red Cross said seven civilians were killed instantly and another died while being transported to the main district hospital in Batticaloa yesterday. The brief ICRC statement did not say who was responsible for yesterday's explosion, but Tamil Tiger rebels said the attack was carried out by government troops who had infiltrated an area held by the guerrillas. A government military official here denied involvement.

SUDAN

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated Jun 6, states: A top-level UN team says it has so far been unable to convince Sudan to allow a UN peacekeeping force in the troubled region of Darfur. UN officials in the capital, Khartoum, for talks with Sudanese leaders say they will continue to work towards getting the government's consent. Sudan objects to a UN force replacing 7,000 African Union (AU) peacekeepers and the UN says it will not deploy peacekeepers without Sudan's approval, but reiterated that it must act to stop the killings. The AU troops currently in Darfur are under-funded and poorly equipped, and have struggled to contain the violence. Before meeting President Bashir, the UN delegation met a co-ordinator of government affairs, Mr Deng Alor, officially known as the minister for the council of ministers and Foreign Minister Lam Akol. Before the meeting, Mr Akol suggested that Sudan could accept a UN force, as long as it had a mandate to monitor, rather than enforce peace. "What is important is the mandate of the force - we are ready to discuss the

role they can play," he said. A UN technical mission is due to visit Sudan to have more detailed discussions about a possible peacekeeping force in a few days. Ten days ago, Sudan agreed to allow a UN assessment team to be sent to the war-torn western region in order to assess the requirements for the possible arrival of UN peacekeepers. Following talks in Khartoum, the delegation will head to Ethiopia and Chad before ending its 10-day tour in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Relations have been tense between Sudan and the United Nations. Earlier this year, there were large anti-UN demonstrations in Khartoum, widely believed to have been organised by the government. The 15-strong Security Council delegation, which includes envoys from the five permanent council members, will have some delicate negotiations to do during its time in the Sudanese capital. The UN wants to see its own troops installed in the region to help implement the peace deal recently signed between the Sudanese government and the main rebel force. The government has said it would prefer the current AU peacekeepers to be given more support rather than allow a UN force into the region.

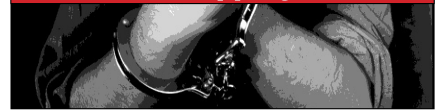
THAILAND

Bangkok, Jun 8 — A bomb killed five policemen and wounded three in Thailand's rebellious Muslim south today, police said. The bomb went off as the eight officers were travelling to pick up teachers from a school in Narathiwat, one of the three southernmost provinces where more than 1,300 people have been killed in a two-year separatist insurgency. "They were travelling in two trucks to provide security for teachers who were leaving school for home," a police officer told Reuters by telephone. More than 100 government schools in the Muslim far south were closed for several weeks last month after villagers abducted and beat two women Buddhist teachers, leaving one in a coma. — Reuters.

TURKEY

Diyarbakir, Jun 5 — One Turkish soldier has been killed and eight others injured during a military operation against Kurdish rebel fighters in south-east Turkey, a regional governor said today. The incident occurred yesterday evening when members of the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) opened fire on the troops in mountainous Bingol province using long-range weapons. "We will do what has to be done," said Vehbi Avuc, governor of Bingol, announcing the casualties and making clear that the military operation against the rebels would continue. Last week, three soldiers and three village guards were killed in two separate clashes with the rebels in a province bordering Iraq, to the southeast of Bingol. — Reuters.

Kidnappings



NIGERIA

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Eight foreign oil workers have been kidnapped from an offshore oil rig in Nigeria, the rig's owner says. The Nigerian military says six Britons, a Canadian and a US national were seized by armed men in the Niger Delta. No-one has admitted responsibility. The rig sent out a distress call, saying it was under attack from between 20 and 30 men in speedboats. "Some unknown persons boarded the rig at 0300 [local time, 0200 GMT] and took eight workers," an executive from one of the companies that operate the rig told Reuters news agency. The rig, which is owned by the Norwegian company Fred Olsen Energy ASA, lies just off the coast, near the town of Warri.

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Kidnappers in Nigeria have freed eight foreign oil workers, two days after they were seized in an unprecedented raid on a rig far offshore. Gunmen had captured six Britons, one American and one Canadian from a rig 40 miles out to sea on Friday (Jun 2). Two Britons were freed early yesterday and the other men several hours later, local authorities and the British embassy said. "They are all safe and well," said Johnny Iganwari, information commissioner for Bayelsa state in the Niger Delta, where the men were held captive in remote mangrove swamps. A British embassy spokesman said the men were being flown from the southern delta to Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital, and they would then leave the country on various flights. Authorities declined to comment on whether a ransom had been paid, but a security source close to the situation said money had changed hands.

Labour Disputes



AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated today, states: One hundred Hunter Valley coal miners are into the second day of a week-long strike after a breakdown in talks over wages and conditions. Workers at the Xstrata-owned United Colliery are the first to undertake a court-approved stoppage under the new federal industrial relations reforms. They have been attempting to settle on a new enterprise agreement since December. Xstrata says it has made a good offer and believes the strike is part of a

broad political campaign by the unions. But Grahame Kelly from the CFMEU says the offer does not reflect the performance of the work force.

BANGLADESH

Dhaka, Jun 6 — Factories in an export zone near the Bangladesh capital Dhaka will resume production on Thursday (Jun 8) following violent protests by workers after the authorities promised their owners adequate security. The new chief of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA), Ashraf Abdulla Yusuf, held a meeting with the owners today. "We have been assured by the new chief and decided to reopen our factories on Thursday," M.M. Masud, a member of Bangladesh export processing zone investors association, told Reuters. All 84 factories, employing nearly 70,000 workers, at the Savar export zone, 15 miles north of the capital, have been closed since Saturday (Jun 3) after workers demanding higher wages, overtime and job security clashed with police, barricaded roads and burned production units or went on the rampage through them. One worker was killed and many were injured in the clashes, police and officials said. The government on Monday named the new BEPZA chairman after dismissing his predecessor Mohammad Zakir Hossain for failing to respond adequately to the situation and tackle the unrest. "The investors (at Savar zone) have agreed to clear all dues of their workers by Monday next," said Nazma Binte Alamgir, the authority's spokeswoman. The government and leaders of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) told the workers their other demands would be considered soon. Meanwhile, the authorities have also allowed formation of trade unions in garment factories to negotiate on pay and benefits, officials said. Trouble began at the factories late last month after thousands of workers started agitating over job demands. Business leaders had warned the unrest could spread to hundreds of other garment factories unless authorities controlled the disorder and found a peaceful solution to the disputes. — Reuters.

ISRAEL

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated Jun 6, states: As of 1600 today all departures from the Ben Gurion International Airport were cancelled due to an airport workers strike, which was called off around 1900 hrs. Workers at Ben Gurion International Airport called off a strike close to 1900 hrs after disrupting flights to protest poor working conditions. Tsahi Tabakman, Manager of the Workers' Union Department of Professional Employees ordered workers at the airport to resume work after talks with Israel Airports Authority CEO Gabi Ofir. Since the afternoon hours, the Eilat airport was also on strike. The Airports Authority appealed to the court to issue an injunction

against the workers. The General Workers Union of the Ben Gurion International Airport gave extremely short notice of its intention to strike, and the cancellations occurred almost immediately. Union spokespeople told Ynet that Airports Authority employees were protesting the poor working conditions of contracted workers, who are employed via manpower agencies. "The companies that employ the workers don't pay overtime or Shabbat salaries to many of them, nor do they provide the social benefits the workers deserve. They also claim that some Ben Gurion workers are made to work 30 days a month against their will. The companies employing the worked deduct sums of up to NIS 1,000 per month," the union charged. The companies also reportedly subtract "strange deductions," such as fines of four work hours for workers caught smoking. The committee said they notified the authorities already two weeks ago that they intended to strike and claimed their strike was within the law because they have a legitimate dispute with the Airport Authority. The Airport Authority said they were shocked by the workers' decision to strike. "This is a wild strike that was not authorized," they said, and added they would "not give in to the workers unions extortion." In response to workers' claims, the Airport Authority said the work dispute was linked to former Transportation Minister Meir Sheetrir's decision to transfer responsibility for inter-Israeli airport security checks to the Airport Authority. Israil representatives said that had thus far cancelled to flights to Eilat, which were to transport some 200 passengers.

MEXICO

Mexico City, Jun 4 — Miners voted today to extend a four-day strike at Mexico's giant Cananea copper mine until an ousted union leader accused by the government of corruption is reinstated, the miners' union said. The strike began on Thursday (Jun 1) when the union said owners Grupo Mexico had insisted miners work on Jun 1, the 100th anniversary of Mexico's first mine strike. But the union said the stoppage would now go on indefinitely until ex-leader Napoleon Gomez, toppled as head of the national union earlier this year, was reinstated. — Reuters.

NEW CALEDONIA

Noumea, Jun 2 — As Noumea terminal is under the control of USTKE Union, the Port director sent a letter to the French Authorities to officially inform them that the terminal is out of Port security and is not anymore on ISPS standard. As container carrier *Maersk Asia Decimo* is actually moored at Noumea bay and should be berthed tomorrow morning, and as SATO workers say that they will unload this vessel, some troubles are to be expected if the French Authorities do nothing. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 6 — French High Commission in New Caledonia says it is expecting a decision from Paris tonight over whether to use police to free the port in Noumea. The port has been in the hands of Kanak USTKE union members since last month. The union is opposed to the arrival of multi-national shipping giants Maersk and MSC because they could dominate the freight market and force other shipping companies out of the port. The High Commission says it held talks with USTKE for four days last week, but failed to find a solution. According to new terrorism conventions, which France has signed, police and customs officials must be present at the port to guarantee security. The port may risk a terrorism blacklisting if security conventions are not met. Meanwhile, USTKE says it may call a general strike over the port dispute.

Noumea, Jun 8 — As Noumea terminal has been under control of the USTKE Union since May 19, the police intervened at 1300 hrs, today and since that time, all entries at Noumea terminal are "free" and under police control. C.c. *MSC Caledonien* which was blocked will be unloaded by Sato Society. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated Jun 1, states: The SA Transport and Allied Workers' Union (Satawu) has postponed its secondary strike planned for tomorrow as three court applications opposing it had succeeded. "We have postponed tomorrow's strike because we want to consider all the applications against us," spokesperson Jackson Simon said today. Today the Johannesburg Labour Court granted two interim interdicts barring the union from organising secondary strikes.

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Representatives of security companies and two unions representing striking security guards have resumed talks to resolve the 10-week-old strike. The meeting is currently under way at the CCMA offices in Johannesburg. The outcome of the meeting will probably be announced tomorrow as talks were expected to continue for another day. Satawu has been demanding an 11% wage increase after 14 others agreed on around 8%. Meanwhile, five security guards and a number of passengers appeared in the Port Elizabeth Magistrates Court for a bail application today. This follows last Wednesday's shooting on a city-bound train in New Brighton. In Cape Town, Satawu's Evan Abrahamse, Cosatu's Tony Ehrenreich and 35 other unionists appeared in court in connection with the Satawu rampage through central Cape Town last month.

URUGUAY

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated Jun 6, states: A strike halted construction at Finnish paper maker Metsa-Botnia's pulp mill site in

Uruguay yesterday, according to the local El Pais daily. Trade union Sunca told El Pais that 2,300 of its workers were demanding “wages and bonuses” that had not been paid. According to El Pais, the union said work might be resumed again today and that the parties were engaged in negotiations. Pulp mills being constructed by Metsa-Botnia and the Spanish company Ence in Uruguay’s Fray Bentos, near the Argentinean border, have caused considerable tension between the two countries over claims of environmental damage.

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A strike that began Monday (Jun 5) at the Uruguay pulp mill building site of Finland’s Metsa-Botnia ended yesterday. Local media said about 2,300 workers had demanded that the company pay unpaid wages and bonuses, but Metsa-Botnia told the Finnish News Agency (STT) that talks between a union and an employers’ organisation had caused the strike. “Metsa-Botnia has not left anything unpaid, the strike was linked with the collective agreement negotiations and its terms,” said Kirsi Seppalainen, a Metsa-Botnia spokeswoman. The dispute is to go before the International Court of Justice in The Hague tomorrow.



DEFRAUDING CLIENTS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated Jun 5, states: A court-appointed receiver announced a settlement awarding investors defrauded by WBIX-AM 1060 (Boston, Mass) radio station operator and investment company owner Bradford C. Bleidt more than \$6.3 million. Three broker-dealer companies issued checks to about 140 individual investors or groups last week, said Nixon Peabody LLP partner Kevin Fitzgerald, whose partner, David A. Vicinanza, was named as a court-appointed receiver in 2004. Bleidt had ties with three Boston-area broker dealer companies: Detwiler, Mitchell & Co., Winslow, Evans & Crocker Inc., and Commonwealth Financial Network. Bleidt was sued by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for defrauding clients out of more than \$30 million while running an investment firm and used \$10 million in proceeds to buy the radio station in 2004. He is currently serving an 11-year prison sentence.

DISCRIMINATION, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Verizon Communications is paying 49 million dollars to current and former employees in New Hampshire and a

dozen other states to settle charges that its predecessor companies discriminated against employees who were pregnant or on maternity leave. Verizon already has paid more than 25 million dollars. The government says it expects another 24 million will be paid in future pension benefits. The settlement covered 12 thousand female employees of Nynex and Bell Atlantic who allegedly were denied service credit related to pregnancy and maternity leave taken between July 1965 and April 1979 and leaves for care of newborn children taken between July 1965 and December 1983.

FALSE ACCUSATIONS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated Jun 3, states: A Taiwanese-American scientist once suspected as a spy will receive \$1.64m after settling lawsuits against the US government and five news outlets. Wen Ho Lee, who used to work at the Los Alamos nuclear laboratory, had sued the government for leaking information implying he was a Chinese spy. He also sued five news outlets who reported on the affair. Mr Lee came under suspicion while working at Los Alamos, but all charges, except one minor one, were dropped. Washington has agreed to pay Mr Lee \$895,000 (£475,000) to cover his costs and legal fees. The remaining \$750,000 (£400,000) will be covered by the five news organisations: Associated Press, The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, ABC News and The Washington Post. The parties agreed to settle yesterday following a legal battle lasting more than six years. A Taiwanese-born US national, Mr Lee was fired from Los Alamos nuclear laboratory in New Mexico in March 1999 on suspicion of helping China obtain top-secret information. He was held for nine months in solitary confinement but the government’s case against him collapsed and all 59 charges against him were dropped, except for one minor offence. Following his release in September 2000, Mr Lee decided to take out a civil lawsuit against the government for leaking false information about him. He also sued five journalists who covered the story, alleging they had damaged his reputation. Both Mr Lee and US officials made clear that the settlement should not be viewed as an admission of guilt by the US government.

FRAUD AND MISREPRESENTATION, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated Jun 7, states: A south-east Washington State hospital and its insurance carrier have won a \$4.1 million verdict against a Louisiana hospital and two doctors who gave glowing recommendations for a colleague without disclosing his drug problem. The doctor, an anesthesiologist, was involved in a

2002 surgery at Kadlec Medical Centre here that left a woman severely brain-damaged. According to court records, Dr. Robert Lee Berry had been diverting the narcotic Demerol from patients for his own use while working in Louisiana. Two of his partners and the administration at Lakeview Regional Medical Centre in New Orleans knew of his drug problem, but failed to disclose it to officials at Kadlec Medical Centre, the records indicated. Instead, they offered “glowing letters of recommendation” for him to Kadlec, court records showed. Kadlec Medical Center and Seattle-based Western Professional Insurance filed suit in U.S. District Court in Louisiana, alleging fraud and misrepresentation. They said they did not know of Berry’s drug problem or that he had been asked to leave the Louisiana practice because of it. A jury awarded the Richland hospital and its insurance carrier \$4.1 million on May 26. The two parties announced the verdict yesterday. Berry was the anesthesiologist during a 15-minute tubal ligation on Kimberly Jones following the birth of her third child. Jones had a heart attack during the procedure at Kadlec and suffered severe brain damage. She remains in a nursing home in Michigan, unable to care for herself. According to court documents, Berry failed to monitor Jones properly, allowing her blood pressure to drop dangerously low, and removed her breathing tube while she was still paralyzed from sedatives. In March, a Benton County Superior Court judge approved an \$8.5 million settlement in a claim filed by Jones and her family against Berry and Kadlec Medical Centre. Kadlec officials learned of Berry’s drug problem during the first lawsuit. The latest verdict, which could still be appealed, likely means Kadlec and its insurer would pay less in damages in the lawsuit filed by Jones. Kadlec spokesman Jim Hall said the tragedy would not have happened if there had been full disclosure about Berry’s drug problem. Berry surrendered his Washington medical license in 2004 after the state took action against him.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A jury awarded \$61 million to two FedEx Ground drivers of Lebanese descent who claimed a manager harassed them with racial slurs for two years. Edgar Rizkallah, 43, and Kamil Issa, 36, both of Pleasanton, said in the discrimination lawsuit they were called “terrorists,” “camel jockeys” and other epithets in 1999 and 2000 by Stacy Shoun, terminal manager for the Oakland FedEx Ground facility where the two men were contract drivers. An Alameda County Superior Court jury on Friday (Jun 2) awarded the men \$50 million in punitive damages, on top of \$11 million in compensatory damages the jury

awarded them on May 24, a lawyer for the plaintiffs and a FedEx Ground spokesman said yesterday. Fedex Ground, the Pittsburgh-based trucking division of shipping giant FedEx Corp., plans to appeal. Spokesman Maury Lane said other managers testified that the harassment never happened, but he declined to discuss specifics of the case, citing ongoing litigation. "The jury's verdict was wrong and excessive," Lane said. "The company has strong anti-discriminatory policies, and this is not tolerated." Rizkallah and Issa, both Lebanese Americans, accused FedEx Ground and Shoun in the 2001 lawsuit of creating a hostile work environment and causing emotional distress, said their San Francisco attorney, Christopher Dolan. The men complained to senior managers but the company ignored their claims, Dolan said. The lawsuit accused FedEx Ground of failing to enforce its anti-discrimination policies. Testimony included workers who said they witnessed the harassment, Dolan said. Shoun was ordered to pay \$1 million to the drivers as part of the compensatory damages award under a California law allowing individuals to be held personally liable for workplace harassment. He remains employed by the company, but a spokesman declined to say whether Shoun is still in management.

SENDING OF NUISANCE E-MAILS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated Jun 5, states: One of the world's most notorious spammers has settled lawsuits with the state of Texas and Microsoft that cost him at least US\$1 million, took away most of his assets and forced him to stop sending the nuisance e-mails. Ryan Pitylak, 24, who graduated from the University of Texas last month, has admitted sending 25 million e-mails every day at the height of his spamming operation in 2004. At one time, Pitylak was listed as the fourth-worst spammer in the world by the Spamhaus Project, a London-based international clearinghouse that tracks spammers and works closely with law enforcement officials. The civil settlements were both reached last month in federal court. As part of the settlement with Microsoft, Pitylak promised never again to send out false, misleading or unsolicited commercial e-mails. Pitylak, who plans to help Internet companies fight spam, said he would sell his \$430,000 house and a 2005 BMW to help pay his fines and legal bills.

SPAM E-MAILS, WORLDWIDE

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated Jun 7, states: One of the world's most notorious spammers, his former partners and their companies have agreed to pay \$10 million to settle a state lawsuit, Texas officials said today. Ryan Pitylak, 24, a recent University of Texas graduate, has admitted sending 25 million e-mails

every day at the height of his spamming operation in 2004. At one time, Pitylak was listed as the fourth-worst spammer in the world by the Spamhaus Project, a London-based international clearinghouse that tracks spammers and works closely with law enforcement officials. Under the settlement announced today by the Texas Attorney General's office, Pitylak owes \$1 million in civil penalties. He already has paid the state \$225,000 to cover attorneys' fees. In a separate settlement with Microsoft Corp., Pitylak agreed to a fine of \$1 million and promised never again to send out false, misleading or unsolicited commercial e-mails. Pitylak's e-mails touted low-cost mortgages, extended auto warranties and debt-counseling services, among other offers, and he received \$3 to \$7 for every lead he generated when someone clicked on the links in his messages. Pitylak says he now opposes spam and is offering his skills to Internet companies to help them fight spam.

WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated Jun 3, states: The City of Tulsa is agreeing to pay most of the \$14.5 million award to a man who went to prison for something he didn't do. City officials say they will pay \$12.25 million to Arvin McGee Jr. The agreement will have the city pay \$6.125 million to McGee within two months and the rest of the money to be paid by Jun 1, 2007. The city had asked a judge to dismiss the Mar 29 judgement. McGee was released from prison in 2002 after DNA evidence proved he was innocent of an October 1987 rape and kidnapping. His conviction overturned, McGee sued the city in October of 2003 in a Tulsa federal court. McGee alleged the city's actions during its investigation caused him to be unfairly tried and his due process rights violated.



BENALLA, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated Jun 2, states: The main rail link between Melbourne and Sydney will remain closed after this morning's goods train derailment at Benalla in Victoria's north-east. Nineteen of the train's 34 wagons came off the track just before 0700, AEST. Two men had a lucky escape when some of the wagons crashed into a vacant hall and into the cars they were sitting in. Benalla's mayor John Brownstein said: The cause of the crash is unknown, but the Australian Transport Safety Bureau's Mark Stallbaum says the line may need repairs. "I would expect the line to be closed for at least a day and a half,

probably a couple of days," he said. XPT train services between Melbourne and Sydney have been replaced by buses.

CHARETTE AREA, QUEBEC, CANADA

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated Jun 4, states: Emergency officials are trying to contain a spill of flammable gas from a CN train that derailed northeast of Montreal. Between 10 and 15 cars carrying gas jumped the tracks this afternoon near Charette, Que. Officials established a perimeter of 700 metres deep around the derailment because of the risk of explosion. But police said nearby homes are far enough away and are not at risk and do not have to be evacuated. Saint-LÉon-le-Grand residents have been asked not to drink tap water because the fuel has leaked into la Petite-Rivière-du-Loup. A stretch of Highway 350 near the derailment has been closed to traffic and vehicles are being rerouted.

London, June 6 — A press report, dated June 5, states: Clean-up crews were hard at work today after a CN Rail train jumped the tracks near Three Rivers early yesterday afternoon, spilling fuel into a nearby river. Fourteen of the train's 141 freight cars derailed near Charette. The derailment resulted in the spill of 200,000 litres of hydrocarbons into the Rivière du Loup and surrounding forest. Four of the derailed cars contained gasoline or diesel oil. Crews worked throughout the night to contain the fuel spill. Environment Canada is working closely with CN Rail. "Our focus is on evaluating and containing the spill", said Stephane Grenon, Environment Canada's head of environmental emergencies for the Quebec region. Environment Canada representatives flew over the area this morning to survey the damage. According to Grenon, an oily sheen is visible on the water as far as 10 to 15 kilometres from the spill site. Workers have installed floating sheets just beneath the rivers surface to capture the spilled oil. It will then be pumped into a truck and removed. "We have not received any reports of dead fish or oiled wildlife so far," Grenon said, although he admitted that some fish would probably die as a result of the spill. Environment Canada has taken soil and water samples to further assess damage to the region. CN Rail workers focused today on getting the undamaged freight cars back on track. The site should be clear of train cars by tomorrow. Four CN freight trains and one Via Rail passenger train, which runs between Shawinigan and Montreal, use the tracks where the train derailed. Service has been disrupted since yesterdays derailment. Via has been sending its passengers by chartered bus.

HAJIGABUL, AZERBAIJAN

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: This morning the Baku-Georgia train 2646 crashed in Hajigabul, 15 tank-wagons

overtaken, and the driver injured. Azerbaijan State Railway (ASR) press service leader Nadir Azmammadov has informed APA that the train consisted of 34 tank-wagons. Motion of trains has stopped in the territory of incident. According to Azimammadov, tank wagons were filled with M-40 marked mazut in Ahmadli station. ASR chief Arif Asgarov and transport minister Ziya Mammadov have visited the place of incident. The reason of the crash is shown as widening of railway lines due to hot weather. At present damage of the crash is being identified. It should be noted that it is the third crash happened in railway in the last two months.

KOWON DISTRICT, SOUTH HAMYKONG PROVINCE, NORTH KOREA

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated Jun 2, states: Over 1,000 people are reported to have died in a train accident in North Korea last month, according to details released Friday (Jun 2) by a South Korean aid organization. A spokeswoman for the Buddhist aid group, Good Friends said that the train involved in April's accident was carrying soldiers and travelling along a route in the Kowon district of South Hamyong province. The train apparently lost control after a brake failure and collided with an oncoming train. The Good Friends group, which mainly helps North Korean refugees in China, said it had heard about the accident from unidentified North Korean informants. The North Korean government ordered a media blackout after the crash, as it is common in such incidents, the group reported. A spokeswoman for the Good Friends group said that there were often train accidents in North Korea due to poor rail conditions and overcrowding.

LISMORE AREA, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger train services will return to normal today between Melbourne and Adelaide. Trains were replaced by buses last week because of a train derailment near Lismore, in Victoria's south-west. A truck hit a freight train at a level crossing, killing the truck driver and pinning his semi underneath the train. Great Southern Railway spokesperson Tony Braxton Smith says hundreds of passengers have been affected. "We were generally having guest numbers in excess of 100 people per service, so close to 600 people would have been moved by alternative means over the period of the disruption," he said.

SOUTHERN ZIMBABWE

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated Jun 3, states: Five people were killed and 24 others injured when a freight train rear-ended a passenger train today in southern Zimbabwe, state television reported. "The derailment occurred after a goods

train that was travelling from Rutenga to Gweru rammed into the back of a passenger train," the broadcaster said. Four of those killed in the accident were employees of National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ), travelling on the freight train, while the fifth was a person on the passenger train, it said. The injured were taken to hospitals in the southern cities of Bulawayo and Gweru, the report said. Six of the survivors were described as having severe injuries. An official from the NRZ said that the accident, which occurred early Saturday, could have been caused by 'the non-functioning of the parastatal's central train control system,' which operates signals on the rail network. The accident comes a little more than a week after 34 passengers were injured when 10 carriages and a dining car derailed near Dete in north-western Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe's ageing rail network links major towns and cities but is suffering from a shortage of money for spare parts and maintenance amid the country's economic collapse.

ZULULAND, SOUTH AFRICA

London, June 2 — A press report, dated June 1, states: One man was killed when a fully laden container train collided with a lorry carrying sugar cane at a level crossing between Enseleni and KwaMbanombi in Zululand on Tuesday (May 30). The train, hauled by diesel-electric locomotives was approaching the Mposa crossing when the driver of a truck loaded with sugar cane either did not hear the train's approach or gambled that he could make it safely across. If so he was wrong, but this will not be known as he was killed instantly and police sniffer dogs had to be used later to find body parts. Although the train was travelling slowly it was unable to stop. The collision left the truck mangled and a number of containers from the train were thrown across the line, which was extensively damaged. The driver of the locomotive and his assistant were not seriously injured. The railway, which forms the main line between Richards Bay and Swaziland and Kaapmuiden in Mpumalanga is damaged and was closed as a result. The front section of the train was carrying 40ft containers belonging to the shipping company Hamburg Sud. It is not known whether they were empties or full and if so whether the cargo within was damaged

enforcement authorities say is the biggest ever cocaine haul in India, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) today seized 200 kg of the drug from container carrier *Sea-Land Voyager* (32629 gt, built 1980) at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in Panvel, about 65 km from Mumbai. Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau K C Verma said: "This is unheard of and is unprecedented. We have been working on this for the past one-and-a-half months." Officials said the cocaine is worth over Rs 90 crore in the local market. They said the ship owned by Maersk had come in from Hong Kong. In early May, 142 kg of cocaine (worth about Rs 60 crore) was seized in Hong Kong and Guangdong after a first ever joint operation conducted by agencies from US, Hong Kong and China for three months. The drug syndicate behind it was from Colombia and mainland China. "The cocaine consignment meant for India was lifted from Colombia, taken to Hong Kong and brought to Mumbai," said an official. Ajit Patel, NCB Superintendent, said the seizure "followed a tip-off from international sources." The ship anchored at Maersk's exclusive jetty at the International Gateway on the southern side of JNPT this morning. Around 1600 hrs, before the cargo could be unloaded, 10 NCB officers of boarded the vessel. "They were well-informed, they did not have any trouble in locating the one container that had the cocaine," the NCB official said. Officials found canvas bags containing the drug, stashed between logs of teak. Officials said a Mumbai-based firm, whose identity is not being revealed, had imported the teak, "which is the legal consignment." No arrests have been made until late tonight.

London, June 6 — The Indian Narcotics Control Bureau seized 200 kg of cocaine from Container Carrier *Sea-Land Voyager*, belonging to Maersk. The vessel was berthed at Jawaharlal Nehru port on Saturday, having arrived from Hong Kong. The value of the confiscated drugs were estimated at around Rs1bn (\$22m). Acting on a tip-off, the NCB boarded the vessel when it was still in stream and segregated 16 containers, which were scanned by X-ray machines. The suspect containers were then moved to the nearby Mulund Container Freight Station for further investigation, and the vessel was allowed to sail. Five persons have been detained and are being questioned. It appears that the cocaine consignment was meant for India. It had been lifted from Colombia, taken to Hong Kong, and then brought to Mumbai," said NCB director-general KC Verma. NCB superintendent Ajit Patel confirmed that his department received a tip-off from its international sources, and located the container in which the cocaine was stashed in canvas bags between logs of teak wood.



DRUGS FOUND ON MARSHALL ISLANDS VESSEL AT MUMBAI, INDIA

London, June 4 — A press report, dated June 3, states: In what law-

FOOT-AND-MOUTH PRECAUTIONS, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Supermarket chain Asda has taken Brazilian beef off its shelves after claims it could have come from areas where foot and mouth is rife. The move comes after the NFU presented Asda with evidence to show some of the imports could not be traced. Cattle in some parts of Brazil are currently suffering from the disease. Asda said only 1% of its beef on sale was from Brazil and it would resume imports when its supplier proved the required standards had been met. NFU deputy president Meurig Raymond said there was “clear evidence” Asda had sold Brazilian beef that did not comply with “British standards of farm assurance or traceability.” An Asda spokesman said the company tried to apply “a level playing field in terms of welfare specifications and traceability.” He said: “This ensures the same high standards are adhered to by all our suppliers regardless of where they are based. In terms of the Brazilian product the NFU has raised concerns about, we are removing it from sale.”

OUTBREAK OF “BIRD FLU”

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Officials began culling poultry in a West Java village where local tests showed a 15-year-old boy had died of bird flu, an official said Thursday (Jun 1). A senior official at the Agriculture Ministry told The Jakarta Post the massive cull of poultry in the hamlet in Tasikmalaya regency was carried out by a coalition team consisting of the ministry’s Avian Influenza Campaign Management Unit and local administration officials. “We estimate that we have slaughtered 3,000 fowl within a one-kilometre radius of the boy’s house and we’ll provide a compensation of Rp 10,000 for each of the killed fowl,” said the official. The boy died Tuesday night and local tests showed he had contracted the virulent H5N1 bird flu virus. Officials were awaiting confirmation from a World Health Organization (WHO)-sanctioned laboratory in Hong Kong. When asked why such efforts had not been carried out in other areas where bird flu outbreaks had occurred, he said the poultry cull was carried out only when results of tests confirmed poultry-to-human infection. He said in the near future, his team would also slaughter several hundred fowl in Kediri regency, East Java to contain the spread of the virus there. The boy’s death is the third in West Java from the H5N1 virus since last week. A brother and his sister died last week of bird flu in Bandung regency, also in West Java. In North Sumatra province, six members of a single family in a tiny farming village died recently of bird flu and a seventh fell ill. An eighth family member was buried before samples

were collected, but WHO considers her part of the family cluster of cases, the largest ever reported.

OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON BAHAMAS FLAG VESSEL

Sydney, Jun 8 — Passengers on P&O Cruises’ largest domestic cruise ship have been hit by a highly contagious stomach bug during a 10-day cruise of the Queensland coast. Passenger *Pacific Sun* (47262 gt, built 1986) left Sydney last week for a round-trip cruise via Brisbane and the Coral Sea, but more than 60 passengers have been infected by what is believed to be the Norwalk Virus, a contagious stomach bug that normally lasts between one and three days and typically brings stomach pains, vomiting and diarrhoea. Medical staff have quarantined those affected because of the relative ease that the virus travels from person-to-person. Some passengers said they estimated the number of affected passengers to be “in the hundreds”. The ship has about 1,600 passengers and 690 crew on board. — Lloyd’s List Daily Commercial News. (Note — *Pacific Sun* departed Sydney on May 30 and is scheduled to return to Sydney on Jun 9.)

OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON BERMUDA-FLAGGED VESSEL

London, June 2 — Passengers on passenger (cruise) *Sea Princess* disembarked today after their trip was cut short when 200 travellers fell ill with gastroenteritis. The ship docked at its home port of Southampton, a day earlier than scheduled. Company spokesman Peter Shanks said most passengers had recovered and only about eight were still ill. The ship, on a week-long cruise, missed out a visit to Lisbon to allow extra time for the vessel to be disinfected. Shanks said the illness had not originated on board, but had been brought from onshore. Passengers have been offered a 30% refund on the cost of the cruise and £150 off any future trip. Disembarking passengers said they were confined to their cabins in a bid to stop the spread of the infection which caused severe vomiting and diarrhoea. — Reuters.

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated Jun 3, states: Passenger (cruise) *Sea Princess*, hit by a virus, is setting sail again after having been disinfected. The *Sea Princess* docked in Southampton a day early on Friday (Jun 2), missing out the intended destination of Lisbon, after 200 passengers caught a vomiting bug. Many of them were disappointed after having been stuck in their cabins for much of the seven-day European tour. The vessel is due to set off on its next cruise this afternoon. A spokeswoman for Princess Cruises parent company Carnival UK said passengers had been told to stay in their cabins to avoid further spread of the illness. She added: “We brought the ship in 24 hours early so we could sanitise the ship and eradicate the illness to stop

the spread to future passengers.” The company admitted there had been a smaller outbreak on the last two days of the boat’s previous cruise, but it does not believe the two outbreaks are linked. A 30% refund and a £150 per person voucher towards a future cruise has been offered to the 2,258 passengers on the ill-fated seven-day trip. But passengers leaving the vessel on Friday reacted angrily to the offer, calling for a full refund. The virus is suspected to be the Norovirus, which is a common cause of stomach bugs and lasts 48 hours.

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated Jun 4, states: Passenger (cruise) *Sea Princess*, hit by a virus, has set sail again after having been disinfected. She sailed on her next cruise yesterday afternoon. The company admitted there had been a smaller outbreak on the last two days of her previous cruise, but it does not believe the two outbreaks are linked.

OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON UNITED STATES-FLAGGED VESSEL

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: About 60 passengers on board passenger (cruise) *Pride of Aloha* (77104 gt, built 1999) were quarantined after they showed stomach flu symptoms. The passengers were ordered to their rooms for 24 hours while on board but didn’t face further restraints after disembarking at Honolulu Harbour yesterday. Norwegian Cruise Line gave the passengers \$200 on-board credit as compensation. The interisland cruise had a capacity load of about 2,000 passengers at the time. The company said the *Pride of Aloha* took preventive health measures and that illness would not be a problem on the next cruise. “They won’t allow you to touch anything related to food or any mutual thing,” passenger Jerry Bates said. “They got a program on the (shipboard) TV that tells you about proper handwashing.” The *Pride of Aloha* left Honolulu yesterday for its next cruise.

Fires & Explosions



CANNERY, BATH, MAINE, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire investigators said they have identified a “person of interest” in a May 4 fire that destroyed the former Stinson Seafood sardine cannery, but the person’s name is not being released. Investigator Daniel Young of the state fire marshal’s office said the decision to charge the person will be left up to Sagadahoc County District Attorney Geoffrey Rushlau. Young said he plans to turn his investigative report over to Rushlau next week. The fire, which investigators believe was

intentionally set, caused more than \$1 million in damage. Investigators, local police and agents from the federal bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms have interviewed more than 75 people. The cannery closed a year ago and was sold to a developer who hoped to convert it into condominiums.

CHEMICAL PLANT, HOUSTON, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, June 7 — A press report, dated June 6, states: Faulty refurbishment of a 50,000-pound tank was blamed for a 2004 chemical plant explosion, officials with the U.S. Chemical Safety Board said Tuesday. Three firefighters and several nearby residents suffered minor injuries after the Dec 3, 2004, explosion at the Marcus Oil & Chemical plant in southwest Houston. The blast was felt about 25 miles away and blew out windows and damaged homes and buildings near the facility, which manufactures polyethylene waxes used in paint and printing ink. CSB investigators said the tank had been one of several modified by Marcus Oil with internal heating coils. Each tank was then resealed by welding a steel plate over a two-foot diameter temporary opening. "The repair welds did not meet accepted industry-quality standards for pressure vessels," said John Vorderbrueggen with the U.S. Chemical Safety Board. "Marcus Oil did not use a qualified welder or a qualified welding procedure to reseal the vessel and did not pressure-test the vessel after the welding work had been completed." On the night of the explosion, the repair weld on the tank failed under pressure, ejecting molten wax and flammable hydrocarbons. Marcus Oil had used air instead of nitrogen to boost the tank's pressure, and the oxygen ignited the flammable material. The fire spread into the damaged tank, causing the violent explosion. The tank was sent more than 150 feet into the air, landing against a warehouse next door. "The CSB estimated that the defective welds had decreased the strength of the (tanks) by more than 75%," said lead investigator John Vorderbrueggen. "It is likely that the welds were further weakened by metal fatigue from hundreds of operating cycles over many years." The CSB called on Houston to adopt new safety regulations governing the construction and modification of such tanks. "If the provisions of internationally recognized pressure vessel safety codes had been required and enforced, this accident would almost certainly not have occurred," CSB board member John S. Bresland said. Texas is one of 11 states that have not adopted national safety standards for such pressure tanks, according to the board's report. The CSB also recommended that Marcus Oil repair all modified pressure tanks to conform to rules of the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel

Inspectors, install relief devices on all such tanks and avoid the contamination of its nitrogen supply with air to prevent fires.

COAL MINE, BALIKESIR PROVINCE, TURKEY

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A methane gas explosion has ripped through a coal mine in western Turkey, killing at least nine miners and trapping several others. Governor Selahattin Hatipoglu said at least nine miners were killed after the blast caused a shaft to collapse at the mine in the village of Odakoy in western Balikesir province, the semiofficial Anatolia news agency reported. Firefighters and military troops were trying to reach several more trapped miners, private NTV television reported, citing Hatipoglu. It was not clear at which depth the miners were trapped. Salvage workers earlier evacuated six injured miners and took them to a local hospital. Hatipoglu said local military commanders were leading the rescue operation at the site, some 475km south of Istanbul.

COTTON MILL, CHESTER COUNTY, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated Jun 6, states: Dispatchers say five departments responded to a fire at an old cotton mill in southern Chester County this morning. Firefighters battled the blaze at the 75-year-old cotton mill in Great Falls for more than four hours before deciding to let the fire burn itself out. According to dispatchers, the fire broke out around 0600 hrs at the old J.P. Stevens number three cotton mill in Great Falls. Thick black smoke was visible for miles around Great Falls. The fire department issued an evacuation for a third of the residents in the area tonight. The evacuation covered about 450 residents. The mill has been shut down for several years, but a neighbour says he heard loud music coming from the building last night. Crews on the scene said there were workers inside when the fire broke out. Those workers ran across the street to call 911. Firefighters say they now have the blaze under control. The cause of the blaze was not immediately known.

FACTORY, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Around 50 firefighters battled for an hour and a half to contain a massive fire at a southwestern Sydney kitchen building factory early today. Inspector Gordon Boath of the NSW Fire Brigades said police called firefighters at 0200 hrs, after fire broke out in a factory complex on Hoxton Park Road, Cartwright, near Liverpool. The fire engulfed three factory units in the complex of eight, he said. The rear walls and the roof collapsed making it hard to access some areas of the fire, Boath said. But the firefighters, from

10 brigades, managed to stop the blaze spreading to neighbouring units and saved four mobile cranes from the flames. Fire crews will remain on site for the best part of today, mopping up and dealing with small pockets of fire that are still burning. No-one was hurt. Boath said it would be some time before the cause of the blaze could be determined.

FOREST, GREATER HINGGAN MOUNTAINS, CHINA

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated Jun 2, states: Firefighters in the Greater Hinggan Mountains in northeast China are preparing to make artificial rain to help tame a forest fire that has raged for 10 days. The local meteorological bureau said yesterday they have mounted rocket shells on 11 vehicles at Kanduhe Forest Farm. Officials with the bureau said favorable weather for making artificial rain is expected from today to Sunday (Jun 4). An attempt to make artificial rain last Friday produce only 1 millimeter of rain, and failed to curb the fire. A lightning strike started the fire on May 22 in the country's largest virgin forest and it has engulfed an estimated 50,000 hectares of forest. Vice Premier Hui Liangyu said Wednesday that more firemen and airplanes were needed to extinguish all forest fires in China.

KHOR AL AMAYA TERMINAL, IRAQ

London, June 5 — Berths 7 and 8 at Khor Al Amaya Terminal remain out of operation, following the fire at the terminal on May 26. A partial evacuation of the terminal had been carried out when the fire broke out and some local personnel were injured. Initial reports indicate that it broke out as a result of maintenance works being carried out on the pumping system.

MANUFACTURING PLANT, PANDORA, OHIO, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated Jun 2, states: An explosion and fire ripped through a manufacturing plant in northwest Ohio, injuring at least five employees and leading to the evacuation of several hundred homes, authorities said. The fire was under control by late morning at Pandora Manufacturing, about 50 miles southwest of Toledo. Homes downwind from the facility were evacuated because of the risk of fumes from a peroxide product that can cause lung problems, Riley Township Fire Chief Bob McCoy said. The injured workers, taken to hospitals in Lima and Toledo, reported having breathing difficulties. More than 40 employees fled the plant. Pandora Manufacturing company makes containers and fills bottles, cans, drums and powder bags for chemical manufacturers. The fire apparently began along a line containing brake fluid, one of the substances the plant puts in the containers, officials said.

MILL COMPLEX, PUDSEY, WEST YORKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated Jun 5, states: More than 80 firefighters were scrambled from across West Yorkshire to tackle a blaze which wrecked a mill complex in Pudsey, Leeds. Eight fire engines were sent to the scene in Lane End, Lowtown, along with two specialist aerial ladders - allowing crews to get close to the flames. So much water was needed, parts of the town centre had to be sealed off as water was siphoned in from an emergency container in a relay system. The blaze, which started at around 2125 hrs on Saturday (Jun 3), took around three hours to bring under control. Crews were still at the scene yesterday, checking that the last embers had been put out. The cause of the fire, which started near the top of the four-storey building, is now under investigation. Large parts of the mill and its roof were destroyed. Much of the property was empty, but it was also home to a Rolls Royce car-hire firm and a gym, which escaped the worst of the fire. Stanningley fire station crew manager Malcolm Nelson said the building was well alight when firefighters arrived. "It was a difficult fire to get under control because we needed height to get near the flames. We had teams in support from the whole of West Yorkshire. Eventually we managed to put out the fire, but around half the mill is gutted. Fortunately we managed to stop the fire before it got to the gym and the car hire company, for which their owners were very grateful," he said. Firefighters and investigating officers sifted through the remains to try to work out how the blaze started. The damaged parts of the mill may now have to be demolished.

NIGHTCLUB, LUTON, BEDFORDSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated Jun 5, states: A nightclub nearing the end of a £2m facelift has been devastated by a fire. Liquid in Gordon Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, has been closed for more than two months for renovations, was wrecked by the fire yesterday night. The fire is being treated as suspicious. The club, one of a UK chain, had been due to open in July once the refurbishment had finished. A spokesperson for the Bedfordshire Fire Brigade said the fire began in the ground floor entrance and lobby area.

PAPER MILL, OAKENHOLT, FLINTSHIRE, WALES

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated Jun 6, states: Firefighters are investigating the cause of a blaze which caused extensive damage to a Flintshire paper mill. The fire, at the SCA tissue mill in Oakenholt, started in paper-making machinery at about 2200 BST, yesterday. It is not thought to be suspicious. Crews from Flint, Holywell and Deeside attended as the fire spread and ignited drums of

paper in the building. Ian Williams, the officer in charge, said tackling the fire had been a lengthy operation. Among the equipment used was thermal imaging gear and a cherry picker as the fire spread through the building's roof. Mr Williams said: "Dense thick smoke made it extremely difficult for our crews to locate the actual seat of the fire and to safely bring it under control. The fire caused extensive damage to approximately half of the warehouse."

PREMISES, HYDERABAD, INDIA

London, June 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A huge fire broke out in a multi-storied commercial complex building in Hyderabad this morning, completely destroying the office of the National Insurance Corporation. There were no casualties in the fire that caused losses of Rs.20 million according to initial estimates. Six fire tenders fought for nearly three hours to bring the fire under control, which started from the third floor of the Moghul Court building in Basheerbagh area. All the computers and records at the state headquarters of National Insurance Corporation were gutted in the fire, which broke out around 0530 hrs. Police Commissioner A. K. Mohanty said the fire gutted only the third floor and it was brought under control before it could spread to other parts of the building. The police and fire service officials indicated that short circuit could have caused the fire. Officials of the National Insurance Corporation said records of all its policy holders could be retrieved from the headquarters in Kolkata.

REFINERY, ANTWERP, BELGIUM

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated Jun 6, states: A fire at the 350,000-barrels-per day refinery of French oil group Total in the Belgian city of Antwerp will not impact production, a company spokeswoman said today. "I can confirm that the fire is not expected to have an impact on production," the spokeswoman said, adding that the blaze had been kept within a visbreaking unit and the rest of the refinery continued to work normally. The fire started at 1005 hrs (0805, UTC) and injured four people.

SLOPS TANKS, CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Lightning was believed to have caused a fire early today at a Valero Energy Corp. refinery storage tank containing oil and water, company officials said. The fire at its Corpus Christi, Texas refinery burned for three and a half hours, but no one was injured, officials said. "We do not yet have a clear assessment on production impact or needed repairs," Mary Rose Brown, a spokeswoman for San Antonio-based Valero, said in a statement. She said lightning was believed to be the cause of the fire that started at about 0100. The fire

was extinguished by company emergency response personnel with the assistance of the Refinery Terminal Fire Co., the Port Fire Boat, a nearby ship and area tugs. Geoff Atwood, chief of the privately run Refinery Terminal Fire Co., said oil cleanup was under way in port waters today. Shares of the company fell 47 cents to \$60.88 on the New York Stock Exchange.

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated Jun 1, states: The US Coast Guard is responding to oil spills at the Valero docks and the Citgo facility located in the Corpus Christi Inner Harbor early this morning. Approximately 168,000 gallons of oil has spilled into the Corpus Christi Ship Channel just west of the Harbour Bridge. Captain of the Port, Capt. John Korn and the U.S. Coast Guard, closed the channel and no vessel traffic is being allowed in the harbor. Responders from the Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi are on scene overseeing the containment and clean-up of the oil-spills. The Coast Guard received a call from the crude oil tanker *Max Jacob* of a fire in a 125-foot diameter storm containment tank next to the vessel. According to the report, lightning had struck the tank and ignited the waste oil it contained. The resulting fire threaten the ship and the 28 crewmembers of the *Max Jacobs* were safely evacuated by the tugs *Discovery* and *Thor*. The Refinery Terminal Fire Company (RTFC) was on scene to contain the fire. "The Coast Guard would like to extend its gratitude to the crews of the two tugs for their quick action in evacuating the crew of the tanker" Korn said. Initial reports indicate that oil leaked into the dock's containment area, which overflowed due to heavy rain. Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi is investigating the cause of the incidents.

New York, Jun 2 — The inner harbor of Corpus Christi, Texas is still closed to shipping traffic as crews clean up the rest of the oil spilled after lightning struck an oil storage tank yesterday, according to the U.S. Coast Guard's Corpus Christi operations centre. "Everything west of the harbour bridge is still closed to vessel traffic. We now have four vessels that are waiting to depart and two waiting to enter," said Petty Officer Silva. The operations centre had no estimate when the harbor might reopen. The Corpus Christi area is home to three refineries. The Valero Energy Corp. facility was forced to cut crude oil runs by 30 percent after suffering what the company described as significant damage to its dock in the fire caused by the lightning strike. — Reuters.

Houston, Jun 4 — Tankers were again sailing to the docks of three south Texas refineries today after a spill shut Corpus Christi harbour late last week, the U.S. Coast Guard said today. The refineries operated by Valero Energy Corp., Flint Hills Resources LP, and Citgo Petroleum

Corp. were restoring production interrupted by problems caused by heavy thunderstorms early on Thursday (Jun 1) morning. One of the problems was the spill of an estimated 250 barrels of runoff oil and water from Valero's Corpus Christi refining complex into the inner harbor of Corpus Christi Bay after lightning struck a containment tank. Cleanup of the Valero spill was continuing today, with tankers going into the west inner harbor restricted to only daylight operations at minimum speed with a Coast Guard escort. Additionally, Citgo reported a 50-gallon spill into the harbor and Flint Hills reported a spill within its refinery. FCC No. 1 at the Citgo refinery was shut today due to the steam loss and began restarting that day. FCC No. 2 was shut due to a mechanical problem and began restarting on Saturday. A Citgo spokesman was not available to discuss refinery operations. Valero's Corpus Christi refinery complex, which has a crude oil processing capacity of 142,000 bpd, was working to restore 70,000 bpd in output lost due to an electrical short at the refinery. Valero had said the Corpus Christi refinery would begin increasing output on Saturday. Flint Hills 288,000 bpd refinery was also restoring production after several processes were interrupted. — Reuters.

London, Jun 6 — Clean-up crews are still mopping up the oil spill that happened in the Corpus Christi ship channel on Thursday (Jun 1). A portion of the lower channel was reopened until sunset yesterday and it appears limited traffic will be allowed to resume on Saturday (Jun 10). It is estimated that about 1,500 barrels, or about 6,300 gallons, of an oil water mix washed into the ship channel on Thursday morning. The spill has largely been contained, but the clean-up is far from over. A fire had broken out at Valero at around 0100 hrs, but it was heavy rain that overflowed the system that led to the spill before that. "With this deluge of rain, it just overpowered the system, and we were unable to contain it, and when the fire broke out on the tank due to the lightning, that just made matters a little bit worse," said Valero spokesperson Bob Grimes. The storage tank remains out of commission, but the rest of the refinery is now fully up and running. Meanwhile, crews are using a variety of tools to clean up the mess in and out of the water. The Coast Guard expects the clean-up to last a week, but beginning Saturday morning, vessels will begin coming and going on a priority basis after getting a close inspection first. (See issue of Jun 6.)

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated Jun 7, states: The Port of Corpus Christi is still subject to vessel movement restrictions due to the recent oil spill. All traffic is still daylight-restricted and vessels are being escorted by the U.S. Coast Guard at slow bell once they have

been confirmed clean and free of oil. The Coast Guard is allowing vessel traffic from the Tule Lake lift bridge to the Harbor bridge. Cleaning efforts are still underway from the Lift bridge west, as this was the area most affected by the spill.

STORAGE TANK, OIL FIELD, RALEIGH, MISSISSIPPI, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion today at an oil field in central Mississippi killed three workers and injured another, authorities said. The workers were on a catwalk connecting four storage tanks at the time of the explosion, said Gary Wray, one of the owners of Partridge-Raleigh Inc., which owns the 280-acre oil field. Two died in the blast and a third was pronounced dead at Magee Hospital, said spokeswoman Althea Crumpton. A fourth worker whose condition was not immediately released was being treated, she said. The Stringer Oil Field Services employees were preparing the tank to receive oil from a new pump they had installed on a well, Wray said. One of the workers was using a welding torch on a tank, said Lea Stokes, spokeswoman for the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. Officials from the state Oil and Gas Board and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality were called to the scene to help with the investigation.

WAREHOUSE, ALTON, HAMPSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 80 firefighters fought a large fire at a warehouse in Hampshire last night. Roads around the Riverwey Industrial Park, in Newman Lane, Alton, were closed when liquid petroleum gas cylinders were found on the premises. Warehouse storage units belonging to Vestax Europe Ltd suffered partial fire and smoke damage. The Environment Agency also worked at the scene to prevent polluted run-off water entering nearby streams. The fire was extinguished after four hours.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 3 — A press report, dated Jun 2, states: Fire officials today were trying to keep a 2,000-acre wildfire that burned at least four buildings and forced the evacuation of about 30 homes from reaching pine trees in this scenic northern Arizona town. A blaze that appeared to be caused by humans burned two homes, a small shed and an outbuilding before moving off into the wilderness yesterday night, Sedona Fire District Chief Matt Shobert said. Investigators said early today it appeared the fire was started by sparks from the grinder of a fencing company that was working on a fence post yesterday afternoon. US Forest Service officials said citations could be forthcoming and the fencing company may have to pay for some of the cost of fighting the fire. Thirty homes out of about 200 in

the Pine Valley subdivision near the Village of Oak Creek were evacuated by the fire, which quickly grew from 40 acres. evacuees could return to their homes by midmorning today, he said.

London, Jun 4 — A press report, dated Jun 3, states: Crews fighting an 836-acre wildfire that destroyed five buildings south of this scenic northern Arizona community gave evacuees the go-ahead to return home today. Thirty homes out of about 200 in the Pine Valley subdivision were evacuated Thursday (Jun 1) when the fire broke out. The blaze destroyed one home and four buildings. Another home was damaged. Joe Luttmann, a spokesman for crews fighting the fire, said the blaze wasn't expected to advance significantly today, but firefighters were watching out for potential problems caused by wind-blown embers

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A wildfire was burning in DeSoto National Forest behind the Keesler Rifle Range, a spokesman for the forest service confirmed last night. Mary Bell Lunsford, the public information officers, said the fire may have started by a lightning strike, but firefighters were having to back off from the blaze and not fight it directly because of heavy fuel in the area from underbrush and dry conditions. Instead, Lunsford said firefighters will look at using roads as natural firebreaks and backburn to control the damage. More than 2,000 acres could be burned before the fire is put out, Lunsford said. About 20 firefighters are fighting the fire and helicopters are being used as well. Lunsford said several roads and highways will have heavy smoke blanketing them and drivers should use caution along Mississippi 67, Lamey Bridge Road, Blackwell Farm Road and South Carr Road.

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A big brush fire in western Broward County has caused health officials to issue an ozone alert. The Broward County Environmental Protection Department's Air Quality Division recorded elevated levels of the pollutant ozone in the "Unhealthful for Sensitive Groups" range. Generally, when the rainy season begins in late May or early June, sea breezes and rain create unstable air that dissipates the ozone, keeping it from reaching elevated levels. During the spring dry season, periods of stable air allow ozone to build up to elevated levels. So far, US Route 27 remains open, but fire officials have posted smoke alert signs as the brush fire continues to burn. The fire has scorched nearly 17,000 acres, and shows no sign of burning out. Concern is that if the wind shifts, the smoke from the blaze could affect visibility on US 27, forcing a closure, but as of early Wednesday morning, the road was unaffected.

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Residents were allowed to return home last night

after fire crews, retardant drops from air tankers and rain combined to stop a roaring blaze around their rural community in central Arizona. Pine Flat, located about 75 miles north of Phoenix, was ordered evacuated by the U.S. Forest Service after a 125-acre wildfire advanced to within two miles of the community by yesterday morning. Pine Flat is a wooded valley dotted with about 20 homes. Only a few are occupied year-round but most are being used now, said Yavapai County sheriff's spokeswoman Susan Quayle. Community officials could not immediately provide an exact number of how many people were evacuated by the fire, which was believed to have been started by lightning early yesterday. In eastern Arizona, officials were worried that a 1,200-acre fire near Heber could cause arcing in a power line that delivers electricity to Phoenix, said Kartha Ray, a spokeswoman with the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. More than 140 firefighters battled the blaze, which was about 10% contained yesterday. In the Navajo Nation capital of Window Rock, Ariz., about 30 residents remained evacuated after a wildfire raced through the community's outskirts. About 66 residents were evacuated and sent to a local middle school Tuesday (Jun 6) evening but many were allowed to return home yesterday, said Selena Manychildren, a spokeswoman for the Navajo emergency services department. The fire had burned 1,655 acres of pinyon pine and juniper forest, said spokeswoman Selena Manychildren of the Navajo emergency services department. The fire was 40% contained yesterday. In New Mexico, firefighters battled an apparent lightning fire that charred about 500 acres along the Rio Grande bosque and forced the evacuation of about a dozen homes, though none were in immediate danger, said Dan Ware, state Forestry Division spokesman.



9M-TGA

London, June 2 — Transmile Airlines B727-200, 9M-TGA, experienced a reported port wing tank fuel explosion during ground maintenance in Bangalore, India on May 4. The aircraft was being readied for towing following maintenance to repair a fuel leak. While the auxiliary power unit was operating and providing electrical power to the aircraft, the tow crew felt a "jolt" and noticed that a circuit breaker for the port wing fuel tank boost pump had tripped. Inspection of the aircraft revealed substantial structural damage to the port wing in the area of the fuel tank. There were no injuries.

AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO FAIRBANKS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ALASKA

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft carrying cargo and a load of fuel was forced to return to Fairbanks International Airport after an engine fire broke out. The DC-6, owned and operated by Fairbanks-based Brooks Fuel Inc., had taken off minutes before the mishap Saturday (Jun 3) morning. The aircraft was about three miles from the airport when the three-person crew was alerted to the fire by an alarm. The crew returned to the airport and fire crews met the four-engine aircraft as it landed, according to Airport Fire and Police Sgt. Rick Rifley. Crews could see the fire in engine No. 3, located inboard on the right side of the aircraft. The crew shut down the aircraft and exited the aircraft on their own without injury, Rifley said. A Federal Aviation Administration agent is investigating. The cause of fire and damages to the plane were not immediately known, Rifley said.

C-FPKJ

London, Jun 2 — TAt 1654 hrs, May 31, the commercially registered Cessna 185 (C-FPKJ) departed runway 19 at Prince George, British Columbia, and was given a right turn out. The aircraft then appeared to turn left back toward the airport and crashed in trees southwest of the airport. The pilot, who was the sole occupant, was seriously injured.

C-GGRQ

London, Jun 5 — The pilot of Cessna A185F, C-GGRQ, operated by Special Projects Inc. of Calgary, was taking off from an esker at 0735, MDt, May 30. The engine initially developed full power, but during the take-off run reportedly began to lose power. When the pilot aborted, the aircraft overturned, resulting in minor injuries to the pilot and substantial damage to the aircraft.

CRASH, LONG ISLAND SOUND, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A Learjet registered to religious broadcaster Pat Robertson crashed in Long Island Sound while flying in heavy fog today, killing both pilots, authorities said. All three passengers escaped without serious injury. Robertson was not aboard. The twin-engined aircraft went down a half-mile short of the runway at Groton-New London Airport. Authorities said the passengers were able to get out on their own and were pulled from the water and taken to the hospital with injuries that were not believed to be life-threatening. The aircraft was registered to Virginia-based Robertson Asset Management. The company is owned by Robertson and is separate from the Christian Broadcasting Network, spokeswoman Angell Vasko said. She said Robertson was not on the aircraft and rents it

out because he uses it infrequently. "We're still trying to figure out who was on the plane," she said. "It's not Dr. Robertson or (anyone) related to CBN or related to Dr. Robertson's individual businesses." The Coast Guard said the aircraft took off from Norfolk, Va., and stopped in Atlantic City, N.J., to drop off two passengers before heading to Connecticut. State Transportation Department spokesman Chris Cooper said those on board were believed to be headed to a golf tournament at the Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket. The bodies of the two victims were pulled from the water by the Coast Guard, Capt. Peter Boynton said. Police said the cause of the crash was unclear.

CRASH, MALUKU PROVINCE, INDONESIA

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft operated by Indonesia's Merpati Nusantara Airlines has crashed injuring 13 people, while landing in bad weather in the eastern province of Maluku. A company spokeswoman says one of the wings of the twin-engine turboprop was broken in the crash landing on tiny Banda island. She says 17 people were on board, including a crew of three. The spokeswoman says the 13 people who have been injured are receiving treatment in hospital. She says she doesn't know the nature of their injuries. Merpati Nusantara Airlines has sent a team to assess the damage, investigate the accident and provide help to passengers. It's not yet clear if there were any foreigners on board.

CRASH, ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A single-engine plane crash today took the life of a New Jersey man. About 1115 hrs, the plane was approaching the Orange County Airport when the pilot radioed air traffic control that he was in sight of the air field, said Fritz Kass, Orange County Airport's director of aviation. That was the last contact with the pilot. Newburgh State Police identified the pilot as Thomas Dayon, 53, of West Milford, N.J. He was flying a Lancair 360 from Greenwood Lake, N.J., to the airport to pick up a passenger at a maintenance facility. Kass said New York Air Route Traffic Control Center in Ronkonkoma, Suffolk County, had received a low-altitude warning from the plane, meaning that the craft was on or near the ground. A search of the airport and the immediate area found nothing. The wreckage was located at 1245 hrs, about 1,000 feet from the runway southeast of the airport, police said.

CRASH, RENO, NEVADA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated Jun 7, states: A small plane crashed into a house today shortly after take-off, killing both people on board and sending 30-foot flames and

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heavy smoke into the air. No one was home when the single-engine plane crashed about 1500 hrs, Reno Fire Department spokesman Steve Frady said. The pilot and a passenger died, he said. Police closed off several blocks around the home, in a residential area about two miles south of Reno-Tahoe International Airport. Much of the home was fully ablaze when firefighters arrived. The fire spread into the attic, sending flames high into the air, Frady said. The Beechcraft Bonanza took off shortly before 1500 hrs, and the pilot was in contact with the control tower prior to the crash, Frady said. Witnesses said that the plane was flying low over homes and wobbling, with a sputtering engine, and that the pilot appeared to be looking for a place to land.

CRASH, STAFFORD TOWNSHIP AREA, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES

See N48ED.

CRASH, TIWI ISLANDS, NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A Queensland insurance executive has been killed in a light aircraft crash on the Tiwi Islands, north of Darwin. Glenn Skipworth was flying by himself to visit clients on Bathurst Island when his plane went down just short of the Nguu airstrip. The general manager of Australian Insurance Brokers, Allan Day, said Mr Skipworth used to live in Darwin and moved to Queensland with the company. Police said authorities were alerted to the crash when an emergency transmitter was activated at 0900 today. A team from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau is being sent to investigate the crash.

EMERGENCY LANDING, JEAN AIRPORT, SOUTHERN NEVADA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated Jun 3, states: No injuries are reported in the emergency landing of a small Cessna outside the Jean Airport, Southern Nevada. Clark County fire officials say seven people were on board the aircraft when it landed about 1300 hrs in the desert west of I-15 about five miles from the Nevada-California stateline, not far from an air strip in Jean, which is about 30 miles south of Las Vegas. Firefighters and paramedics were initially summoned but the call was cancelled before they arrived.

EMERGENCY LANDING, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated Jun 6, states: A jetliner with a mechanical problem made an emergency landing today at Los Angeles International Airport, authorities said. The pilot of American Airlines Flight 1581 from San Antonio reported a hydraulic

failure on the plane's right side, and the MD-82 landed safely, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Bruce Nelson. It was not immediately known how many passengers were aboard. No injuries were reported, said Fire Department spokesman Brian Humphrey.

EMERGENCY LANDING, PIARCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TRINIDAD

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: There was an emergency landing of a North American Airlines Boeing 757 aircraft at Piarco International Airport yesterday at 1043 hrs. The aircraft was en route to JFK International Airport, New York. Just after its departure from Georgetown, Guyana, the pilot requested clearance to land at Piarco. He complained of a malfunctioning air-conditioning system on board the aircraft. The emergency response system was immediately activated at Piarco and an eyewitness said that there were two fire trucks and an ambulance on stand-by in the event of any mishap. There were 175 passengers and 10 crew members on board. By noon, the aircraft was still grounded and a representative of General Aviation Services, the company which is contracted by North American Airlines to handle its flights out of Trinidad, said that a replacement aircraft would be sent to take the 175 passengers to New York. Other flights out of Piarco were temporarily delayed, until all systems were cleared for the resumption of traffic.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SRI LANKA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

London, Jun 5 — A press report, dated today, states: The president of Thai Airways has revealed that the emergency landing conducted by one of the company's aircraft at the Sri Lanka international airport was due to smoke coming out of the cargo area. Apinan Sumanaseni said the Airbus A-330 carrying 225 crewmen on board the flight from Colombo bound for Bangkok had to land at the Bandaranaike airport after the aircraft's system reported smoke in the cargo area. The pilots had used fire extinguishers to put out the fire, and landed after everything had returned to normal in order to carry out inspection. All passengers and crew were safe, and all passengers have now arrived in Thailand through flight re-arrangements.

HL1027

London, June 2 — Cessna 210G, HL1027, crash landed and ran off runway 14R at Gimpo International Airport, Seoul, at 0443, UTC, May 21. The aircraft was substantially damaged and the pilot, the sole occupant, was not injured.

INCIDENT AT BANDA, INDONESIA

London, Jun 6 — A press report, dated today, states: An Indonesian

passenger plane carrying 17 people slid off the runway while landing on the eastern island of Banda on Monday, officials said. Almost everyone on board suffered injuries, none of them serious. The Merpati Airline plane, arriving from the town of Masohi on Seram Island in rainy conditions, was carrying three crew and 14 passengers, said Abdullah Akhir, chief of the clinic that was treating the victims. The accident occurred at around 1000 hrs (0100 UTC), he said. Djaka Tujiono, a spokesman for the airline, said all the injuries appeared to be minor.

INCIDENT, DALAMAN AIRPORT, TURKEY

London, Jun 8 — A press report, dated Jun 7, states: An A320 passenger aircraft of British MyTravel (MYT) Airways ran off the runway last night at Dalaman Airport, said Mehmet Yapici, subgovernor of Dalaman yesterday. Yapici stated: "The aircraft ran off the runway and hit wire fence on another runway of the international flights terminal before take-off for a flight to Cardiff, England. These two runways are connected to each other but the second one is still under construction. I suppose the pilot might have thought that it was the continuation of the first runway. Nobody was injured. There were minor damages to the aircraft. After a technical team controlled the aircraft, it flew to Cardiff."

INCIDENT, WUYISHAN, CHINA

London, Jun 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A China Eastern Airways Boeing-737 slid off a rain-slick runway upon landing in the city of Wuyishan, province of Fujian, where it had arrived after a brief flight from Shanghai, causing no deaths or injuries. The aircraft apparently failed to brake properly. Photographs showed the aircraft mired in mud by the side of the runway, with stairs extended to its rear exit. The accident was under investigation, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

N182K

London, Jun 5 — Learjet 35A, operated by Robertson Asset Management, departed Norfolk at 1239, Jun 2 carrying five passengers. The aircraft landed at Atlantic City at 1313 hrs where two passengers deplaned. At 1347 the jet continued on to Groton. On approach to runway 05 the aircraft struck approach lights and crashed into the water just short of the runway.

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N48ED

London, Jun 1 — Piper PA-28-236 (Dakota) N48ED crashed near Ocean City, New Jersey, at 1441, May 31, while on a flight from Old Bridge, NJ, to Bader, NJ. The aircraft was destroyed. The four persons on board were killed.

PK-NCL

London, Jun 8 — The Aviocar, PK-NCL, skidded and veered off the runway on landing. It was raining heavily when the aircraft was landing at Bandanaira Airport at 1013, Jun 5. The aircraft sustained damage to the wings and wheels and the fuselage was said to be cracked.


Product Recalls
COFFEEMAKERS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 7 — A press release, dated Jun 6, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Applica Consumer Products Inc., of Miramar, Fla., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 420,000 Black & DeckerÆ Brand Thermal Coffeemakers. The coffeemaker may not turn off as programmed, causing the unit to overheat and melt, and posing a risk of fire and burn injury. Applica has received 14 reports of the coffeemakers overheating. This resulted in one report of a minor burn, and 12 reports of minor property damage to kitchen cabinets, countertops and floors. The recalled coffeemakers make up to eight-cups of coffee and have a programmable countertop feature. The coffeemakers are silver and black with a stainless steel carafe. Model numbers TCM800 and TCM805 are printed on the rating plate on the bottom of the coffeemaker. Manufactured in China, the coffeemakers were sold at Home improvement and discount department retailers nationwide from March 2004 through to April 2006, for about \$40 each.

DIGITAL CAMERAS, WORLD-WIDE

London, Jun 7 — A press release, dated Jun 6, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Hewlett-Packard Company, of Palo Alto, Calif., today announced a voluntary recall in the United States of approximately 224,000 (about 679,000 worldwide) HP Photosmart R707 Digital Cameras. The digital camera can cause certain non-rechargeable batteries, such as the Duracell CP-1, to overheat when the

camera is connected to an AC adapter or docking station, posing a fire hazard. HP has received one report of a camera catching fire, damaging the camera and its docking station, and causing minor smoke damage to the room. No injuries have been reported. This recall involves the HP Photosmart R707 digital camera. The HP logo and the model name and number are printed on the front of the camera. Manufactured in China, the cameras were sold at Electronic, computer and camera stores, as well as Web retailers nationwide across the United States from August 2004 through to April 2006 for between \$250 and \$400 each.

EXERCISERS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 8 — A press release, dated Jun 7, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with tFitness Quest Inc., of Canton, Ohio, today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 154,000 GazelleÆ Freestyle Cross Trainer and GazelleÆ Freestyle Cross Trainer Pro Gliders. The resistance pistons on the glider can come off during exercise. If this happens, a person using the glider can fall off the exercise machine. Fitness Quest has received 145 reports of pistons detaching and one report of a minor injury from a fall. GazelleÆ Freestyle Crosstrainer and Crosstrainer Pro exercisers are glider-style exercise equipment. The user moves two foot platforms in a striding motion back and forth while grasping handlebars attached to the platforms. The model name "Gazelle Freestyle Cross Trainer" or "Gazelle Freestyle Cross Trainer Pro" is printed on the side of each product's frame. Manufactured in China and Thailand, the recalled products were sold by: The Home Shopping Network (HSN), The Shopping Channel (tSC), and Dicks Sporting Goods beginning in January 2004 for between \$200 and \$250.

GAS GRILLS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 5 — A press release, issued by The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Jun 1, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Nexgrill Industries Inc., of City of Industry, Calif., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 16,000 Nexgrill Gas Grills. The gas grill has a hose that connects the propane tank to the burner manifold. If this hose runs up too close to the firebox, the heat can cause the hose to detach from the burner manifold, causing a gas leak and a fire hazard. Nexgrill has received 31 incident reports, including 28 fires, three hoses melting, two cases of property damage, and four injuries. The recalled product is the Nexgrill Model 720-0025 Gas Grill. The stainless steel grill is designed to be used with propane gas. The name of the grill is located at the left corner of the exterior of the main burner lid. The

serial number is printed on the CSA sticker which is located behind the door. A temperature gauge is located at the centre of the main burner lid. Manufactured in China, the gas grills were sold at Target, Costco Canada, H-E-B, Chase-Pitkin, and Gander Mountain stores nationwide from December 2003 through to March 2005 for between \$499 to \$599.

TREADMILLS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 8 — A press release, dated Jun 7, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Endurance, a division of Body Solid Inc., of Forest Park, Ill., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 700 Endurance Treadmills. The treadmill can unexpectedly accelerate or decelerate, possibly causing the user to lose control and fall. Endurance has received nine reports of speed control problems. No injuries have been reported. The recall includes the T7, T7.1, T8 and T9.1 models of the Endurance Treadmills. The treadmills are black and silver. The model number is located along the side of the running surface near the end of the treadmill. Manufactured in Taiwan, the treadmills were sold at Fitness equipment stores from September 2004 through to April 2005 for between \$2,000 and \$2,500.


Port Conditions
BANGLADESH

Karachi, June 2 — Bangladesh Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has started negotiations with Main Line Operators (MLO) and the Feeder operators to postpone their decision of imposing congestion surcharges from June 5 to mid-August. Officials of port authority assured the MLO representatives that more berths for container vessels in the newly constructed New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) would be available for cargo handling by August and hopefully container congestion, now prevailing in the port, will be eased out considerably. An 11-member committee has been constituted to review the prevailing congestion in the Chittagong Port. The committee is headed by Director, Traffic of CPA Ahsanul Kabir and comprises representatives from all organisations related to maritime trade including the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Earlier, the main-line operators have decided to impose Chittagong Port Congestion surcharges at the rate of US\$120 per container by June 5 next if the congestion is not eased. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

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

London, Jun 6 — The Chittagong feeder vessel operators imposed congestion surcharges on Chittagong-bound containers today. Imposition of surcharges would cost the country's over Tk 60 crore a month in foreign exchange. Singapore based Feeder operators and the Main line Operators took this decision at a meeting held in Singapore today. Feeder operator sources here said, the meeting decided to impose congestion surcharges at the rate of \$130 per 20-foot and \$260 per 40-foot containers effective from today in view of the prevailing congestion at the Port. Sources said, they would review their decision if the situation of the Chittagong Port improves after the next one month. CPA sources said, initially five operators among 14 feeder operators issued notices to the CPA. They are ACL, Sea Consortium, OEL, HRC and QC. The rest of the operators are likely to follow the five operators. Tresponding to the imposition of congestion surcharges, the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has taken several measures against the feeder operators who imposed the surcharges. Three berths would be kept reserved for the operators on priority basis who would not impose surcharges.

Karachi, Jun 8 — The apex trade Body of Bangladesh-Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) in a statement expressed its concern over the imposition of congestion surcharge by feeder operators on container cargoes at the Chittagong Port and demanded its immediate withdrawal. It said surcharge of 130 US dollar for each 20 feet container could not justify the basis of this imposition. It said the feeder operators were supposed to give the cost analysis of the surcharge to the port authority but they have failed to do so. The feeder operators served notice mentioning the turn around time of the vessels between 12 and 13 days, but the fact remains that the current turn around time is 7-8 days, it said. Therefore, the FBCCI said, imposition of surcharge was not justified. It may be mentioned here that he Chittagong feeder vessel operators imposed congestion surcharges on Chittagong-bound containers from last Monday (Jun 5). — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

IRAQ

See "Khor al Amaya Terminal, Iraq" under "Fires & Explosions."

ITALY

Genoa, Jun 5 — Port situation: Genoa: One bulker, one roro and one tanker awaiting berths, average delay 12 to 24 hours. Savona: No vessels awaiting normal or special berths. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

PANAMA

London, Jun 7 — Delays in the Panama Canal have increased, due to Gatun and Miraflores locks outages, from Jun 5 to Jun 17, and traffic conditions are expected to deteriorate further. Panamax vessels currently face delays of four to six days, and regular/unrestricted vessels three to four days. The auctioned booking slot continues.

PANAMA CANAL

Balboa, Jun 2 — There is currently a backlog of over 50 vessels on the Canal. Waiting time is two to three days for large restricted vessels and about two days for regular-unrestricted vessels. — Lloyd's Agents.

SYRIA

Aleppo, June 3 — Waiting time is presently 24 hours at Lattakia and at Tartous. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	13-Jun-2006	Coal: One vessel loading at berth; 8 vessels due by 30/6; up to 1 day's delay expected.
Brisbane	13-Jun-2006	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Six vessels due by 21/6; possible delays expected due to berth congestion.
Dalrymple Bay	13-Jun-2006	Coal: Three vessels loading at berth; 25 vessels arrived; 27 vessels due by 2/7.
Dampier	13-Jun-2006	Iron ore: Delays expected: 2-8 days; Parker Point A berth: One vessel loading at berth; 2 vessels arrived; 5 vessels due by 29/6; Parker Point B berth: 1 vessel loading at berth; 5 vessels arrived; 11 vessels due by 27/6; Parker Point C berth: 1 vessel loading at berth; East Intercourse Island; 3 vessels arrived; 11 vessels due by 21/6.
Esperance	13-Jun-2006	Iron ore: Three vessels due by 22/6.
Geraldton	13-Jun-2006	Iron ore: One vessel loading; 4 vessels due by 30/6.
Gladstone	13-Jun-2006	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Three vessels at berth; 15 vessels arrived; 35 vessels due by 21/7; 9-12 days delay expected; Barney Point: 1 vessel loading at berth; 6 vessels arrived; 5 vessels due by 15/7; Plant shutdown notice: no shiploading operations 10-15/7 for maintenance and upgrading of terminal facilities.
Hay Point	13-Jun-2006	Coal: Two vessels loading at berth; 2 vessels arrived; 9 vessels due by 21/6.
Newcastle	13-Jun-2006	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: Three vessels loading at berth; 5 vessels arrived; 48 vessels due by 8/7; up to 3 days delay expected; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel loading at berth; 25 vessels due by 6/7; 1-5 days delay expected.
Port Hedland	13-Jun-2006	Iron ore: Delays expected: up to 6 days; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: One vessel loading at berth; 2 vessels arrived; 3 vessels due by 20/6; "B" berth: 1 vessel loading at berth; 2 vessels arrived; 4 vessels due by 20/6; 15 other vessels due by 29/6 at A or B berth 2/4; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island "C" berth): 2 vessels due by 13/6; (Finucane Island "D" berth): 1 vessel loading at berth; 4 vessels arrived; 2 vessels due by 19/6; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel due 20/6.
Port Kembla	13-Jun-2006	Coal: Eleven vessels due by 30/6; no delays expected.
Port Walcott	13-Jun-2006	Iron ore: Seven vessels arrived; 13 vessels due by 27/6; 6-10 days delay expected.
Whyalla	13-Jun-2006	Iron ore: One vessel at anchor; 9 vessels due by 29/6.

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

Port Conditions

Azerbaijan

Apsheiron	9-Jun-2006	Jun 9: Oil products: Three vessels discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 2 fuel oil); 1 vessel due 9/6 to discharge crude oil.
Baku	13-Jun-2006	Jun 12: Oil products: Azertrans terminal: Nobel Avenue: 1 vessel discharging crude oil at berth; 1 vessel in roads to discharge crude oil; Sangachal District: port open; no vessels.

Bulgaria

Bourgas	12-Jun-2006	Jun 12: Seven vessels in port of which 6 loading (1 barite concentrate, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 gasoil, 1 coils, 2 concrete, iron), 1 discharging copper concentrate; 4 vessels in roads of which 3 to load (1 chemicals, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 coils), 1 to discharge chemicals; 10 vessels due of which 3 to load (2 coils, 1 steel sheets), 7 to discharge (1 billets, 1 salt, 2 iron ore, 2 coal, 1 copper concentrate).
Varna	11-Jun-2006	Jun 11: Varna East, Varna West, Balchik: Thirty-seven vessels in port operating of which 23 loading (3 scrap, 2 bulk maize, 1 steel sheets, 1 hard board, 1 miscellaneous cargo, 6 soda, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 3 bulk clinker, 1 TSP, 1 bulk silica sand, 1 container, 1 urea, 1 sunflower seeds), 5 discharging (1 bulk copper slag, 3 bulk coal, 1 bulk feldspar), 9 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.

Colombia

Barranquilla	14-Jun-2006	Max. permissible draft: 9.1m fw; shore cranes operational; Five vessels berthed (2 containers, 1 general cargo, 2 bulkers); 2 vessels anchored (1 general cargo, 1 bulker); 14 vessels due (3 containers, 9 general cargo, 2 bulkers), with no delays expected.
Buenaventura	14-Jun-2006	Shore cranes operational; Six vessels berthed (2 containers, 1 general cargo, 3 bulkers); 5 vessels anchored (1 general cargo, 4 bulkers); 36 vessels due (27 containers, 1 general cargo, 6 bulkers, 2 PCC), with 2 days delay for containers, 3 days delay for bulkers expected.
Cartagena	14-Jun-2006	Shore cranes operational; Three vessels berthed (2 containers, 1 general cargo), none anchored; 27 vessels due (22 containers, 2 general cargo, 3 passenger vessels), with no delays expected; MEB: shore crane operational; 1 bulk cargo vessel berthed, no vessels anchored; 6 vessels due (3 containers, 2 general cargo, 1 bulker), with no delays expected; Contecar: shore crane operational; 1 container vessel berthed, none anchored; 6 vessels due (3 containers, 2 general cargo, 1 bulker), with no delays expected.
Santa Marta	14-Jun-2006	Shore cranes operational; Three vessels berthed (1 general cargo, 1 banana vessel, 1 bulker), none at anchor; 9 vessels due (4 containers, 3 general cargo, 1 banana vessel, 1 bulker), with no delays expected.

Cyprus

Larnaca	13-Jun-2006	Four conventional vessels discharging at berth; 1 conventional vessel due 14/6; no delays expected.
Limassol	13-Jun-2006	Four container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 2 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 9 vessels due 14/6 of which 4 containers, 2 conventional vessels, 3 passenger vessels; no delays expected.

Estonia

Tallin	12-Jun-2006	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 coal, 1 oil products), 1 unloading cacao beans at berth; 3 vessels due, with 7 days delay expected; Muuga: no vessels at berth, none at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected.
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Georgia

Batumi	9-Jun-2006	Oil products: One vessel loading fuel oil at berth; 3 vessels in roads, all to load crude oil; 8 vessels due by 20/6, all to load (3 crude oil, 2 gasoil, 1 naphtha, 1 gasoline, 1 fuel oil).
Poti	9-Jun-2006	Oil products: Port open; 2 vessels due by 15/6, both to load gasoil.
Supsa	9-Jun-2006	Oil products: Port open; 3 vessels due by 20/6, all to load crude oil.

India

Kolkata	12-Jun-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Containers, 3 vessels discharging (Containers, Logs, Edible Oil), 1 vessel waiting to load Containers, 1 vessel waiting to load General Cargo, 1 vessel waiting to discharge Containers, 1 vessel discharging at midstream Pulses; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 2 vessel under dry docked; 3 vessels under repair; 1 vessel due.
Haldia	12-Jun-2006	16 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Iron Ore-3, Thermal Coal, Steel), 9 vessels discharging (POL, LPG, Coke, Net Coke, Met Coke, PACD, Cement, Project Cargo), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 3 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load); 5 vessels due (Butadine, Crude, Steel, Coke, Container).
Paradip	12-Jun-2006	8 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading (Iron Ore-3, Chrome Ore, Thermal Coal, High Speed Diesel), 4 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, NC Coal, Ammonia, Lime Coke); 6 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (1 to discharge, 5 to load), 2 vessel waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load); 19 vessels due.
Visakhapatnam	12-Jun-2006	12 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Iron Ore, Product Tanker), 9 vessels discharging (Urea-2, Alumina-2, Coking Coal, Timber, Product Tankers, Molten Sulphur, Steam Coal), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load), 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 34 vessels due (Iron Ore-2, B. F. Flag-2, Fly Ash, Alumina, Product Tankers-2, Rock phosphate, Coking Coal-14, Steam Coal-2, Containers-3, General Cargo, Lam & Met Coke-2, Product Tankers-3).

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Port Conditions

Chennai	12-Jun-2006	12 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Granite Block, 7 vessels discharging (HR Coil, Paraffin, Urea, Logs, Coking Coal, C. Oil, & Met Coke (Bags)), 4 vessels loading and discharging (Containers-3, Sugar); 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load ; 2 vessels due (Thermal Coal, C. Oil).
Tuticorin	12-Jun-2006	6 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading General Cargo, 4 vessels discharging (Logs, Palm Oil, Furnance Oil, Thermal Coal); 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to load, 1 to discharge), 1 vessel waiting at anchorage bunkering to attending repair works.
Cochin	12-Jun-2006	6 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Naphtha, 2 vessels discharging (Crude, Furnance Oil,), 2 vessels loading and discharging Soda Ash, Palm Oil), 1 vessel waiting to load.
New Mangalore	12-Jun-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Iron Ore (Fines)), 3 vessels discharging (Urea, LPG, POL Crude); 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 11 vessels due (Container, Iron Ore (Fines)-5, POL Crude-2, Phosphoric. Acid, Yellow Peas, POL Product).
Mormugao	12-Jun-2006	3 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading Iron Ore, 1 vessel discharging High Speed Diesel, 2 vessels working at midstream and loading Iron Ore; 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load), 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 10 vessels due (Coal-2, Urea, Met Coke, Steel Slabs, Iron Ore- 5).
Mumbai	12-Jun-2006	23 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Bagged Sugar, Bagged SBM, Steel Coils, POL), 15 vessels discharging (Steel Cargo-2, Bagged Pulses/Logs-2, Rock Phosphate-2, Palm Oil-2, Container/H. Lift/General, Logs/Pluses, Steel Plates, Steel Coils, Project Cargo, DAP POL), 4 vessels loading and discharging (Steel Cargo, Steel Coils, Peas, Containers/Steel/Pipes, General); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load & discharge); 10 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 7 vessels under arrest; 34 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 31 vessels due (Contaners-7, Oil-3, General Cargo-21).
J.N.P.T.	12-Jun-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel discharging High Speed Diesel, 6 vessels loading and discharging Containers ; 6 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (2 to discharge, 4 to load and discharge); 6 vessels due (Containers-4, Liquid-2).
Kandla	12-Jun-2006	14 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Cement, Agriculture Product, Rice & GC), 9 vessels discharging (Other Liquid-4, Fpar/Mach/Sod, HR Coils, Projects Cargo, Steel Pipes, Steel Coils), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 3 vessels not ready to work at anchorage to load .
Ennore	12-Jun-2006	1 vessel discharging Thermal Coal , 1 vessel operating at inner anchorage loading to Iron Ore; 3 vessels due (MV Gem of Ennore (Thermal Coal) , MV Apj Sri Devi (Thermal Coal), MT Tamil Anna (Thermal Coal)) .
Israel		
Ashdod	06-Jun-2006	No labour problems. Four vessels loading general cargo at berth, 15 discharging at berth (12 general cargo, 3 bulk cargo), 2 loading/discharging containers at berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulk cargo), 1 passenger vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 20 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	06-Jun-2006	No labour problems; One vessel discharging general cargo at berth; 1 car carrier loading/discharging at berth; no vessels due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	06-Jun-2006	No labour problems; One vessel loading general cargo at berth, 5 discharging at berth (3 general cargo, 2 bulk cargo), 10 loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 2 car carriers, 3 tankers, 1 passenger vessel); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 general cargo, 1 container); 4 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 28 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	12-Jun-2006	Oil products: One vessel in roads to load; 5 vessels due by 12/6, all to load.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	12-Jun-2006	Twelve vessels in port operating of which 10 loading (1 wire rods/steel billets, 2 coils/steel sheets, 1 bulk urea, 1 scrap, 1 slabs/steel billets, 1 copper, 1 steel billets/ coils, 1 D/O, 1 equipment), 1 discharging bulk sugar, 1 discharging/loading containers; 3 vessels in roads of which 2 to load (1 coils/tin plates, 1 steel billets), 1 to discharge bulk sugar; 53 vessels due of which 51 to load, 2 to discharge (1 vegetable oil, 1 non-ferrous, metal); Oil terminal: 2 tankers loading in berth (1 crude, 1 diesel oil); 1 tanker in roads to load crude oil; 7 tankers due, all to load crude oil.
Slovenia		
Koper	12-Jun-2006	Port working normally; Eleven vessels berthed of which 4 loading sawn timber/general cargo, 4 discharging bulk cargo, 3 discharging/loading containers; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge/load containers; 17 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 6 to load (3 bulk cargo, 3 sawn timber), 3 vessels to discharge bulk cargo, 2 tankers to discharge liquid cargo, 4 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 2 vessels to discharge/load containers.
Spain		
Bilbao	12-Jun-2006	Twenty-two vessels in port operating (2 tankers, 20 others), of which 2 loading, 9 discharging, 11 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	12-Jun-2006	Twenty-four vessels in port operating of which 3 loading (2 cement, 1 fertiliser), 19 discharging (15 steel products, 1 gas, 1 fruit, 2 anhydrous ammonia), 2 discharging/ loading (1 general cargo, 1 steel products); Outside commercial wharf: no vessels; no delays expected.

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Port Conditions

Sri Lanka

Colombo	12-Jun-2006	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 break bulk 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). 11 container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 14 vessels discharging at berth (10 containers/feeders, 1 bagged fertiliser, 1 bagged maize, 1 bulk palm oil, 1 Ro/Ro); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (3 containers/feeders, 1 cement), 7 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 container/feeders, 1 bagged fertiliser, 2 bulk cement, 1 Ro/Ro); 5 vessels dry-docked; 7 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays for general cargo, bagged cargo, containers/feeders expected.
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Turkmenistan

Aladja	12-Jun-2006	Oil products: Port open; One vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Okarem	12-Jun-2006	Oil products: Port open; One vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	12-Jun-2006	Oil products: Port open; Three vessels at berth of which 2 loading gasoil, 1 discharging crude oil; 2 fuel oil vessels in roads.

Ukraine

Illichevsk	12-Jun-2006	Seven vessels in port operating of which 4 loading (2 steel products, 1 wheat/ barley, 1 diesel oil), 1 discharging sunflower oil, 2 discharging/loading containers; 2 vessels in roads, both to load (1 wood, 1 steel products); 19 vessels due of which 11 to load (7 steel products, 3 sulphur, 1 iron ore concentrate), 8 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	12-Jun-2006	Fourteen vessels in port operating of which 13 loading (6 steel, 2 fire-clay, 1 wheat, 3 coal, 1 sulphur), 1 discharging equipment; 13 vessels in roads of which 11 to load (6 steel, 3 coal, 2 fire-clay); 49 vessels due of which 43 to load (25 steel, 8 coal, 7 fire-clay, 1 fire-clay/kaolin, 1 coke, 1 ammonia nitrate), 2 to discharge (1 container, 1 equipment), 4 to discharge/load (1 containers/fire-clay, 1 equipment/ferrous metals, 1 equipment, 1 container).
Odessa	12-Jun-2006	Thirteen vessels in port operating of which 9 loading (3 scrap, 3 metal, 1 barley, 1 pig iron, 1 wheat), 4 discharging (1 baggage, 1 sugar, 1 citrus, 1 sand); 5 vessels in roads of which 2 to load (1 metal, 1 wheat), 1 to discharge sugar, 2 to discharge/load containers; 70 vessels due of which 36 to load (30 metal, 4 pig iron, 1 general cargo, 1 ferroalloy), 5 to discharge (2 baggage, 1 citrus, 1 general cargo, 1 oil), 29 to load/discharge containers.

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