

CasualtyWeek

Jun 30 2006

Campaigners reopen Rocknes case with demand for inquiry

Skaggerak Foundation says incident reveals serious loophole in the agreement for accident investigation instituted by the IMO, writes Michael Grey — Friday June 30 2006

A NORWEGIAN transport safety lobby group has demanded a full maritime inquiry into the capsized and heavy loss of life of the stone carrier Rocknes off Bergen in January 2004.

The Skaggerak Foundation, formed in March, 2004, to represent the interests of passengers and crew in all modes of transport, has intervened in the Rocknes case, which occasioned only a partial investigation by the Norwegian authorities on behalf of the vessel's flag state Antigua and Barbuda.

Eighteen of those aboard the specialist bulk carrier lost their lives when the vessel quickly capsized after striking a rock just outside the channel leading from Bergen, where the vessel had loaded a cargo of stone.

After the accident the flag state invited the coastal state, Norway, to undertake a casualty investigation on its behalf.

But it became concerned when the Norwegian Maritime Administration was instructed by the Norwegian government to limit its inquiry to a "ship technical investigation", leaving the flag state to inquire into other circumstances.

The flag state later claimed Norway had obstructed and delayed the investigation and alleged that the Norwegians had refused to co-operate in the probe.

Antigua and Barbuda's casualty report focuses on the adequacy of the navigation aids in the channel and the loading condition of the vessel which compromised the ship's stability.

Other elements which contributed to the disaster, it says, were pilot error, improper stowage of cargo, incorrect operation of equipment, less than adequate operating procedures and inaccurate charts.

The report claims that marking of the leads through the narrow channel were less than adequate, with the margins for safety reduced to one ship's breadth before the ship touched the ground.

Visibility from the bridge was hampered by a huge structure for the handling of cargo on the foredeck which severely hampered the safe navigation of the vessel.

Arne Sagen of the Skaggerak Foundation said the incident revealed a serious loophole in the agreement for accident investigation instituted by the IMO.

While the Norwegian government suggests that pending litigation precludes its participation in the investigation the foundation, which also intervenes to reduce accidents and counsels victims, points out that the IMO resolution on casualty investigation makes it clear that criminal or civil investigations "do not necessarily serve the cause of safety and should be separate and independent of other investigations".

The foundation points out: "For the international ship-ping community it is very sad to see that two prudent maritime nations have failed to comply with the very important international regulations for maritime accident investigations."

Mr Sagen said the Norwegian Institute for Marine Accident Inquiry was in a "transitional phase" as the government developed a National Accident Investigation Board, in which the modern principle of separating the safety investigation from criminal or civil proceedings is to be established.

The Rocknes inquiry, says Mr Sagen, was handled in the older and traditional Norwegian fashion. The Skaggerak Foundation has now called on the Norwegian ministry of justice to appoint a special commission of inquiry or conduct a full maritime investigation.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>BERTA</i>	container	ATG	AB	6,264	8,252	2004	Had machine problems en route to Hoek van Holland Jun 6. Towed to Rotterdam. Arrived Felixstowe Jun 7.
<i>BIRCHGLEN</i>	bulker	BRB	LR	22,388	36,248	1983	Towed to Goderich Jun 17 due mechanical problems about Jun 16.
<i>BRILLIANT SKY</i>	bulker	PAN	NK	29,739	52,307	2004	Made heavy contact with the mooring dolphin during approach to the ALSEED berth, Aden 19 Jun 2006. Sustained indent and gashes to hull plating causing ballast to spill. Dolphin displaced.
<i>CHEMBULK HONGKONG</i>	chem tanker	MHL	BV	20,058	32,315	2003	In collision with bulker Taiglad at Zhangjiagang Jun 15. Holed on portside tank No.7. Under repair at anchorage.
<i>EURO SOLID</i>	container/general	DEU	GL	7,500	10,300	—	Grounded after launch at Peterswerft, Wewelsfleth, Jun 10.
<i>FRONT SUNDA</i>	Crude oil tanker	MHL	NV	77,931	142,031	1992	Had explosion and fire in No. 6 cargo tank, in the South China Sea, 220 miles northeast of Singapore. Crew abandoned and picked up. Reboarded to search for missing crewman.
<i>HAMILTON BANKER</i>	fishing	CAN	—	360	—	1977	Sank while tied up at Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, Jun 17. Investigation and salvage attempts under way. Refloated by pumps and cranes Jun 19.
<i>HOHEBANK</i>	general	GBR	GL	1,687	2,351	1977	Had cylinder problems off Workington 15 Jun 2006. Towed into the port next day. Unable to repair and towed to Birkenhead.
<i>LAVADARA</i>	bulker	GRC	AB	35,900	69,091	1996	Grounded near Km 344, River Parana, 16 Jun 2006. Refloated and moved one kilometer, but grounded again. Still aground 22 Jun.
<i>MOBY FANTASY</i>	ro-ro	ITA	RI	13,284	2,107	1976	In collision with ferry Nuraghes off Olbia Jun 21. Taken in tow of tug Alessandro Onorato and moored at Golfo Aranci port. Passengers transferred.
<i>TUTUMA</i>	product tanker	NGA	BV	4,478	9,810	1978	Had explosion and fire at Lagos Jun 20. Towed from berth and eventually extinguished. two injured. Some crew may be trapped.
<i>VERRAZANO BRIDGE</i>	container	PAN	NK	54,519	65,038	2004	In collision with general cargo <i>Wei Lun 32</i> in the CJK precaution area, China, Jun 17. Discharged some containers at Shanghai and effecting temporary repairs in Wusong anchorage Jun 19.
<i>VIRGINIA C.</i>	barge	USA	—	1,375	—	—	While being pushed, in heavy fog, by tug Cheyenne, contacted the bridge on the Poughkeepsie River Jun 20. Took on water. Temporary repairs effected. Moored.
<i>ZHOU SHAN 611</i>	fishing	JPN	—	963	—	—	Adrift with engine trouble in vicinity of lat 35 35N, long 145 30 E 17 Jun 2006. Reported Jun 19 being assisted.

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Lloyd's
Marine Intelligence Unit



The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ALGOLAKE (Canada)

London, Jun 21 — Bulker *Algolake* arrived Sault Ste. Marie Jun 9 and sailed Jun 10.

ALICE (Malta)

See *Twin Star*.

ANNTORO (Norway)

Trondheim, Jun 21 — Kvernhusvik Shipyard have advised that there have been no changes in the circumstances of general cargo *Anntoro*. — Lloyd's Agents.

APL PANAMA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Manila, Jun 16 — Container carrier *APL Panama* arrived Subic Shipyard & Engineering Inc June 7. Subic shipyard also reported that the vessel is now drydocked and undergoing repairs. Earlier reports indicated that its propeller blades had been damaged. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

BERTA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jun 19 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Container Carrier *Berta* (6264 gt, built 2004) had machine problems on its way to Hoek van Holland, Jun 6. The vessel had to anchor and was assisted by the tug *Smit Japan* which towed it to Rotterdam. During part of the voyage it was also assisted by the *Smit Loire*.

London, Jun 19 — Container carrier *Berta* arrived Felixstowe Jun 7 from Rotterdam, sailed same day, arrived Antwerp same day and sailed Jun 9 for Bilbao.

BEVER (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jun 20 — General cargo *Bever* arrived Antwerp Jun 18 and sailed Jun 19 for Rotterdam.

BILLY STAR (Philippines)

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

BIRCHGLEN (Barbados)

Troy, Michigan, Jun 18 — After encountering some mechanical problems in the river or lower Lake Huron, bulker *Birchglen* (22388 gt, built 1983) was towed up to Goderich by the tug *Menasha*. An attempt was made Friday (Jun 16) afternoon to enter the harbour but was aborted. Yesterday afternoon saw the *Menasha*, *Dover* and *Debbie Lynn* make another attempt at bringing it in. This time it was successful and it was on the new harbour dock at 1930 hrs. *Birchglen* is expected to be in port a couple of days. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

BLUE STAR (Liberia)

Antwerp, Jun 22 — Container Carrier *Blue Star* (7111 gt, built 1997), sailing from Taiwan to Shanghai, and general cargo *Tong Yuan Hai* (2957 gt, built 2005), that was also laden with containers, were in collision near No.1 WGQ Terminal, port of Shanghai, early morning Jun 15. Some containers onboard were damaged. *Blue Star* departed Shanghai for Taiwan port, on Jun 15. — "DPS Teamhead Surveyors." (Note — *Blue Star* arrived Shanghai Jun 15 and subsequently arrived Keelung Jun 17 and sailed Jun 18.)

BOW FORTUNE (NIS)

London, Jun 16 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Bow Fortune* sailed Houston Jun 13.

BOW PRIMA (Singapore)

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

BRILLIANT SKY (Panama)

Aden, Jun 21 — Bulker *Brilliant Sky* (29739 gt, built 2004) came into heavy contact with the mooring dolphin during approach to the ALSAED berth on the morning of Jun 19. This resulted in the lateral displacement of the dolphin, damage to the supporting piles and a large indentation in the hull plating in way of the No. 3 Starboard Ballast Wing Tank with two gashes in the plating. This resulted in the ballast discharging overside. — Lloyd's Agents.

BULOU NI CEVA (Fiji)

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: The passengers and the crew of passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva* (620 gt, built 1994) are still stranded at Lopta Village after the inter-island ship run on a reef near Rotuma on Wednesday (Jun 14) afternoon. The master is still awaiting the arrival of some parts from Suva to repair the vessel and sail back to the capital. Police confirm that the vessel was about to anchor when it was swept away by strong currents and winds to a reef.

Suva, Jun 19 — Passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva* is still on the reef. The vessel owners, Kadavu Shipping, are arranging for salvage. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A provincial council will bring the crew of passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva*, which ran aground on a reef in Rotuma, to Suva, if the vessel cannot be salvaged. *Bulou Ni Ceva* ran aground during strong winds and heavy seas late last week and negotiations are under way with the Government and private companies to salvage her. Kadavu Provincial Council chairman Ratu Josateki Nawalowalo said they hoped to finalise something by the end of this week. "The information we got is that the ship is hard aground on a reef. That means to salvage her would be quite a job," Ratu Josateki said.

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"We hope by the end of this week to either salvage the ship or to bring the crew to Suva." Ministry of Transport chief executive officer Vuetasau Buatoka said the ministry was unable to help salvage the vessel as there was no barge available.

Suva, Jun 21 — Owners of passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva*, Kadavu Shipping, are in the process of making negotiations with the Government and private companies to salvage the vessel. Hopefully some arrangements would be finalised by end of this week. — Lloyd's Agents.

BUMI JAYA (Indonesia)

Chittagong, Jun 20 — General cargo *Bumi Jaya*: Situation unchanged. Vessel remains at outer anchorage. We have requested information from vessel's agents with regards to the possible future plans of the vessel. No concrete information has been forthcoming, however, we still understand there is a possibility the vessel may be towed to Singapore for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

CHEMBULK HONGKONG (Marshall Islands)

Antwerp, Jun 22 — Chemical tanker *Chembulk Hongkong* (20058 gt, built 2003), laden with chemical cargo, that was turning around for berthing and discharging, and bulker *Taiglad* (37452 gt, built 1983), that was going to load cargo, in the port of Zhangjiagang, Jiangsu Province, were in collision on the afternoon of Jun 15. *Chembulk Hongkong* was holed on portside tank No.7, but no leakage occurred. But could not sail further to Shanghai, China, before hull was temporarily repaired and has been staying in anchorage of Zhangjiagang. — "DPS Teamhead Surveyors." (Note — *Taiglad* arrived Zhangjiagang Jun 15.)

CHILEAN REEFER (DIS)

Durban, Jun 16 — Refrigerated general cargo *Chilean Reefer* entered Durban harbour this morning and has been taken to a repair quay. The vessel has reportedly experienced turbo-charger failure shortly after departing Durban harbour having loaded a cargo of fruit. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 21 — Refrigerated general cargo *Chilean Reefer* arrived Port Elizabeth Jun 18.

CHINA SEA (Greece)

London, Jun 16 — Container Carrier *China Sea* (53453 gt, built 2002) lost a significant number of containers in bad weather May 31, on voyage from the Far East bound for Rotterdam. (Note — *China Sea* arrived and sailed Rotterdam Jun 14, arrived Antwerp Jun 17.)

CLEVELAND (U.S.A.)

Freetown, Jun 16 — General cargo *Cleveland* (15949 gt, built 1969) arrived Freetown Jun 10 and is stranded in stream, off port, with engine problems. — Lloyd's Agents.

(Note — *Cleveland* sailed Houston May 18, arrived St.Vincent(CPV) May 31 and sailed Jun 3 for Dakar.)

CONSING (Philippines)

Manila, Jun 19 — The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Ecology Department reported that recovery of landing craft *Consing's* cargo load of steel sheets and pipes was completed over the weekend. Work is now ongoing to refloat the vessel. "We are pressuring Hanjin Heavy Industries to remove the vessel from the area," SBMA Ecology Department chief Amethya dela Llana said today. "We want the vessel pulled out to so it no longer poses a threat to the environment," she added. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jun 20 — The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Ecology Department said today that it was imposing a US\$5,000 oil spill fine on the owner of the landing craft *Consing*, which sank and spilled at least 400 litres of fuel oil into the waters of Subic Bay. The vessel is owned by Manila-based Asian Shipping Corp., but is on charter to South Korean shipbuilding firm Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Co., which is building a shipyard inside Subic Freeport. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jun 21 — South Korean shipbuilding firm Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Co. is appealing the light US\$5,000 dollar fine imposed by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Ecology Department for the oil spill that resulted from the sinking of landing craft *Consing* in Navotas, Manila, Jun 10. In its appeal to the SBMA Ecology Department, Hanjin said that it should not be fined since it had taken immediate action to contain the oil spill. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

CP VALOUR (Bermuda)

Ponta Delgada, Jun 19 — Container Carrier *CP Valour* remains aground. Operations to remove the cargo (containers) on board the vessel have already commenced. — Lloyd's Agents.

DANIELLA NATIVIDAD (Philippines)

Manila, Jun 16 — Product tanker *Daniella Natividad* reached Iligan port in Mindanao today despite difficulties in maintaining its normal cruising speed. After unloading its mixed cargo of gasoline and diesel, the vessel will proceed to Bataan, where ETA Jun 20. Shogun Ships officials suspect that the vessel's turbo-chargers could be at fault. They did not think, however, that these were damaged by the explosion which hit the vessel last May 11. Another factor affecting the ship's slow speed could be increasing fouling as a result of being laid-up for an extended period for repairs, they said. Officials said that once it reaches Bataan, its engine and hull would be cleaned. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jun 21 — Product tanker *Daniella Natividad* reached Lokanin in Bataan province for maintenance work at 0845, Jun 20. An underwater inspection of the hull was undertaken upon arrival. Divers reported heavy fouling and hull cleaning was carried out. Engine was likewise inspected and cleaned. Prior to its arrival in Lokanin, the ship's master had complained that the vessel's cruising speed had dropped from seven to five knots. Engine maintenance work and hull cleaning were therefore carried out to restore speed. Vessel then proceeded to Petron Refinery in Lamao, Bataan where it is now waiting to take on a full load of gasoline and diesel. The vessel is expected to leave for Poro Point in La Union at 1200, Jun 22. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

DAYANA (Panama)

Santo Domingo, Jun 20 — Harbourmaster offices confirm repairs to Roll On Roll Off *Dayana* have already been completed and vessel is ready to sail, but apparently pending payment of the said repairs, port charges, etc., have kept vessel alongside. — Lloyd's Agents.

DONG QU ER HAO (China)

See *Dong Qu Yi Hao*.

DONG QU YI HAO (China)

London, Jun 20 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 1638, UTC: Ferry *Dong Qu Er Hao* (467 gt, built 1999) and ferry *New Ferry LXXXV* (695 gt) were in collision at 1015, local time, Jun 19. *Dong Qu Er Hao* subsequently sank in lat 22 10 24N, long 113 38 55E. All passengers and crew were rescued.

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *New Ferry LXXXV* collided with ferry *Dong Qu Er Hao*, 10 nautical miles off Zhuhai City at 1015am yesterday. *Dong Qu Er Hao* sank at the scene, but all 91 people on board were rescued, Information Times reported today. *Dong Qu Er Hao* was travelling from Xiangzhou port to Wanshan port when it was in collision with *New Ferry LXXXV*. The crash caused a large hole in *Dong Qu Er Hao's* starboard side, which caused it to take on water and sink, said Liu Chuanjing, a senior officer from the General Team of Guangdong Frontier Defence. Eleven boats and 110 police officers were dispatched to rescue the passengers and crew members from the sinking vessel. All of the people from the ferry were moved safely onto dry land, the newspaper said. *New Ferry LXXXV* was slightly damaged in the accident but all of its 42 passengers were transported back to Hong Kong on board another ferry, the newspaper said.

London, Jun 22 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 1250, UTC: Zhuhai fast ferry *Dong Qu Yi Hao*, not *Dong Qu Er Hao*, collided with the Macau-Hong Kong fast ferry *New Ferry LXXXV* on Jun 19. The 92 passengers and crew

of *Dong Qu Yi Hao* scrambled to the bow of the vessel, as she sank by the stern, and were all rescued by passing vessels. Ferry *Dong Qu Er Hao* was one of the rescue vessels.

ELEVEN

London, Jun 19 — Following received from the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE), dated today: Fishing (general) *Eleven* was removed from the Belize Registry on Nov 5, 2004.

ELEVEN (Belize)

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated Jun 18, states: The Police will not step in to investigate how fishing (general) *Eleven* (115 gt) ran aground in Suva Harbour last Monday (Jun 12). Assistant Police Commissioner Moses Driver has confirmed that under the Marine Act any vessel that runs aground in Fiji Waters comes under the jurisdiction of the Fiji Islands Maritime and Safety Authority. Driver added that the Police will only come into the picture if FIMSA approaches them for assistance in investigations. The Fiji Ports Corporation is still trying to find the owner of the fishing vessel and the only confirmation they have received is that the vessel is owned by Marine Land Ltd, run by a Russian. The whereabouts of the captain and crew of *Eleven* is unknown, as officers found the vessel deserted when they boarded for inspection on Monday morning.

Suva, Jun 19 — Fishing (general) *Eleven*, 23.95 metres length, is still aground on the reef. — Lloyd's Agents.

ELLY LANE (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 15 — A press report dated Jun 12, states: Less than six months after suddenly sinking on the Tennessee River near Calvert City, Ky, tug *Elly Lane* has returned to service for Canal Barge Company. The vessel departed Paducah Jun 1 en route to Cairo with one load and returned a day later with 15 empty barges for delivery to a rock-loading dock at Empire, Ill. The next day, it was heading up the Cumberland River, light boat, to pick up a 12-barge rock tow, showing no signs of its unexpected immersion last winter. Following assessment of damage when raised several days after it sank, the vessel was moved to National Maintenance & Repair in Paducah for complete renovation and refurbishing. National Maintenance removed and reinstalled the EMD12-645E6 engines and Reintjes reduction gears, which were completely overhauled and serviced by EMD Services International and Karl Senner Inc., both of New Orleans. Meanwhile, the interior of the vessel was being stripped down to the bare steel.

EMERALD PRINCESS (Bermuda)

trieste, Jun 16 — Passenger (cruise) *Emerald Princess* reportedly sustained light scraping to the bow. — Lloyd's Agents.

ENSCO 107 (Liberia)

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated Jun 19, states: Enco International Inc. reported today that drill platform *EnSCO 107* (9696 gt, built 2006), a KFELS Mod V-B jackup, sustained damage while pre-loading on a drilling location offshore Vietnam. No personnel were injured and there was no environmental impact. Preliminary inspection indicates relatively minor damage to the rig, which has been safely jacked down and is currently under tow to Vung Tau, Vietnam. The company expects the rig to move to the Keppel FELS shipyard in Singapore to effect repairs. Repair costs in excess of a \$5.5 million deductible are expected to be covered by insurance. ENSCO said the incident is not expected to have a material impact upon the company's results of operations. The rig is under contract to the Korean National Oil Company for a seven-well program offshore Vietnam. It is estimated that the rig will be out of commission for about 60 days.

EURO SOLID (Germany)

London, Jun 19 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Part containerised general car *Euro Solid* (7500 gt, built 2006) ran aground after its launch at the Peterswerft in Wewelsfleth, Jun 10.

FLYINGCAT 3 (Greece)

Piraeus, Jun 21 — Ferry *Flyingcat 3* returned to service on Jun 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

FREPSUM (Antigua & Barbuda)

See *Lomur*.

FREITIND (Norway)

Trondheim, Jun 21 — Kvernhusvik Shipyard have advised that there have been no changes in the circumstances of general cargo *Freitind*. — Lloyd's Agents.

FRONT SUNDA (Marshall Islands)

London, Jun 19 — At approximately 1100, ECT, this morning, (Jun 19) crude oil tanker *Front Sunda* (77931 gt, built 1992) sustained an explosion in her No. 6 cargo tank in the South China Sea, approximately 220 miles north east of Singapore. One member of the crew is presently unaccounted for. Shortly after the explosion, the master, with the welfare of his crew the main concern, took the decision to abandon ship. A number of other vessels were in the area, and all the remaining crew have now been recovered by the container vessel *Bay Bridge* and are understood to be in good health. Local coast guard and emergency serviced have been informed. At this stage the cause of the explosion on board the *Front Sunda*, which was in ballast at the time of the incident, is not known. Frontline, owners of the vessel, and ITM, her managers, will continue to do everything they can to ensure the safety of the crew and to protect the local environment.

London, Jun 20 — A Filipino crew member was missing yesterday after a tank explosion forced the evacuation of crude oil tanker *Front Sunda* in the South China Sea. Crew were ordered to abandon ship after a blast in the No.6 cargo tank developed into a fire. The single-hull tanker was left abandoned and unmanned yesterday evening, in calm conditions, around 200 miles north-east of Singapore. At this stage the cause of the explosion on board *Front Sunda*, which was in ballast at the time of the incident, is not known, said a London-based spokesman for Frontline and Dubai technical manager International Tanker Management. Local authorities and emergency services have been informed. Before assessing the damage, authorities will need to board and bring *Front Sunda* under control. Container vessel *Bay Bridge*, which was one of a number of vessels in the area, recovered the rest of the vessel's crew in good health. The spokesman said *Bay Bridge* was on its way to Singapore with the evacuated crew. *Front Sunda* was scheduled to load for Royal Dutch Shell in Singapore on Jul 2 for a voyage to New Zealand.

London, Jun 20 — A press release, dated today, states: Following an explosion in No 6 cargo tank yesterday, crude oil tanker *Front Sunda* remains some 220 nautical miles north-east of Singapore. The vessel was reboarded at 0630, Singapore time, today in order to conduct a search operation for the missing seaman. Despite a thorough search by the party from nearby platform Geco Topaz's support vessel, he has not been found on board. Two vessels remain in the area and are continuing a search and rescue operation. The vessel itself is watertight and there is no evidence of any pollution. The fire which followed the explosion is out and the situation stable. Emergency generators are running and electrical power is available on board. Both the accommodation areas and the engine-room appear to be unaffected, with damage confined to the area around No 6 cargo tank. Salvage tug *Challenger* is now on site, where a further assessment of the damage will be made, and work will commence to make fast the vessel and tow her to Singapore. Container carrier *Bay Bridge*, which picked up the crew of the *Front Sunda*, has now berthed in Singapore, where the 25 crew members have disembarked. They all appear to be in good health but will undergo a medical examination to make absolutely sure. Both Frontline and managers ITM would like to extend their sincere thanks to all those who have offered and provided support and assistance during this incident.

GAWIALIS (Netherlands)

London, Jun 20 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: The damage to Dutch inland tank *Gawialis* which had run aground on the River Main at

Hanau on Jun 1, is assessed to be about 100.000 Euro. The vessel is currently being repaired at a yard in Rotterdam, after having unloaded its cargo of 1500 tonnes of oil at Hanau, after the incident. The ship has damage to its rudder as well as the hull. The grounding was caused due to currents or a technical fault of the rudder or machinery. The police investigation is continuing.

GIOVANNA (Russia)

St. Petersburg, Jun 16 — Understand from Kaliningrad Port Authority that chemical tanker *Giovanna* is still at YANTAR shipyard, with no change in its situation. — Lloyd's Agents.

GIPSY MOTH IV (U.K.)

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated Jun 20, states: This weekend yacht *Gipsy Moth IV*, the vessel used in the first true solo circumnavigation of the globe, will be ready to leave Auckland for the next leg of its second circumnavigation. *Gipsy Moth IV* is now fully repaired thanks to the help of many Auckland organisations that made repairs in a record three and a half weeks after the vessel ran aground on a reef in the South Pacific in April.

GOLDEN DOMINIQUE (Panama)

London, Jun 20 — Chemical tanker *Golden Dominique* sailed Charleston Jun 16.

GRAND LUCKY (Cambodia)

Yokohama, Jun 20 — General cargo *Grand Lucky* reportedly became constructional total loss and is still aground at the same position. A salvage operation of the vessel's hull will be carried out at the end of June. — Lloyd's Agents.

GRIGOROUSA I (Liberia)

Piraeus, Jun 22 — Crude oil tanker *Grigoroussa I* remains in the same position at Suez. We are still awaiting permission from the authorities to commence removal of vessel's cargo. Tug *Megas Alexandros* remains on scene with its ship-to-ship transfer and anti-pollution equipment on board. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

HAMILTON BANKER (Canada)

London, Jun 20 — A press report, yesterday, states: Salvage crews were working today on raising fishing (general) *Hamilton Banker* (360 gt, built 1977) that sank this weekend in a Newfoundland harbour. The vessel sank Saturday (Jun 17), while it was tied up at Harbour Grace. Salvage crews, which began pumping water from the sunken vessel over the weekend, were able to raise the bow out of the water this morning. The vessel was listing to its starboard side against the wharf. Terry Harvey, senior response officer with the Canadian Coast Guard, said some progress was made before salvage efforts were suspended last night. He said the operation was suspended late

yesterday because of health and safety reasons. He noted that divers would be trying to plug a hole in the vessel. Fuel that leaked from the casualty is being contained by a boom. Transport Canada and the RCMP are investigating the cause of the sinking.

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators will examine fishing (general) *Hamilton Banker* today as they look for clues to why it sank Saturday in a Newfoundland harbour. The vessel was refloated yesterday by crews using pumps and two cranes at the wharf in Harbour Grace, a large fishing town about 100 kilometres west of St. John's. Salvage workers used pumps and cranes for hours to bring the vessel slowly to the surface. Crews had unloaded turbot from the vessel late Friday night (Jun 16) and finished their work in the early hours of Saturday morning. Within hours of their departure, the vessel had sunk. Canadian Coast Guard official Terry Harvey said environmental damage appeared to be limited. "Our main concern is whether the vessel went down by accident or by design." The Harbour Grace fire department responded quickly to Saturday's sinking but found there was little they could do to halt it. The *Hamilton Banker* is expected to be towed to a synchronised lift in Harbour Grace tomorrow to be lifted entirely out of the water. The owners and their insurers will be responsible for clean-up costs.

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A malfunctioning valve and a rising tide helped sink fishing (general) *Hamilton Banker* at a Newfoundland wharf, investigators have determined. The vessel sank on Saturday (Jun 18) while tied up at the wharf in Harbour Grace. It was refloated on Monday, allowing investigators to examine the vessel. The RCMP said a valve that should have been closed was jammed and left open, leading to trouble as the morning tide began to rise. "It appeared that the vessel started to list during the rising of a tide, going from low to high, and the vessel hooked into the wharf or somehow got obstructed," said Cpl Clarence Burgess. "As the tide rose, it came up over this stop valve and caused the water to flow in through." Crews had finished taking a load of turbot off the vessel only hours before it started listing. Salvage crews used underwater pumps and two cranes to refloat the vessel, which is currently owned by a consortium of fishing companies. Burgess said investigators were now satisfied that criminal activity was not involved in the sinking. The case has been turned over to insurance officials.

HARVESTER (U.K.)

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: An investigation into the sinking of fishing (general) *Harvester* in November last year has said the watch officer of the supply

vessel which hit it was not keeping a proper lookout. *Harvester* sank on the morning of Nov 4, 2005, following a collision with supply *Strilmoy* in heavy fog. A report into the the accident issued by the Department of Transport's Marine Accident Investigations Branch did not point the finger of blame at either crew, but stated that the collision happened due to the poor lookout kept on *Strilmoy* and the late action by *Harvester*. *Harvester* was engaged in pair trawling with fishing *Ocean Harvest* when it was in collision with *Strilmoy*. Before *Harvester* sank, all its crew were transferred to *Ocean Harvest*. *Strilmoy* was holed above the waterline in the forepeak tank, and suffered some denting to her starboard side, but was able to continue on its voyage. At the time of the collision, the visibility was reduced to about 0.5 miles in fog. The trawlers had detected *Strilmoy* by radar at about five miles, and the radar plotting aid on *Ocean Harvest* showed that it would pass close ahead of the vessel but very close to *Harvester*. The radar plotting aid on *Harvester* showed that *Strilmoy* was on a collision course. The skipper of *Ocean Harvest* tried to call *Strilmoy* on the VHF radio, shortly before the collision, but received no response. The watchkeeper on *Harvester* started to alter course when *Strilmoy* was about 0.2 miles away, but could not take sufficient action in time to avoid the collision. *Harvester* sank at 0720 hrs, and *Ocean Harvest* returned to Peterhead. The master of *Strilmoy*, after assessing the damage to his vessel, decided that because the hole in the forepeak was above the waterline, and the ingress of water could be controlled with the vessel's pumps, he could safely continue the voyage to Stavanger. The MAIB report, which was published today, says *Strilmoy* did not have a dedicated lookout on the bridge as required, but also said *Harvester* could have taken earlier evasive action. The report has recommended that vessel owners should review written procedures on lookout and the use of radar and be reminded that shipboard auditing should provide sufficient evidence to verify that crews are in compliance with its instructions.

HOHEBANK (U.K.)

London, Jun 20 — Following received from the Port of Workington, dated today: General cargo *Hohebank* (1687 gt, built 1977) had cylinder problems off Workington on Jun 15 and was towed into the port on Jun 16. Repairs were unable to be completed and a tug towed the casualty to Birkenhead. (Note — According to LMIU AIS *Hohebank* was in lat 53 23 12.19N, long 03 0 36.28W at 0930, today.)

HYUNDAI FORTUNE (Panama)

London, Jun 19 — A press report states: Container carrier *Hyundai Fortune* will carry out permanent repairs in the Far East, where it will

be towed following some temporary repairs. Permanent repairs could take up to 18 months.

JAN VAN CUIJK (Netherlands)

London, Jun 22 — Passenger (cruise) *Jan Van Cuijk* (built 1954), 50 metres long, owned by Jan van Cuijk Party River Cruise in Cuijk, and an unknown loaded inland cargo vessel, were in collision in the River Maas off Gennep in the Netherlands at about 1930, local time, Jun 20. The inland cargo vessel had minor bow damage but the *Jan Van Cuijk* had a leak and was also leaking fuel oil and was taking in water. Therefore the crew of the vessel put it aground against the riverside. There were no passengers on board. Two vessels of the fire brigade came to assist and also a vessel of the Rijkswaterstaat came and together they laid an oil boom around the leaking vessel. The owners will contact a salvage company how to raise the partly sunken vessel. The river police has started an investigation on this accident.

KANAIYA

London, Jun 21 — The following Notice To Mariners was received on Jun 20: Vessel *Kanaiya* has sunk off the coast of Somalia in position lat 08 40N, long 53 27E. It was carrying “20,000 tons” of coal. There are 18-19 crew members in life-rafts. Two vessels (container vessel *Maersk Arkansas* and combined chemical and oil tanker *Jo Betula*) are en route and they will be there in three hours. There is a Coalition vessel en route and it will be there in approximately 10 hours.

London, Jun 21 — Following received from Jo Tankers AS, dated today: Our vessel *Jo Betula* safely rescued all 18 crew of vessel *Kanaiya* from liferafts at 0142 hrs, this morning, in an operation made more difficult by heavy weather. Three had minor injuries. *Jo Betula* has resumed passage. It's next port of call is Yanbu. Concerning *Kanaiya*, a registration document made available by the rescued crew members, quotes the vessels length as 47 metres and its gross tonnage as 817. It is believed it is a fishing vessel, but this remains unconfirmed.

KARIM I (Cambodia)

Bucharest, Jun 19 — General cargo *Karim I*: Wreck removal was awarded to Atriamar SRL of Constantza and the Romanian Agency for Rescue of Life at Sea (“salvors”). The salvors’ reported intention is to proceed on or about Jun 20. — Lloyd’s Agents.

Bucharest, Jun 19 — General cargo *Karim I*: Now understood that salvors proceeded with sealing / plugging and also with pumping out the water from the engine room, with a view to refloating the vessel. — Lloyd’s Agents.

Bucharest, Jun 1 — General cargo *Karim I*: Salvage operations to facilitate refloating are still under way. — Lloyd’s Agents.

Bucharest, Jun 21 — General cargo *Karim I*: It would appear that the salvors cannot proceed before Jun 26, as access in the area of the accident is still restricted by order of the public prosecutor, as investigations by the appropriate authorities have not yet been completed. — Lloyd’s Agents.

KIRAN ASYA (Turkey)

Singapore, Jun 17 — Bulker *Kiran Asya* arrived and sailed Singapore Jun 15 bound Ilichevsk. — Lloyd’s Agents.

KOTA PAHLAWAN (Liberia)

London, Jun 22 - A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews at the port of Brisbane are preparing for the arrival of container carrier *Kota Pahlawan* (25499 gt, built 1997), carrying toxic chemicals, after a report of a possible leak on board. Nineteen people are on board the vessel, which has come from China and is currently off the coast of southern Queensland. The vessel is carrying toxic cleaning chemicals, used in the mining industry, and is being closely monitored by Australian Maritime Safety Authority officers. A Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) spokeswoman said the vessel’s master raised the alarm after noticing a strong odour coming from at least one of the containers. She said the vessel was due to arrive at the port of Brisbane about 1500, AEST, today, and QFRS Scientific and Hazardous Materials Unit were preparing a response plan to tackle any potential emergency. International Transport Workers’ Federation spokesman Dean Summers said a reported bid by the crew to seal the leaking containers with industrial tape was not safe. “First and foremost we want to establish that the crew aren’t exposed to any dangerous predicament,” he said.

London, Jun 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Container carrier *Kota Pahlawan*, with a leaking container of chemicals, has berthed in Brisbane under tight security. It is now being unloaded, a process that could take several hours. *Kota Pahlawan* docked at the Port of Brisbane this afternoon and police have sealed off the area. Col Hartley from the Fire and Rescue Service says emergency crews wearing breathing gear and protective clothing will try to neutralise the leaking gas. “We have four pumper crews, we have a command vehicle, an aerial appliance and an ambulance on stand-by,” he said. More than a dozen containers need to be moved before emergency crews can gain access to the leak.

KRISTINA REGINA (Finland)

London, Jun 21 — A press release, issued by Kristina Cruises, states: On Thursday Jun 8, passenger (cruise) *Kristina Regina* (4295 gt, built 1960) had an accident in the port of Mahon, causing a seven-hour delay in arriving at Gibraltar on Jun 10. However, after receiving new cruise passengers the vessel sailed from Gibraltar at 2200

hrs, Jun 10, in accordance with its original itinerary. The accident at Mahon caused some material damage to a few smaller boats, but there were no injuries or human loss. An inspection showed that the framework of *Kristina Regina* had a dent in the aft, above the waterline. After the vessel was checked by different officials and company representatives, it was declared seaworthy and was given permission to continue normal operations. Kristina Cruises regrets the involved damage, which will be covered by the company’s insurance.

LAILA (Cambodia)

Santo Domingo, Jun 20 — Information from port authorities states that general cargo *Laila* is presently undergoing repairs at the local Felix Benitez’ drydock. Vessel’s local agents, Messrs. Transmarine, S.A., confirmed the situation but cannot anticipate when repairs are to be completed. — Lloyd’s Agents.

LAVADARA (Greece)

Buenos Aires, Jun 20 — Bulker *Lavadara* (35900 gt, built 1996), loaded with 44,701 tonnes of coal, grounded in the vicinity of KM 344, River Parana, at 2000, local time, Jun 16. The vessel is not obstructing navigation. Refloating attempts commenced at 1215, Jun 18, with the assistance of tugs *Ona Don Vicente* and *Ciclon*. Tug *Conquistador* arrived on scene at 0300, Jun 20, in order to assist with refloating operations. — Lloyd’s Agents.

London, Jun 21 — Following received from the managers of bulker *Lavadara*, dated today: *Lavadara* is on voyage from Hay Point to San Nicolas, Arg. It remains aground at present after earlier being refloated and moved for about one kilometre before unfortunately grounding again. Refloating attempts are still in hand.

London, Jun 22 — Following received from the managers of bulker *Lavadara*, dated today: *Lavadara* remains aground. An additional tug is due on scene about 1400 or 1500 today and will assist in refloating efforts.

LIN I (Panama)

See “Somalia” under “Piracy”.

LOMUR (NIS)

London, Jun 17 — A press release from the Marine Accident Investigation Branch, dated today, states: General cargo *Lomur* (1516 gt, built 1983) in collision with general cargo *Freepsum* (1990 gt, built 1994) on the River Trent after *Lomur* broke its moorings.

London, Jun 17 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 0830, UTC: *Lomur* was in collision with *Freepsum* at Neap House at 1144, UTC, Jun 15. *Freepsum* was holed below the waterline.

London, Jun 20 — General cargo *Freepsum* arrived Boston (Lincs) Jun 17 from Neap House.

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

LONG FU (Panama)

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated today, states: The Thu Thiem ferry on the Saigon River resumed operations between Districts 1 and 2 in Ho Chi Minh City yesterday, after an 11-day suspension due to the crash of general cargo *Long Fu*. The vessel struck the floating bridge at the ferry's passenger waiting station on the river bank on Jun 7. The ferry restarted at 1600 yesterday with only three vessels working, and the other two under repair due to damage from the crash, according to Ms Ta Thi Hong Tam, director of HCMC's Bridge-Ferry Management Company. The Thu Thiem ferry is not expected to return to full capacity — capable of transporting 40,000 people a day — for two to three months.

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: One week after the Panamanian-flagged general cargo *Long Fu* damaged the Thu Thiem ferry's floating bridge in Ho Chi Minh City, a temporary replacement has been installed to serve traffic on the Saigon River. According to Ta Thi Hong Tam, director of the Bridge and Ferry Management Company, the installation is only temporary until a new structure can be built. The structure can only serve a small part of travel needs for local people. Vehicles crossing must be less than 3.5 tonnes in weight, instead of 30 tonnes as before. The original bridge hit by the *Long Fu* has been re-floated to determine whether it can be used again, and the Bridge and Ferry Management Company is negotiating with the insurance firm representing the vessel. The company has had to pay over VND2.5bil to install the temporary floating bridge.

MAERSK DOUALA (Germany)

Mumbai, Jun 22 — Container carrier *Maersk Douala* (54214 gt, built 2004) had light contact with the tug that was assisting it to berth at Mumbai Jun 20, sustaining minor scratching to itself and causing tug's mast to be slightly bent. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Maersk Douala* sailed Jebel Ali Jun 17 from Mumbai.)

MASSACHUSETTS (U.S.A.)

Boston, MA, Jun 20 — Passenger ro/ro *Massachusetts* has been "quarantined" by the National Transportation Safety Board while they try to determine the cause of the fire. The vessel is expected to be released this week, and at that time it will be determined how best to proceed. A marine surveyor is believed to have been on board the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAUNAKEA (Liberia)

Port Klang, Jun 17 — Discharge of squid, from refrigerated general cargo *Maunakea*, was completed on Jun 13 and vessel presently lying at Port Klang Anchorage. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Klang, Jun 22 — Understand refrigerated general cargo *Maunakea* is off Port Klang Pilot Station

Anchorage. Understand it has been sold for scrap and is waiting for an ocean tug to tow it for demolition. — Lloyd's Agents.

MO XING LING (China)

Antwerp, Jun 22 — The anchored Container Carrier *Verrazano Bridge* (54519 gt, built 2004) was touched by anchored bulker *Mo Xing Ling* (12863 gt, built 1986) that was shifted by wind Jun 19. *Mo Xing Ling* sailed from Shanghai Jun 21, after discharging cargo. *Verrazano Bridge* sailed from Shanghai to Nagoya, Jun 20. — "DPS Teamhead Surveyors."

Antwerp, Jun 22 — Container Carrier *Verrazano Bridge* (54519 gt, built 2004) laden with some cargo sailing from Yantian to Shanghai in collision with general cargo *Wei Lun 32* (2957 gt, built 2005), afternoon Jun 17, in CJK precaution area, China. The big container carrier has to make temporary repair on Jun 19, in Wusong anchorage No.8 after discharging some containers at Shanghai WGQ terminal. — "DPS Teamhead Surveyors."

MOBY FANTASY (Italy)

Genoa, Jun 21 — Passenger ro/ro *Moby Fantasy* (13284 gt, built 1976) and ferry *Nuraghes* (39798 gt, built 2004) were in collision off of Olbia at about 1300 hrs, Jun 21. *Moby Fantasy* was taken in tow by tug *Alessandro Onorato* and is presently moored at Golfo Aranci port. *Nuraghes* proceeded to Olbia under its own power and is presently moored at the port. The passengers from *Moby Fantasy* were transferred to passenger ro/ro *Moby Aki* and taken to their original destination, Civitavecchia. No injuries were reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

MRINAL (Liberia)

Kochi, Jun 22 — Bulker *Mrinal* has sailed from Tuticorin outer anchorage, on Jun 20, to Ras al Khaima, after completion of engine repair. — Lloyd's Agents.

NAPOCOR POWER BARGE NO.106 (Philippines)

See "Tropical Storm 'Kajiki' under "Weather & Navigation."

NEW FERRY LXXXV (Hong Kong)

See *Dong Qu Er Hao*.

NORWAY (Bahamas)

Mumbai, Jun 19 — Passenger (cruise) *Norway* (renamed *Blue Lady*) has not yet arrived at Alang. As per indications, the vessel's ETA at Alang is around Jun 21. — Lloyd's Agents.

NORWEGIAN CROWN (Bahamas)

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Bermudian mariners who assisted in freeing passenger (cruise) *Norwegian Crown* after it ran aground on a reef between Spanish Point and Dockyard have been praised by Transport and Tourism Minister Dr Ewart Brown. However, he would not speculate on the cause of last week's accident or

the extent of damage to the reef and surrounding area as investigations into both matters were ongoing. The vessel hit a reef on the approach to Dundonald Channel on Jun 7 as it was moving between St George's and Hamilton. A total of 1,700 passengers and crew were on the vessel at the time and were stranded for much of the day until a combination of high tide and manoeuvring by tugs *Faithful*, *Powerful* and *Edward M. Stowe* freed the vessel almost 12 hours later. A local pilot was helping to guide the cruise ship at the time it struck the reef. Speaking in the House of Assembly, the Deputy Premier said: "The indentations discovered on the bow of the vessel have not impeded its service to passengers and Bermuda; repairs will be effected to the area as soon as it is convenient to do so. We are of course very concerned about the consequences to the reef and the general maritime environment in the area and the Ministry of Tourism and Transport continues to assist the Department of Environmental Protection as it assesses the extent of the damage occasional to the area by this incident." Dr Brown said that, had the cruise ship not been freed as quickly as it was by the tugs and high tide, Bermuda could have faced a serious situation that would have been "environmentally and economically damaging."

NURAGHES (Italy)

See *Moby Fantasy*.

OCEAN D. (Malta)

London, Jun 16 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1110, UTC: Bulker *Ocean D.* has arrived safely at Aden. (See issue of Jun 15.)

London, Jun 19 — Bulker *Ocean D.* is reported drifting in Gulf of Aden/Arabian Sea about 100 nautical miles east of Aden. Owners are understood to be trying to arrange a tug from the Persian Gulf to tow vessel or maybe supply spares for repairs and allow vessel to proceed under own power to assigned destination. (See issue of Jun 19.)

OCEAN SERAYA (Panama)

London, Jun 16 — Following statement is issued by Managers of bulker *Ocean Seraya*, which grounded close to Karwar in Southern India on May 30. Salvors report that as at Jun 15, all the *Ocean Seraya's* bunker fuel has now been removed, following final pumping of oil from nos 2 and 4 bunker tanks. Local Authorities are reported to be satisfied with the situation and Smit Salvage are completing the final skimming of oil traces in the cargo holds and engine room and floating on the surface of the water. Salvors are confident that this will ensure that there is no further outflow of oily water into the sea. Local officials were also appreciative of the concern and commitment showed by Managers of the *Ocean Seraya* in placing a high

level team at the incident site throughout this period consisting of a Managing Director and three senior managers which, in their opinion, was unprecedented. Managers would like to thank local authorities in Karwar for granting permission to the crew to return to their homes. The decision follows two weeks of intensive investigations, during which the crew have given every assistance to various government agencies. The crew have endured a traumatic and exhausting ordeal and are especially grateful for the opportunity to return to their loved ones now. Local experts have also clarified previous, incorrect, reports concerning prawn stocks from ponds in Makheri, Karwar. The experts confirm that the reported deaths of such stocks were not caused by oil leakage from the *Ocean Seraya*, but from white spot disease. Local Authorities confirm that no oil ever reached the prawn ponds and that no traces of oil were found in the samples collected. Indeed it was reported that the fish and prawn samples tested were found to be healthy.

Mumbai, Jun 19 — In a statement issued by Managers bulk carrier *Ocean Seraya*, which grounded close to Karwar in Southern India on May 30, the salvors reported as at Jun 15, all the vessel's bunker fuel had been removed, following the final pumping of oil from Nos.2 and 4 bunker tanks. Local Authorities are reported to be satisfied with the situation and Smit Salvage are completing the final skimming of oil traces in the cargo holds and engine room and floating of the surface of the water. Salvors are confident that this will ensure that there is no further outflow of oily water into the sea. Local Officials were also appreciative of the concern and commitment showed by the Managers of the *Ocean Seraya* in placing a high level team at the incident site throughout the period, consisting of a Managing Director and three senior managers which, in their opinion, was unprecedented. The Managers, in turn, would like to thank the local authorities in Karwar for granting permission for the crew to return to their homes. The decision follows two weeks of intensive investigations, during which the crew have given every assistance to various government agencies. The crew have endured a traumatic and exhausting ordeal and are especially grateful for the opportunity to return to their "loved ones" now. Local experts have also clarified previous, incorrect, reports concerning prawn stocks from ponds in Makheri, Karwar. The experts confirm that the reported deaths of such stocks were not caused by oil leakage from the *Ocean Seraya*, but from white spot disease. Local Authorities confirm that no oil ever reached the prawn ponds and that no traces of oil were found in the samples collected. Indeed it was reported that the fish and prawn samples tested were found to be healthy. — Lloyd's Agents.

PHOENIX (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated Jun 19, states: The glass-bottom passenger vessel *Phoenix* (112 gt, built 1931) that sank after leaving Newport Harbour is "gone for good", a U.S. Coast Guard official said today. Currently under more than 550 feet of water near Malibu, the *Phoenix* could drift an additional 400 feet down the ocean shelf, said Kapil Kumar, a marine science technician with the Coast Guard. "They wouldn't be able to raise the boat, not at all," Kumar said. *Phoenix* owner Rick Parker, who could not be reached for comment, could be fined \$10,000 if 200 gallons of diesel fuel gradually leak from the submerged boat's main tank. Most of that fuel likely will evaporate, Kumar said. Environmental damage was almost non-existent after the accident yesterday, Kumar said, adding that Parker quickly hired a company called Ocean Blue to help recover 10 reserve tanks containing another 550 gallons of fuel. The *Phoenix* began taking on water yesterday morning after its glass bottom cracked during a voyage to Northern California. Wooden planks intended as a stop-gap against such an occurrence also failed, dooming the vessel. Purported to be the world's largest glass-bottom boat, the 103-foot *Phoenix* was originally built for the Wrigley family of chewing gum fame. It was a tour boat at Santa Catalina Island before being sold to Fun Zone Boat Co. in 1995, after which it ferried wedding parties around Newport Harbour. It was propelled by side paddlewheels. Two weeks ago, the boat was sold to Parker. He was taking the boat 450 miles to the coastal town of Martinez, with plans to convert the craft into a dockside Cajun restaurant.

PINOS 1

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

PINTAIL (Cyprus)

See *Twin Star*.

PXXI P21 (oil platform)

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated Jun 19, states: Platform *PXXI P21*, stranded at the south-east of Tristan da Cunha, is to be salvaged by the owners. Cattleia Oil Company Limited, located in the Cayman Islands, has contracted Charles Taylor Consulting to arrange the salvage. A seagoing tug was dispatched on Friday (Jun 16) to Tristan da Cunha to assess recovery and, if possible, pull the rig out of the island's coastal waters. Due to the winter sea and weather conditions it is envisaged that the tug will take from one week to 10 days to reach the island. Once salvaged the rig will be towed to Cape Town.

QUEEN OF THE NORTH (Canada)

London, Jun 19 — A report from LaSalle, PQ, dated today, states: A press report, dated Jun 17, states: Crews searching the wreckage of passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North*

have located parts of the vessel's navigation systems that may shed new light on what happened the night the vessel sank off the coast of Gil Island. Members of the Canadian Scientific Submersible Facility, operating an unmanned submersible vehicle, located the ferry's global positioning system and automatic identification system during an early morning dive to the wreck yesterday. Investigators with the Transportation Safety Board are still searching for the vessel's navigation computer hard drive, which they hope will contain the vessel's last movements. *Queen of the North* was travelling from Prince Rupert to Port Hardy when it sank on the morning of Mar 22, 150 km south of Prince Rupert. There were 101 people on board, 42 of them crew members. Two passengers disappeared and are presumed dead. The salvaged GPS and automatic identification system should provide new information for investigators with the Transportation Safety Board. They are hoping to chart the vessel's course prior to its crash and subsequent sinking.

RISING OM (Panama)

See under "Miscellaneous".

SAN CHI 12 (Taiwan)

London, Jun 16 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0150, UTC: Fishing *San Chi 12* remains aground. Papua New Guinea safety authorities reported vessel's engine-room tidal and solid on the reef. Understood more damage will be caused if vessel removed, therefore, decided to leave her "as lies."

SARASWATI (Indonesia)

Jakarta, Jun 20 — Bulker *Saraswati* has completed repairs at Merak Port and sailed to destination Batam on Jun 18. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA DIAMOND (Panama)

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

SEA DIAMOND VII (Panama)

Piraeus, Jun 19 — Barges *Skopelos III* and *Sikinos*, under tow of salvage tug *SB-408*, are currently off Colombo, awaiting opportunity to enter port and berth. Anchor handling tug/supply *Sea Diamond VII*, which had been towing the barges at the time of the incident, sank following engine-room flooding. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

Piraeus, Jun 22 — Barges *Skopelos III* and *Sikinos*, which were being towed by anchor handling tug/supply *Sea Diamond VII* when it sank, were both delivered to their owners at Trincomalee yesterday. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

SEA TAXI (Cambodia)

London, Jun 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A 184-foot-long freighter was reported taking on water off Miami Beach this morning, and the Coast Guard was working to get the vessel into port so that repairs

could be made before it sinks. The Venezuelan-registered general cargo *Sea Taxi* (682 gt, built 1965) may have developed the 120-gallon-a-minute leak by running aground as it left the Port of Miami yesterday, the Coast Guard said. The captain and his five crew members issued a mayday call about 2340 hrs, yesterday while the freighter was 12 miles northeast of Miami Beach. A Coast Guard helicopter, rescue boat and cutter responded to the call, and a crew from the cutter *Sitkinak* made temporary repairs to slow the amount of water the ship was taking on. The Coast Guard plans to allow the *Sea Taxi* to enter the Port of Miami during daylight using tugboats so that divers can fix the damage to the hull.

London, Jun 22 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1300, UTC: General Cargo *Sea Taxi* is currently still anchored off Miami Beach. The ingress has been brought under control and the vessel is no longer in any danger. The vessel, which has a cargo of rice and bicycles, will be towed into Miami later today, for a full inspection.

SEAGREETING (Liberia)

Aden, Jun 21 — Combined bulk and oil carrier *Seagreeting* (25865 gt, built 1987) damage to the cargo in hold No. 7 aft bulkhead due to excessive heat from the FO tank. Cargo temperature came up to 98 Deg c at one foot depth. Receiver detained the vessel. About 550 tonnes remains on board. — Lloyd's Agents.

SELENDANG AYU (Malaysia)

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Divers with underwater cutting torches and a crane operator on a barge are dismantling the tilted wreckage of bulker *Selendang Ayu* as the salvage operation off Unalaska Island moves into the final phase. Salvage crews may need two more months to cut up and haul off what remains of the vessel, at least what is above the surface, said Leslie Pearson, spill-response program manager for the state Department of Environmental Conservation. The sea will claim the rest. Removing as much as possible will reduce the chances of the wreckage breaking apart and washing ashore, Pearson said. The vessel was hauling about 66,000 tons of soybeans from Washington state to China when it lost power on the north side of the island in December, 2004. It drifted for two days, then broke in half after grounding off Skan Bay in a Bering Sea storm, the bow section crumbling and disappearing below the surface of the water. An estimated 335,000 gallons of fuel oil and marine diesel spilled from the vessel along with the soybeans, fouling beaches in Makushin and Skan bays. Workers cleaning oil off the last six miles should be done in less than two weeks, said Gary Folley, state on-scene co-ordinator. The state may seek a settlement before it pursues a civil lawsuit for damages, he said. The

vessel's owner, Singapore-based IMC shipping, has paid about \$100 million for the clean-up so far. Three beaches will not be cleaned now because they are too steep and difficult to access, Pearson said, but the state has asked the vessel's owner for a monitoring plan. If the oil is not cleaned naturally in a few years, she said, the company may be asked to clean up those areas too. The vessel's stern section sat partially above water until last October, when that part also split in two during a storm. Much of it sank, and the pieces litter the floor as if a building imploded, said Unalaska salvage expert Dan Magone. The aft end of the vessel, however, drifted several hundred feet before coming to rest in 30 feet of water near the tip of Spray Cape, Magone said. It is wedged in boulders about 750 feet from shore, he said. With the rusty deck listing 45 deg, 80 feet of the exhaust stack and engine room were above the surface, he said. That was the work site for a 17-person crew with Magone Marine Service Inc. that began stripping the wreck in 20-ton pieces two weeks ago. Divers are still cutting away bulkheads and the engine room, Magone said. The scraps will be lifted onto a barge and transported to Seattle. Several 26-ton hatch covers that floated to the beach must also be cleared away. The only salvageable part of the vessel left at that point will be the last of the hull beneath the engine housing. Magone Marine is pursuing the contract to remove that, Magone said.

SERVET Y (Turkey)

London, Jun 15 — Bulker *Servet Y* (23325 gt, built 1983) was in collision with fishing (general) *Tip Sea* (12 gt, built 1999) in lat 46 27 54N, long 57 10 06W, at 2250, UTC, Jun 14. *Tip Sea* sustained minor damage. *Servet Y* reportedly sustained scratches/scuffs.

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Transport Canada is investigating how a cargo ship (bulker *Servet Y*) and fishing (general) *Tip Sea* collided off Newfoundland's south coast Wednesday (Jun 14). Hedley King, the owner of *Tip Sea*, says he is grateful to be alive following the collision with a cargo ship. *Tip Sea* was about 75 kilometres southwest of the French islands of St-Pierre-Miquelon when the cargo ship rammed into it. Conditions were foggy at the time. "We were taking back our trawl and, in a flash, the ship was on top of us and just rammed into us," King said. Remarkably, though, none of the fishing crew was injured, and the boat did not take on any water even though the collision left a crack in *Tip Sea's* hull that stretched from its top to the water's edge. The Canadian Coast Guard dispatched a cutter from Burgeo to the collision site. The cutter towed *Tip Sea* to its home port of Rose Blanche, on Newfoundland's south-west coast. Transport Canada has opened an investigation into the collision, in which neither vessel seemed to be aware of the other's presence.

SETSUYO STAR (Bahamas)

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A leaking vessel with 1,000 tons of fuel oil on board has limped into False Bay to have the damage to its hull assessed. The South African Maritime Safety Authority (Samsa) allowed the vessel to enter False Bay as a "port of refuge", but has given the owners a deadline of midday on Thursday (Jun 15) to come up with a plan of what they intend doing to sort out the ageing vessel's problems. If Samsa is not satisfied with the ship owners' proposal, it will order the vessel to leave. The 21-year-old *Setsuyo Star*, carrying a cargo of iron ore from Brazil to China, is registered in the Bahamas, which does not have strict maritime regulations.

Piraeus, Jun 16 — Bulker *Setsuyo Star*: Necessary repairs are being investigated by local workshop, liaising with classification society, salvage association and local authorities. Repairers are carrying out repair testing, soundings, etc. Welding and patching is not expected to commence before Monday (Jun 19). Tug *Smit Amandla* remains on scene, standing by. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

Piraeus, Jun 19 — Bulker *Setsuyo Star*: Formalities have been settled with local authorities. Repair work, consisting of welding and cutting, is due to commence today. Tug *Smit Amandla* remains on stand-by. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

Cape Town, Jun 21 — Bulker *Setsuyo Star*: A cargo surveyor and a hull and machinery surveyor have been appointed. Permission is awaited from owners to board vessel. Repairs are anticipated as taking between 10 and 20 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

Piraeus, Jun 22 — Bulker *Setsuyo Star*: Repair operations are continuing as scheduled, with everything progressing smoothly. The repairs may be completed around Jul 10. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

SHAKHDAG (Malta)

London, Jun 17 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Shakhdag* arrived Tallinn Jun 15.

SIKINOS

See *Sea Diamond VII*.

SKAGERN (Sweden)

Hull, Jun 20 — General cargo *Skagern*: Salvage services have been rendered to Titan Marine Ltd and United Salvage Limited under LOF. Floating crane *GPS Atlas* is due to arrive on scene Thursday (Jun 22) to commence lifting. — United Salvage Limited.

SKOPELOS III (Singapore)

See *Sea Diamond VII*.

SNUVIT-1608

Caracas, Jun 20 — Tank barge *Snuvit-1608*: Regional authorities are continuing the investigations that were initiated to discover the cause of

the explosion and subsequent fire on board the barge at Ciudad Ojeda, Lagunillas, during maintenance of a fuel tank. The accident had left two workers dead and another injured. The dead were identified as Luis Moreno Rodriguez and Roberto Valero. Fire Brigade Commander Alexis ChacIn, whose men extinguished the flames, said that the barge was seriously affected by the explosion. The accumulation of gases in the installation has been indicated as one of the likely causes of the accident. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOUND OF ISLAY (Canada)

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: The mayor of a small island community off Newfoundland's south coast is demanding a more consistent ferry service. Ramea, with a population of about 200, and the nearby communities of Burgeo and Grey River have been without a ferry connection since the weekend (Jun 17-18), when roll on roll off *Sound of Islay* (280 gt, built 1968) was taken out of service. The vessel, one of the oldest in service in Newfoundland and Labrador, has had mechanical problems, and officials do not know when it will be fixed. Mayor Lloyd Rossiter said this marked the second time in two weeks that the vessel had broken down, and was proof that work over the autumn and winter did not succeed in fixing long-running problems. "It's pretty clear that the necessary repairs to that boat just weren't done," Rossiter said. "They're not fixing the problem. They're just fixing the gearbox. It makes you feel like, you know, there's some people somewhere that don't care about those little outport communities," he said. "I can understand his frustration," said Cluney Mercer, assistant deputy minister of transportation. The Newfoundland and Labrador government operates 19 ferries, with an average age of about 33 years. The government recently committed to replacing its oldest vessels, but that effort will take years to complete. Mercer said *Sound of Islay* has had a number of serious problems. He said the work this winter replaced an engine, and was not related to current maintenance problems with gears. The transportation department, which is responsible for coastal ferry services, said another vessel would take on responsibility for passenger and freight service. The department will also provide helicopter service, if warranted, until repairs have been completed.

STEEL GLORY (Bahamas)

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

STRILMOY (Norway)

See *Harvester*.

SUN ISLAND (Panama)

London, Jun 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Newly built general cargo *Sun Island* (7700 gt,

built 2006) got stuck in mid-air during its attempted launch at the Bach Dang shipyard in northern Vietnam's Haiphong city Friday (Jun 16). The vessel's prow touched the water but the rest of the vessel did not make it and it remains hanging over the water. The company brought in another vessel from Hai Phong port to try and tow the it into the water but without success. Engineers at the shipyard have been unable to discover the cause of the problem but said the situation would become dangerous if it lasted much longer.

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Officials said, yesterday, that hot weather caused the general cargo *Sun Island* to get hung up during its launch at the Bach Dang shipyard, in northern Hai Phong city. The vessel, which is 110m long and 18.8m wide, was designed by Japanese Wada Bussan Company and built under a contract inked with Japanese NOMA Marine Transport Company. Chu The Hung, General Director of the shipyard, explained that temps of 40-41°C had melted the paraffin wax on the supporting prop, which was to propel the vessel into the water. Without the wax in place to lubricate the propulsion, the vessel was unable to make it all the way into the water and became lodged on the rails. After unsuccessful attempts to tow the vessel, it remained suspended, with only its prow touching the water, and the rest of the vessel hung out in mid-air. Hung said that they would have to wait for the high tide, in about 10 days. During the incident, part of the bilge system had been damaged, and there is the potential for more structural damage, if the situation is not rectified soon.

TAIGLAD (Panama)

See *Chembulk Hongkong*.

TAPATIO (Liberia)

London, Jun 17 — Chemical tanker *Tapatio* sailed Houston Jun 14.

TIP SEA (Canada)

See *Servet Y*.

TIRTA NIAGA I (Indonesia)

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Product tanker *Tirta Niaga I*, headed towards Haldia, West Bengal, carrying 5,900 tonnes of palm oil from Indonesia, has been stranded about 15 nautical miles from Orissa's Paradeep port after it developed some technical problems. A team of port engineers and officials from Paradeep have reached to repair the vessel after getting information from the captain, said Saroj Mishra, traffic manager of the Paradeep port.

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Indonesian product tanker *Tirta Niaga I*, which was allowed to anchor in the Paradip port after developing a technical snag, unloaded about 5,900 tonnes of palm oil in the port yesterday to avert oil slick in the sea. The ship was sinking and water was seeping into it, informed Captain Dhiren Kumar

Mohanty, Deputy Conservator of Paradip Port. To avoid a major oil slick disaster, the port officials of Paradip allowed the Indonesian ship to anchor in the port, added Mohanty. Cargil India Limited has agreed to stock the crude palm oil following a request made by the port officials here, Mohanty informed. "We laid down an oil containment boom near the ship to check the spread of oil slick in the sea water. We also deployed a Pollution Control Vessel and a 300 tonne barge ship to collect the oil from the ship in case of any oil slick," informed Mohanty. The ship was carrying the crude palm oil from Indonesia for a vegetable oil factory near Kolkata port. Meanwhile, an official from Indonesia reached Paradip yesterday after learning about the incident. The ship will be repaired by a team of engineers and officials of the Paradip port today, said Mohanty.

Paradip, Jun 20 — Product tanker *Tirta Niaga I* sent a distress signal to Paradip port at 0006, Jun 15, requesting permission to drop anchor outside the port limit. As instructed by the Government of India, Paradip Port Authority permitted the vessel to enter the harbour and subsequently made all arrangements to bring the vessel into port and berth it at the Multi-Purpose Berth on Jun 18. As per the port's arrangements, the vessel discharged its cargo into the storage tanks of Cargil India's edible oil refinery plant. The above cargo will be transhipped to product tanker *Belicia* before *Tirta Niaga I* sails. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

TONG YUAN HAI (China)

See *Blue Star*.

TUGEN (Luxembourg)

Durban, Jun 21 — Local agents of product tanker *Tugen* report that the vessel is still undergoing repairs. The repair company is apparently awaiting some parts from Europe. — Lloyd's Agents.

TULIN

London, Jun 17 — On Jun 14, general cargo *Tulin*, 192 metres length, 22.8 metres width, hit the Brigittenauer Brucke (bridge), on the river Dunav, in Austria. The vessel was pushed against the embankment afterwards by fire fighters, 2200 hrs. It was damaged above the waterline.

TUTUMA (Nigeria)

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated today, states: The joint efforts of the Police, Julius Berger, and the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA)'s firemen, yesterday, averted disaster, as product tanker *Tutuma* (4478 gt, built 1978), belonging to Obat Oil, caught fire in Lagos, where two people were seriously injured. According to eye witness account, *Tutuma*, at the company's jetty at Beachland Estate, Apapa, Lagos, after off-loading petroleum product, suddenly exploded around 1300, Jun 20, without notice. Response came first from the NPA

Fire Service, Apapa, and then two NPA tugs, *Gusau* and *Olumo*, while the police and Julius Berger came immediately after then. In a two pronged approach, while the NPA tugs, with fire-fighting capabilities, were dousing the flames on *Tutuma* with foam compounds to minimise the risk, the Julius Berger men endeavoured to tow the vessel out of the berth. This way, they removed the fire from the Obat jetty, near the Obat storage tank, which contained PMS. The two workers involved in the fire incident have been rushed to hospital for treatment. The fire has been extinguished and normalcy was gradually returning to the area.

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Product tanker *Tutuma* exploded yesterday in Lagos while off-loading petroleum products to an independent oil marketer, leaving two persons seriously injured. The lighter vessel, *Tutuma*, had berthed with 5000 metric tonnes of premium motor spirit (PMS) otherwise known as petrol. Reports said that the vessel had been offloading products since Saturday night (Jun 17) when it berthed. However, an engine problem forced a halt to the offloading on Monday. But while engineers were working on the problem, an explosion occurred injuring the two crew members immediately. The injured crew members were immediately rushed to the hospital. Sources said the situation would have been worse but for the timely intervention of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) tug boats with which *Tutuma* was pulled out of the area of the depot to safety. A safety officer said the vessel actually berthed on Saturday after collecting products from a larger vessel that is still offshore, and while the problem started during products discharge, it never got beyond the deck as major part of the products were still trapped in the endangered vessel. Yesterday, men of the Nigerian Navy and their police counterpart, the fire fighting departments of NPA, Integrated Oil and Gas, Lagos State fire department, Julius Berger, Donel Jones Oil and a host of others were on ground to forestall a breakdown of law and order.

London, Jun 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Twenty-four hours after product tanker *Tutuma* exploded at the Ibafor jetty in Lagos, there are fears that many crew people may still be trapped in the vessel even as the National Maritime Authority (NMA) has commenced investigation into the cause of the accident. Hajia Lami Tumaka, Head of the Corporate Affairs Department of NMA said that a survey of the vessel has been carried out, adding that preliminary reports showed that the problem actually started from the engine-room. She however denied that the incident was caused by lack of maintenance, stressing that from the report from officials of the survey department who accessed the situation, it was discovered that the

explosion was caused by suspected engine problem. On visiting the site of the incident yesterday, the tanker vessel which has since been pulled to the opposite end of the Ibafor jetty to check the spread of the fire, had a fire fighting water tanker opposite. Assistant General Manager (AGM) Public Affairs of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Mr. Christopher Borha, who confirmed that the Authority assisted in towing the jetty when it exploded said he could neither confirm nor say the cause of the explosion. A source at the National Maritime Authority (NMA) said that from the report of its officials from the survey department people are still trapped in the engine compartment of the vessel. The source said the explosion may have been caused by lack of maintenance of the vessel by its owners. A Ghanaian who is an electrical engineer on board the vessel, according to an eyewitness confirmed that a number of crew members were still trapped on board the vessel. The fact that the tanker vessel was laden with Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), Tumaka said, resulted in the explosion and the duration of the fire. She explained that the actual number of casualties could not be ascertained.

TWIN STAR (Panama)

Lima, Jun 22 — Bulker *Twin Star*: Bulker with container capacity *Pintail* and general cargo *Alice* have been released and are ready to depart from Callao. — Lloyd's Agents.

VARMDO (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jun 22 — General cargo *Varmdo* (3183 gt, built 2004) damaged jetty at Keadby and arrested Jun 21. Vessel arrested on behalf of PD Port Co Ltd and released same day. — Admiralty Marshal. (Note — *Varmdo* arrived Keadby Jun 19.)

VERRAZANO BRIDGE (Panama)

See *Mo Xing Ling*.

VIRGINIA C. (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 20 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1951, UTC: Barge *Virginia C.* (1375 gt, built 1982), pushed by tug *Cheyenne* came into contact with a railway bridge on the Poughkeepsie River earlier today. *Virginia C.* took on water as a result. Temporary repairs were effected, and the tug and barge were ordered to moor for investigation.

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Barge *Virginia C.* was damaged this morning when it struck a pillar on the Poughkeepsie railroad bridge, the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office said. The barge, which was hauling gravel and scrap metal south from Albany pushed by tug *Cheyenne*, was travelling through heavy fog on the Hudson River at about 0430 hrs when it struck a concrete abutment. The barge began taking on water, police said. The crew of *Cheyenne*, which is owned by Albany Port Ventures, deployed

emergency pumps to keep the barge afloat. The sheriff's office and the US Coast Guard responded and helped the crew stop at the Love-Effron dock in Poughkeepsie, about a mile south of the Mid-Hudson Bridge. The tug and its two barges will remain there until a commercial diver can evaluate how much damage has been done to the underside of the barge. With the co-operation of the Coast Guard, Albany Port Ventures will then decide if it is safe to move the barge or if the cargo needs to be offloaded and transferred to another barge, said Lt Gary Bashor of the sheriff's office. The railroad bridge was evaluated by a Coast Guard engineer and there did not appear to be any structural damage. Bashor said the rounded shape of the pillar's base and the fact that barge struck the pillar from a corner angle, not full-on, prevented damage to the bridge and possible serious injuries to the tug's crew.

London, Jun 21 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1145, UTC: Barge *Virginia C.*, contact with a railway bridge on the Poughkeepsie River: Barge remains moored in the same position, for investigations, etc.

VITAFOS (Panama)

Bremen, Jun 17 — Bulker *Vitafos* sailed Bremen at 1510, Jun 15 bound Ravenna. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 19 — Bulker *Vitafos* collided with Pier 1 of the industrial harbour in Bremen, when departing at 1530 hrs. Two frames on port side were broken and the hull damaged. The ship was inspected and allowed to proceed to Ravenna where repairs are to be carried out.

VLISTBORG (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Jun 20 — A ventilation trunk on board general cargo *Vlistborg* (6130 gt, built 1999) broke off in heavy weather in the Atlantic Ocean, in approximately lat 46 00N, long 48 00W, Jun 16, resulting in a water ingress in the vessel's hold. (Note — According to LMIU AIS, *Vlistborg* was in lat 45 13 33'N, long 74 14 45.6'W, at 0720, UTC, Jun 20, proceeding 258 deg at 13.5 knots.)

VOYAGEUR INDEPENDENT (Canada)

London, Jun 14 — A press report, dated Jun 13, states: A bridge south-west of Montreal has been forced to close for an undetermined period after being rammed by bulker *Voyageur Independent* today. The accident also closed the St. Lawrence Seaway for about an hour. Two holes were punched into the bow of the *Voyageur Independent* during the collision. The ship, which was damaged above the waterline, dropped anchor after the collision and now has to be inspected. A Transport Canada spokesman said the bulk carrier, which was empty, left Sorel and was headed to Hamilton, Ont., to be loaded. He said preliminary information suggests a steering problem may have caused the

accident. The causeway leading to the St-Louis-de-Gonzague lift bridge was jolted by the force of the collision and part of the roadway was pushed aside. Motorists were forced to take a detour because the damage made travel over the bridge unsafe. The accident happened in a section of the roadway a distance away from the part of the bridge which lifts to allow ships through. Transportation Safety Board inspectors have been called in to investigate.

Troy, Mich, Jun 15 — Bulker *Voyageur Independent* struck the St Louis de Gonzague bridge at around noon Tuesday (Jun 13). The vessel lost steering just before going through the narrow channel leading under the raised bridge. The vessel took a sheer to starboard and brushed an abutment. The vessel was travelling at 4.8 knots when it struck the bridge. The bridge sustained a fair amount of damage and had to be closed to vehicular traffic. The St Louis bridge is the least used vehicle traffic bridge in that area but the people using it will now have a six mile detour in order to reach the other side. Ships will still be able to get by with little or no problems at all. *Voyageur Independent*, after hitting the bridge, went to anchor. Sometime later, it went through the channel and the raised bridge and went to anchor above St Lois bridge on the starboard side on the channel in the St Louis emergency anchorage area. It is still there this morning. — "Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News."

London, Jun 18 — Bulker *Voyageur Independent* arrived Hamilton (Can) Jun 16 from Sorel.

WAPPEN VON HAMBURG (Germany)

London, Jun 22 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Wappen von Hamburg* (4192 gt, built 1965) sustained engine failure half way between Cuxhaven and Helgoland, Jun 21. The vessel had to return to Cuxhaven with reduced speed and later tug assistance. The incident was caused by a damaged turbo loader. A spare part was brought to Cuxhaven the same day. The repairs are to last some days. The vessel is replaced by the *Atlantis*.

WEI LUN 32

See *Verrazano Bridge*.

WEILAI LANKA (Indonesia)

London, Jun 18 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: Indonesian fishing (general) *Weilai Lanka* anchored in the fisheries harbour in Modera in Colombo caught fire this afternoon around 1515 hrs. Sixteen Indonesian crew were in the vessel at that time, and all members of the crew were rescued unhurt, naval sources said. The trawler was immediately moved out of the fisheries harbour to the outer harbour. At that time there were

about 25 trawlers in the Modera fisheries harbour. However the trawler was completely burnt as all measures taken to extinguish the fire failed. The fire was due to mechanical defect, naval sources said.

Colombo, Jun 20 — Fishing (general) *Weilai Lanka* has been towed out to high seas by the Ports Authority and has been anchored off Colombo. — Lloyd's Agents.

WILLY (Gibraltar)

London, Jun 17 — Chemical tanker *Willy* sailed Rotterdam at 2050, Jun 15 bound Gdansk.

YUNG CHANG

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

ZHOU SHAN 611 (Japan)

London, Jun 19 — Following Japan Navigational Warning, dated today, states: Engine troubled fishing (general) *Zhou Shan 611* (963 gt), 59.7 metres, adrift in vicinity of lat 35 35N 145 30E, Jun 17.

London, Jun 19 — Following navigation report issued at 0820, UTC, Jun 18: Fishing (general) *Zhou Shan 611* has been assisted.



SOMALIA

Manila, Jun 20 — The Philippine government appears to have backtracked on its plan to open direct negotiations with Somali pirates holding the Panama-registered product tanker *Lin I* and 19 Filipino crew. "After careful consideration, we feel that it would be counter-productive for the Philippine government to engage in direct negotiations with the hostage takers. Negotiations are best left to the ship owner who should be given every available time and option to resolve this dispute with the Somali group," Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Bert Asuque said today. Reports indicate that negotiations between the pirates representatives and representatives of the ship owners are taking place in Gann, a Somalian village 400km north of the capital, Mogadishu. Sources at the Foreign Affairs Department said that the Philippines has reversed its initial decision to take part in negotiations as this could complicate on-going talks. They said that there was the danger that the Somali pirates could raise their ransom demands if they perceived that not just the ship owner but a country had a stake in the release of the ship and its crew. At present, the pirates are believed to be demanding a ransom in the region of US\$400,000. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Port State Control



UNITED STATES

London, Jun 16 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1540, UTC: Bulker *Steel Glory* remains detained in port.

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Combined chemical and oil tank *Bow Prima* (28001 gt, built 1987), which arrived Houston May 24, was detained there May 25 due crew not being familiar with the safe operation of the vessel's nitrogen inert gas system, resulting in the release of benzene vapours. The vessel was ordered to leave port after USCG inspectors had to abandon safety checks due to the high levels of benzene vapour. Vessel eventually sailed Houston Jun 2 and subsequently arrived Three Rivers Jun 19.

London, Jun 21 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1510, UTC: Container carrier *Sea Lion* (2815 gt, built 1993) was detained at Houston by Houston/Galveston Coast Guard yesterday due no guard posted on the gangway. Vessel remains under detention. (Note — *Sea Lion* sailed Veracruz Jun 13 for Houston.)

Seizures & Arrests



ASRA (Libya)

Limassol, Jun 15 — General cargo *Asra* (6229 gt, built 1977), which arrived at Limassol on Jun 11, from Ilichevsk, is under detention since Jun 13, by the Dept. of Merchant Shipping. — Lloyd's Agents.

BOSPORUS (Cyprus)

London, Jun 21 — Bulker *Bosporus* (77211 gt, built 1995) arrested at Redcar Ore Terminal, Tees, Jun 15, due to unpaid invoices for marine parts. Vessel arrested on behalf of UK Marine Parts Ltd. Released Jun 16. — Admiralty Marshal. (Note — *Bosporus* sailed Tees Jun 19.)

FANTASY II (Panama)

Aden, Jun 21 — Bulker *Fantasy II* (29407 gt, built 2004), which arrived Aden Jun 11, was arrested by the receiver for alleged cargo shortage. Quantity of alleged shortage unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

FARLEY MOWAT (Canada)

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: The captain of research *Farley Mowat*, seized by South African maritime authorities in a dispute over certification, says his

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

vessel has slipped out of the country under cover of darkness. Paul Watson, founder and president of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, says *Farley Mowat* sailed from Cape Town today after months of unsuccessful efforts to negotiate with the South African Marine Safety Association. The ship had been detained since arriving in Cape Town following a stoush with Japanese whalers in the Southern Ocean in January. Watson said South African authorities had insisted the vessel obtain commercial certification even though it is registered in Canada as a yacht. "Since the *Farley Mowat* is not registered as a commercial ship the production of commercial certificates presented a catch-22 situation that could not be resolved."

MADAGASCAR (Ukraine)

Durban, Jun 21 — Passenger (cruise) *Madagascar* remains under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

MEGAMAR (Honduras)

Rio de Janeiro, Jun 20 — General cargo *Megamar*: Demolition of the vessel at Niteroi is almost complete. — Lloyd's Agents.

PACIFIC SUN II (Panama)

Karachi, Jun 21 — Understand from Chawala International, Karachi, that hearing for arrest of bulker *Pacific Sun II* was held on Jun 19, at Sindh High Court (SHC). A new date for the hearing is to be fixed after the courts re-open in August, after summer recess. The company imported sugar from India worth \$9.4 million and claimed that sugar worth \$50,000 was damaged and are seeking compensation. The court earlier ordered the arrest of the vessel or requested that its owner it deposit the "same amount" for the release of vessel. However, before court decision, the vessel left for Kandla Port. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

RA NAM (North Korea)

London, Jun 16 — General cargo *Ra Nam* sailed Hong Kong Jun 14.

SKY 75 (South Korea)

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: New Zealand authorities have impounded trawler *Sky 75* (656 gt, built 1972) over safety concerns, months after crew members jumped ship to protest their working conditions, union officials said today. *Sky 75* arrived in the South Island port of Timaru on Sunday and was impounded after a safety inspection found several problems, the most serious a 25-man life raft with a hole in it that made it unseaworthy, Maritime New Zealand spokeswoman Julia Long said. The vessel has 35 crew and two life rafts, one for 25 people, the other for 10, she said. The government agency said the current crew of the vessel are also protesting over working conditions. The crew, from Myanmar, have complained they were owed two months' wages, were forced to work 20-hour days, had the

cost of equipment deducted from their pay and were poorly fed, International Transport Workers' Federation representative Kathy Whelan said. The ship's South Korean captain told union officials that the Myanmar crew was his fourth. Previous crew from China, Vietnam and Indonesia had all jumped ship over working conditions, Whelan said. Last September, 10 Indonesian crew members fled from the same boat in the South Island port of Nelson over working conditions. Balgon Kim, spokesman Poseidon Pacific, a New Zealand company that has chartered the ship to fish in New Zealand's economic zone, said claims of mistreatment were inaccurate. The vessel will remain in port until its owners have fixed the safety hazards and it has passed an inspection, Long said.



BONNY, NIGERIA

London, Jun 22 — A crude oil pipeline in Shell's Bonny system that was shut down in early June after a leak has been fixed and 50 000 barrels a day production restored, a company spokesman said on Wednesday. The leak in the trunk line had forced Shell to close four flow stations at Nembe in the southern state of Bayelsa, but they have now resumed operation, the spokesman said.



CALCASIEU RIVER, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 22 — A press report, dated today, states: CITGO is continuing containment and recovery efforts after 70,000 barrels of oil was released into the Calcasieu Ship Channel near the Clifton Ridge Terminal. CITGO says by 0430, yesterday, 15,000 barrels of oil had been contained. The Indian Mararis area has been secured with containment boom and vacuum trucks. Clean up operations continue on the east and west banks of the Calcasieu channel. "The total spill was approximately 70,000 barrels," CITGO Lake Charles Vice President Randy Carbo said. "All of that was contained within our facility, except for an estimated 15,000 barrels. We anticipate it will be lower than that, but that's our current estimate based on what's been recovered today." According to Steve Wilkinson of the Department of Environmental Quality, CITGO calculations have the oil spill spreading from the CITGO

docks south and west down the ship channel and north of Moss Lake. The USCG has closed traffic on the channel from light 112 to light 100, about three nautical miles. Captain Sharon Richey of the US Coast Guard expects the spill clean up will keep the ship channel closed. "At this point it's very early in the response," she said, "but it's a very proactive response and as far as an estimate to have it cleaned up, we're really looking at having the channel closed for several days at this point." Monday's (Jun 19) heavy rainfall and partial flooding which overwhelmed the company's waste water storage tank area and dikes. This caused a release from the company's waste water storage tank area into the Indian Marais drainage feature. A mixture of storm water and oil was released. CITGO issued a press release stating multiple contract oil recovery organizations, boats, skimmers, and containment booms are being utilized. The cause of the spill remains under investigation.

DASHA RIVER, SHANGXI PROVINCE, CHINA

Beijing, Jun 16 — A toxic spill in north China has contaminated water supplies for 50,000 people and poses a threat to a reservoir supplying millions more, state media reported today. Sixty tons of coal tar carried by an overturned lorry spilt into the Dasha river in the northern province of Shanxi on Monday (Jun 12), Xinhua news agency reported. "The spill, moving at about one kph, is approaching the Wangkuai reservoir about 70 km from the accident site," Xinhua said, quoting environmental protection officials. The Wangkuai is one of two key reservoirs supplying water to 10 million people in Baoding, a city in neighbouring Hebei province. The spill had already reached Hebei's Fuping county on Tuesday, Xinhua said, contaminating water supplies for 50,000 people. Clean-up efforts, initially delayed by the lorry driver's cover-up of the toxic cargo, had included the building of 51 dams to intercept the coal tar "so as to win time for treating polluted water", Xinhua said. — Reuters.

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Chinese authorities said a toxic coal tar spill flowing down a northern river had slowed as they yesterday rushed to stop it from reaching a reservoir that serves a city of 10 million and is a standby source for the 2008 Olympics. Dams, pumps and cotton quilts helped slow the sludge's flow so that it travelled just one mile down the Dasha River over the past two days, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. Clean-up work was stepped up as government leaders urged local residents and officials to deal aggressively with the mishap. The spill occurred when a truck overloaded with 80 tons of toxic coal tar fell into the Dasha River last

Monday (Jun 12), leaking some of its contents into the river. Officials were scrambling to clean up the sludge — which had earlier been reported to amount to 60 tons — before it reached the Wangkuai reservoir in Baoding, a city of 10 million in Hebei province. The sludge was 32 miles from the reservoir yesterday. The reservoir, which provides Baoding's residents with drinking water, is also meant to be a standby source for the Olympic Games, Xinhua said. Clean-up crews from Hebei's Fuping county constructed a 1,210-foot-long dam that could contain 200,000 cubic meters of water, Xinhua said. The dam would allow more water to be pumped out and trucked away. Meanwhile, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and local government leaders in Hebei province said officials should ensure that residents living along the river had access to safe drinking water. By yesterday, the water level in the Dasha River had decreased nearly 32 inches through the trucking away of some 2,450 tons of polluted water and the use of 50 pumps, the statement said. Tests showed some improvement in the water quality, a statement said, but "the task of disposing polluted water remains very arduous." The Hebei provincial government had allocated the equivalent of \$625,000 to the cleanup efforts, the statement said.

NEVA RIVER, RUSSIA

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Some 6,100 kilograms of oil-and-water mixture have been collected from the Neva River, Igor Berezin from the St. Petersburg nature usage committee said today. A spill-collecting vessel is still on the standby, he said. The several-kilometers-long spot was detected yesterday, and the culprit was almost immediately identified as the Srednenevsky Shipyard based in the village of Pontonny. It was the shipyard that dumped diesel fuel into the Neva through its sewage facilities. Eight vessels cleaned up the damages.

TIGRIS RIVER AREA, IRAQ

London, Jun 19 — A looming environmental disaster in Iraq threatens the Tigris River and groundwater in a large region. Iraqi officials said the government pumped massive amounts of an oil refinery byproduct called "black oil" into open mountain valleys and leaky reservoirs next to the Tigris in northern Iraq and set it on fire. The technique left huge black bogs in the region, which is home to Iraq's great northern refinery complex at Baiji. The fires no longer burn, the newspaper said, but they created plumes of smoke that carried as far as 40 miles downwind to Tikrit. An Iraqi environmental engineer who has seen the dumping area said the terrain was saturated with oil and there were large pools of oil stretching across several mountain valleys.

Weather & Navigation



BANGLADESH

Dhaka, Jun 18 — The death toll from floods in Bangladesh has risen to nine over the past week, as three more people died in a boat sinking, officials said today. The boat capsized late yesterday in a lake in Sylhet, 350 km north-east of the capital Dhaka. Other victims have died in house collapse and snake bites. More than 10,000 people have been made homeless, while another one million have been marooned by the floods. Crops in some 100,000 acres, mostly rice, were damaged in the affected areas, officials said after a quick assessment. Rural road networks, telephone connections and power supply have been severely damaged or disrupted. — Reuters.

CHINA

London, Jun 18 — A press report, dated Jun 16, states: Persistent rainstorms and flash floods in southwestern China have killed a total of 52 people and left another 20 missing, state media reported today. Torrential rains in May and June hit 293 townships in Guizhou province, paralysing local transport and interrupting telecommunications and power supplies, Xinhua news agency reported. More than 30 people died and 2,400 houses collapsed in the worst-hit county of Wangmo where 1,500 hectares of farmland were also damaged, said the report, quoting a local party secretary. The disasters have also caused 1.3 billion yuan (162.5 million dollars) in economic losses, the Guizhou provincial flood control and drought relief headquarters estimated.

Beijing, Jun 18 — A landslide in a village in the south-western Chinese province of Sichuan has killed 11 people and injured six others, the official Xinhua news agency said today. The landslide happened in the early hours in a remote region near the Tibetan border, Xinhua said. The village of Shiji was hit by almost 100 cubic metres of rocks which destroyed 12 houses and damaged 40 others, cutting off power, water and road links, the agency reported. It did not say what caused the landslide but in recent weeks southern China has been hit by heavy rain. — Reuters.

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Two destructive rainstorms in the past two weeks have killed 21 people and affected at least 4.6 million people in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the local government said today. The two rainstorms, hitting 71 counties of the region between Jun 7 and 10 and between Jun 13 and 15, caused mud-rock flows, landslides and mountain torrents in the cities of

Wuzhou and Baise, said a spokesman with the regional civil affairs department. He said the disastrous weather affected at least 4.6 million residents, with another 195,500 evacuated. The civil affairs department has sent five rescue teams to nine cities to help locals reconstruct their homes, he said. Meanwhile, the central government has appropriated 21 million yuan (US\$2.625 million) of relief fund, which will be distributed among the disaster-ravaged cities including Wuzhou and Guilin, the spokesman said. By mid June, China's central government had earmarked 116 million yuan (US\$14.5 million) in emergency disaster relief for flood victims in south China.

GERMANY

London, Jun 17 — Violent storms have swept across Germany causing millions of euros of damage and leaving several people injured by hailstones "as big as tennis balls". A major mopping up operation was underway in the eastern state of Saxony, where tens of thousands of vehicles were damaged in the storms yesterday evening. Six people were hurt when they were hit on the head in Leipzig by huge hailstones. Throughout the region, thousands of windows were smashed, and firemen worked all night pumping water out of flooded cellars. Other casualties included a man falling off his roof while trying to carry out repairs, a woman hurt when her mobile home collapsed and a man injured when his boat sank. Lightning also started several fires, one of which destroyed an agricultural building at Blievenstorf, 150 kilometres north-east of Berlin.

INDONESIA

Jakarta, Jun 20 — A landslide caused by heavy rain on Indonesia's Sulawesi island has killed seven people, while another 15 are missing, an official said today. Torrential rains are a regular feature of tropical Indonesia, with deadly landslides a frequent occurrence. Rampant logging often adds to the ease with which hillsides collapse, environmentalists say. The landslide in South Sulawesi's Sinjai regency occurred in the early morning hours, Abdul Gani, a communications officer at the Search and Rescue office in Makassar said by telephone. "The landslide has caused seven people to die. Fifteen others are missing," Gani said. He said two days of rain caused the landslide as well as flooding in several regencies in South Sulawesi province. — Reuters.

Jakarta, Jun 21 — Landslides and floods on Indonesia's eastern Sulawesi island have killed 65 people and the toll could rise, a police official said today. A search-and-rescue operation was under way after two days of heavy rain in several areas in South Sulawesi province. Sinjai regency was the worst-hit area after major flooding early yesterday, rescuers and police said. "The number of death is 65 and

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21 are still missing," said Tanassang, a police officer from South Sulawesi's capital Makassar, about 1,400 kms east of Jakarta. Saktianto, an officer with the search-and-rescue team, said many people were feared buried under mud in areas which rescuers could only reach by foot. — Reuters.

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 110 people have been killed and a further 100 are missing after floods and landslides triggered by torrential rain struck Indonesia's South Sulawesi province. The disaster is the latest in a series of similar tragedies to hit the region in the past few months. Amid warnings of further heavy rain in the coming days, authorities are flying in emergency supplies to the affected areas.

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavy rains caused floods and landslides on the central Indonesian island of Sulawesi, killing at least 112 people, officials said today. At least 100 more people were reported missing on Sulawesi, which has been battered by incessant rains since Monday (Jun 19), swelling rivers and inundating hundreds of houses. "We are overwhelmed with the bodies here," said Bachtiar, head of a public health centre in the worst-hit district of Sinjai. TV footage showed people in one devastated village pulling on a rope attached to large piece of wood trying to reach bodies or survivors. Efendi Rajaloo, co-ordinator of the search and rescue effort in Sinjai, said 104 bodies had been recovered in his district, while about 90 people were missing. Officials reported eight other people killed and 12 missing in four other districts in the region, about 1,000 miles north-east of Jakarta.

London, Jun 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Villagers and rescue teams searched today for survivors on an Indonesian island hit by floods and landslides, as the number of killed climbed to 190, officials said. More than 140 others were missing in southern districts of Sulawesi Island, with many feared to have been swept out to sea, said local government spokesman Annas, who goes by a single name. At least two roads were still blocked by landslides and flood waters reached almost 2-yards high in one district, said rescue official Abdul Malik. In the worst-hit region of Sinjai, 175 people had been killed, while 15 others perished in neighboring regions, said Annas.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Jun 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Dozens of passengers had a dramatic escape when their bus slid off an icy road and main highways were closed today as a second dose of extreme winter weather plagued New Zealand. About 1400 South Island households are still without power 11 days after a huge snow dump cut them off but today's cold front did not produce any fresh electricity cuts. Instead the North Island copped the worst of the

southerly storm from Antarctica. No one was injured in the bus accident in the central North Island but its 32 passengers endured a nervous wait on board for emergency services to arrive as the vehicle teetered over a steep drop. The passengers were safely evacuated when emergency workers arrived. The accident occurred near the town of Horopito and the Mt Ruapehu ski fields. All main roads in the mountainous Central Plateau were closed because of snow and ice, cutting off the usual transport routes between Auckland and Wellington. Many schools in the region shut for the day. Meteorologists forecast up to 50cm of snow could fall on the island's east coast Hawkes Bay region by tomorrow afternoon. Snow in the South Island provinces of Otago and Canterbury closed some roads and schools. It did not inflict the chaos caused by last week's dump but impeded continuing efforts to reconnect power and communications. Ice on the runway closed Dunedin's airport for about five hours this morning and city's police reported a number of minor road accidents on treacherous roads.

PHILIPPINES

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Five people were killed when a landslide hit the mining site in Compostela Valley province, southern Philippines, the Office of Civil Defence (OCD) announced today. At least six houses were also buried by mud that rushed down Barangay (village) Napnapan in Compostela Valley province around 0630 on Monday (Jun 19), according to a report from the OCD. The report said intermittent rains triggered the landslide.

PORTUGAL

London, Jun 17 — Severe storms this week have destroyed much of the port wine crop in northern Portugal, local officials said yesterday, but the exact extent of the devastation was not immediately known. The government Port and Douro Wines Institute, which gathers information on the industry, did not provide an official estimate of damage from the storms or what the overall effects could be on this year's crop. Several local officials, however, have said that up to 80 percent of the port wine crops in their districts was lost in the storms. Large hail destroyed more than 2,470 acres of vineyard in the councils of Alijo, Sao Joao da Pesqueira and Sabrosa, local authorities said. The districts are among the most important port-producing regions. In Alijo alone, 975 acres were lost, representing more than 580,000 gallons, or about 80 percent, of port wine production there, vice-mayor Aderito Figueira told The Associated Press. In Sabrosa, losses are close to 80 percent, Mayor Jose Manuel Marques told The AP. "Eight of our 15 parishes are heavily compromised with many farmers affected," Marques said. "We are still

assessing damages but I can say that some 80 percent of our production has been destroyed alongside other crops."

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Leading port wine makers said today that losses from the hail storms that hit northern Portugal vineyards last week were lower than initially thought. Severe storms destroyed more than 1,700 hectares of the port wine crop in 17 parishes in northern Portugal, the Agriculture Ministry had said. The ministry said late Friday (Jun 16) that 1,718 hectares had been lost in the parishes, which have a total production area of 6,335 hectares. However, the top port producers said today that the damage was not as extensive as was feared. "The storm that hit on Wednesday (Jun 14) night did do extensive damage to some areas, but the reports of 80 percent are exaggerated, and the likely loss of production to the whole region will be between 10 to 20 percent as a direct result of the storm," Adrian Bridge, managing director of Taylor's Port, said in a statement. Taylor's said it had lost the crop from about 750,000 vines out of 1.2 million. "However, the vines will put out secondary shoots, which will mean that we will get some crop," Bridge said, but added that quality could be affected as the "risk of disease is very high" for the plants. "We had just done treatments and our technical advisory service had just told our farmer suppliers to treat their vines," Bridge said. Taylor's, along with Symington, Sogrape, Sosvinos and Gran Cruz make up 70 percent of port wine producers, according to the Port and Douro Wines Institute. The Agriculture Ministry has said that affected farmers would be supplied with free sprayable calcium, which helps to heal vines and prepare them for next year's crops. "It is likely and to be hoped that the actual damage is not as widespread as initially reported, although some have undoubtedly been hit hard," said Paul Symington, joint managing director of Symington Family Estates. At Symington's Quinta da Cavadinha and the adjoining vineyards of Alvito and Netas in the Pinhao valley, the hail is estimated to have damaged some 20 percent of the young green bunches on the vines. Several local officials, including those from Alijo and Sabrosa, had said that up to 80 percent of port wine crops in their districts were lost. The government said it would consider compensation after total damages were assessed this week.

ROMANIA

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A severe hailstorm damaged homes and devastated plantations of vine in northeastern Romania today, a day after storms claimed the first lives, the Mediafax news agency reported. Roofs were damaged on around 200 homes and 300 hectares of vine were destroyed within minutes when hail

the size of chicken eggs fell on the Suceava region. The storm was one in a series that has hit northern and eastern Romania over the past week or so, already claiming lives. In some places rainfall of more than 100 litres per square metre was recorded in within a few hours. On Monday (Jun 19), lightning killed a shepherd and his 120 sheep, while a woman has gone missing since rising water ripped her away in the northern region Maramures. Swollen rivers submerged hundreds of houses in districts Hunedoara and Alba, bringing back memories of last summer, when a wave of flash floods claimed dozens of lives and inflicted millions of dollars in damages.

London, Jun 21 — Four persons died and ten are reported missing following yesterday evening's flash flood in the counties of Arad, Bistrita-Nasaud, and Galati, in western, northern, and eastern Romania. Roads were blocked, and tens of houses were destroyed and hundreds of hectares of land were flooded by the flush flood in Bistrita-Nasaud county. Yesterday a man died struck by the lightning in Hunedoara county, and another one in Timisoara city, western Romania. Losses incurred to property by rainfalls were also reported in the counties of Arad, Arges, Bacau, Galati, and Hunedoara. Flash floods in May and June caused losses worth 28.3 million lei in Suceava county, eastern Romania, Tuesday said the president with Suceava County Council Gavril Marza. The rainfalls in May and June damaged property in over 60 towns, communal roads in 39 towns, county roads in 15 towns, and 220 bridges and footbridges. Marza also said the local council still evaluated the losses last week in 14 towns around the county. Monday's (Jun 19) floods affected several flood reinforcement works in the counties of Galati, Iasi, and Vaslui, in the east, and Salaj and Harghita, in western and central Romania.

RUSSIA

London, Jun 16 — Work is under way in the Primorsky Territory to eliminate the consequences of the heavy rainstorm that raged in the territory for about 24 hours. The heavy rain and the windstorm caused serious damage in the south of the territory, including the cities of Vladivostok and Nakhodka. The wind of up to 30 metres a second tore off roofs, broke trees and damaged electro-transmission lines. Some districts in cities were left without electricity, including the television centre in Vladivostok. However, the damage was repaired promptly, the Dalenergo press service said. The work is continuing in the territory now to clear roads of broken trees and repair damaged roofs. Teams began working this morning in Nakhodka where the wind tore away roof slates from several buildings. All the cyclone consequences will be eliminated within next weekend, the Nakhodka administration press service said.

Rivers went up due to the heavy rains, but did not reach critical levels, the territorial emergencies department reported. The precipitation in some areas was equal to a month's level. The cyclone that brought the heavy rains and the windstorm to the territory is moving north and is expected to leave the region by the end of the day.

TROPICAL STORM "KAJIKI"

Manila, Jun 19 — Barge *Napocor Power Barge No.106*, which has been moored off Keppel Batangas Shipyard since December last year, may soon be repaired. National Power Corp.(Napocor) Engineer James Garganera, who is overseeing the repair of the barge, said that the barge will only have to undergo tank cleaning after which it would be able to immediately enter Keppel Batangas shipyard for drydocking. News of the barge being prepared for drydocking is an indication that barge's insurance collection problems may have been solved. The barge's hull insurance was issued by the state-owned Government Service Insurance System. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TYPHOON "CHANCHU"

Manila, Jun 16 — Tank barge *Billy Star* is still moored at Keppel Batangas Shipyard. Grand Asian Shipping, owner and operator of the barge, said that repairs could not take place until its cargo of sulphuric acid is offloaded. Grand Asian Shipping officials said that the sulphuric acid could not be unloaded until the insurer adjuster performs lab tests on the cargo to determine if it was still fit for commercial use. The results of the lab tests will determine if the cargo insurance would be paid out. Lab tests performed by Grand Asian Shipping revealed that the sulphuric acid which has been contaminated with seawater was no longer fit for commercial use and would have to be disposed of. Grand Asian Shipping officials blamed the delay on the insurance adjuster who has up until today failed to show up. They said that unless the sulphuric acid is offloaded soon, the sulphuric acid could start leaking out of the vessel. The sulphuric acid and seawater were reacting and corroding the walls of the storage tanks. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jun 20 — Sulphuric acid has started leaking out of several holes in the storage tanks of the refloated tank barge *Billy Star* Manila-based Grand Asian Shipping, which owns and operates the *Billy Star*, reported today. Officials of the company said that the combination of seawater and sulphuric acid had reacted to corrode the walls of the ship's storage tanks which had sprang several leaks. The situation was still manageable as the sulphuric acid had been contained by the barge's hull. Further delays in unloading the cargo would result in extensive damage to the ship, company officials warned. Grand Asian Shipping officials said that the

sulphuric acid cargo could not be unloaded until the insurance adjusters have ascertained that the sulphuric acid was no longer fit for commercial use. Samples of the cargo were taken on Saturday (Jun 17) but the insurance adjusters have not yet released the lab results which would determine if the cargo insurance would be paid out. Grand Asian Shipping officials said that they were under pressure from regulatory agencies to have the highly toxic cargo offloaded and brought to a hazardous waste dumpsite. Regulatory officials are concerned that sulphuric acid escaping from the barge, which is moored at Keppel Batangas Shipyard, would pose a serious environmental and health hazard. They could not offload the cargo, however, until there was an assurance that the insurance company would pay for it. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Kaohsiung, Jun 22 — According to information from the Kaohsiung Harbor Bureau, tug *Sea Diamond* and barge *Pinos 1* departed on Jun 2, bound for Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

TYPHOON "HAITANG"

Taipei, Jun 16 — According to Kaohsiung Harbour Bureau, unknown *Yung Chang* is now still berthing at pier No.11 Kaohsiung Harbour and renamed *Eastern Rich*. — Lloyd's Agents.

UNITED STATES

London, Jun 19 — Severe thunderstorms rolled across southern Wisconsin yesterday, spawning a tornado that ripped the roof off an elementary school, toppled trees and knocked out power. The twister touched down shortly before 1500 hrs in Hartford, a town of 8,200 people about 25 miles north-west of Milwaukee. Mayor Scott Henke said yesterday evening an initial count showed there was significant damage to the school, about 10 businesses and 50 homes. As for injuries, he said one area resident suffered a broken hip in a fall while rushing to his basement in response to the storm warnings. The Lincoln Elementary School roof was damaged and a wall of a motel collapsed, The National Weather Service said. More than 140 customers were without power, said We Energies spokeswoman Wendy Parks. Elsewhere, there were numerous reports of funnel clouds across the area but no damage reported, the weather service said.

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated Jun 19, states: Damage in Hartford from Sunday's (Jun 18) tornado touchdown is estimated to total about \$4 million. Wisconsin Emergency Management spokeswoman Lori Getter said that the tornado damaged more than 150 buildings when it came through Hartford on Sunday afternoon. Three people had minor injuries. Getter said that 135 homes and seven businesses had minor damage and 12 homes and three businesses had major damage.

None were destroyed. Lincoln Elementary School had its roof ripped off and damage there is estimated at \$1 million dollars.

London, Jun 20 — Heavy rains and flooding in the Houston area are having an effect on Oklahoma City travellers. Officials with Will Rogers World Airport said a total of four flights have been cancelled, including two from Southwest Airlines and two from Continental Airlines. Spokeswoman Karen Carney said more cancellations could be coming. Heavy rains also forced some residents onto rooftops as emergency crews rescued others stranded in homes on the city's south side. Up to 11 inches of rain fell in parts of the city overnight. A refinery owned by French Total in nearby Port Arthur was forced to trim operations because of flooding, the company said. The city of South Houston had declared a state of emergency, Cornelius said, and four shelters had been opened to accommodate residents driven from their homes. No fatalities have been recorded due to the flooding.

Earthquakes



CHINA

London, Jun 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Three people were injured in an earthquake in Gansu, China, yesterday. Five houses were toppled in Linjiang and Liping townships, the two worst hit areas. Details of damage and direct economic losses were still being investigated. The earthquake measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale struck southern Gansu Province at about 0100 hrs. The epicentre was at lat 33.1N, long 105 E, about 30 kilometres east of Wenxian and Wudu counties.

INDONESIA

London, Jun 16 — Two undersea earthquakes rocked Indonesia's eastern Sulawesi Island today, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries, the government's geophysics agency said. The magnitude 5.7 and 5.4 quakes struck three hours apart and were felt in parts of North and Central Sulawesi, said agency official Robert Wahyu. Some people in Central Sulawesi town of Toli-Toli ran out of their houses and offices in panic when the most powerful quake struck, he said.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Jun 16 — An earthquake of magnitude 5.6 shook central North Island just before 2000, local time, the government seismological agency said. The quake, centered 30 kilometres north-west of the town of Taupo, was at a depth of 170 kilometres, GNS Science said in a statement. There were no immediate reports of injuries

or damage in the mainly rural area. The agency said the quake also likely would have been felt along the island's east coast area.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS REGION

London, Jun 20 — A magnitude 5.5 quake occurred in the Queen Charlotte Islands region, lat 51.584N, long 130.454W at 0302, Jun 20.

Volcanic Activity



BULUSAN VOLCANO, PHILIPPINES

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Philippines' restive Bulusan volcano spewed ash and pebbles in a new explosion today, prompting the evacuation of nearly 100 villagers. The ash explosion was the eighth since March. The mountain belched ash up to 1.2 miles into the sky, said Renato Solidum, director of the Philippine Institute of Seismology and Volcanology. Scientists said they needed to gather more details and possibly conduct a second aerial survey of Bulusan's summit in a week before they can assess the prospects for a major eruption. Its last major eruption was in 1994. A number of mild tremors accompanied the blast of ash, officials said. Wind was blowing ash from the mid-afternoon explosion to the north-west toward the farming towns of Casiguran and Juban, which have been grappling with the ash and fears of a major eruption since the 5,149-foot volcano came back to life in March.

MOUNT BULUSAN, PHILIPPINES

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Mount Bulusan spewed ash in a fresh explosion late today, prompting Philippine officials to hastily evacuate a nearby village during a rainstorm. The minor ash explosion, Bulusan's ninth since it started acting up in March, was accompanied by mild earth tremors for several minutes before the volcano calmed down again. Despite the ash explosions, there has been no indication a major eruption is imminent, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said. Mayor Edwin Hamor in Casiguran, a town near the volcano, said he rushed to a farming village with nearly 100 houses to evacuate jittery residents who heard rumbling, then saw muddy water flowing down Bulusan at the height of the downpour. "It exploded with ash again, and the heavy rains probably washed the ash down," Hamor told radio station DZBB. Hamor also helped evacuate about 100 people during an ash eruption on Sunday (Jun 18) at Bulusan, a 5,149-foot peak about 240 miles south-east of Manila.

MOUNT MERAPI, INDONESIA

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Merapi continued to spew out scorching gas clouds and rock fragments today, with one black plume in the mid-afternoon covering a large swathe of the mountain. No injuries or fresh property damage were reported. Scientist Antonius Ratdomopurbo said the resurgence in activity was likely caused by the collapse of a section of volcano's lava dome, which has been growing in recent weeks as lava emerges from its core. Two men, believed to be emergency workers helping evacuate villagers from the mountain, have been trapped under volcanic debris as hot as 300 degrees Celsius (572 degrees Fahrenheit), officials said.

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Indonesia's Mount Merapi sent avalanches of searing hot gas and debris roiling down its scorched slopes today, and a scientist warned that the peak's fragile lava dome still posed a threat to thousands of villagers. The 9,700-foot volcano has been at a near-continuous state of high alert for seven weeks, forcing the evacuation of thousands of villagers in a government-designated danger zone. More than half a dozen avalanches carried gas and volcanic debris more than two miles down the peak's flanks, said Subandrio, a government scientist. Magma has swelled into a volatile lava dome on the southern crater, he said, and there is a likelihood that it will collapse, causing an avalanche of the hot gas and volcanic debris trapped within it. The government has ordered the evacuation of all residents living within about four miles of the peak, but says it cannot force them to leave or prevent villagers from returning to check their houses and crops. Hundreds have refused to go. Another possible threat is posed by rain forecast for coming days that could wash millions of tons of ash and rock fragments down Merapi's steep slopes in powerful mudslides. Two people died last week when hot gas shot down the mountain.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Jun 17 — US-led forces have killed about 40 Taliban fighters as they gathered for a meeting in a compound as part of a major operation against the resurgent rebels in southern Afghanistan, the US military said. Foreign troops waited for about 50 rebels, including a bomb-making group, to gather for a meeting in the compound in Uruzgan province before striking yesterday, Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Fitzpatrick said in a statement late yesterday. "The compound was severely damaged. We anticipate most of those present were

killed." Two coalition soldiers were killed yesterday when their vehicle was blown up by a roadside bomb in eastern Kunar province, bordering Pakistan, another US statement said. Ghazni province governor Sher Alam Ibrahim said five Taliban rebels were killed and at least 12 captured after an hours-long battle with Afghan troops and police yesterday. In Kandahar province, the Taliban heartland, seven Taliban fighters and a policeman were killed when rebels attacked a police post overnight, a local official said. Three rebels died when a mine they were planting exploded in neighbouring Helmand province, officials there said. — Reuters.

Kandahar, Afghanistan, Jun 18 — Taliban insurgents ambushed an Afghan police convoy today, killing five people, an official said, the latest attack in the bloodiest phase of violence since US-led forces toppled the Islamist government. Along with four policemen, a senior former provincial official was killed in the clash in the southern province of Helmand, provincial spokesman Mahaiuddin said. Taliban spokesman Qari Mohammad Yousuf said Taliban guerrillas were behind today's ambush. — Reuters.

London, Jun 19 — Taliban fighters ambushed two convoys carrying members of the same family in southern Afghanistan, killing 30 people, relatives and officials said today. In another clash, Afghan and coalition soldiers killed seven militants in the southern province of Uruzgan, where a large-scale anti-Taliban offensive is under way, an Afghan official said. The first convoy attack, initially reported Sunday, was on vehicles carrying a former district chief in Helmand province, leaving the ex-official and four of his bodyguards dead, said the governor's spokesman, Ghulam Mohiudin. The second ambush occurred several hours later when 30 of the slain official's relatives went to collect his body, his brother Dad Mohammed Khan said today. Khan said 25 people were killed, including the brother and nephew of the dead official, Jama Gul. Four others were wounded.

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: One Romanian soldier was killed while four others were injured in a roadside bomb explosion in the restive province of Kandahar today, said the U.S.-led Coalition forces. "The blast took place at 0500 hrs, today, on the main road from Kandahar city to the Coalition-controlled airbase as a Coalition convoy was hit by roadside bomb," Julie Ruberg, spokesman of Canadian troops in Kandahar, told Xinhua. The incident comes amid the ongoing U.S.-led anti-Taliban operation the "Mountain Thrust" in the volatile southern provinces where hundreds of Taliban militants and associate fighters are believed to have hidden.

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Afghan and coalition forces clashed with Taliban

fighters in southern Afghanistan, leaving 20 militants dead, an Afghan military official said today. The troops surrounded Taliban insurgents yesterday in Musa Qala in southern Helmand province after receiving information they would be meeting there, Army commander Gen. Rahmatullah Roufi said. Heavy fighting between the two sides killed 20 insurgents and wounded one Afghan soldier, he added. Military officials recovered all 20 bodies, along with an assortment of weapons.

Kabul, Jun 22 — Four US soldiers have been killed and one wounded in clashes with Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan, the US military said today. The latest clash occurred in the eastern province of Nuristan yesterday. "Coalition forces attacked enemy extremists in a remote area of the Kamdesh District while conducting security operations to interdict enemy movement through northern Nuristan," the US military said. "During the mission, four US soldiers were killed." Coalition aircraft joined the attack but it was not clear how many rebels were killed, the US military said. The wounded soldier was in stable condition. A Taliban spokesman, Mohammad Hanif, said by telephone that two Taliban had been killed in the fighting. — Reuters.

ALGERIA

Algiers, Jun 22 — Islamist fighters trying to thwart a government peace drive shot dead five farmers, slit their throats and burned the bodies, Algerian newspapers reported today. Survivors said the farmers were among eight people in two vehicles ambushed by a group of rebels on Tuesday (Jun 20) in a mountainous area near Blida, 60 km south of Algiers, the dailies "El Watan" and "Liberte" said. — Reuters.

BANGLADESH

Dhaka, Jun 20 — At least 120 people were hurt in the capital Dhaka and elsewhere in Bangladesh today in clashes between the police and opposition workers trying to march to election commission offices, witnesses said. At least 50 people were injured in Dhaka, while 50 more were hurt in southern Bagerhat and 20 others in northern Mymensingh district towns during a countrywide programme to march to the offices of the election commission. Police used batons, tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse rock-throwing activists pushing through barbed-wire barricades at Dhaka's Russel Square and Agargaon areas. A 14-party opposition alliance led by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of the Awami League called for today's march to push demands for the removal of the chief election commissioner and his deputies. The opposition also wants changes in the way caretaker administrations operate to ensure a free and fair poll when a general election is held next year. Dozens of vehicles and a number of roadside shops were also damaged

at Bagerhat where pro-government activists attacked a march by the opposition, police said. In Mymensingh, police fired teargas shells to disperse activists who stormed into the compound of the local election commission office. "The Chief Election Commissioner M.A. Aziz and his colleagues must resign," said senior Awami leader Tofayel Ahmed, accusing them of pro-government bias and trying to manipulate the voters' list for the coming election. — Reuters.

BURUNDI

Dar es Salaam, Jun 18 — Burundi's government and its last remaining rebel group agreed today to stop fighting and return in two weeks to sign a comprehensive ceasefire. Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza and Agathon Rwasa, leader of the Hutu forces for National Liberation (FNL), were joined by regional leaders and representatives of the international community at the signing of the agreement. "An important agreement has been made to stop hostilities and reach a comprehensive agreement in two weeks. I believe it will not take us longer than two weeks," South African President Thabo Mbeki told both sides. South Africa is the mediator in the talks and Tanzania has worked hard for more than a year to bring Rwasa and his leadership to negotiations. Originally, the two sides had been due to sign a final pact yesterday but talks went late into the night as assembled dignitaries pressured both sides to reach a deal. During the talks, the rebels twice shelled the capital Bujumbura, killing one and wounding at least 15 others. One of the sticking points of the talks was reform of the police and military, Rwasa said. Under Burundi's peace plan, the FNL's soldiers should be integrated into those organisations but the rebels have refused. — Reuters.

INDIA

Srinagar, India, Jun 22 — Unidentified militants threw a grenade at the crowded house of a prominent dervish in Indian Kashmir today, killing two people and wounding 20, police said. "The grenade exploded in the lawn of the house of Abdul Ahad. Ahad Sahib escaped unhurt," said a police spokesman. A man and a woman wounded in the attack died in hospital, he added. No militant group claimed responsibility for the attack near Sopore town, 50 km north of Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state. — Reuters.

IRAQ

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A suicide bomber struck a Shiite mosque during Friday prayers in Baghdad, killing at least seven people and wounding 18, police said, as violence persisted despite a driving ban and increased security

measures aimed at restoring order in the capital. The attacker was wearing an explosives belt and blew himself up at the Buratha mosque in northern Baghdad, police Lt. Thaer Mahmoud said. The bomber was on foot as the streets of Baghdad were largely absent of cars due to a four-hour driving ban imposed to prevent violence during traditional Islamic prayers held on Friday. Earlier today, the US military said a key terror leader linked to the deaths of at least six coalition soldiers was captured in Karbala, a day after the local council issued strong protests over the arrests of three members. The military said Iraqi soldiers, assisted by coalition advisers, conducted an early morning ground assault raid yesterday in the Shiite holy city, 50 miles south of Baghdad, and captured "a high-ranking terrorist network commander without firing a shot." American and Iraqi forces have killed 104 insurgents in 452 raids nationwide since al-Qaida in Iraq leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was killed last week, the US military said.

Baghdad, Jun 17 — A series of bomb and mortar attacks killed at least 31 people in and near Baghdad today in violence that showed no sign of easing despite a security crackdown against al Qaeda in the Iraqi capital. The attacks, a day after a suicide bomber killed 10 people in a Baghdad Shi'ite mosque, followed a vow by al Qaeda's new leader in Iraq to avenge the death of his predecessor Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who was killed in a US air strike on Jun 7. In the worst attack, a car bomb targeting Iraqi army and police killed 11 people. A US military helicopter and divers searched for two US soldiers missing after an attack yesterday in which one American soldier was killed in the insurgent bastion of Yusufiya in the "Triangle of Death" south of Baghdad. In more violence today, a bomb killed six people in a crowded market in central Baghdad and mortar rounds killed two people in another market in the Shi'ite district of Kadhimiya. In the town of Mahmudiya just south of the capital, a car bomb targeting an Iraqi army checkpoint killed seven people. Four days into the crackdown, the Interior Ministry has not yet announced any arrests or other results. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jun 18 — Gunmen abducted 10 bakery workers in Baghdad today and a militant group linked to al Qaeda claimed responsibility for some of the bombings that killed 43 people in the capital the day before. West of Baghdad, the US military tried to step up pressure on insurgents in the rebel stronghold Ramadi by setting up extra checkpoints to deny them freedom of movement. Baghdad appeared relatively calm today, apart from the attack in which police said gunmen stormed a bakery in Kadhimiya, a mainly Shi'ite Muslim district, and snatched 10 employees. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jun 19 — A suicide car bomber targeting an Iraqi army checkpoint killed four people and wounded 10 in Baghdad today, police said. All the victims were civilians, police said. Insurgents have defied a government crackdown involving 50,000 Iraqi troops backed by 7,000 U.S.-led soldiers, launched last week in a bid to put pressure on al Qaeda in Baghdad. A group linked to al Qaeda which had pledged to continue what it described as the holy war against crusader forces until "doomsday" claimed responsibility for four car bombs on Saturday against U.S.-trained Iraqi security forces. — Reuters.

Tokyo, Jun 20 — Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi announced today that Japan will withdraw its troops from Iraq. Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said yesterday his forces would take over security from July in the southern province of Muthanna, where the British oversee a multinational contingent that includes Japanese troops. The decision to withdraw comes ahead of Koizumi's visit to Washington for talks with President George W. Bush in late June and before he steps down as prime minister in September. No Japanese soldiers have been killed or wounded in Iraq. However, six Japanese citizens, including two diplomats, have been killed by insurgents in Iraq. Japan has said its withdrawal from the southern city of Samawa had to be co-ordinated with Britain and Australia, whose troops provide security for the roughly 550 Japanese soldiers engaged in reconstruction and humanitarian work. Japanese Defense Minister Fukushima Nukaga immediately issued an order for the troop withdrawal, Kyodo news agency said. The process could be completed by the end of July, Kyodo said. In Canberra, Australian Defense Minister Brendan Nelson said today that Australia would re-assign its 460 troops protecting Japanese forces to help the Iraqi military secure the border with Syria. "It has the potential to be more dangerous for our soldiers. We don't underestimate the risk," he told reporters. — Reuters.

Basra, Jun 20 — A suicide bomber killed a woman and wounded five people when he attacked a crowd of elderly and disabled pensioners in Basra today, police said. The crowd were gathering to receive their monthly pension. Police said only one of the two explosive belts the bomber was wearing detonated. The blast occurred in the northern Basra district of Jamiyat. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jun 20 — A car bomb exploded in a crowded Baghdad market today, killing seven people and wounding 18, police said. The bomb exploded among morning shoppers in the market in the eastern district of Jamila, a police source said. — Reuters.

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: US-led forces killed 15 terror suspects and detained

three others during raids today in a village northeast of Baghdad, the military said. Residents said 13 civilians also were killed. Elsewhere, a bombing killed four people in a Baghdad market and a suicide bomber blew himself up in a home for the elderly in the southern city of Basra, killing two. The military said the raid targeted individuals linked with a suspected senior al-Qaida in Iraq member, but it did not identify him. Troops came under fire from a roof upon arriving at the site in the village of Bushahin north of Baqouba. Residents in the village of Bushahin where the raids were carried out said 13 civilians also were killed. A local security official confirmed the civilian deaths, saying a 12-year-old boy was among them.

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Two US soldiers missing in Iraq since Friday (Jun 16) have been found dead south of Baghdad, the US military has said. The bodies were found in the Yusufiya area yesterday. An Iraqi defence ministry spokesman said the bodies had shown signs of torture. An insurgent group linked to al-Qaida in Iraq, which claimed it abducted the men, has now said that it killed them. The missing men have been named as Kristian Menchaca and Thomas Tucker, both from the 101st Airborne Division. US military spokesman in Iraq, Maj Gen William Caldwell, said the bodies were found late yesterday by US troops. Coalition troops had been carrying out a massive search for the missing men. An internet statement posted by the Mujahideen Shura Council - a grouping of insurgents that includes al-Qaida in Iraq - said it had abducted the men and slit their throats. The posting, whose claims cannot be independently confirmed, praised the new leader of al-Qaida in Iraq - Abu Hamza al-Muhajir - for "implementing" a Sharia law tribunal verdict on the soldiers. Separately, the US military said it had killed 15 gunmen in raids near Baquba, north of Baghdad. It said the raids targeted people associated with a suspected senior member of al-Qaida in Iraq and took place after US troops came under fire.

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated today, states: One of the main lawyers defending former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein at his trial has been shot dead. Khamis al-Obeidi's body was found dumped in the capital, Baghdad, hours after he was abducted from his home. Defence lawyers have frequently complained that they have not been given enough protection, calling the trial's fairness into question. Two other defence lawyers were murdered last year in the early stages of the trial, which is set to end next month. Chief defence lawyer Khalil al-Dulaimi said Mr Obeidi was abducted from his home in Baghdad's southern Doura district at 0700 hrs (0300, UTC) by men wearing police uniforms. Police said Mr Obeidi's body was found near the Shia district of Sadr City. Unlike Mr Dulaimi, who

travels between Amman in Jordan and Baghdad, Mr Obeidi had chosen to continue living in the Iraqi capital despite tenuous security, Associated Press news agency reports. Mr Obeidi was in court on Monday (Jun 19) to hear the prosecution team make its closing arguments. The prosecutors called for Saddam Hussein and two of his seven co-defendants to be put to death for war crimes. The trial has now adjourned and judges will consider their verdict after final defence arguments on July 10.

Dubai, Jun 21 — A militant group led by al Qaeda in Iraq said today it has decided to kill four Russian hostages after Moscow failed to meet demands to withdraw from Chechnya and free Muslim prisoners. "After granting the Russian government 48 hours to meet our demands and their failure to do so ... the Islamic court of the Mujahideen Shura Council ruled to kill them (hostages)," said a statement posted on a Web site often used by militants. The statement's authenticity could not be verified and it was unclear when the hostages might be killed. On Monday (Jun 19), the group said it was holding the four Russians and gave Moscow 48 hours to meet its demands. On June 3, four Russian embassy staff were kidnapped when gunmen blocked their vehicle in a Baghdad district and a fifth embassy employee was shot dead. — Reuters.

London, Jun 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The U.S. military announced today that four Marines were killed during operations in insurgent-ridden Anbar province, three of them in a roadside bombing. The military statement said three Marines assigned to Regimental Combat Team 5 "died after their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device." It said the fourth Marine, assigned to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, "died after being attacked while conducting security operations." At least 2,511 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The figure includes seven military civilians.

ISRAEL

London, Jun 16 — An Israel military spokesman said earlier that the three were preparing to plant a bomb and all had been killed or wounded. The Palestinians were intercepted near the former crossing of Kissufim, east of Gaza City, by an elite infantry unit on patrol with air support, the spokesman said. Witnesses said they belonged to the radical Islamic Jihad group. Palestinian ambulances were dispatched to the scene to recover the bodies. In other developments, an Israeli military source said more home-made rockets fired from the Gaza Strip landed in southern Israel, taking the total to ten for the day. Two landed in the industrial zone of Sderot, the usual target for Palestinian militants as the only town in range of their inaccurate weapons,

and two near a neighbouring kibbutz. In the West Bank city of Nablus, militants of Al-Aqsa, an offshoot of moderate president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah faction, broke into the parliament annex, opened fire on the walls and shattered windows, a security source said.

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: An Israeli helicopter has fired a missile at a metal workshop in northern Gaza Strip, the Israeli military said today, without reporting casualties. The strike came amid increased rocket attacks that mainly targeted the southern Israeli town of Sderot and the military said the damaged building was a manufacturing plant used by Hamas militants to produce rockets. However, the Palestinian sources said the attacked building was a metal foundry. Israel's southern town of Sderot began "shutting down" at 0800 hrs, 0500, UTC) today in protest over the barrages of Qassam rockets by Palestinian militants that have plagued the western Negev city. According to the Jerusalem Post newspaper, all inner-city junctions would be shut down for an indefinite period of time. The city would be blacked out from 2100 hrs (1800, UTC) every day. Demonstrations were underway as residents began sealing all entrances and exits to the town. Municipal workers will shut off streetlights as evening comes, said the report. Mayor Eli Moyal on Sunday (Jun 18) night announced the shutdown of his town, which originally go into effect yesterday, but it was delayed by one day as the mayor later received a telephone call from President Moshe Katsav, who said that he was planning to visit Sderot yesterday. The residents of Sderot have announced they will renew their hunger strike, which ended yesterday evening at the request of President Moshe Katsav. Mayor Moyal said that Sderot residents would soon march on Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in order to awaken the country to what was happening. Sderot has recently witnessed frequent Qassam rocket attacks by Palestinian militants in Gaza. Early this morning, a Kassam rocket landed in Sderot, but caused no damage.

Nablus, Jun 21 — Israeli soldiers shot dead a senior Palestinian militant today during a raid to arrest suspects in the West Bank city of Nablus, medics and Israeli military officials said. They said a local commander of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed wing of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah movement, died in the raid. The Israeli army said the dead militant, Dahoud Katouni, 24, was behind a suicide bombing in March that killed four Israelis near a Jewish settlement. "Two armed men approached the forces and the soldiers opened fire at them. One of the terrorists was killed and another was wounded," an army spokesman said. — Reuters.

London, Jun 22 — A press report, dated today, states: In the second botched Israeli airstrike in Gaza in two days, two people were killed and 13 were wounded when a missile hit a house yesterday, just hours after Palestinians buried three children killed in a previous attack. Militants vowed revenge, and Israelis debated the effectiveness of airstrikes that target militants but are taking a mounting toll on innocent Palestinians. Israel's air force commander said today the army stands firm behind its policies, but must "make a great effort to try everything possible to avoid hitting civilians." In yesterday's attack, Israeli aircraft targeted militants in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis but hit a house instead, killing a man and a woman and wounding at least 13 people, including five children, according to hospital officials. The missile blew a hole in a wall of the one-story concrete block shack. A pool of blood covered part of the kitchen floor of the stricken house. A witness said a car carrying Palestinian militants passed the house as the missile struck. They jumped from the car and ran into a nearby field. A senior air force officer, speaking on condition of anonymity under military regulations, said the missile missed its target by several dozen yards. Militant groups pledged to increase their rocket attacks against Israel, targeting the town of Sderot, just outside Gaza's border fence. Abu Qusai of the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, linked to Fatah, said flatly, "We will not commit to the truce." Referring to civilian deaths in earlier incidents, he added, "How can we hear the cries of these children, like the ones on the beach of Gaza, and stand idle?" On June 9, eight Gaza beachgoers were killed in a beach blast Palestinians blamed on an Israeli artillery shell. Israel claimed it was not responsible. Yesterday, the military said examination of another fragment removed from the body of a wounded Palestinian receiving treatment in Israel backed up that conclusion. Israel's leaders insisted they would step up their attacks to try to stop the rocket barrages, targeting leaders of militant groups. "We shall take tough measures, tougher and more frightening than those we took in the past," Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Tuesday (Jun 20). Yesterday night, an explosion in a car near Palestinian security headquarters in Gaza City injured a security official and two other people, witnesses and medics said. A local Fatah spokesman said it appeared that an explosive device had been planted in the car.

LIBERIA

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated Jun 20, states: The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously today to lift timber sanctions against Liberia to help spur economic growth in one of Africa's poorest nations, but said it will review the decision in 90

days. Unless Liberia has adopted legislation on forestry reforms by that time, the council said it will reinstate the sanctions. The council decided to maintain sanctions on Liberian diamond exports for six months but said it will review the measures in four months to give the government time to establish an international program to certify the origin of the country's gems. The Security Council imposed arms and diamond embargoes on Liberia in May 2001 to stop government revenues from those industries from being used to fuel civil war. A new ban on the timber trade took effect in July 2003. The latest six-month extension of the diamond and timber sanctions expired today. Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf argued in a May 24 letter to the council that sanctions limiting the trade of arms, timber, and diamonds - and restricting the travel of designated individuals - were stunting the country's economy and were no longer needed. She said the government would not be able to fight poverty effectively without the economically significant diamond and timber industries. But a recent report to the Security Council by a panel of experts, obtained by The Associated Press, concluded timber and diamond sanctions were generally effective and "have helped to stabilize the situation in Liberia." It indicated they should be continued. A panel of experts backed the government's planned reforms of the timber industry to make it more transparent, prevent illegal logging, and ensure the revenue is not used for financing conflict.

MEXICO

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated Jun 19, states: Gunmen killed a police chief and a businessman in separate attacks in the south Mexican state of Guerrero today, officers from the state's Attorney General's office told reporters. The two attacks took place in Zihuantanejo, one of Mexico's main tourist attractions. Gunmen shot dead Police Chief Isidro Rangel and Jesus Bracamontes, a restaurant boss. The two incidents came only a day after a murder in Chilpancingo, the state's administrative capital. The head of local Judicial Police, Emilano Portillo Lagunas, his wife and their bodyguards were killed as they were leaving a shopping centre.

NEPAL

London, Jun 18 — A landmark deal between Nepal's authorities and Maoist rebels which will see parliament dissolved and power shared in a new interim government was hailed in the troubled Himalayan kingdom. The deal, aimed at ending 10 years of bloody insurgency by the rebels, was thrashed out at unprecedented day-long talks in Kathmandu Friday (Jun 16) between Maoists, led by their elusive chief Prachanda, and government leaders headed by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala. Under the deal, the

new parliament, reconvened after King Gyanendra ended 14 months of direct rule in April, is to be dissolved and an interim government containing the Maoists set up within a month. Newspapers trumpeted the accord on their front pages, branding it "historic" and a "giant leap forward", although some politicians gave the move a more guarded response. "The agreement reached in an effort to restore peace is very promising but there are lots of challenges," said Ram Chandra Poudel, general secretary of the Nepali Congress, the kingdom's largest political party. "The government should move forward very cautiously and avoid making hotch-potch decisions," he said. The deal was warmly welcomed by Raghuji Pant, a leader of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), the tiny nation's second largest political grouping. "This is a very positive development and it shows that the government and Maoists are willing to resolve the political crisis," he said. As well as dissolving the new parliament, the two sides agreed Friday to seek United Nations assistance in arms management, and to draft a temporary constitution within 15 days. The rebels and government had previously agreed to hold elections for a body that would redraft the constitution permanently, a key rebel demand.

NIGERIA

Onitsha, Jun 17 — At least six people have been killed in the southeastern Nigerian city of Onitsha as a feud between a separatist group and a transport union degenerated into street battles, residents said today. One witness said unknown men armed with guns and machetes boarded a bus, forced all the passengers out and shot one of them by the side of the road. "He was killed in my presence and his head was cut off," said Charles Mbara, an estate agent, who was a passenger on the bus. The incident happened yesterday. Police have arrested 18 members of the banned Movement for the Actualisation of a Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) over the past two days in connection with fighting in Onitsha, area commander Matthew Uyanna said. — Reuters.

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Two Filipino oil workers have been kidnapped in Nigeria's oil-rich Niger Delta, police have confirmed. Six gunmen in a speedboat seized the two near the south-eastern city of Port Harcourt yesterday. Police say it not yet clear which group is responsible for the abductions, as no-one has made contact. It is the latest in a string of assaults on foreign oil workers in the region by militants and the upsurge of attacks has cut Nigeria's oil production by 25% - a key factor in the high world price of crude oil. The abductees are contract workers for Petroleum Geo-Services (PGS). "Six

armed men came in a boat and abducted the two Filipinos. They were not harmed or injured. We have no contact with them since the sad incident took place," a PGS spokesman told AFP news agency.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, Jun 20 — Two gunmen shot dead a husband-and-wife radio political commentators on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, said a police official today. George Vigo and his wife, Mazel, were on their way home late yesterday when two gunmen on a motorcycle shot them, said Danny Reyes, police chief in Kidapawan City on Mindanao. "They died on the way to the hospital from several bullet wounds in the head and body," Reyes told reporters, adding the local police were trying to determine if the murders were related to their work at a local radio station. "It's too difficult to speculate on who was behind the attack and the motive for the murder," Reyes said, asking technical help from other police units to help draw sketches of the suspects. — Reuters.

RUSSIA

Moscow, Jun 18 — Chechnya's rebels pledged today to press ahead with their fight for freedom from Russian rule despite the death in battle of their leader. Statements on separatist websites confirmed that Abdul-Khalim Sadulayev — also known as Saidulayev — had been killed in the town of Argun, 30 km east of the regional capital Grozny. Pro-Moscow forces said they were combing the town for accomplices of Sadulayev, who was the fourth resistance leader to be killed in 11 years of separatist warfare in the southern Russian region. Sadulayev, a cleric from Argun, was little known outside Chechnya but had reorganised the resistance since taking over a year ago and tried to increase its links with Islamist fighters elsewhere in Russia's turbulent North Caucasus. Sadulayev will be succeeded as head of the Chechen resistance by warlord Doku Umarov, who unlike Sadulayev has long been a hands-on guerrilla leader. — Reuters.

SOMALIA

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated Jun 17, states: Two defeated Somali warlords have fled Mogadishu to a ship in the Indian Ocean, an informed source told CNN. The two were identified as Bashir Raghe and Muse Sudi Yalahow, who represented forces that had been defeated by the Islamist militia that now controls the captial city Mogadishu. The Islamic Courts Union, a militia that backs the imposition of Islamic law in Somalia, seized control of Mogadishu last week from a U.S.-backed coalition of secular warlords, renewing concerns the lawless country could become a haven for al Qaeda terrorists. The Reuters news service reported that the Islamists, led by an umbrella group of sharia courts, have invited

international journalists to see Mogadishu for the first time since they routed warlords in fighting that killed 350 people since February. The Islamists did not stop with the coastal capital, swiftly marching inland and capturing key towns nearly to the Ethiopian border as they ran off the long-powerful warlords. It has left Somalia's weak interim government, based in the south-central city of Baidoa, nearly surrounded. The Islamists say they have no interest in starting their own government, but have imposed sharia law wherever they have arrived.

SRI LANKA

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful landmine ripped through a packed bus, killing 64 people in the deadliest attack on civilians in Sri Lanka for 10 years and sparking military strikes on Tamil rebel positions. The bus crowded with villagers was heading to Kebitigollewa, in an ethnic Sinhalese district of North-Central province, when it was torn apart by the powerful blast around four kilometres (2.5 miles) from the town. Survivors said about 160 to 170 passengers had been travelling in the 60-seater bus when the Claymore mine exploded, toppling the vehicle and sending it crashing along the roadway. The military blamed it on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and sent air force jets to pound at least two rebel positions. "The air strikes were carried out as a deterrent," military spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said in Colombo. "We have taken known LTTE targets in Sampur and Mullaitivu." The rebels denied involvement and said the blast was aimed at discrediting them. The blast follows the return to the island yesterday of leaders of the LTTE after planned talks in Oslo with Sri Lankan government officials failed to take place. The rebels refused to sit at the table with a Sri Lankan delegation for what had been billed by peace broker Norway as two days of talks to discuss ways of ensuring the safety of Scandinavians monitoring the truce.

Kilinochchi, Jun 16 — Sri Lanka's air force dropped bombs near the Tamil Tiger rebel headquarters in Kilinochchi today, opening a second day of strikes in retaliation for an attack on a civilian bus that killed 64. The town was overflown once by a propeller-driven spotter aircraft just after dawn before jets flew in and dropped at least five bombs. Aid workers scurried into bunkers to take shelter. The spotter aircraft returned after the bombs fell. "We are still assessing the situation and our response," head of the rebel peace secretariat, S. Puleedevan, said. "It looks as though the government is ready for war." More than 500 people have died since early April as a 2002 cease-fire fades into low intensity conflict. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam denied responsibility for a claymore mine ambush yesterday that blasted a bus on a remote road

near rebel territory, killing 64 civilians, the worst incident since the cease-fire. In retaliation, the military bombed rebel positions along the eastern coast and also around Kilinochchi, aiming for a rebel airfield that was also targeted in a smaller retaliatory raid in May. Tiger officials said rebel territory near the government-held north-eastern port of Trincomalee was also being shelled. — Reuters.

Colombo, Jun 17 — Around 30 people were killed in heavy fighting between Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers and government forces today, officials said, and three suspected rebel frogmen were seized on a beach near the capital's airport. Sri Lankan government jets hit targets near the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) stronghold Kilinochchi for a second night, retaliating for an attack on a bus earlier in the week that killed 64. The Tigers deny the bus attack. Police in the northwest Mannar district said the attack on naval craft and security forces positions in the early hours of the morning was one of the most serious sea engagements and the most serious land action since a 2002 ceasefire. "Eight LTTE boats destroyed," said a spokesman for the defence ministry said. "They came by land and sea." The military said six navy personnel were killed along with one civilian, and around 25 Tigers were killed — reducing their estimate from an earlier 30. Local police said five civilians had been killed and more servicemen were missing. The unarmed Nordic mission monitoring the now battered ceasefire said they believed 11 navy sailors were killed. The Tigers said they had no details on their casualties. Each side blamed the other for hitting a church that was sheltering civilians trying to flee the conflict to India. The military said rebels had thrown grenades into it as they withdrew, wounding civilians. But rebel media coordinator Daya Master said the military was responsible. — Reuters.

Colombo, Jun 18 — Suspected Tamil Tiger rebel attacks killed three policemen and left two soldiers missing today, the army said, and rebels said they were attacked by government forces as a recent upsurge of violence continued. If government estimates are correct that 25-30 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels were killed in a naval clash yesterday, more than 100 people have died since Thursday (Jun 15), the worst violence since a 2002 ceasefire halted two decades of war. Police Deputy Inspector General Gamini Silva said a police water tanker was hit when a claymore fragmentation mine exploded near the northern town of Vavuniya, just south of rebel territory. He blamed the Tigers. The army said the Tigers fired on a foot patrol in the same area. The troops returned fire but two soldiers were missing in action. In another Vavuniya incident, two suspected rebels were arrested at a checkpoint

but two others escaped. Tiger eastern political leader Daya Mohan said fighters from breakaway ex-rebels and police Special Task Force troopers fired four or five shells and small-arms across the front line in the island's east today. — Reuters.

Colombo, Jun 20 — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers today recommitted to the island's 2002 ceasefire and said they had told mediator Norway that they will ensure the safety of Nordic truce monitors, but while both the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the government have now told Norway that they will honour the truce, attacks and clashes continue and many fear it is just a matter of time before a two-decade civil war reignites. "We have committed to the ceasefire agreement and Norway's facilitation role and giving diplomatic immunity and protection to the SLMM monitors who are working in the northeast," S. Puleedevan, head of the Tigers' peace secretariat, told Reuters. "When it comes to the protection of the SLMM, on the part of the LTTE, we can give a 100 percent security guarantee." The Tigers said they had sent a letter to Norway to respond to a set of questions asked after the rebels walked out of crunch talks in Oslo earlier this month without meeting the Sri Lankan government delegation. That in turn came after the Tigers warned the monitors to stay away from navy boats after a close shave in May when they fired at a patrol boat with a monitor aboard. Violence has since soared. The Tigers did not comment on their previous demand that Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) members from European Union nations leave after the EU banned them as terrorists. "We don't want to comment on that at the moment since we have just sent the letter to the Norwegians," Puleedevan said. "The problem is paramilitary groups are colluding with the armed forces. So if the paramilitary groups start targeting the SLMM, then their lives might be in danger," he added. "These groups are a big threat to the ceasefire and the peace process." — Reuters.

Colombo, Jun 21 — Sri Lanka's military said eight Tamil Tigers were killed during an overnight clash with a band of breakaway former comrades, but the rebels denied it today and accused the army of shelling their territory. "There was an incident between the Karuna faction and the LTTE in Trincomalee just after midnight. There was some firing going on from both sides," said a senior military source, asking not to be identified. "Ground and technical sources revealed eight Tiger cadres had been killed," he added. "Government forces were not involved." The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) yesterday recommitted to a 2002 ceasefire and vowed to ensure the safety of Nordic truce monitors, but many fear a rash of escalating violence — in particular a Tiger feud with a renegade

commander called Karuna — could still spiral into renewed civil war. The Tigers warned yesterday that attacks by the Karuna group, which they accuse of colluding with the military, pose “a big threat to the ceasefire and peace process” amid a rash of violence that has killed more than 700 people so far this year. “Our forward defense lines were shelled in Trincomalee,” Puratchi, head of the Tiger student union there, told Reuters by telephone. “But no-one was killed or injured. We don’t think Karuna was involved. It was military forces,” he added. — Reuters.

SUDAN

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: The Sudanese government and eastern rebels signed a declaration of principles and a ceasefire agreement in the Eritrean capital Asmara yesterday evening, the official SUNA news agency reported. Mustafa Ismail, presidential advisor and head of the government delegation, and Mohamed Ahmed, chairman of the rebel East Front, signed the two documents, according to the report. Addressing the signing ceremony, Ahmed said that the two documents created a positive climate and constituted the basis for coming negotiations, expressing hope that coming peace talks would be held in the same spirit. Ismail, on his part, highly praised Eritrea’s sponsorship of peace negotiations and efforts exerted by negotiators of the two sides to work out the two documents. Underlining the government’s commitment to solving all the conflicts in Sudan through dialogue, he said that weapons would never lead to peace but to ruins and destruction. “I want to send a message to our citizens in East Sudan that steps toward peace have started and only a just and permanent peace can end humanitarian sufferings in the east,” he added. He said that the road of peace was still very long, noting that “we are still in the first quarter of the road, patience and persistence are needed before we reach the shore of peace.” Last Tuesday (Jun 13), the two sides began peace negotiation under the auspices of the Eritrean government.

THAILAND

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Forty-one bombs exploded within less than half an hour, killing two people and wounding 16, across southern Thailand today. One of the homemade devices went off at government offices in Yala minutes before Deputy Prime Minister Chitchai Wannasathit was due to arrive for an official visit. The attacks are believed to have been carried out by Muslim insurgents who have mounted a long-running but largely hidden campaign for independence of the country’s three most southern provinces. The blasts went off between 0830am and 0900, local time, as people headed to work in the three Muslim-majority regions of

Narathiwat, Pattani and Yala, said government officials. Both fatalities occurred in the Pattani province. Police said a local official was killed by a bomb that went off at a tea shop known to draw a morning crowd of government employees. Another eight people were injured. Many of the bombs were planted in the toilets of provincial town offices and police stations, injuring three police officers in Yala province and five marines in neighbouring Narathiwat. Thaksin Shinawatra, the caretaker Prime Minister, said that intelligence had indicated insurgents were planning a “major operation” today, but the government’s security prevention network was not good enough to block the attacks. Education officials said that many schools in the region cancelled classes and sent students home amid concerns for their safety. Schools and teachers, viewed by insurgents as symbols of authority, are frequent targets of violence.

Bangkok, Jun 18 — A bomb detonated by a mobile telephone wounded six police and government officials in Thailand’s rebellious Muslim south today, police said. The 5-kg bomb hidden in a metal box exploded at an intersection in the southern province of Narathiwat where the six had stopped in their patrol car, a provincial police official said. “The bomb was detonated by mobile phone. Of the six, one was seriously injured,” said the official. A series of bomb attacks in the region last week were launched by militants to coincide with a meeting of Islamic leaders in Central Asia next week, a top Thai security official said yesterday. At least 60 small bomb attacks took place on Thursday (Jun 15) and Friday in the three southern provinces, killing at least two and wounding more than 30 people. Security officials said they expected more explosions as more than 200 small bombs like those used in the past week had been smuggled from Malaysia into the region of 1.8 million people, most of them ethnic Malays who feel more connected to Malaysia than Thailand. The Malaysian government has denied militants are using its soil to plot attacks in Thailand. — Reuters.

TURKEY

Tunceli, Turkey, Jun 18 — Turkish forces killed three Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) guerrillas in eastern Turkey today, while in the same region a bomb on a rail track wrecked a cargo train, military officials said. Soldiers, supported from the air, attacked a group of 13 Kurdish guerrillas in the mountainous province of Tunceli and killed three, an army official said. The operation continued with extra troops being sent to the area. Dozens of soldiers and militants fighting for a Kurdish homeland have been killed in recent months in clashes in eastern Turkey. Earlier today PKK members laid a bomb on a rail track which exploded as a cargo train passed, flipping 12

carriages and leaving eight unusable, another military official said. Today, the Kurdistan Liberation Hawks (TAK), a group with connections to the PKK, claimed on its website a bomb attack in the heart of Istanbul on Thursday (Jun 15), which injured four people. That attack was followed on Friday by a small bomb in a trash container in the far eastern province of Van which injured three and shattered the windows of a meteorological centre. — Reuters.

Labour Disputes



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Jun 20 — A transport strike in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which has paralysed the main port of Matadi and is in its third week, was yesterday threatening to cause shortages of basic goods. “If this blockade continues, we are going to be confronted soon with a situation of shortages in basic goods, such as fish and rice, in the markets in Kinshasa, triggering a dramatic rise in prices,” said Henri Yav, a representative of the Federation of Congo businesses (FEC). Strikers are calling for the departure of the National Transport Office’s (ONATRA) management committee, which they accuse of “financial embezzlement”. Transport Minister Heva Muakasa has suspended the committee but one of the country’s four vice presidents, Azarias Ruberwa, is supporting it ahead of the results of a government inquiry. Etienne Ntadila, head of Action, the main union at ONATRA, told reporters “there is a total strike”, and again warned that employees will not return to work until the management committee steps down. The halt in activity at the Matadi port, 360km from Kinshasa, has led to enormous losses for ONATRA, “in the order of \$500 000 dollars a day”, according to the union. According to Yav, there are 20 vessels waiting to unload their cargoes in DRC ports, costing the shipping companies between \$10 000 and \$20 000 a day.

FRANCE

London, Jun 19 — Unions at the ports of Montoir, Donges and St.Nazaire will stage a 24-hour strike from 0000, tomorrow, in protest at the internal reorganisation of port services. The strike action is expected to have repercussions on port activities such as gangway, stores deliveries, etc.

FRENCH POLYNESIA

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: A road block at French Polynesia’s main port is in its second day as fishermen threaten to cut off the sea access to the port of Papeete. The road block was set up by

members of the dissolved GIP intervention force loyal to an opposition associate who was replaced as head of the force when the new government came to power last year. The blockade was triggered purportedly because of a disagreement over which men were allowed to guard a section of the port. The action has been declared illegal in an urgent court ruling but the French state which is responsible for ensuring the freedom of movement has yet to enforce the decision. This comes as disgruntled fishermen have vowed to increase pressure on the territorial government to get industry support.

GUINEA

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Shops opened, public transport resumed and markets were bustling in the Guinean capital today after the government made significant concessions to trade unions, ending a crippling nine-day strike that was marked by violence. The leading Confederation of Guinean Workers (CNTG) and the Union Syndicate of Guinean Workers (USTG) called off the strike late Friday (Jun 16) after the government agreed to salary rises of up to 25 percent for public sector workers, and small increases in transport and rent allowances. The biggest victory belonged to teachers. The government agreed to permanently absorb some 12,000 contract instructors, who have lengthy salary arrears, into the civil service. Unions had been pressing for sharp reductions in prices for rice and fuel. The government agreed to lower the price of a 50-kilogramme bag of rice by 25,000 Guinean francs, or US \$5, to 85,000 Guinean francs, or US \$17. The government refused to budge on set prices for fuel, but agreed to let unions hereafter participate in meetings to raise or lower fuel costs.

MEXICO

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Latin American mining major Grupo Mexico may be able to resolve drawn-out strikes at its main Mexican copper mines through talks aided by government mediators, the company said yesterday. Juan Rebolledo, the company's head of international relations, told Reuters Grupo Mexico was going ahead with procedures to close La Caridad but was waiting to see if mediation by the Sonora state government could end the deadlock at the mines. Workers at Grupo Mexico's massive Cananea and La Caridad mines in the state of Sonora near the U.S. border are on strike in support of an ousted union boss.

NIGERIA

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: Striking workers of the Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL), will today resume work nation-wide following an agreement reached between the unions and the federal government.

The two factions of the workers union have unanimously agreed to call off the strike that lasted nine-days to press home their demands. In a communique issued yesterday after a meeting with government officials on Tuesday (Jun 13), the Senior Staff Association of Utilities, Statutory Corporations and Government Companies (SSAUSCGOC), said it has agreed to suspend the strike. Mr. Amamkwe Charlse, President of the National Association of Telecommunications Employees (NATE), announced the suspension of the industrial action yesterday. The NATE president said the decision to suspend the strike is in connection with government's effort to meet some of their demands. Part of the conditions agreed upon between the SSAUSCGOC leaders and government's representatives are that the strike action be suspended immediately, that outstanding salaries for the months of February to April, 2006, be paid, that other outstanding staff salaries and allowances be paid immediately after the reconciliation of NITEL's debt, that NITEL's management should immediately pursue its debts owed by Private Telecommunications Operators (PTOs) and that failure by the debtors to settle their debts, their names would be published in national newspapers and also disconnected from the network. Meanwhile, in a statement released yesterday by the Acting General Manager, Corporate Communications Department, Bala Ibrahim Abdulkadir, the management of NITEL threatened to deal with any staff who refuses to report for duty today. The statement said: "Although it was agreed in the communique that no disciplinary action be taken against staff for participating in the strike, this does not cover staff who do not report for duty after the call-off of the strike. NITEL staff who therefore, refuse to report for work immediately does so at his or her own discretion and peril." It added that already, the company has commenced the disbursement of outstanding salaries and furniture allowances to the company's zonal offices in Abuja, Lagos, Enugu, Kaduna, Ibadan and Bauchi. NITEL management said measures to avoid the recurrence of the situation are being taken and that they are putting in place facilities that will improve the services offered. Daily Trust reports that the strike paralysed telecommunications in all parts of the country as private telecommunications outfits, including GSM operators, had great difficulty interconnecting networks since NITEL provides the major backup facility as the first national carrier.

NORWAY

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated today, states: The Norwegian Oil and Petrochemical Workers Union, (NOPEF), said it had begun an oil service worker strike today after wage talks with the Norwegian Oil Industry Association collapsed earlier in the

morning, union and industry officials said. NOPEF spokesman Arild Thiemann told Dow Jones Newswires his union would take out 87 workers on 22 installations across the Norwegian Continental Shelf, including on a rig drilling Statoil ASA's (STO) 200 billion-cubic-metre Snoehvit project, which has already been hit by several cost overruns and delays. Although no oil and gas production from the world's third largest crude exporter would be immediately hit, OLF spokesman Leif Harald Halvorsen said, "It will, of course have some long term impact on production." Statoil spokesman Geir Gjervan later confirmed there would be no production impact in the next few days, but said it "might have a longer-term impact on well development and completion work." He said Statoil currently had development projects at its massive Statfjord and Snorre fields to counter declining output. Geirvan couldn't say whether Statoil had considered the implications of a full lockout, adding, "right now we're focusing on the impacts of the strike." If the strike is prolonged, similar to a four month rig strike in 2004, it could mean Norway's production target to increase output back to nearly three million barrels a day in 2006 won't be met. Thiemann said the workers' strike would affect development well work and well maintenance, both of which are necessary to either maintain or increase production on reservoirs. Many of the field are experiencing declining output. Halvorsen said the OLF still had an option to lock out all 2,600 oil service employees, but hadn't yet made a decision to exercise it: "The OLF will have to consider what to do next to make the strike come to an end." Industry experts said the OLF, if it called a lockout, would be trying to force government intervention. The government can force arbitration on parties in labour conflicts if it threatens the security or economic health of the country or international markets. "We are prepared to strike as long as it takes to get a solution we want," Thiemann said. Veteran oilman and government advisor Willy Olsen previously told Dow Jones Newswires he didn't believe the government would intervene until a substantial amount of production was cut. In the meanwhile, he said drilling companies would be hard hit, and conflict escalation may delay Norsk Hydro ASA's (NHY) planned drilling program for Gazprom OAO's (GSPBEX.RS) Shtokman seventh well scheduled for the third quarter. Olsen said a lockout could start to hit production in days, depending on which platforms are affected. If OLF decided to go ahead with a lockout, it would have to give four days notice before the action. NOPEF said among the installations the action will affect include several of ConocoPhillip's (COP) Ekofisk platforms, Norsk Hydro's Hiedrun and Oseberg platforms, and Statoil's Snorre and Statfjord platforms. The

strike would affect units of Baker Hughes (BHI), Schlumberger (SLB), Oceaneering International (OII), Halliburton (HAL), Weatherford International (WFT) and Aker Kvaerner (AKVER.OS), as well as Geoservices, MI Norge, Acergy (ACY.OS) and other oil service companies. Besides Statoil, Hydro and ConocoPhillips, a lockout would hit major oil operators such as ExxonMobil (XOM), Chevron (CVX) and Royal Dutch Shell (RDSA), all of which have drilling programs scheduled for 2006 and 2007.

PERU

Lima, Jun 20 — Chinese-owned iron miner Shougang Hierro Peru SA has halted its 18,000-tonne-a-day production because of a pay strike by workers, causing losses of \$400,000 a day, the company said today. “Unfortunately, our operations are frozen. The work normally done by the miners has halted,” Shougang Peru’s General Manager Raul Vera told Reuters. — Reuters.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Jeffreys Bay police are investigating a case of public violence, after things turned nasty among local fishermen. There is tension over an ongoing strike and cases of intimidation have been reported. Earlier today a fisherman’s bakkie and trailer were removed from the beach while he was fishing. His vehicle was later torched. Mariannette Olivier, a police spokesperson, says no arrests have been made but the act is linked to the ongoing fishermen strike. The strike mainly affects the lucrative chokka (squid) industry’s 2 000 employees and their families. They want ordinary fishermen to join the strike, but ordinary fishermen have refused. Igme Rademeyer, a fisherman, says for the last four weeks, all the line fishermen have been intimidated by the strikers, who threaten to cause problems for ordinary fishermen if they go to sea. The South African Fishermen’s Trade Union has denied employers’ claims that a small group of disgruntled workers is holding the entire industry to ransom with their intimidating tactics.

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated Jun 18, states: Metrorail management will decide tomorrow whether to cut or reduce train services on the Khayelitsha line, after an arson attack on the line at the weekend. The Cape Regional Chamber of Commerce has warned that small traders and organised business will be badly affected if services are cut. Arsonists torched train coaches at the Philippi train station yesterday morning. Metrorail’s operations manager, Steve Ngobeni, said the train line in question had sustained damage of between R24-million (£1.87 million) and R30-million (£2.34 million) since the start of the security strike. “We can’t incur such damage without cutting services. We have

reached a stage where there is no fleet. If anything happens (now), there will be no two ways about it, the service must be cut. We are going to try and run a normal service tomorrow (Monday) out of our resources, but the problem is if anything happens we will have to cut. We have reached a situation where we are at the bone,” said Ngobeni. The chamber’s deputy director, Colin Boyes, said large numbers of the city’s workforce travelled on the affected line to and from work. “Obviously from the traders’ and organised business’s side, this (cutting of the line) would be a radical step. But this points to the seriousness of the situation. We can’t continue with this sort of vandalism. But the problem can’t be just left to Metrorail to sort out, other stakeholders must be included,” said Boyes. Boyes said commuters would resort to the taxi industry because they would have nowhere else to go for transport. “The Khayelitsha/Kapteinsklip line is a major arterial route for many working class who do not have private transport. This calls for a high level meeting,” he said. This weekend’s incident was the third time the Kapteinsklip line has been sabotaged. Police spokesperson Billy Jones said the incident took place shortly after 0500 hrs, on a train travelling from Cape Town to Kapteinsklip. “At the Philippi train station one of the people at the station saw about six people fleeing from the train and that two carriages had been set alight. The first two carriages were burnt out,” said Jones. There had been about R4-million (£313,000) damage. Uniformed policemen were deployed on trains last month in an attempt to protect drivers and commuters during the security guards’ strike. This was after two trains and a Metrorail ticket office had been set alight, prompting the closure of the Khayelitsha and Kapteinsklip lines during the morning and afternoon peak hours.

Johannesburg, Jun 20 — A South African security guard strike that sparked violent protests and allegations of gruesome murders looked headed for resolution today with agreement of a draft wage deal. Several security guard unions went on strike three months ago, and protest marches erupted into violent demonstrations in several cities, fanning public fears in a country plagued with some of the world’s highest crime rates. Police also blamed striking workers for a rash of incidents in which passengers were hurled to their deaths from speeding trains, although union officials denied their members were involved. After mediation, union officials said today they were ready to go to their members with a new three-year wage offer from employers, including a 9.25 percent increase for the first year and 7.25 percent for each of the next two years, the SAPA news agency said. “Hopefully we will sign this agreement on Thursday (Jun 22),” said Tsietsi Mpyane, a spokesman for

the Transport and Allied Workers Union of South Africa. Officials at the other main striking union, SATAWU, also expressed hope that its members would accept the deal. Insurance industry officials said this week 58 security guards had been killed since the strike began on March 23, including at least 18 thrown from commuter trains, possibly as a result of clashes between striking and non-striking guards. The outbreak of train violence forced South Africa’s commuter rail system to consider calling in the military to bolster security, particularly in the Johannesburg area. — Reuters.

TAHITI

London, Jun 17 — A French Polynesian government minister, James Salmon, has described the blockade of the port road in Papeete by workers loyal to an opposition associate as a rebellion. The blockade of Tahiti’s main port is in its third day and has been joined by disgruntled fishermen, who in a separate dispute have used trawlers and boats to block the entrance to the port. The workers at the blockade say they have stopped all access to the port because a deal struck in January about staff deployment at the port has been reneged by the government, but Mr Salmon says he has no knowledge of any such arrangement. Although the French state is to ensure freedom of movement and a court has ruled that the blockades are illegal, there has been no intervention. The blockade at sea has now also stopped ferry traffic between Tahiti and Moorea.

London, Jun 18 — A press report, dated Jun 17, states: An illegal blockade of the only bridge to French Polynesia’s main port on the island of Tahiti has been lifted as employers threatened to close businesses and lay off staff from Monday in protest at the interruptions. The blockade was lifted after three days following talks with the French high commission which is responsible for ensuring the freedom of movement. The action was led by the former head of the GIP intervention force, Rere Puputauki, who is an associate of the former president, Gaston Flosse, in a protest at work arrangements in the port area. Meanwhile, disgruntled fisherman whose action had stopped the movement of ships in the port of Papeete have been given a new administrative status to be represented in new organisations.

Awards & Settlements



ACCIDENTAL DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: A jury has awarded \$2 million to a couple whose four-year-old son died after being run

over by a riding lawn mower at his day care centre. The Roanoke Circuit Court jury yesterday found the mower's manufacturer liable for the April, 2004, death of Justin Simmons. Cleveland-based MTD Products Corp said it would appeal. The jury held MTD responsible for not designing a mower that automatically stops its blades whenever it rolls backward. No such mower exists or has ever been tested, company attorney John Fitzpatrick said. Jurors awarded \$500,000 each to Ron and Kristie Simmons, Justin's parents, and \$1 million to his three-year-old brother, Josh. Day care provider Roberta Reedy, who had been watching Justin, his brother and two other children, was inside changing a nappy when the accident happened, authorities said. The company argued that her husband, Orvil, had ignored safety warnings. Justin's family is seeking an out-of-court settlement with the Reedys.

FATALITY DUE ROAD ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: The city of Dearborn has reached a \$6 million settlement in a fatal accident of a motorist by a traffic ordinance officer. Agron Seiko was convicted of negligent homicide in the 2003 death of William Owen of Canton Township. A Wayne County Circuit jury returned a \$25 million verdict last year. "It's more than the city wanted to pay, but it's significantly less than the judgment," said Chip Boyle, an attorney who represented the city in the case. "It was an unfortunate tragedy that happened and the city was responsible for that because of their employee. The city is pleased with the result." Seiko, then 20, was assigned to write parking tickets and impound cars, but joined a police chase, and crashed into a car driven by Owen, 35. Owen was leaving work and not involved in the case. On behalf of the family, attorney Geoffrey Feiger filed a lawsuit against Dearborn's insurer, AIG Insurance Co. The company initially refused to settle the suit. The settlement, reached Tuesday (Jun 13), was a result of the city's appeal. The city, in its appeal, asserted numerous instances of improper conduct and adverse decisions that could have prejudiced jurors. Oakland County Chief Judge Wendy Potts, acting on the authority of the Court of Appeals, said because of trial court irregularities raised in the appeal, the ruling could have been reversed. That would have meant the case would have been sent back to Wayne County to be tried again. City officials consider the ruling a victory. It also means residents will not have to foot the bill beyond its insurance policy. The city is insured at \$12 million.

INFLATED CHARGES FOR SERIOUSLY ILL PATIENTS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: Federal

prosecutors say New Jersey's largest health care provider cheated Medicare out of more than half a billion dollars. Saint Barnabas Health Care System will pay \$265 million to settle allegations that it inflated charges for seriously ill patients. It also must accept an outside monitor who will supervise Medicare billings for six years. Saint Barnabas, which operates nine hospitals, does not admit wrongdoing. Prosecutors alleged that over an eight-year period, Saint Barnabas hospitals deliberately inflated charges under the Medicare program that increases reimbursements to hospitals that care for people with medical complications. Authorities say it's the first settlement involving Medicare's supplemental reimbursement program.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 18 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Newburyport woman who had to have both breasts removed after a botched breast-reduction operation was awarded \$3.5 million. A Superior Court jury in Lawrence found Dr. Michele T. Sasmor, a plastic surgeon from Newburyport, negligent in Celine Vincent's 2002 operation. Vincent, 63, filed the lawsuit in 2003 after her second breast reduction surgery. Her first surgery was at a hospital in Montreal in 1961, in which the doctors used a technique that kept blood flowing at the top of the breast and cut tissue from the bottom. In 2002, after she had three children and gained 40 pounds, Vincent had another operation, Thompson said. She went to Sasmor at Anna Jacques Hospital in Newburyport. When Sasmor did the surgery, Thompson said, she kept blood flowing at the bottom of the breast and cut tissue from the top, the opposite of how it's routinely done. Thompson said Sasmor did not check how the previous operation was done. "She assumed it was done the way she was doing it, and she was mistaken." The result was a disruption of blood flow in Vincent's breasts, killing the tissue, and resulting their removal.

MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated Jun 19, states: A New York woman who was left severely brain damaged after surgery has been awarded \$8.5 million by a jury, the patient's lawyer said today. Karine Aquilino, 37, of Lake Peekskill, N.Y., was semi-comatose for nearly a year after the surgery on August 7, 2000, at Mount Sinai Hospital to insert a shunt to drain fluid from her brain, said her lawyer, Thomas Moore. The Putnam County woman now has speech, walking and balance problems, cannot do tasks such as supermarket shopping, household chores and personal care, and will never be able to work again, the lawyer said. After a three-week trial

and two days of deliberations, a jury in Manhattan's state Supreme Court returned the verdict late last week. The panel awarded Aquilino \$1.95 million for pain and suffering, \$4 million for future aid and assistance, \$1 million for lost earnings, and \$1.55 million for future medical care and therapy, all of it to be paid by Mount Sinai. The jury apparently agreed with Moore, who argued that Mt. Sinai and its neurosurgeon, Dr. Isabelle Germano, "failed miserably" to monitor Aquilino properly after the shunt surgery. Moore said that after the surgery, the doctors should have done a CT scan (computerized tomography, similar to an X-ray) which would have shown that the shunt was draining too much fluid too quickly and causing the bleeding around her brain. "A CT scan, inexplicably, was never performed," the lawyer said. "It was a departure from protocol that produced devastating results." Aquilino returned to the hospital on September 13, about five weeks after her initial discharge, Moore said. Instead of performing emergency surgery to relieve pressure on her brain, hospital staff let her languish for hours in the emergency room, resulting in her semi-comatose state, Moore said.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A 26 year old Suffolk man has won £6.8million in damages following a car crash that left him needing round the clock care. Paul White, of Orchard Close, Woodbridge, was left severely brain damaged and unable to speak after the accident which happened on Foxhall Road, Kesgrave, Ipswich, in May 2000.

UNLAWFUL KILLING, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated Jun 18, states: A judge has reduced punitive damages awarded to the family of a man poisoned by his wife, cutting \$90 million from the amount returned by a jury in March. A Superior Court jury found Kristin Rossum guilty in a civil trial, four years after she was convicted in a criminal case of killing Gregory de Villers in one of San Diego's most notorious murder cases. The jury ordered Rossum to pay \$4.5 million in compensatory damages and \$100 million in punitive damages, but last week, Judge John S. Meyer reduced the punitive award to \$10 million, saying the jury's award violated due process because the ratio between the compensatory and punitive damages was too large. The De Villers family agreed to the reduction in order to avoid a new trial. "Essentially, in our view, the difference in amount wasn't worth seating a jury and trying that very general issue all over again," said John Gomez, the family's attorney. The jury had decided that Rossum should pay the \$100 million

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to prevent her from profiting from a book or movie deal. Rossum is serving a sentence of life without the possibility of parole at a women's state prison in Chowchilla. Rossum, acting on her own, had asked for a new trial, arguing that the punitive award was the product of "passion and prejudice." She is appealing the guilty verdict in the criminal case. Meyer also ordered San Diego County to pay the De Villers family more than \$27,500 to cover trial costs. That figure is in addition to the \$1.5 million the jury ordered the county to pay. Rossum was found guilty in the criminal trial of poisoning De Villers with an overdose of fentanyl, a painkiller that she allegedly stole from work. Rossum was employed as a county toxicologist, and the jury found the county partially responsible.

Railway Accidents



MISSOULA, MONTANA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated Jun 18, states: Five cars of a BNSF Railway train operated by Montana Rail Link derailed in Missoula early today, spilling 10,000 gallons of ethanol alcohol and causing several homes to be evacuated. The 75-car train was westbound from Laurel to Pasco, Wash., when the five cars derailed around 0530. Officials believe the cars hit a broken rail in the Montana Rail Link yard, Montana Rail Link spokeswoman Lynda Frost said. One of the cars was empty, one was carrying machinery, another soybean meal and two were carrying ethanol alcohol, she said. No one was injured, and the fuel spilled from one of the alcohol cars was covered with foam to keep it from igniting. The contaminated soil will likely be removed from the site, Frost said. Four nearby homes were evacuated as a precaution, although Frost expected the residents to be allowed back in later today after crews removed the last derailed car.

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated Jun 20, states: Crews are still working to clean up after five train cars derailed at the Montana Rail Link switch yard in Missoula Sunday morning (Jun 18). One of the cars that went off the tracks spilled ethanol onto the ground. Crews from M-R-L and the health department are working on the clean up. Crews are now working on cleaning up the areas saturated by the thousands of gallons of ethanol that spilled from the car. Health officials have been taking air and soil samples so they can determine the level of contamination. Those sample results will help determine how much ethanol permeated the soil and also help MRL

figure out the best way to start removal. A broken rail caused the derailment, but track crews were on the scene to repair the track. The M-R-L spokesperson says it's too soon to tell how long the clean up will take. Missoula Mayor John Engen says he wants to get together with Montana Rail Link, and emergency response workers.

SWEETWATER, MONROE COUNTY, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A train derailment in Monroe County is forcing hundreds of residents to flee their homes at this hour. Twenty train cars carrying two highly flammable chemicals derailed near Highway 11 at Fish Hatchery Road around 0300 hrs. Authorities have moved families living within a half mile of the site to Sweetwater High School. The two chemicals on the train, Propylene oxide and Methyl methacrylate monomer, are highly flammable and pose a serious health hazard to anyone who comes into contact with them. The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, Monroe County EMA, and several fire departments are working to clean up the area at this time.

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A freight train with tanker cars of hazardous chemicals derailed early today, leading emergency officials to evacuate dozens of residents from homes within half a mile of the accident. No leaks or injuries were reported, Norfolk Southern Corp spokeswoman Susan Terpay said. The train was travelling between Chattanooga and Knoxville when 21 cars went off the tracks at about 0245 hrs. Five of the cars were carrying hazardous materials, Terpay said. "In situations like this the safest thing to do is to transfer the loads into another container, and I believe that what's going on right now," Terpay said. The train's cargo included liquid propane, carbon dioxide, the polymer methyl ethyl acrylate and the chemical propylene oxide, which is used to make polyurethane, flame retardants and synthetic lubricants, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency spokesman Donnie Smith said. "This kind of stuff is poisonous to breathe," Smith said. The train derailed just outside Sweetwater, about 40 miles south-west of Knoxville, in farmland dotted with new housing developments. Smith said 65 people were voluntarily evacuated as a precaution. Monroe County Sheriff Doug Watson said the accident occurred on a fairly straight section of track and he did not know what would have caused the train to derail. Norfolk Southern rerouted train traffic from the line, and US11, which runs near the tracks, was closed until tomorrow, Watson said.

Computer Systems



SIXEM-A WORM

London, Jun 22 — A press report, dated Jun 21, states: Football fans are being warned about a malicious worm that uses world Cup themed e-mails to infect Windows PCs. The Sixem-A worm is spread in messages with subject lines such as "Naked World Cup game set" and "Crazy soccer fans." Once installed, the worm attempts to disable security software, leaving the computer open to further attack. Security firms advise computer users not to open e-mail attachments unless they are expecting them and to keep security software up to date. "It was only time before we started seeing hackers taking advantage of the fun and festive time people are having around the World Cup," said James Rendell, senior technology specialist at Internet Security Systems. Malicious coders often take advantage of celebrity names or large news events to spread viruses and worms. "Millions of people world-wide are following the World Cup and will be using the internet and e-mail to keep up to date with all the action," said Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant at security firm Sophos. The latest threat uses a variety of different e-mails to spread to different machines. Common subject lines include "Soccer fans killed five teens" and claim to come from US news organisation CNN. Others tempt people with pictures of nude soccer players. The e-mail reads "Nudists are organising their own tribute to the world cup, by staging their own nude soccer game, though it is not clear how the teams will tell each other apart. Good photos." Once a user has opened the e-mail message, the Sixem-A worm automatically downloads software that disables a user's security settings. It also harvests e-mail addresses so that it can continue to spread. Security firms have now developed a patch for the worm but advise windows users to remain vigilant for the rest of the tournament.

Miscellaneous



OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

Winnipeg, Jun 18 — Canada is investigating a second backyard poultry flock for bird flu, although all birds remain healthy, authorities said today. "A quarantine has been instituted at that premise and it's because there's been contact either

with live birds or through foot traffic and potential contamination with the original infected farm," said Canadian Food Inspection Agency veterinarian Jim Clark. The CFIA announced on Friday (Jun 16) it had detected a case of H5 avian flu in a gosling from a backyard poultry flock after four goslings died in the eastern province of Prince Edward Island. Test results are expected on Tuesday (Jun 20), to determine whether the virus is a North American or Asian strain. If there is enough virus present, the CFIA will be able to determine whether it is a high or low pathogen strain. "There's no direct evidence that the influenza virus was the cause of the problem in the four birds that died," Clark added. All birds on the second farm, adjacent to the original farm, remain healthy and the CFIA has taken some swab samples to determine if the virus exists on that farm. The noncommercial flock of 35 to 40 ducks, geese and chickens on the original farm were euthanized by the CFIA on Friday, and the farm was quarantined. Backyard flocks within three kilometres were being monitored. — Reuters.

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated today, states: The World Health Organization has confirmed that a 14-year-old boy who died last week was infected with bird flu, a Health Ministry official said yesterday. Hariadi Wibisono, director for animal-originated infectious disease eradication at the ministry, told Kyodo News that the boy, who lived in Jakarta, had a history of contact with dead birds. The WHO confirmation, according to Wibisono, brings the death toll in the country to 40 of 53 confirmed cases.

OUTBREAK OF BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY, WORLDWIDE

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Japan and the United States agreed today, after marathon talks, that Japan will lift its reinstated ban on American beef after inspecting U.S. meatpacking plants to confirm safeguard measures against mad cow disease, Japanese government officials said. The first U.S. beef shipment under the resumed trade is expected to reach the Japanese market in the second half of July at the earliest, giving time for Japan to conduct inspections at U.S. meatpacking plants. The accord came at an on-again, off-again teleconference started yesterday night between senior officials from the two countries. The talks were suspended in the early hours of today and restarted later in the morning. As one condition for the lifting of the reinstated ban, Japan's Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry will send officials to the United States to inspect whether 35 meatpacking plants certified to ship beef to Japan are complying with export requirements, the officials said. Only facilities whose safety

measures are judged by Japanese officials as appropriate will be authorized to export beef to Japan, they said. Given the current ban was imposed only a month after the original two-year-old embargo was lifted in December, many Japanese consumers remain concerned about the safety of American beef. The lifting of the reinstated ban is widely seen by critics as a political "gift" to U.S. President George W. Bush from Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi before the two meet in Washington on June 29. Japan on December 12, ended its original ban imposed on American beef following the discovery of the first U.S. case of mad cow disease, formally known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy. It reinstated the ban on January 20 after backbone parts were discovered in a veal shipment at Narita airport. The spinal column is a specified risk material prohibited under bilaterally agreed export requirements. Under the agreement, shipments to Japan are limited to beef from cattle aged 20 months or younger, with the brain, spinal cord and other specified BSE risk materials removed. The United States has been frustrated with the long-running import ban, with lawmakers urging Japan to lift the embargo at an early date with the threat of trade sanctions. Japan had been the largest importer of U.S. beef before the ban. In addition to inspections at the U.S. meatpacking plants by Japanese officials, Japan will improve its safety measures for resumed trade by taking such steps as increasing the volume of U.S. beef to be inspected on arrival at Japanese airports or ports, the officials said. The United States will carry out surprise inspections of the authorized facilities and come up with better beef export manuals to make sure they continue to meet export conditions, the officials said. They said Japanese officials will accompany U.S. Agriculture Department officials for the inspections. The beef trade resumption accord follows a series of sessions held earlier this month across the nation by the Japanese government with consumers, beef wholesalers, restaurant operators and others to explain Washington's efforts to prevent another shipment of beef products containing banned materials. For the time being, many Japanese leading retailers and restaurant operators are expected to have second thoughts about using U.S. beef for their businesses as consumers are still skittish about eating it after the discovery of the risk material in January. A spokesman for retailer Ito-Yokado Co. has said its outlets have no immediate plan to sell U.S. beef, noting that it has not gained consumer support for doing so. Rivals Aeon Co. and Daiei Inc. have also said they will not put U.S. beef products on the shelves immediately after the resumption.

RISING OM (Panama)

London, Jun 18 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Undeclared

foreign currency to the tune of about Rs 9 lakh, 33 foreign liquor bottles and 30 cartons of foreign cigarettes have been seized from chemical tanker *Rising Om* (237 gt, built 1984), which arrived in Kochi from Singapore. The office of the Rummaging and Intelligence divisions of Customs (Preventive) Commissionerate, in Kochi unearthed the foreign currency and the rest of the articles on Jun 14, P Ayyam Perumal, Customs Commissioner (Preventive), said in a press release in Kochi. On enquiry, the crew stated that they were afraid of pirates and thieves and hence did not to declare them in the port. However, the adjudicating authority imposed a redemption fine and penalty of Rs 50,000.

Fires & Explosions



CAR DEALERSHIP, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 18 — An early morning fire ripped through a Chevrolet dealership in Los Angeles County yesterday, causing at least \$3 million in damage, authorities said. Fire Battalion Chief Bruce Stedman said the blaze, which started about 0130 hrs at the Alhambra dealership, destroyed about two-thirds of the building, along with at least several cars. The cause was being investigated, but was not considered suspicious, he said. Firefighters from six departments responded, and it took about 90 minutes to bring the blaze under control, Stedman said. No one was injured.

CHEMICAL PLANT, DANGTU COUNTY, CHINA

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Six people were killed and at least 30 were injured in a chemical plant blast, yesterday afternoon, in Anhui Province. A provincial government source said the blast occurred at a workshop of Dun'an Chemical Group Co Ltd in Dangtu County. The provincial government has formed a working team to organize the rescue operation.

Beijing, Jun 17 — An explosion at a chemical plant in the eastern Chinese province of Anhui has killed at least 14 people and injured 30, Xinhua news agency reported today. It was not clear how many workers were inside the plant owned by the Dunan Chemical Group Co Ltd. when the blast happened yesterday afternoon, the report said. An initial investigation found that the factory produces explosives for civilian uses such as mining, and the presence of combustible material raised fears there could be more blasts and was making rescue work slow. — Reuters.

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

London, Jun 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Death toll in a chemical plant blast in east China's Anhui Province rose to 14 as of yesterday afternoon, and two workers are still missing, a provincial work safety official confirmed. "The death toll has risen to 14, so far 24 injured workers are receiving medical treatment in hospital, and three of them are still in critical condition," said Chen Shuo, deputy director of the Anhui Provincial Administration of Work Safety, in a briefing at the blast site in Dangtu County. The blast site has been cordoned off and rescue and search work is going on. The two-story workshop complex has been razed to the ground. Rescuers said that their work is difficult, since there are combustible materials in the plant, which might lead to further blasts. The blast occurred at 1509, Jun 16, at a workshop of Dun'an chemical Group Co, Ltd in Dangtu County. The provincial government has founded a working team, headed by Vice Governor Huang Haisong. According to an initial investigation, the plant produces explosives for such civilian uses as mining. The blast was ignited in the emulsification process of the powder.

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll in a chemical plant explosion in eastern China has risen to 16, with 24 workers hospitalised with injuries, a state-run newspaper said today. The explosion on Friday (Jun 16) razed the two-story chemical explosives factory owned by the Dun'an Chemical Group Co Ltd in Anhui province. On Saturday, the government had said the explosion killed 14. Ten bodies recovered were identified as workers but the other six were burned beyond recognition, the China Daily newspaper said today. It was not immediately clear how many people were working at the time of the explosion. Some 24 workers were receiving treatment at local hospitals, the newspaper said. An initial investigation found that there were at least four tons of explosives in the workshop and the blast was probably triggered during powder mixing, it said.

GAS PLANT, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: Key findings after the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board's look into the Jun 24, 2005, fire and explosion at Praxair Inc.'s plant in St. Louis: Hot weather (an outdoor temperature of 97 degrees) and cylinders stored on asphalt played roles in igniting the fire. Fires at three other gas repackaging facilities in the U.S. since 1997 have also been blamed on leaking propylene containers. For companies that store gas cylinders, the CSB recommends: Fire protection systems to cool cylinders and limit the spread of fires. Adding barriers to contain exploding propylene cylinders within the

facility. Gas detection systems that can sound an alarm and activate fire mitigation systems. Revised industry standards for relief valves on propylene cylinders. Source: U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

MINE, TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Four miners were lucky to escape a fire that ripped through a mine in northern Tasmania last night, just two months after the Beaconsfield disaster. Firefighters worked throughout the night to contain the fire at the open-cut Savage River mine and damage was expected to halt production for months. Four workers were welding on a steel cylinder in the iron ore mine's grinding concentration mill at 2030, AEST, last night when the fire started, a police spokeswoman said. The fire was out of control within minutes and crews were still extinguishing spot fires after more than 12 hours battling the blaze.

OIL DEPOT, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 16 — The fire at the Buncefield oil depot in Hertfordshire last year cost businesses £70 million, according to a study for the East of England Development Agency. A total of 25 businesses on the Maylands industrial park surrounding the depot were seriously affected by the blast. Of those, 16 have had to relocate their operations, resulting in job moves for 1,422 people. Redundancies have been limited to 79 people, 21 of whom have found alternative employment. — The Daily Telegraph.

PIER, SOUTHEND ON SEA, ESSEX, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A report into the fire that destroyed large parts of Southend-on-Sea's Pier last year has praised the work of the emergency services but highlighted safety issues that need to be improved. The cause of the fire, which took hold of the Essex town's famous landmark in October 2005 has yet to be established, but the report by the town's Borough Council says that all new buildings and existing parts of the pier must be fitted with fire monitoring, alarm, sprinkler fittings and have fire-secure locked facilities for rubbish. They must be linked to a 24 hour monitoring service and with testing and maintenance carried out regularly. The report also wants to see a better system to check who's on the pier outside normal opening hours.

PREMISES, NELLIS AND LAKE MEAD AREA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews continue to clean up the debris left behind after a fire burned several businesses in a strip mall located near Nellis and Lake Mead. Some businesses were burned pretty badly, but fire crews were able to knock out

the flames pretty quickly. From the outside, things look devastating, but on the inside it appears that a lot of these stores were able to salvage quite a bit. The fire burned mostly in the attic and in the awning of five different stores including a postal shop, Radio Shack, AA Rent to Own and a smoke shop. Fire crews say some of the stores can be rebuilt, but that probably won't happen for at least another month. They also say none of those businesses that burned have sprinklers and that's why the fire grew so big. Firefighters spent yesterday morning mopping up what was left of a fire in the northeast part of the Valley. It started just before 0300 hrs at a shopping center at Nellis and Lake Mead. At least six businesses were destroyed. When firefighters first arrived, they saw flames shooting 30 feet in the air. The building where the blaze ignited did not have sprinklers, which is partly why the flames were so large and why they quickly spread. Investigators are still trying to find the cause. It started in an unoccupied building of the shopping center. Businesses at the end of the shopping center had people inside, but they were quickly evacuated when they saw the flames. Forty-five firefighters responded to get the fire under control. Investigators say early estimates show damage to be over \$1 million.

REFINERY, PETIT COURONNE, FRANCE

London, Jun 21 — Oil major Royal Dutch Shell has shut the crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Petit Couronne refinery in France after a fire Monday (Jun 19), a Shell spokeswoman said today. The fire broke out in a furnace at the CDU early on Monday at the 142,000 barrels per day (bpd) plant. "The particular unit we had the fire in has been shut down," the spokeswoman said. "Other units will be impacted when we run out of feedstocks for them." The outage supported spot gasoline prices in northwest Europe today, traders said. Petit Couronne, in northwest France, accounts for about seven percent of France's refinery capacity and is the largest of Shell's three French plants. — Reuters.

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

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 14, states: There are new findings about the fatal oil explosion last Monday (Jun 5) in Smith County. Three Stringer Oilfield Services employees were killed at Partidge-Raleigh oil field, after a series of explosions. An ongoing investigation reveals startling details about potentially hazardous practices at that facility and at others in the oil and gas industry. Investigators from the U.S. Chemical Safety Board believe it was two explosions in rapid succession that killed 3 oil workers and seriously injured another, as all four were working on top of the

production tanks in Raleigh. "The welder was beginning to attach piping when sparks from his welding tool likely caused explosive vapors to ignite," says CSB Investigator Johnnie Banks. The explosions threw one worker more than 25 feet from the tank, and scattered debris 130 feet away. CSB investigators have interviewed eye witnesses and more than a dozen employees, learning Stringer Oilfield Services, based in Columbia, may have allowed a very dangerous practice. Employees often use an open flame to test whether gas is present in a tank. "We're trying to find out just how prevalent that practice is in the industry overall," says Banks. The incident in Raleigh serves as a catalyst for CSB. They're now shifting the investigation into one of the entire oil and gas industry. Carolyn Merritt, Chairman of CSB, says: "We're concerned about this industry's sector." In 2004 there were nearly 44 fatalities for every 100 thousand oil and gas industry workers. That's far more than even the dangerous coal mining industry, which led to nearly 30 fatalities for every 100 thousand workers. "What we want to do is try to find out what's causing them what are their practices, and we're just at the beginning of that investigation," says Merritt. That industry wide investigation will take about a year to complete. As for the Partridge-Raleigh oilfield explosion, CSB plans to collect samples from the oil tanks, review company documents, and continue interviewing witnesses. The U.S. Chemical Safety Board's investigation is independent from other agencies. The state Oil and Gas Board and the Department of Environmental Quality are also investigating the fatal explosion.

WAREHOUSE, PEARLAND, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated Jun 20, states: A warehouse fire destroyed millions of pounds of donated food and supplies that a charity had stockpiled for the upcoming hurricane season and dozens of other efforts. The 64,000-square foot Christian Alliance for Humanitarian Aid Inc. warehouse, filled with several million dollars worth of donations, was largely ruined after yesterday's blaze that firefighters are still investigating. No one was injured. Insurance won't cover much of the losses, said Curtis Wilke, the non-profit's executive director.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: An estimated 65,500-acre wildland fire south of Fairbanks is about 25% contained, fire information officer Tom Kempton said yesterday. The fire is burning a swath of forest largely on the east side of the Parks Highway from the city of Nenana at 305 Mile south to 291 Mile, which is about four miles north-east of Anderson, according to

an Alaska Fire Service map. Winds from the north expected today and tomorrow prompted crews to cut a fire break with bulldozers to protect about 30 houses in the fire's anticipated path, Kempton said. Firefighters staged burnouts from the fire's southern edge toward wildlands scarred by a previous forest fire, Kempton said. The wildland fire was ignited last week by hot ash dumped in the woods and has claimed two houses, as many cabins and several outbuildings, mainly near the city of Nenana. No one has been charged though a Parks Highway resident has been cited for a burn violation for starting the fire, according to Alaska Division of Forestry officials. The fire has drawn 500 firefighters, which is nearly the population of Nenana or Anderson. Twenty-three engines, four helicopters and nine bulldozers are being used in the firefighting effort, Kempton said.

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: A wildland fire near Delta Junction is 100% contained, while officials continue to watch a wildfire growing near the Little Delta River south of Birch Lake. The fire has reached at least 12,000 acres.

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: About 100 residents fled their homes yesterday after a wildfire that broke out in the San Isabel National Forest near Westcliffe grew to 250 acres. The fire began when a falling tree took down a power line in Tyndall Gulch and was driven along by 45-mph winds. The wind made it impossible for helicopters or tankers to make air drops, according to Mike Smith, fire information officer for the U.S. Forest Service office in CaOon City. Unable to get the fire under control in the high winds, firefighters worked to protect homes nestled in the woods along Colorado Highway 96, cutting away trees and brush and soaking siding. Numerous fires broke out yesterday across Colorado, parched by temperatures exceeding 100 and gusting winds after months of drought. South of Denver, a fire possibly sparked by a train burned 30 acres, and C-470 and U.S. 85 were shut down until firefighters got the blaze under control. In north-western Colorado, wind gusts up to 45 mph pushed a wildfire across 3,700 acres north of Dinosaur National Monument. The nearby town of Greystone was evacuated and more than 80 firefighters worked on the blaze, which began after a stump left smoldering from a lightning strike last week ignited. In northern Colorado, a 25-acre fire burned in Brinker Gulch, about 8 miles south of Hot Sulphur Springs. A bulldozer line was dug around the fire area, but officials weren't calling it contained Wednesday evening. The Tyndall Gulch fire, about 75 miles south-west of Colorado Springs, was reported around noon by an area resident who said flames were within 500 feet of her home. About 100 people chose to

evacuate and some would spend the night in Custer County High School in Westcliffe. One home had fire damage to its exterior, but no injuries had been reported by late yesterday. About 100 firefighters from the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, prison fire crews and Rye, Wet Mountain and Oak Creek Fire Protection Districts continued guarding homes and building fire lines last night.

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A small fire quickly turned into a monster this windy afternoon scorching 1,000 acres and threatening homes in Santa Fe County just north Edgewood. The Mosley Fire was reported around 1400 hrs and pushed by heavy winds sent broad fingers of flame charging across the range. Authorities evacuated residents north of NM 472 and by late afternoon were not yet letting them return. One Bernalillo County firefighter was reported caught in the flames suffering minor burns to his face while his protective gear prevented worse injuries. There were no reports to damage to structures although flames came dangerously close to home and did ignite what appeared to be construction materials near one house. Fire departments from Santa Fe, Torrance and Bernalillo Counties responded as did area volunteer departments. The exact cause of the fire is still unknown although initial speculation suggested the winds may have caused two power lines to touch and shower sparks to the ground.

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A 6200 acre wildfire is 80-% contained as crews continue to keep flames from the Potato fire away from homes near Heber. A spokesman for the team assigned to fighting the Potato Fire says it's no longer moving northward but is still a half mile away from the closest home. The fire is expected to be fully contained by tomorrow night. Nearly 600 firefighters are battling the lightning-caused fire. An evacuation was ordered late Monday afternoon for 26 threatened homes but authorities say it may be lifted soon. Some residents in the Chevelon Retreat and Chevelon Acres subdivisions about ten miles north of Heber obeyed the order, while others chose to stay.

London, Jun 18 — A press report, dated Jun 17, states: Residents were allowed to return to their south-western New Mexico homes briefly today, as fire crews continued to battle a wildfire that had forced an evacuation two days earlier. Pinon, juniper and ponderosa pine trees are fueling the lightning-caused fire, which has charred 8,535 acres since it was first reported Jun 2 in the Gila National Forest. More than 200 homes in the Lake Roberts area had been evacuated Thursday (Jun 15) after wind gusts of about 40 mph pushed the blaze over a hand-cleared line. No homes have been damaged. Authorities organized a convoy to

allow residents back in for two hours, today, to take care of anything they did not get to do before, said a fire information officer with the U.S. Forest Service. Evacuees are being housed at San Lorenzo School in Mimbres. South of Albuquerque, firefighters mopped up after a 150-acre blaze that temporarily shut down Interstate 25 and forced the evacuation of about 30 homes. State Forestry Division spokesman Dan Ware said smoke and flames were still visible today, but crews expected to have the fire fully contained by this evening. The fire was human-caused and is under investigation, Ware said. Lightning sparked 23 wildfires in northeastern New Mexico this week, all burning in remote areas. All but four of those fires were contained today and the rest were 80% contained.

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated Jun 18, states: A 300-acre forest fire, burning just north of Sedona, Arizona, caused the evacuation of about 100 homes this afternoon. The Sedona Fire District ordered homes evacuated north of Casa Contenta, which is on Soldiers Pass Road, and north of Navahopi Road was also evacuated. Sections of Highway 89-A have been closed, through the north-east section of Sedona. As of late afternoon, the fire was moving north-east, away from Sedona and toward Oak Creek Canyon. Oak Creek Canyon has been closed except to residents. No injuries have been reported. An evacuation centre has been set up at West Sedona Elementary School. The Brins Fire was spotted around 1300 hrs, on top the Brins Mesa, about a mile north of Sedona. At least 90 firefighters are on the scene, along with two helicopters and four air tankers, and a Type 2 team is en route. Gary Johnson, public information officer for the Sedona Fire District, estimates the fire is at least a mile from homes. "The reason we're concerned is because there is old growth out there, and it could work its way toward town," he said. The fire's cause is unknown. Conditions in Sedona and the surrounding area have been extremely dry.

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A wildfire that quickly grew to more than 1,000 acres forced the evacuation yesterday of about 400 homes and businesses in an unincorporated area in Oak Creek Canyon, a scenic area in northern Arizona, officials said. Crews manning fire engines spread out throughout the area to defend the homes, fire officials said. There were no reports late yesterday of any homes being damaged or destroyed but the potential existed. The flames were less than a mile from the nearest Oak Creek Canyon homes, said Kristy Bryner, a fire information officer. The fire burned yesterday on a mesa and crept into parts of Oak Creek Canyon, more than 90 miles north of Phoenix.

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A wildfire threatening hundreds of homes and

businesses spread to 3,000 acres near northern Arizona's scenic Oak Creek Canyon early today, as firefighters prepared for another hot, dry and windy day. The fire started yesterday and spread quickly through the parched region, forcing the evacuation of about 400 homes and businesses in the canyon and about 100 homes in five subdivisions on the north side of Sedona. A temperature of near 100 deg Fahrenheit was forecast today, along with low humidity and 10 to 20 mph wind. Crews focused on trying to keep the fire from moving off the area's high plateaus and into the canyon itself, where it could spread quickly toward homes, said Joe Reinartz, commander of the team fighting the fire. Oak Creek Canyon, more than 90 miles north of Phoenix, holds scattered homes, hotels, resorts and stores. By this morning, the fire had burned to within a mile of some buildings, but none had been damaged. The fire ignited in a wooded area and quickly led to the evacuations in the Sedona subdivisions of Cibola Hills, Rim Shadows, Painted Cliff, Shadow Rock Circle and Casa Contenta. Evacuations followed in Oak Creek Canyon, between Sedona and Flagstaff. The cause of the fire was under investigation. In southern Colorado, another wildfire grew to more than 400 acres early today, prompting officials to urge voluntary evacuations of the 246 homes in Forbes Park. The fire was reported shortly before noon yesterday. No homes had been destroyed, and the cause of the fire was unknown. Wildfires have burned more than 2.9 million acres nationwide this year, well ahead of the average of about 900,000 acres by this time of year, according to the National Interagency Fire Centre. Huge grass fires that swept Texas and Oklahoma this spring account for a large part of this year's high acreage.

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A 1,500-acre wildfire threatening northern Arizona's scenic Oak Creek Canyon was only 5% contained today as crews tried to stop it from reaching hundreds of homes clustered among dry manzanita and juniper trees. At least 11 helicopters and air tankers were available today to help ground crews, said Joe Reinartz, commander of the team fighting the fire. The fire started on Sunday (Jun 18) and forced the evacuation of about 400 homes and businesses in narrow Oak Creek Canyon and about 100 homes in the smaller canyons on the rugged north side of Sedona, a town about 90 miles north of Phoenix. Crews were also battling wildfires in Colorado, New Mexico and California. By this morning, officials said the Sedona fire was only about half a mile from the edge of Slide Rock State Park and flames had crested Wilson Mountain, edging about 300 feet below the rim of Oak Creek Canyon in spots. "We want to hang it up there as high as we can and let it grow low and slow," Reinartz

said today. A high temperature of about 100 deg Fahrenheit was forecast today for Sedona, with very low humidity and winds of 10-20 mph. Authorities believe the blaze started in a camp used by transients. In neighboring New Mexico, four fires started by lightning had burned more than 30,000 acres in the tinder-dry Gila National Forest in the south-western part of the state. The biggest had charred nearly 12,000 acres and threatened 150 homes in the Lake Roberts area. Residents were being allowed to return today, said fire information officer Brian Morris. A 7,000-acre fire north-east of Glenwood, NM, in Catron County, prompted evacuations of about 30 cabins and campgrounds, Morris said. In southern Colorado, crews braced for more dry, windy weather today as they confronted a wildfire that spread across 4,500 acres about 10 miles north-east of Fort Garland, triggering the evacuation of 270 homes in two counties. No houses had been destroyed. A California brush fire spread over 6,000 acres of hilly terrain in Los Padres National Forest. No houses were threatened but two sheds and three trailers were destroyed, US Forest Service spokesman Joe Pasinato said.

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated Jun 20, states: A growing 1,770-acre wildfire moved downhill and threatened homes at the bottom of northern Arizona's scenic Oak Creek Canyon, today. The flames were less than a half mile from the highway at the canyon bottom, and power to the homes and businesses was being shut down, said Katherine Sanchez Meador, a fire information officer with the Coconino National Forest. Some residents had remained in the canyon despite the mandatory evacuation, and the sirens were "letting them know it's time to get out of there," Meador said. The flames were three-quarters of a mile from the nearest house. Crews also were battling wildfires in Colorado, New Mexico and California. The Arizona blaze, only five percent contained, was near hundreds of homes clustered among dry manzanita and juniper trees. Its movement down the side of the canyon dampened officials' earlier optimism. "Anything can happen," Meador said. "Our crews work wonders and the effort is extraordinary, but depending on the weather and the winds, it's going to be a tough battle." At least 11 helicopters and air tankers were available today to help ground crews, said Joe Reinartz, commander of the team fighting the fire. More than 450 firefighters were on the ground, and crews were installing sprinklers and clearing brush around the homes in an effort to protect them. No buildings had been lost by today. If the fire burns down to the two-lane scenic highway along the canyon bottom, which it was nearing, crews hope to make a stand there. Most homes are on the opposite side of the highway, Reinartz said. A high temperature of about 100 was

forecast today for Sedona, with very low humidity and wind of 10 to 20 mph. In neighbouring New Mexico, four fires started by lightning had burned about 40,000 acres in the tinder-dry Gila National Forest in the southwestern part of the state. One blaze charred nearly 12,000 acres and had threatened 150 homes in the Lake Roberts area. Residents were allowed to return today, said fire information officer Brian Morris. A 14,000-acre fire northeast of Glenwood, N.M., in Catron County, prompted evacuations of about 30 cabins, Morris said. In southern Colorado, crews today confronted a wildfire that burned across 8,900 acres about 10 miles northeast of Fort Garland, triggering the evacuation of 270 homes in two counties. No houses had been destroyed. "We're cautiously optimistic," said Karl Brauneis, a fire information officer, as the fire seemed to lack the fierceness of a day earlier. In western Colorado, a car wreck started a wildfire that quickly grew to at least 1,500-acres and was threatening some cabins and ranches in Montrose County, prompting evacuations, authorities said. A California brush fire spread over 10,000 acres of hilly terrain in Los Padres National Forest. No houses were threatened, but two sheds and three trailers were destroyed, U.S. Forest Service spokesman Joe Pasinato said. A 70,432-acre wildfire in Alaska's interior picked up in intensity today, burning within a few miles of some structures along the Tanana River. Crews were considering burning vegetation around river cabins to protect them, authorities said. The fire was 45 percent contained. Wildfires have charred more than 3.1 million acres nationwide so far this year, well ahead of the average of about 900,000 acres by this time, the National Interagency Fire Centre reported. Huge grass fires that swept Texas and Oklahoma this spring account for much of the increase.

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters struggled today to stop a 2,450-acre wildfire from jumping a highway in Oak Creek Canyon, Arizona, and spreading into an area of evacuated homes and resorts. Nearly 600 firefighters were on the lines today, backed by at least a dozen aircraft and nearly three-dozen fire trucks, but the blaze was only 5% contained in the steep, rugged terrain. Flames approached the canyon's two-lane highway in places during the night but crews were able to light backfires to remove fuel from its path, officials said this morning. "This is a good start. We've got a real good chance of holding the line," said Larry Sears, the divisional commander who lead the backfire operation team. The fire was approaching the area of Slide Rock State Park, a popular recreation spot that draws hundreds of thousands of visitors a year. If it jumps the highway "then it's a whole new ball game for trying to catch the

fire," said Sears. Officials said the fire could be drawn up the other side of the canyon and into thick wilderness. The fire started on Sunday (Jun 18) as a campfire and spread quickly, forcing the evacuation of about 400 homes and businesses in the canyon more than 90 miles north of Phoenix. Residents of 180 homes on the north side of Sedona, who were evacuated on Sunday, were going to be allowed to return today, said incident commander Paul Broyles. Elsewhere, crews in Colorado battled an 8,960-acre wildfire that forced the evacuation of more than 300 homes. US160 through the area was closed today for a third day. Lighter wind, lower temperatures and slightly higher humidity were forecast for the area. "It will be a cool, moist surge" moving in tonight, said National Weather Service meteorologist Kathy Torgerson. The fire, ignited by lightning and reported on Sunday, was located near Fort Garland, about 150 miles south of Denver. In Santa Maria, California, firefighters battled a 10,000-acre blaze that had stopped short of a critical ridgeline in Los Padres National Forest. No homes were threatened as the fire burned away from the small town of New Cuyama, about 45 miles east of Santa Maria. (See issue of Jun 22.)

London, Jun 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters struggled yesterday to stop a wildfire from jumping a highway in scenic Oak Creek Canyon and roaring into an area of evacuated homes and resorts. Nearly 600 firefighters were on the lines yesterday, backed by at least a dozen aircraft and nearly three dozen fire trucks, but the 2,585-acre blaze was only seven percent contained in the steep, rugged terrain. The blaze started Sunday (Jun 18) in a camp used by transients and spread quickly, forcing the evacuation of about 460 homes and businesses in the canyon more than 90 miles north of Phoenix. The Forest Service is offering a reward up to \$5,000 for information leading to a conviction of those responsible for the fire. Meanwhile, an evacuation order was lifted for 180 homes on the north side of Sedona. Some residents said they had already been back for days. Gov. Janet Napolitano declared a state of emergency Monday to activate the state's 211 phone system, which provides people with information about natural disasters and other emergencies. In Colorado, a wildfire that forced the evacuation of more than 300 homes had grown to 11,800 acres. U.S. 160 through the area was closed yesterday for a third day. Winds had fallen and reversed direction, raising hope that the flames would be driven back to ground that had already burned, said fire information officer Crestine Martinez. Crews were allowing the fire, which was 30% contained, to burn itself out in uninhabited wilderness. In New Mexico, heat, wind and rugged terrain slowed efforts to control fires that have burned nearly 70,000 acres of

forest. The largest blaze, burning across about 33,250 acres in south-western New Mexico, continued to threaten cabins in the Willow Creek area, fire officials warned. In California, firefighters battled a blaze of more than 13,000 acres that had stopped short of a critical ridgeline in Los Padres National Forest. No homes were threatened as the fire burned away from the small town of New Cuyama, about 45 miles east of Santa Maria.



9N-AEQ

Kathmandu, Jun 21 — A small, twin-engine aircraft belonging to a private Nepali airline with nine people on board crashed in the west of the country today, an airport official said. The plane was going from Surkhet to Jumla, about 350 km west of Kathmandu. Details of the crash were not immediately available as it took place in a remote area with poor communications, he said. — Reuters.

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A Yeti Airlines Twin Otter crashed this morning while trying to land at Jumla killing all nine on board including three crew members, airline sources in Nepalganj said. Crew members were identified as Capt Krishna Malla, co-pilot Dipak Pokhrel and flight attendant Dipak Sherchan. The aircraft was on a flight from Nepalganj to Jumla via Surkhet. The aircraft aborted landing on runway 09 and was going around when the pilot appeared to lose control and the aircraft slammed into a mountainside on the eastern edge of the airfield.

London, Jun 22 — Servicing remote airports in Nepal, the Yeti Airlines Twin Otter, 9N-AEQ, departed Nepalganj for a flight to Jumla via Surkhet. The flight to and from Surkhet was uneventful. On approach to runway 09 at Jumla Airport the pilot apparently decided to go around. The aircraft crashed into a mountainside on the eastern side of the airport.

C-GEXZ

London, June 16 — The pilot of Cessna 170B, C-GEXZ had landed at a private grass strip west of Bowden, Alberta, to pick up passengers June 11. Due to soft field conditions, the take-off was conducted on a paved road adjacent to the strip. During the take-off roll, the pilot lost control, and the aircraft departed the road and entered the ditch at 0950, MDT. The aircraft sustained substantial damage to the gear and wings and there were no injuries to the pilot and three passengers. Gusting crosswind conditions existed, and trees beside the road had resulted in fluctuating wind velocity during the take-off run.

CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS, BRAZIL

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated Jun 20, states: The embattled Brazilian airline Varig has been forced to cancel 67 of its 180 daily flights amid mounting fears of financial collapse. The move came just a day after a bankruptcy judge agreed to sell the airline to a consortium of Varig workers and two foreign investors. This saved Varig from immediate liquidation, but the consortium must now find \$75m (£40m) by Friday (Jun 23). The judge has warned that without this first payment the buyout will fail. The NV Participacoes, which represents Varig workers and two foreign investors, has agreed to pay \$449m for the struggling airline. Reports in the Brazilian media say it is appealing to Brazil's National Development Bank for a loan to cover the first deposit required for the sale. Brazil's national airport authority has said it will begin demanding that Varig pays its airport fees every day, in cash. The news came as the country's civil aviation authorities met other airlines to divide up Varig's routes should it cease to fly. Varig has been under bankruptcy protection for a year. It was the top airline in Brazil until 2004, but was then overtaken by TAM and later by Gol. The airline has suffered years of financial problems because of rising costs and growing low-cost competition. It now has just 16.7% of the domestic market, but remains the leading Brazilian carrier internationally, with a 66.4% share.

CRASH INTO TAIWAN STRAIT

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated Jun 19, states: Five Taiwanese Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) meteorologists were indicted over their alleged failure to issue a bad weather warning that led to a tragic plane crash in December 2002. The ATR-72 crashed off the Taiwanese coast, probably as a result of icing.

CRASH, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated Jun 18, states: A light airplane crashed today after an exhibition flight at an aviation fair in the Turkish capital, but its two pilots survived the accident, Anatolia news agency reported. Fair officials said the plane, owned by a Turkish aviation company, had completed its show and was heading to the Ankara airport when it crashed due to a yet unknown reason near the airport. The two pilots were taken to a military hospital and their condition was good, Anatolia said.

CRASH, UNADILLA, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: The pilot killed in an aircraft crash last week in Unadilla Township has been identified as 56-year-old Novi resident Lowell "Doug" Anglin. Anglin's single-engine aircraft crashed and exploded at Unadilla Township's Richmond Field

last Thursday (Jun 8) night. Anglin reported engine problems shortly before crashing his aircraft into the private Richmond Field airstrip at Howlett and Doyle roads in Unadilla Township, according to Federal Aviation Administration officials. Unadilla Township Fire Chief Mark Schroeder said it appeared Anglin was not flying high enough and hit some trees. He was the lone occupant of the aircraft. An FAA report shows the aircraft was en route from Kalamazoo to Detroit when it crashed; however, some members with the Sandhill Soaring Club, who flies out of the airport, say they heard the pilot was headed to Ypsilanti. Sgt. David Russell of the Unadilla Township Police Department said it appears the aircraft did hit the trees and was trying to land on the grass airstrip. FAA spokesman Tony Molinaro said the engine failed. The National Transportation Safety Board took over for the FAA on Friday. Unadilla Township Police Chief William Cook said board investigators collected the aircraft and engine Saturday and transported the items to the organization's Detroit inspection centre. The investigation into the cause of the crash is expected to take six months to a year.

EK-32009

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated Jun 19, states: Examination of the flight recorder from an Armenian airliner that crashed into the Black Sea last month has produced no new information on the reasons for the crash, an official said today. The A-320 Airbus, operated by the Armavia Airline, came down in stormy weather off Russia's Black Sea coast May 3 with the loss of all 113 passengers and crew on board. "The interstate aviation committee has finished decoding the flight data recorder," said Gayane Davtyan, spokeswoman for Armenia's main civil aviation department. "The decoding ... showed that the plane had not disintegrated in the air," Davtyan said. "The engines were operating until the plane hit the water." She said the flight recorders had held information about eight flights made by the plane April 30-May 3, including the fatal trip. The tape lasted 26 hours 20 minutes, including one hour 26 minutes of the last flight. Russia's Transportation Ministry said in a statement earlier today that the plane had enough fuel to complete the flight safely, and that the autopilot was off in the last minute. Davtyan also said the commission had started detailed analysis of recorders and planned to model the crash on a special A-320 training plane. "The conclusion about the reasons will be made after the analysis and investigation, to be followed by flight safety recommendations," she said. On June 8, the commission finished deciphering the other black box - the cockpit voice recorder. The recorder had captured 33 minutes of exchanges between the pilot of the plane and air

traffic controllers at Russia's southern Adler airport, outside Sochi, where the plane was heading. The Russian Transportation Ministry said the transcript would not be published in line with the standards and practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

EMERGENCY LANDING, ALBANY, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 20 — There were some frightening moments yesterday for dozens of passengers aboard an aircraft from Buffalo. Airport officials say Continental Express Flight 205 was about 45 miles outside of Albany yesterday afternoon when the crew reported smoke in the cockpit. The airport was put on standby, but the aircraft landed without incident. None of the 38 people on board were hurt. The 35 passengers are being bussed from Albany to their original destination in Newark.

EMERGENCY LANDING, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: An American Airlines flight made an emergency landing this morning at O'Hare International Airport after reporting difficulties with its landing gear, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. Flight 1740, which was travelling from Los Angeles to Chicago, landed safely and there were no immediate reports of injuries. The plane carried 136 passengers and crew on board, according to the Chicago Department of Aviation. American Airlines spokeswoman Mary Frances Fagan said no injuries were reported. The plane is not capable of dumping its fuel, but that was likely not a factor because the aircraft was probably not carrying much fuel by the time it neared Chicago. The plane left Los Angeles just before midnight, carrying 131 passengers and five crew members, she said. As the plane's cockpit crew prepared for landing at O'Hare, they noticed difficulties with the aircraft's nose gear, she said. The pilot then circled the airport so officials could confirm the nose gear was not operating properly, she said. The pilot then conducted an emergency landing, skidding to a stop on one of the airport's runways. Once the plane was on the ground, passengers exited the aircraft using a mobile staircase, she said. The FAA said it will investigate the incident.

EMERGENCY LANDING, FIUMICINO AIRPORT, ITALY

London, Jun 16 — The 2843 Air One flight from Catania to Rome had an emergency landing, however with no negative consequences, maybe because of a problem with the back wheel of the undercarriage. The 97 passengers landed at the Fiumicino Airport with no consequences and on time at 1012 hrs. Emergency procedures had been activated. The National Agency for Flying Security sent an investigator for inquiries into the episode.

**EMERGENCY LANDING,
GALLATIN FIELD, MONTANA,
UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 18 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Northwest Airlines aircraft made an unscheduled landing at Gallatin Field Airport Thursday (Jun 15) evening after pilots reported smoke on the flight deck, airline official said Friday. The Airbus A319 was flying from Vancouver, British Columbia to Minneapolis when it was diverted, assistant airport director Brian Sprenger said. It landed safely at about 1830 hrs with 29 people on board, including five crew members. The aircraft's 24 passengers were put up in motels overnight and continued to Minneapolis on another scheduled flight Friday morning, said Northwest spokesman Kurt Ebenhoch. Pilots told authorities of the smoke when they were about 20 minutes from the airport and landed as a precautionary measure, Sprenger said. While the repairs were being made, the flight crew ran out of "duty time" for the day, Ebenhoch said, so the passengers were put up in motels. The repaired plane also returned to Minneapolis Friday, Ebenhoch said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, JAPAN

London, Jun 19 — Northwest Airlines passenger jet en route from Taiwan landed safely at an airport in western Japan after developing engine trouble, an airport official said yesterday. There were no injuries. The Boeing 747-400 developed trouble in one of its four engines after leaving Taipei for Osaka's international airport, according to airport official Hiroshi Yasuragi. It was not immediately clear what was wrong with the engine. The pilot requested an emergency landing at the airport, which was the aircraft's destination, and landed safely yesterday morning, the official said. None of the 346 passengers and crew members on board were injured, he said.

**EMERGENCY LANDING,
KOLTSOVO AIRPORT, RUSSIA**

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated today, states: An Il-86 airliner on a flight from Ekaterinburg to Antalia made an emergency landing at the Koltsovo airport in Yekaterinburg at 2217, local time, Saturday (Jun 17) after one of its tyres blew out on takeoff. "None of the passengers were hurt," the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry's Sverdlovsk regional department told Interfax. When the incident was reported to the captain, he decided to return to Ekaterinburg.

N1535C

London, Jun 20 — Cessna 180 N1535C crashed near Phoenix, Arizona, at 1425, Jun 18, while on a flight from Queen Creek, AZ. The aircraft was destroyed. The four persons on board were killed.

N202EN

London, Jun 15 — Beechcraft BE36, N202EN, owned by David Brown, while inbound to Bundoran, Virginia, from Nashua, New Hampshire, struck powerlines and crashed into a wooded area six miles from Bundoran, near Charlottesville, Virginia, at 1527, local time, Jun 14. The two persons on board were killed, the aircraft was destroyed.

London, Jun 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Two officials of a New Hampshire-based land preservation and development company were killed yesterday when their single-engine aircraft crashed in Virginia, according to news reports. The six-seat Beech (N202EN) crashed shortly before 1130 about a mile south-east of the private Bundoran airport while trying to land in a field in fog and rain, said Jim Peters, a Federal Aviation Administration spokesman. Media reports have identified the victims as Robert Baldwin, the founder and president and CEO of Qroe Companies, based in Derry; and David Brown of West Hartford, Conn., the company's regional director. Peters said the aircraft was registered to Brown. The aircraft took off yesterday morning from Nashua, N.H., and was bound for Bundoran, where Qroe is overseeing a 2,300-acre preservation development. The pilot circled at an altitude of about 4,000 feet as he tried to make a visual approach into the airfield, Peters said. An FAA controller in Warrenton cleared the aircraft for the approach, but the pilot crashed near the landing area. The Hartford (Conn.) Courant reported Brown was killed in the crash and that West Hartford police said Brown's family had been notified of his death. WMUR-TV in Manchester reported this morning that Baldwin was the other victim.

N35058

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated Jun 18, states: A pilot of a small airplane that crashed into the water near the San Carlos Airport was rescued by the US Coast Guard. The pilot was flying a single-engine Cessna from Oakland to the Palo Alto Airport when, "for some reason, (he) landed in the Bay," said San Carlos Airport Duty Manager Mark Larson. The Federal Aviation Administration reported the plane crashed at 1205 hrs, in shallow waters about two miles north of the San Carlos Airport, which was hosting the seventh annual "Vertical Challenge" Helicopter Air Show. A Coast Guard helicopter at the event was dispatched to hoist the pilot, who already was swimming away from the airplane, out of the water, U.S. Coast Guard Lt. John Fu said. The San Mateo County Sheriff's office Marine Unit helped with the rescue effort. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the cause of the crash, according to the FAA.

London, Jun 19 — Cessna 177B (Cardinal) N35058 crashed into the

bay near San Carlos, California, at 1905, Jun 17, while on a flight from Oakland, CA, to Palo Alto, CA. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was injured.

N38SP

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated Jun 18, states: A 1965 Cessna crashed in a remote area near the Rogue River, Oregon, yesterday, killing four people. The victims were identified as Vern Robert Miller, of San Jose, Calif. and his wife, Elizabeth, and passengers Sharon Viola Hanson and Roberta Ellen Way, both from Creswell, Ore., said the Curry County Sheriff's Department. Miller was identified as the pilot in the crash. Witnesses reported that the Cessna had been having mechanical problems just before the crash, sheriff's deputies said. Police said the engine reportedly stalled and the aircraft made a quick descent onto some large rocks near the river's edge. Authorities from the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Bureau were investigating.

London, Jun 19 — Cessna 180 N38SP crashed in the Wild Rogue wilderness area near Agness, Oregon, at 1600, Jun 17. The aircraft was destroyed. The four persons on board were killed.

N50VS

London, Jun 19 — A press report, dated Jun 18, states: The FAA will, tomorrow, examine pieces of a small plane that crashed shortly after take-off yesterday in Parma, N.Y. Officials will try to determine why the plane had trouble gaining altitude after taking off from a private, grass-runway airfield. The pilot, Michael Barclay, 49, of Rush was released from the hospital today. His passenger, David Finger, 56, from Fairport is in satisfactory condition at Strong Memorial Hospital.

London, Jun 19 — Taylorcraft DC-65 N50VS crashed near Parma Township, Rochester, New York, at 1603, Jun 17. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board suffered minor injuries.

N5626P

London, Jun 21 — A press report, dated Jun 20, states: The pilot of a single-engine aircraft was killed today, after crashing into an open pasture at a poultry farm at Moravian Falls, North Carolina. The pilot was alone in the aircraft and it wasn't immediately clear what caused the crash, Wilkes County Sheriff's dispatcher Don Parker said. The man's name was not released, pending notification of his family, Parker said, but added he wasn't a North Carolina resident. The tail number of the red-and-white Piper is registered by the Federal Aviation Administration as owned by Wayne Lukash of Kissimmee, Florida. The aircraft left Kissimmee, North Carolina, and was headed to the Wilkes County airport, Carolina, about nine miles north-east

of the crash site, a FAA spokeswoman said. A witness called emergency workers around 1600 hrs, after the aircraft crashed in Moravian Falls, a farming community near Wilkesboro. No one on the ground was injured. A witness said the aircraft approached low over the field, passed under power lines, narrowly missed the roof of a chicken house, then made a U-turn and headed back toward the pasture. "I saw the dust fly up and then saw the tail end of the plane," the witness said. Crash investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board and the FAA were on their way to the scene late today.

London, Jun 21 — Piper PA-24-250 (Comanche) N5626P crashed near Wilkesboro, North Carolina, at 2010, Jun 20. The one person on board was killed.

N68LT

See N86CG.

N86CG

London, Jun 19 - A press report, dated Jun 18, states: A tragic accident before the Illinois Valley Air Show, near Peru, took the life of a Wisconsin man. Christopher Good, of West Bend, was the pilot of an aircraft that clipped another, before it made a nosedive into the ground. It happened this morning, around 0845 hrs. The gates of the Illinois Valley Regional Airport were set to open at 1000 hrs. Good was supposed to display the single engine aircraft at the show. He was flying in formation with three other aircraft. They were attempting to land when the crash happened. Crews were already at the airport, preparing for the airshow, everything went on as scheduled. Officials have not released the name of the other pilot involved in that crash. They say he refused medical treatment at the scene. The National Transportation Safety Board and the FAA will be on the scene investigating tomorrow. Police said the crash site is expected to be cleaned up in the next few days. London, Jun 19 — Vans RV-6 N86CG and Vans RV-8 N68LT clipped wings while formation landing at Peru, Illinois, at 1345, Jun 18, following a flight from Poplar Grove, IL. N86CG was destroyed and the one person on board was killed. N68LT sustained minor damage and the one person on board was injured.

OO-TND

London, Jun 16 — A press report, dated Jun 15, states: The crash landing of a TNT Boeing 737-300 aircraft at Birmingham International Airport has caused widespread disruption. More than 1,000 passengers have been bussed to other runways including Manchester, Bristol, Coventry and Nottingham East Midlands Airport. The airport fully reopened this afternoon but airport bosses say there is a large backlog of flights to be dealt with. The undercarriage failed, but nobody was hurt. The aircraft has been taken to the side of the main runway. No

flights were able to land since before 0600 BST and at least 100 scheduled departures were stranded. Travellers whose inbound flights landed elsewhere were being brought back to Birmingham. An airport spokeswoman said staff would be working throughout the night to clear the backlog and catch up. The aircraft was travelling from Liege in Belgium to Stansted Airport, when it was diverted to Birmingham because of bad weather and then developed the technical problem. Eighty-six aircraft had been scheduled to land and 115 to depart during the closure.

London, Jun 17 — The TNT Boeing 737, OO-TND, Liege for Stansted, crew decided to divert to East Midlands due to problems with the No.2 main landing gear then caused the crew to decide to divert to Birmingham (BHX) for an emergency landing, Jun 15. Upon landing the No.2 engine contacted the runway, causing substantial damage.

SUSPENSION OF BRAZILIAN AIRLINE

London, Jun 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Brazilian airline Varig suspended 27 flights yesterday, the country's airport management company Infraero said. Varig, which is on the edge of bankruptcy, suspended 27 flights, 13 of them from Rio de Janeiro. As well as that, Brasilia airport sealed one of its runways for 90 minutes after a Varig aircraft lost a part of its landing gear, after the aircraft had already landed safely. The airline has cancelled around 100 flights since last Thursday (Jun 15), after an unsuccessful auction for the airline resulted in a solid bid worth less than 450 million U.S. dollars.



MERCEDES-BENZ MOTOR VEHICLES, CHINA

London, Jun 20 — DaimlerChrysler AG said it will recall 1011 Mercedes-Benz Viano and Vito cars in mainland China, according to a statement on the website of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine. The automaker said the fuel hoses of the cars, which were produced between October 2003 and November 2005, may leak. No accidents or injuries have been reported, DaimlerChrysler added.

MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Jun 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Corp said yesterday it is recalling 74,141 units of its Fuso Fighter heavy-duty truck model for free repairs needed as a result of defective electrical wiring work. The defect could make engine-control and

lighting devices unworkable on the trucks manufactured between February 1999 and February 2005, the truck maker said in a report filed with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

SUZUKI MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 22 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, on Jun 21, states: American Suzuki Motor Corp., of Brea, Calif., Montgomery Motors, Ltd., of Honolulu, Hawaii and Suzuki del Caribe, of Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico have announced a voluntary recall of approximately 6,300 Suzuki 2006 model year QuadRacer ATVs. The cushion lever mounting bracket on the ATV frame can break. If this occurs the rider could lose control of the ATV and crash, posing a risk of serious injury or death. Suzuki has received 27 reports of the cushion lever mounting bracket breaking, resulting in one report of a head injury. Only Suzuki 2006 model year LTR450K6 model Quad Racer ATVs with vehicle identification numbers ending with 00089 through 11626 are included in this recall. The vehicle identification number is located on the lower left side of the ATV frame. QuadRacer, printed in white letters, and R450 and Suzuki are written on the side of the ATV. These ATVs were sold in yellow or white, manufactured in Japan, the vehicles were sold at Suzuki ATV dealers nationwide from January 2006 through to May 2006 for about \$7,300 each.

Port Conditions



CANADA

Troy, Michigan, Jun 18 — At 2045, yesterday, the radio operator at Seaway Clayton, actually located at Eisenhower lock, told the *Algoscotia* that the Seaway was shut down at the American locks. He said they had lost a piece of equipment above Snell Lock, at least they believed it was above Snell. They were putting stop logs in place. The *William J. Moore* and barge would probably go to the wall at Eisenhower and the *Algoscotia* would likely have to anchor at Wilson Hill anchorage. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

ITALY

Genoa, Jun 19 — Port situation: Genoa: One tanker waiting for berth. Average delay in berthing 12 hrs. Savona: No vessels awaiting normal or special berth. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

NIGERIA

London, Jun 21 — Vessels waiting for a berth in Lagos have been directed to move to the country's eastern ports on account of congestion

in the Lagos area. The Minister of Transport Dr Abiye Sekibo said the directive was being issued in an effort to reduce congestion levels at Lagos. This drastic move comes shortly after the privatisation of most of the country's terminals including those in Lagos. It is reported that the concessioned terminals are having difficulty in coping with the volume of cargo being received. Dr Sekibo said the measure was a temporary one until the arrival of new infrastructure ordered by the concessioned terminals. The first new equipment is expected in Lagos within a matter of days with additional machinery

arriving later in the year. Once the first machines arrived he expected the congestion in Lagos to be relieved. He reiterated that private operators would not be allowed to increase tariffs outside the terms of the concessioning agreement; however the government would support any charges that discourage congestion. The minister pointed out that the ports were transit points and should not be used by shippers as warehouses.

PANAMA CANAL

London, Jun 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Efforts continue

to reduce waiting times for vessels wishing to transit the Panama Canal. Further improvement is being seen, with a queue of 46 vessels now projected for tomorrow. Currently, Panamax vessels are facing delays of two days southbound, and two-three days northbound. Regular /unrestricted vessels face a wait of one-two days. The Panama Canal Authority is currently concentrating on reducing waiting times for northbound Panamax vessels. As a result, more Panamax vessels being scheduled in this direction.

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	26-Jun-2006	Coal: 11 vessels due by 15/7..
Brisbane	26-Jun-2006	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 4 vessels due by 7/7.
Dalrymple Bay	26-Jun-2006	Coal: DBCT berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; DBCT berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 1 vessel due 26/6; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; other vessels not scheduled: 11 vessels waiting; 25 vessels due by 15/7.
Dampier	26-Jun-2006	Iron ore: Parker Point A berth: 4 vessels due by 5/7; 7 day shutdown due to end 3/7; Parker Point berth 2: 1 vessel berthed, 4 anchored; 6 vessels due by 6/7; Parker Point berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 8 vessels due by 9/7.
Esperance	26-Jun-2006	Iron ore: Three vessels due by 23/6.
Geraldton	26-Jun-2006	Iron ore: One vessel loading; 1 vessel at anchor; 2 vessels due by 30/6.
Gladstone	26-Jun-2006	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed, 12 waiting; 39 vessels due by 9/8; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed, 1 waiting; 7 vessels due by 30/7; shiploading operations will be shut down for maintenance from 10-15/7.
Hay Point	26-Jun-2006	Coal: Berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 5 vessels due by 5/7; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 4 vessels due by 4/7; 4 other vessels due by 14/7, not yet scheduled for berthing.
Newcastle	26-Jun-2006	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 14 waiting; 35 vessels due by 12/7; 3-15 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 15 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 6 waiting; 21 vessels due by 18/7; 6-9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 6 vessels off port awaiting coal; train loading equipment at Camberwell mine still causing delays to vessels loading coal.
Port Hedland	26-Jun-2006	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel waiting; 8 vessels due by 6/7; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 8 vessels due by 7/7; 5 other vessels due by 14/7, no e.t.a. received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 3 vessels due by 3/7; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 6 vessels due by 4/7; there will be a 36 hour shiploader maintenance from ca. 4/7; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 1 vessel due 7/7.
Port Kembla	26-Jun-2006	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 10 vessels due by 28/7.
Port Walcott	26-Jun-2006	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 11 vessels due by 9/7; shippers currently experiencing product shortages which will effect berthing schedules.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	26-Jun-2006	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 3 coils, 1 steel sheets), 3 discharging (1 salt, 1 metals, 1 copper concentrate); 4 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load (1 chemicals, 1 gasoil, 1 empty), 1 to discharge scrap; 18 vessels due, of which 7 to load (5 coils, 1 copper anodes, 1 baryte concentrate), 11 to discharge (1 reinforced concrete, 1 iron ore, 2 coal, 2 copper concentrate, 1 lead/zinc concentrate, 1 billets, 1 wheat, 1 manganese ore, 1 steel sheets).
Varna	26-Jun-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 19 - 25 June: Thirty-three vessels in port operating of which 19 loading (1 cigarettes in packing cases, 2 scrap, 1 wheat, 1 maize, 1 packed hardboard, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 2 bulk clinker, 1 miscellaneous cargo, 1 chamotte/soda, 1 bulk cement, 3 soda, 1 chamotte/kaolin, 1 transformers in packing cases, 1 TSP, 1 soda/TSP), 8 discharging (3 bulk coal, 1 equipment in packing cases, 3 raw phosphate, 1 fire bricks on pallets), 6 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.
Cyprus		
Laranaca	27-Jun-2006	Two conventional vessels discharging at berth; 1 conventional vessel due 28/6; no delays expected.
Limassol	27-Jun-2006	Five container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 3 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 2 container vessels, 1 conventional vessel, 2 passenger vessels due 28/6; no delays expected.
Egypt		
Adabiya	27-Jun-2006	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), all general cargo.
Alexandria	27-Jun-2006	Twenty-nine vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 21 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 3 tankers, 3 container vessels; 9 vessels at inner anchorage, 6 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	27-Jun-2006	Fourteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 8 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 1 livestock, 3 container vessels; 2 vessels at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	27-Jun-2006	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 3 container vessels; 2 vessels at outer anchorage.

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Port Conditions

Port Said	27-Jun-2006	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 1 Ro/Ro, 5 container vessels.
Suez	27-Jun-2006	Eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 4 general cargo, 4 passenger vessels; 3 tugs, 1 vessel dry-docked.
Suez Canal	27-Jun-2006	Twenty-six vessels transiting Northbound, 31 Southbound.
Israel		
Ashdod	27-Jun-2006	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel loading at berth, 8 vessels discharging at berth (5 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 11 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	27-Jun-2006	No labour problems. No vessels berthed; 1 car carrier waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 1 vessel due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	27-Jun-2006	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels discharging at berth, 10 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 2 car carriers, 4 tankers); 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge, 1 tanker waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 4 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 22 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Mozambique		
Maputo	28-Jun-2006	Eleven vessels in port operating of which 6 loading (1 mineral coal, 1 general cargo, 1 citrus, 1 poste, 1 magnetite, 1 granite), 2 discharging (1 container, 1 bulk aluminium), 2 discharging/loading (1 container, 1 containers/steel sheets), 1 other vessel; 22 vessels due by 17/7 of which 5 to load, 11 to discharge, 6 to discharge/load.
Pakistan		
Karachi	26-Jun-2006	Three vessels loading at berth (1 naphtha, 1 cement, 1 rice), 14 discharging at berth (2 crude oil, 1 palm oil, 1 cement, 1 coal, 2 DAP, 2 general cargo, 4 sugar, 1 jute), 4 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 sugar vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 2 vessels due (1 sugar, 1 MOL), with no berthing delays expected..
Port Qasim	26-Jun-2006	Four vessels discharging at berth (1 palm oil, 1 yellow peas, 1 canola, 1 fuel oil); 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 8 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 sugar, 1 palm oil, 1 crude oil, 1 HSD, 1 phosphoric acid, 2 containers)
Russia		
Novorossiysk	26-Jun-2006	Thirteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (1 HBI, 1 bulk cement, 1 WRIC, 1 scrap, 1 steel billets, 1 steel billets/steel, 1 slabs, 1 steel billets/ lead/pipes/steel, 1 copper, 1 steel billets/vehicles, 1 wheat, 1 UAN solution), 1 discharging bulk sugar; 7 vessels waiting in roads, of which 6 to load (1 pipes, 4 steel billets, 1 vegetable oil), 1 to discharge bulk sugar; 56 vessels due, of which 51 to load (2 bulk NPK, 4 aluminium, 7 slabs, 8 steel billets, 1 H-beams, 1 copper, 1 pipes/steel sheets/coils/cars, 5 coils, 2 pig-iron, 1 vehicles, 3 DRI, 1 HBI, 1 scrap, 1 steel billets/vehicles, 3 diesel oil, 1 equipment, 3 cellulose, 1 bulk urea, 1 coils/pipes, 1 soda ash, 1 wheat, 1 pipes, 1 wire rods), 4 to discharge (1 vegetable oil, 1 debars, 1 bulk sugar, 1 coils), 1 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 3 tankers berthed, all loading, of which 2 crude oil, 1 diesel oil; 5 tankers in roads, all to load, of which 2 crude oil, 1 diesel oil; 3 tankers due, all to load, of which 2 crude oil, 1 diesel oil.
Slovenia		
Koper	26-Jun-2006	Port working normally. Eleven vessels berthed of which 3 discharging/loading containers, 1 car carrier discharging/loading vehicles, 1 Ro/Ro discharging/loading general cargo, 2 vessels loading sawn timber/general cargo, 3 discharging bulk cargo, 1 tanker discharging liquid cargo; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage of which 2 to load general cargo, 1 to discharge bulk cargo; 25 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 6 to discharge/load containers, 2 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 1 car carrier to load vehicles, 1 tanker to discharge liquid cargo, 5 vessels to load sawn timber/general cargo, 4 to load bulk cargo, 6 to discharge bulk cargo.
Spain		
Bilbao	26-Jun-2006	Thirty-eight vessels operating (3 tankers, 35 other vessels), of which 8 loading, 18 discharging, 12 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	26-Jun-2006	Twenty vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading (1 steel products, 2 bulk fertiliser, 1 cement), 15 discharging (10 steel products, 1 gas, 1 machinery, 1 vehicles, 1 fruit, 1 anhydrous ammonia), 1 loading/discharging steel products; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	26-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 at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Seven container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 20 vessels discharging at berth (14 containers/feeders, 1 bagged maize, 1 bulk cement, 3 bagged fertiliser, 1 Ro/Ro); 8 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (7 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement); 4 vessels dry-docked; 8 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.

Turkmenistan

Aladja	23-Jun-06	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, loading crude oil.
Okarem	23-Jun-06	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, completed loading crude oil; 2 vessels in roads, both to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	23-Jun-06	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, of which 1 completed loading fuel oil, 1 loading gasoline; 6 vessels in roads, 2 undergoing customs formalities to load fuel oil, 1 to discharge crude oil, 1 to load gasoline, 1 fuel oil, 1 unknown cargo.

Ukraine

Illichevsk	26-Jun-06	Five vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 3 steel products, 1 sunflower seed oil, 1 sulphur; 4 vessel in roads, of which 3 to load (1 gas, 1 sulphur, 1 sunflower oil), 1 to load/discharge containers; 22 vessels due, of which 12 to load (7 steel products, 3 sunflower oil, 1 iron ore concentrate, 1 sunflower seed cake), 10 to load/discharge containers..
Mariupol	26-Jun-06	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading (6 steel, 3 fire-clay, 1 coal), 1 discharging equipment; 18 vessels in roads, of which 15 to load (10 steel, 2 fire-clay, 2 coal, 1 sulphur), 2 to discharge (1 equipment/containers, 1 feldspar), 1 to discharge/load containers/fire-clay; 49 vessels due, of which 47 to load (29 steel, 7 coal, 7 fire-clay, 1 pitch, 1 kaolin, 1 coke, 1 sunflower beans/ husks), 1 to discharge equipment, 1 to discharge/load containers/fire clay.
Odessa	26-Jun-06	Twenty vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (1 scrap, 9 metal, 2 barley), 4 discharging (3 luggage, 1 bananas), 2 loading/discharging containers, 2 passenger vessels; 7 vessels in roads, of which 6 to load (1 wheat, 1 barley, 2 metal, 1 coal, 1 pig-iron), 1 to load/discharge containers; 79 vessels due, of which 40 to load (32 metal, 3 pig-iron, 2 scrap, 2 wood, 1 ferro alloy), 4 to discharge (1 oil, 1 building materials, 1 car parts, 1 sugar), 35 to discharge/load containers.

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