

Israeli blockade threatens to create Beirut port chaos

Container lines may have to reschedule services using region's largest facility, writes David Osler and Janet Porter — Friday July 14 2006

SEVERAL of the world's top container lines will have to reschedule services if the port of Beirut remains sealed off by Israel.

The 6,750 teu MSC Ludovica, deployed by Mediterranean Shipping Co in its Asia-Europe Lion service, was scheduled to arrive tomorrow but will now be diverted.

Both MSC and French line CMA CGM call at the new Beirut Container Terminal, which began handling transshipment cargo for the first time a year ago.

CMA CGM operates a weekly service from Asia that calls at Beirut. The next ship is due on July 27. There are also weekly feeder services from Malta and Damietta.

Introduction

The line moves about 45,000 teu a year through Beirut, a figure expected to double with the planned introduction next month of a Lebanon call in its North China Express service with vessels of 6,500 teu.

Members of the Europe Mediterranean Tariff Agreement, which covers Israel, have not yet decided how to respond to the crisis.

Figures from Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit, a sister company to Lloyd's List, estimate that 48 vessel are at present positioned in Beirut, with a further 48 en route .

Beirut is the main port in Lebanon and the largest in the eastern Mediterranean, handling around 3,000 ships a year.

That means the Israeli blockade will hit not just Lebanon but also Syria, Jordan, Iraq and the Gulf states. Operated and managed by Gestion et Exploitation du Port de Beyrouth, Beirut has undergone an extensive reconstruction programme since the end of Lebanon's protracted civil war.

The port consists of a total area of 1.2m sq m and has four basins, 16 quays and the new container terminal, capable of handling 700,000 teu a year.

An associated free zone, consisting of a total area of 11,200 sq m, is reported to have enjoyed some success.

The general cargo area consists of 12 warehouses and a grain silo with a capacity of 120,000 tons.

The new Beirut Container Terminal, located just off quay 16, is operated by a joint US-British-Lebanese consortium under a 10-year contract expiring in 2014.

Peel Ports subsidiary Portia Management Services is the majority shareholder.

Portia said yesterday that the initial team of experts seconded to Beirut had now returned home.

But three British expatriates are employed directly by the terminal, including two

operational managers and a female accountant.

Portia managing director John Owens said: "In the light of the current situation the terminal operation has been temporarily shut down.

"We will be monitoring the situation and are in contact with people on the ground, including the British embassy."

The container terminal is equipped with four quayside container cranes and eight rubber-tyred gantry cranes.

Scheduled

A fifth quayside container crane and two rubber-tyred gantry cranes are scheduled for delivery at the end of the year.

The new quay 16 is the longest and deepest of all the quays at a length of 600 m and a depth of 15.5 m, which allows it to accommodate the largest containerships in the world.

There are plans to expand the wharf where the new quay 16 is located to increase capacity from the present 700,000 teu a year due to rapidly rising traffic.

The port lacks a railhead, although there are plans to construct one.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>APHRODITE</i>	container	ITA	RI	37,479	43,310	1984	Struck a pier in Commencement Bay, Pierce County Terminal, Seattle, Jun 29. Anchored in Elliot Bay for damage assessment.
<i>ASTRO LUNA</i>	crude oil tanker	GRC	LR	147,007	254,340	1995	In collision with container carrier <i>YM Earth</i> , some 2.4km south-east of St. John's Island, in Singapore waters, Jun 29. Anchored inside Singapore port limits. Investigation under way. Sailed Jul 2 for Fujairah.
<i>AUGUSTE OLDENDORFF</i>	bulker	LBR	NK	11,194	18,320	2001	Arrived Seven Islands Jun 25 and remained in port undergoing turbo-charger repairs. Subsequently arrived Three Rivers Jul 1.
<i>BALTIC FJORD</i>	general	NOR	—	2,062	1,560	1976	Caught fire while repairing in the drydock at Tallinn Jul 4. Fuel tanks burning. Still on fire Jul 5.
<i>CANADIAN PROGRESS</i>	bulker	CAN	LR	21,436	31,640	1968	Sustained main engine problems Jun 29 and proceeded at reduced speed to Three Rivers, where repairs are estimated to take about a month.
<i>IRAN MUFATEH</i>	bulker	IRN	NV	25,768	43,262	1985	Reported engine problems in Saldanha Bay harbour Jun 29. Anchored off port. Alongside at Saldanha Jun 30. Under repair Jul 1.
<i>MARIAM IV</i>	general	PAN	—	3,523	5,327	1980	Sank in heavy weather off Socota Island, in lat 12 09N, long 52 02E, Jun 30. Thirteen rescued, one killed and five missing.
<i>MARINA STAR</i>	general	BHS	RI	4,989	7,267	1990	Main engine failed on departure from Oran Jun 29, and vessel shifted to stern and contacted breakwater. Re-berthed with assistance of port tugs. Arrested by Algerian Coast Guard. Sailed in tow Jul 2, bound shipyard at Genoa.
<i>MONTE STELLO</i>	ro-ro	NZL	—	11,630	4,788	1979	Reported Jul 4 that a fault had been found in one of vessel's engines during sea trials at Wellington. Engine to be reconditioned. Expected to begin operating within a month.
<i>NEVA</i>	general	RUS	RS	1,497	1,669	1988	Contacted the edge of the fairway and became holed and stranded near Voznesenye, Svir river, 03 Jul 2006. Refloating operations began Jul 5.
<i>PICO EL AGUILA</i>	chem/oil tanker	PAN	NK	8,017	12,467	1982	Reported Jul 5 at Ponta Delgada outer anchorage with main engine damage awaiting arrival of spare parts.
<i>PONTONOSTOS</i>	bulker	CYP	NK	16,725	28,470	1990	In collision with motor launch <i>Komal 15</i> at Kandla Jun 29. Launch sank. Twelve rescued, 8 dead, 3 missing. Detained for investigation. Inquiry under way.
<i>UAL TEXAS</i>	general	NLD	BV	6,577	9,073	2002	Reported anchored in lat 53 07.7N, long 01 20.7E, Jun 30 due engine bearing problems. Tug to be organised by owners. Taken in tow. Arrived Tyne Jul 2. To be shifted to dockyard Jul 5 for investigation.
<i>ZHI QIANG</i>	bulker	HKG	NK	26,062	45,704	1998	Reported Jul 1 aground on Long Reef, in lat 11 13S, long 151 40E. Still aground Jul 5. Some holing. Believed LOF signed. Adsteam Marine contracted. Salvage crew on scene.

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Lloyd's
Marine Intelligence Unit



The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ALEX MAC (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 30 — Following received from Coastguard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1420, UTC: Fishing *Alex Mac* (71 gt, built 1968) was in collision with tug *Franklin Reinauer* (197 gt, built 1984), bound New York, with a barge, in bad visibility off New Jersey in lat 40 06.9N, long 73 53.3W, at 2357, UTC, Jun 29. The *Alex Mac* sank as a result and two of its four crew were rescued. A search is under way for the other two. *Franklin Reinauer* and its barge continued voyage for New York.

London, July 1 — A press report, dated June 30, states: The bodies of two scallop fishermen were recovered in the Atlantic Ocean today off the coast of New Jersey. Tommy Lantman, 39, and his nephew, Mike Lantman, 16, disappeared when their boat, fishing (general) *Alex Mac*, collided with a tug (*Franklin Reinauer*) yesterday and capsized six nautical miles from Manasquan, the Coast Guard reported. State police divers found their bodies.

ALGONORTH (Canada)

London, Jul 4 — On Jun 30, while bulker *Algonorth* (18496 gt, built 1971) was unloading at Dofasco, Hamilton Harbour, her generator blew up causing a flexible fuel line to burst. Fuel sprayed onto the exhaust casing causing a fire. The fire was quickly extinguished.

London, Jul 5 — Bulker *Algonorth* sailed from Hamilton, Canada, at 1610 hrs, Jun 30, bound for Thunder Bay, arriving there on Jul 3.

ALLIANCE (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, July 4 — Understand tug *Lady Debbie* arrived at Fort de France June 26 from UK, via Azores. It was used last Friday, June 30, to refloat tug *Alliance* (150 gt, built 1960) aground on a mud bank in Fort de France bay.

Fort de France, Jul 5 — Understand that tug *Alliance* was only a touch in the mud and master did not even make a report out of it. Therefore this is not to be considered as a casualty. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANGLIAN SOVEREIGN (U.K.)

London, Jun 29 — A master who was found to be more than three times over the prescribed limit for alcohol was the main cause of the grounding on the Shetlands last September of the emergency towing vessel *Anglian Sovereign*, a Marine Accident Investigation Branch report has concluded. The ETV, owned by Klyne Tugs (Lowestoft), was on charter to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and initially ran aground on the offshore island of Bulta Skerry when returning

to the Shetland port of Scalloway after hydrographic trials. The master was alone on the bridge at the time of the initial grounding. The report notes that there was little attempt to assess the situation after the grounding, which took place at 16 knots, and the master requested a helicopter to evacuate the crew. Meanwhile the vessel floated off the rocks with the tide and drifted before grounding again on other rocks. Left alone on the vessel after the crew were taken off, the master clutched in the main engines and drove the tug out of a cleft in the rocks and into the open sea. After another momentary grounding the severely damaged vessel, listing heavily and leaking oil, was driven by the master into Scalloway harbour and berthed. He was breathalysed, found to be three to four times over the limit and arrested. The report notes that while the master's alcohol consumption was the cause of the accident other safety issues identified were the ineffectiveness of the company policy on alcohol, with the master routinely drinking and other senior officers being aware of this without taking any action. No lookout was posted and proper navigational practices were not observed, while after the grounding there was no effective command and control of the emergency situation. The Safety Management System of Klyne Tugs was said to be ineffective, while the MCA was found to have an inadequate regime for verifying the standards of the ETV fleet. Recommendations were made to Klyne Tugs on their safety management system and auditing and to the MCA to establish an effective verification system. Prosecuting authorities have conducted their own entirely separate investigation into the master's role.

APHRODITE (Italy)

London, Jun 30 — A press release issued on Jun 28, by the US Coastguard at Seattle, states: The Coast Guard responded to a call that a 759-foot container ship had struck a pier in Commencement Bay at the Pierce County Terminal yesterday. Sector Seattle ordered the Italian-flagged container carrier *Aphrodite* (37479 gt, built 1984), to anchor in Elliott Bay for an examination of damages by the Coast Guard Port State Control officers and vessel class society. The Coast Guard Port State Control officers and the vessel class society reported that there was no reportable damage to the port or the ship. An investigation into the cause of the accident is pending. (Note — *Aphrodite* arrived Seattle at 1611 hrs, Jun 27, sailing later the same day, at 2218 hrs and according to LMIU AIS at 0720, UTC, the vessel was in lat 48 37.34N, long 125 41.3W, course 298 degs, speed 17.3 knots.)

ARCHARON

London, Jul 4 — At 2340 hrs, Jul 2, inland general cargo *Archaron*, loaded with steel rolls, ran aground near

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

K'nigswinter at Km 646,5 in the River Rhine. The vessel was refloated by the Dutch inland cargo vessel *Formentera* at 0206 hrs, Jul 3. There was no damage to the *Archaron's* hull and after an investigation by the the Wasser und Schifffahrtsamt and the Wasserschutzpolizei Nordrhein Westfalen (river police), the vessel was permitted to resume her voyage from Lttich to Thionville.

ASIAN GREEN (Panama)

Yokohama, Jul 5 — General cargo *Asian Green*, 4205 gt, (built 2000), cargo 5,700 tonnes limestone in bulk, ran aground on rocky shore in Akashi Strait 0830, Jul 1. Vessel was refloated using tugs at 0100, Jul 2. No injuries and hull damage observed. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 6 — After refloating, general cargo *Asian Green* proceeded to Kakogawa, departing from that port on Jul 4, bound for Oita.

ASTRO LUNA (Greece)

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Crude oil tanker *Astro Luna* (147007 gt, built 1995) and Container Carrier *YM Earth* (17153 gt, built 2003) collided in Singapore waters last night, some 2.4 km south-east of St John's Island. The incident did not result in any oil pollution or casualty, says the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. It has deployed an anti-pollution craft to monitor the situation and is investigating the incident. MPA says *Astro Luna*, was heading west in the Singapore Strait when it collided with *YM Earth*. At the time of the collision, *Astro Luna* was not carrying any oil. *YM Earth*, which was loaded with containers, was then approaching the Eastern Pilot Boarding Ground 'A' en route for the Tanjung Pagar terminal.

London, Jun 30 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 1020, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Astro Luna* and container carrier *YM Earth* are both currently anchored inside Singapore port limits following the collision. Investigations are still under way.

Singapore, Jul 1 — On Thursday night, Jun 29, a Greek registered crude oil tanker *Astro Luna* was reported to have been involved in a collision incident with Panamanian registered Container Carrier *YM Earth*. The collision took place 1.5 nautical miles off St John's Island, Singapore Straits (TSS), where *Astro Luna*, in ballast, was transiting the West bound lane of the TSS and the laden *YM Earth* was reported approaching the Eastern Pilot Board Ground 'A' to pick up pilot for berthing at Tanjung Pagar Container Terminal, Singapore. No casualty or pollution has been reported from this collision but the Maritime Port Authority of Singapore did deploy an anti-pollution craft to the scene. — Lloyd's Agents.

Singapore, July 3 — Crude oil tanker *Astro Luna* sailed Singapore 1310, July 2 for Fujairah. Container Carrier *YM Earth* is still in port. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — According to Lloyd's

MIU AIS *Astro Luna* was in lat 02 42 52.8N, long 101 14 43.8E, at 2145, July 2, speed 17.1 knots.)

London, July 5 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0310, UTC: Container Carrier *YM Earth* left Singapore at 0700, local time, today for Indonesia.

ATLANTIC MARGARET (Uruguay)

Montevideo, Jul 3 — Trawler *Atlantic Margaret* (623 gt, built 1969) arrived Montevideo Jul 1 in tow of fishing *Atlantic Peggy*. Once the nature of the vessel's problem has been investigated, it is believed repairs will be carried out. — Lloyd's Agents.

ATLANTIC PEGGY (Uruguay)

See *Atlantic Margaret*.

AUGUSTE OLDENDORFF (Liberia)

Montreal, Jun 29 — Bulker *Auguste Oldendorff* (11194 gt, built 2001) arrived Seven Islands Jun 25 and is currently in port undergoing turbo-charger repairs, ETC Jul 1. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 4 — Bulker *Auguste Oldendorff* was reported arriving at Three Rivers on Jul 1.

AYLA (Germany)

London, Jul 4 — At about 1400, local time, Jul 2, while non specific tanker *Ayla* (built 1956) was sailing in reverse out of Wesseling harbour, loaded with 1,200 tons diesel oil, the vessel came too close to the left shore of the River Rhine and grounded. No hull damage was found. With the permission of the Wasser und Schifffahrtsamt, Dutch inland tanker *Vira* came alongside to remove about 280 tons of diesel oil from the grounded vessel. *Ayla* refloated at 2142 same day and moved to deep water. The 280 tons of diesel oil were pumped back on board and following the necessary formalities, the vessel was permitted to proceed on voyage to Frankfurt.

BALTIC FJORD (Norway)

Tallinn, Jul 5 — General cargo *Baltic Fjord* (2062 gt, built 1976) caught fire at approximately 1600 hrs, Jul 4, while undergoing repairs in the dry-dock at Tallinn. According to ETV24 news, the blaze had reached fuel tanks last night and the vessel was still burning this morning. By 0800 hrs, today, there were six fire commandos on site, but attempts to extinguish the fire have been severely hampered due to limited access, dense smoke, high temperatures and complicated smoke-diving routes. Booms have been placed between the harbour basin at Paljassaare and Tallinn Bay to prevent any pollution. No injuries have been reported so far. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Baltic Fjord* arrived Tallinn on May 3.)

BANGLAR SHOURABH (Bangladesh)

London, Jun 30 — Bangladesh Shipping Corporation's 14,500 dwt crude oil tanker *Banglar Shourabh*, which caught fire on Saturday (Jun

24) with the loss of at least three lives, had been disclassed by Lloyd's Register on Jun 5 with several class related items overdue, according to the Equasis online database. The 1987-built, Bangladeshi-flag vessel caught fire off Chittagong with some 20 shore labourers on board as well as the crew. The vessel's chief officer was reported to be critically ill with severe burns. Yesterday the ship's owner said it had not been decided whether to attempt to salvage the vessel. The vessel is not impeding the operation of Chittagong port.

Chittagong, Jul 3 — Understand from the owners of crude oil tanker *Banglar Shourabh* that the vessel is still lying at "C" anchorage, Chittagong outer anchorage. Local salvage company Western Marine Services has been engaged to tow the vessel from its present position to shallow water about three nautical miles from the its present position. — Lloyd's Agents.

Chittagong, Jul 4 — Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) have advised that crude oil tanker *Banglar Shourabh* has been towed by tug *Kandari-10* to position lat 22 07.6N, long 91 49.94E, from her original position which is 6.1 nautical miles from Chittgaong port and about 500 metres from the beach. A four-member committee has been formed with representatives from D G Shipping, POMMD, Chittagong Port Authority and BSC to decide the next course of action. — Lloyd's Agents.

BELLATRIX (Antigua & Barbuda)

See "Belgium" under "Port State Control".

BELLE NAUTICA (Panama)

London, Jul 4 — Bulker *Belle Nautica* arrived at Fraser River, Canada, on Jun 30.

BILLY STAR

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

BILLY STAR (Philippines)

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

BLACK PRINCE (Bahamas)

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

BRN-211 (Russia)

London, Jul 1 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: On Jun 30, Russian oil barge *BRN-211*, under tow of tug *OT-2034* and laden with 235 tonnes of oil products, broke away from a "barge-train", in the Russian "Nizhny Tunguska River". It went adrift and subsequently hit submerged rocks and suffered a hole in the aft section. The barge was pulled onto a sandbank, with heavy port list, and came to rest half-submerged, listing 25 degs. The oil spill fighting ship *Zarya* arrived at the site at 2200 hrs.

BULO NI CEVA (Fiji)

London, July 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Opposition Leader

Mick Beddoes has called for the immediate removal of the stricken passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva* from a reef in Rotuma to prevent an environmental disaster. He said there was a risk that oil and fuel from the ship would seep into the ocean if the Government did not speed up the removal process. He said the matter needed urgent attention. He warned the ship was an environmental disaster waiting to happen. Mr Beddoes said if the vessel was not removed, oil and fuel would spill into the ocean creating an environmental disaster for the people of Rotuma. He said the response from proper authorities was too slow and the delay would not do much to help the problem. The crew of the stricken vessel were being fed and clothed by the Rotuman people but no help had been forthcoming from the owners of the vessel. He said it was a very serious matter that needed immediate attention. A team was assigned to leave this weekend in a chartered airplane to assess damage done to the ship. Kadavu Provincial Council chairman Ratu Josateki Nawalowalo said the team would include officers from Fiji Islands Maritime Services Authority, Kadavu Shipping directors and their insurance brokers to assess the damage. "We are trying to ask the Transport Ministry to help us on the issue and we have been negotiating for a plane to be chartered to Rotuma," he said. He said the 30 crew member including the master of *Bulou Ni Ceva* were being sheltered at one of the villages on Rotuma and looked after by the chiefs and villagers. "The trip would mostly be to assess the condition of the boat and see if it can be salvaged or not and the directors of the company will also be part of the trip. "We will also be visiting the crew and bringing them back with us after the assessment has been completed," he said. He said the weather in Rotuma was really bad and it was the main reason why the ship was still on the reef after almost a month.

London, July 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A team that left last Thursday (June 29) to assess damage to passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva* is expected to return with the crew early this week. The team reached Rotuma early on Saturday morning. Rotuma parliamentarian Jioji Konrote said the team would return with the 30 crew members, including the master of the vessel, who were being sheltered and looked after by the people and chiefs of one of the villages on Rotuma. Mr Konrote said the team consisted of representatives from the shipping company, the environment department and marine surveyors. Mr Konrote said the vessel should be removed immediately to prevent an environmental disaster as 13,000 litres of fuel in the vessel could destroy the marine life in Rotuma waters. Mr Konrote said the matter needed urgent attention. Meanwhile, Opposition leader Mick Beddoes said accepting an insurance payout for *Bulou Ni Ceva* would be a better

alternative for its owners than a salvage operation. Mr Beddoes said although the company was doing all it could to fix matters, there was a danger that with a \$1million cover, the owners might be looking more keenly at an insurance payout rather than salvaging it. Mr Beddoes said salvage operations would cost up to \$300,000. However unexplained delays are increasing the risk of a failure in the salvage operations and the potential environment disaster that will follow if the good whether changes and the vessel begins to break up, he said

London, Jul 5 — A press report, dated Jul 4, states: Passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva*, which ran aground near Rotuma, poses a potential threat to the islanders and their surroundings, says the Rotuma Council. The Council has raised its concern about the *Bulou Ni Ceva* with the relevant authorities, said council chairman Tarterani Rigamoto yesterday. He said the concerns were raised with the environment and marine departments, who advised the council to wait for the findings of a team that left last week to assess the damage to the vessel. The crew of the vessel and the assessment team returned early yesterday morning. Rotuma parliamentarian Jioji Konrote said the team was expected to present its findings soon to the Government. He could not specify what the findings were. Mr Konrote said the urgent matter was the removal of the vessel to prevent an environmental disaster because fuel spillage would destroy the marine life in Rotuma. District officer Jovesa Vocea said of the 30 crew members, four engineers were still on the island to look after the vessel. The Kadavu Shipping Limited owned-vessel ran aground near Lopta village, Oinafa last month.

London, July 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Owners of passenger (cruise) *Bulou Ni Ceva* are waiting on word from insurance companies on salvaging of the vessel. "We have done all that is needed to be done from our part," Kadavu provincial Council chairman Ratu Josateki Nawalowalo said. "We are waiting on the insurance company for their assessment of the ship so it can be salvaged as soon as possible." Ratu Josateki said they were concerned as well with the side effects resulting from the vessel. "The council is concerned with the side effects that will be caused by this but we are hoping the insurance company is quick with its work so we can do away with it." He said the ship was insured for \$1.3 million with Dominion Insurance. Dominion Insurance referred all questions to the ship's insurance broker, Aon Risks. An agent of the insurance broker, who did not wish to be named, said they would send a team to assess damage to the ship. The Rotuma Council in earlier reports said the vessel posed a potential threat to the islanders and their surroundings.

BUMI JAYA (Indonesia)

Chittagong, Jul 1 — General cargo *Bumi Jaya* departed from Chittagong

outer anchorage at approximately 1130 hrs, Jun 21, reportedly under tow, bound for Pasir Gudang, Malaysia. — Lloyd's Agents.

CANADIAN PROGRESS (Canada)

London, Jul 4 — On Jun 29 the upbound bulker *Canadian Progress* (21436 gt, built 1968) sustained main engine problems and had to proceed at reduced speed. The vessel berthed at Three Rivers and will be under repair for approximately one month.

COLUMBIA (U.S.A.)

London, Jul 2 — A press report, dated Jul 1, states: A fire broke out aboard an American ferry bound for Alaska early this morning off the coast of Vancouver Island. The 418-foot Alaskan Ferry passenger ro/ro *Columbia* (3946 gt, built 1974) was on its way from Bellingham, Wash., with 352 passengers and crew on board when the fire broke out just before 0500 hrs. No injuries were reported. According to the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Victoria, the blaze began in the engine room. A distress call was made to the centre as the vessel was navigating through Separation Head in Seymour Narrows, near Campbell River, B.C. The fire knocked out the ship's engines for a brief time, forcing it to manoeuvre with bow thrusters. Coast Guard officer Troy Haddock said the ship was in a treacherous stretch of water with fast currents when the fire was reported. "It's not an easy place to navigate at all," he said. "You have to time your tides to get through there properly." The fire was extinguished by the crew. The crew turned the ferry around and headed back toward Duncan Bay, B.C., where Transportation Safety Board and Coast Guard officials determined the ship was seaworthy and cleared it to resume its voyage.

London, July 3 — An Alaska Marine Highway System press release, dated July 1, states: Passenger ro/ro *Columbia* experienced a malfunction in one of its four generators that resulted in a fire while it was transiting Seymour Narrows at about 0300 today causing the ship to lose power to one of its two engines. *Columbia* was escorted to Duncan Bay by a tug and crews ran assessments of its operating systems before Transport Canada the Canadian Transport Safety Board cleared the ship to proceed to Ketchikan. The ship left Duncan Bay under full power at about 0800 hrs and is expected to arrive in Ketchikan at about 1100 tomorrow. Passengers were given the "all clear" signal over the intercom within two minutes of an alarm sounding and were kept informed through periodic updates through the night, said AMHS General Manager John Falvey. "We tried to keep the passengers well informed of the problem and in the morning we gave them complimentary breakfast to compensate them for any inconvenience they experienced the previous night," said Falvey. The *Columbia* is carrying 380 passengers

and 100 vehicles on its run from Bellingham, Wash, to Skagway. It left Bellingham at 1800 yesterday. The U.S. Coast Guard will inspect the ship during its scheduled stop in Ketchikan and determine whether it can proceed to its next destination. The Alaska Marine Highway System is developing a repair schedule to respond to the generator malfunction and is activating additional shore-side crew for passengers in case their travel plans are altered. AMHS management is also tracking available space on other AMHS ferries in the area to accommodate travellers in case *Columbia* must undergo immediate repairs in Ketchikan. "Our biggest concern is finding space to accommodate the vehicles that *Columbia* is carrying, should it be held in Ketchikan for repairs. If there's the potential for a delay in accommodating any passengers, we would provide meals and sleeping accommodations onboard." Falvey said. *Columbia* underwent a six-week scheduled overhaul in March.

London, July 3 — A press report, dated July 2, states: Passenger ro/ro *Columbia* was sidelined today at the Ketchikan shipyard for repairs, and Alaska Marine Highway System staff members were finding alternative travel means for 380 passengers, officials said. It was not immediately clear how long repairs would take. "The safety and comfort of our customers are our primary concern right now and we are going to do everything possible to give these folks options to get them where they need to go," said Capt. John Falvey, AMHS general manager. "We have ships going north and south all week and so we hope the disruption in their travel plans is only temporary." The *Columbia* was carrying 380 passengers and 100 vehicles when one of its four generators malfunctioned about 0300 yesterday, starting a small fire. The *Columbia* then lost power to one of its two engines. *Columbia* was taken to Duncan Bay for repair before the Canadian Transport Safety Board cleared the ship to proceed to Ketchikan. Officials completed a more complete assessment of its mechanical problems after arriving this morning in Ketchikan. AMHS staff were providing meals and lodging onboard *Columbia* while passengers wait for alternate sailings. Several passengers and vehicles today boarded the ferry *Taku* on its sailing to Prince Rupert, B.C. Officials said more passengers were expected to leave as AMHS ships arrive in Ketchikan during their scheduled stops.

London, July 4 — An Alaska Marine Highway System press release, dated July 3, states: The AMHS has cancelled the southbound sailing of passenger ro/ro *Columbia* due to a previous mechanical problem. The ship was scheduled to transit from Skagway to Bellingham at about 1730 today. No decision has been made on whether *Columbia* will make its northbound sailing from Bellingham on Friday. Of the 380 passengers

onboard *Columbia* when it encountered mechanical difficulties, 265 have been accommodated through alternate travel plans. The remainder are expected to sail on *Matanuska* tomorrow or on other ferries by Thursday.

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated Jul 5, states: Passenger ro/ro *Columbia*, Bellingham, Wash., to Anchorage, Alaska, had an electrical fire in the engine-room 0500, Jul 1. The fire began as it was passing through the Seymour Narrows near Separation Head and she made a distress call to the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Victoria. Campbell River assistant fire chief Tim Paul said the ferry crew was able to get the fire under control and no one was hurt. "They contained the fire and put it out themselves," he said. "There were no injuries from fire or smoke inhalation for the passengers and crew." However, the ferry's captain brought her into Duncan Bay where the Coast Guard and Transport Canada gave it a thorough investigation to make sure it was seaworthy. While the ship was being investigated, local firefighters were ready at Catalysts Elk Falls paper mill, which has a dock big enough to receive the ferry. Paul said emergency services were prepared for the worst. The fire department activated the city's emergency preparedness plan, which is designed to streamline and hasten emergency services in the event of a disaster. Buses were ready to take ferry passengers to relief stations at the community centre. Canada customs was prepared to deal with the 352 American passengers and crew on board if they needed to disembark. No passengers or crew needed to get off the ferry and the ship was pronounced seaworthy. "The captain was satisfied he could make it back up to Anchorage, Alaska safely," he said. Paul said the ferry's captain was impressed with Campbell River's response to the fire and offered compliments when the ship was finally back underway to Alaska.

CONCEL PRIDE (Nigeria)

Cadiz, Jul 1 — Situation of product tanker *Concel Pride* remains unchanged. Vessel remains abandoned at Algeciras. — Lloyd's Agents.

CONRAD OLDENDORFF (Malta)

London, Jun 30 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1030, UTC: Bulker *Conrad Oldendorff* is still aground. At present, efforts are under way to lighter fuel to a bunkering barge, while general cargo *Credo* is expected on scene tomorrow to begin the process of unloading around 400 to 500 tonnes of coal. Once the *Conrad Oldendorff* is refloated it will be moved 2.5 miles south-east of its present position for reloading of cargo and diver inspection.

London, Jul 1 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 0938, UTC: Bulker *Conrad Oldendorff* is still aground. General cargo *Credo* is now alongside and operations to transfer

around 4,500 tons of coal from *Conrad Oldendorff* to the *Credo* are in progress. It is anticipated that operations will be completed tonight, at which time, the vessel should be refloated. Once *Conrad Oldendorff* is refloated it is still the intention to move it 2.5 miles south-east of its present position for reloading of cargo and diver inspection.

London, Jul 1 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 2200, UTC: Bulker *Conrad Oldendorff* refloated at 1905, UTC, with tug assistance and anchored in lat 54 50N, long 14 47.7E, for reloading of coal. Diver inspection being carried out. Class surveyor expected tomorrow morning.

London, Jul 3 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 0946, UTC: Bulker *Conrad Oldendorff* was given permission to proceed on voyage yesterday.

CREACH (Cambodia)

London, Jul 5 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Creach* (1948 gt, built 1966) listed to starboard at the Istanbul Strait late on Monday (Jul 3), sources said. According to sources, the vessel was carrying logs from Russia to Turkish northwestern city of Izmit when it leaned to one side at the Istanbul strait. They said that the vessel started to pump sea water to its water tanks in order to balance itself while passing through the strait, but it listed to starboard due to the excessive water. Turkish Coastal Security & Ship Rescue teams helped the ship crew discharge the excessive water, the sources stated. They added that the vessel then anchored off Buyukdere. (Note — *Creach* passed Istanbul 1615, Jul 4, bound for Diliskelesi.)

CRIMSON VENUS (Panama)

Buenos Aires, Jun 29 — Wood-chip carrier *Crimson Venus* remains aground at Km 316, River Parana, assisted by tugs *Conquistador* and *Rua II*. Two additional tugs have been requested by vessel's master. Main navigation channel available for in and outbound traffic. — Lloyd's Agents.

Buenos Aires, Jun 30 — Wood-chip carrier *Crimson Venus* was refloated with the assistance of tugs *Conquistador* and *Rua II* at 2250 hrs, yesterday. The Argentine Coastguard (PNA) authorized the vessel to continue navigation, bound for Durban, South Africa. — Lloyd's Agents.

DA YUAN YU 001 (Chinese)

See "Chinese Trawlers Seized by Australia" under "Seizures & Arrests."

DA YUAN YU 002 (Chinese)

See "Chinese Trawlers Seized by Australia" under "Seizures & Arrests."

EGASCO FORTUNE (Egypt)

Alexandria, Jul 5 — Bulker *Egasco Fortune* is under coastal guard until today.— Lloyd's Agents.

ENSCO 107 (Liberia)

London, Jun 30 — Drill platform *Ensko 107* was reported arriving at Singapore at 1230 hrs, Jun 27.

ERIKA (Malta)

London, July 6 — The Total oil group will be prominent among the 15 defendants who will go on trial in Paris from Decr 4 on charges of responsibility for the sinking of tanker *Erika* off the French coast in December 1999 and for the pollution disaster which ensued. Total is accused of having caused marine pollution and having endangered human life by chartering the ill-fated tanker despite knowing it to be unsafe. Three separate group companies will reply to charges at the trial, Total SA, Total Transport Corp and Total Petroleum Services, as will the group's head of shipping, Bertrand Thouilin, who was head of legal affairs and shipping and trading division safety at the time of the catastrophe. The group can be expected to defend itself vigorously, however. It has already rejected claims that it had effective control of *Erika* at the time of the break-up and the group's lawyer repeated this week that the accusation against it had no basis in maritime law, which he said could not be interpreted on the basis of emotions generated by an event. The other corporate defendant will be Italian classification society Rina, whose executive Gianpiero Ponasso will also appear as an individual defendant. Among the nine other individuals on trial will be *Erika's* Italian owner Giuseppe Savarese and his two associates Mauro Clemente and Alessandro Ducci, master Captain Karun Mathur and former head of Italian shipmanagement company Panship Antonio Pollara. In addition, three naval officers on duty at the time at the maritime prefecture in Brest and one member of staff at the local CROSS surveillance and rescue centre have been charged with deliberately failing to take action to prevent the casualty from occurring. The trial of those accused of responsibility for the disaster had been provisionally set to open on Oct 30 and to run until Dec 27. At a 'fixing' hearing on Tuesday, however, these dates were modified. A first proposal to open the trial on Nov 13 was also discarded at the request of lawyers involved in the case. The trial will now open for an initial session running from Dec 4-20 before resuming on Jan 8, 2007 and continuing until Mar 28. Some 60 organisations, including environmental organisations and local authorities, will be participating in the trial via civil actions.

EVANS MCKEIL (Canada)

Montreal, Jun 29 — Tug *Evans McKeil* effected repairs and returned to service the same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

EVER PEACE (Panama)

Sydney, Jun 30 — Container Carrier *Ever Peace* (17887 gt, built 2001) hit

Melbourne's South Wharf early today after an apparent misunderstanding on the bridge. Sources familiar with the incident said an officer on the bridge "was told to go astern but he went ahead". A spokeswoman for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said: "We are advised that *Ever Peace* had made heavy contact with 32 South Wharf while it was berthing in West Swanson Dock at 0530, today. We are conducting a seaworthiness inspection of *Ever Peace*." A Marine Safety Victoria spokeswoman confirmed her organisation would investigate the incident, while a spokesman for the Australian Transport Safety Bureau said his organisation was unlikely to become involved. The Port of Melbourne Authority said it was aware of the collision and was awaiting details of the damage to South Wharf and how it had occurred. A spokesman said it was a redundant area. Protection and indemnity club Gard's Melbourne representative, Alex Evered of Bayside Shipping Services, was on board the Panama-flagged *Ever Peace* today but she was unable to comment. Port Philip Sea Pilots would not comment at this stage given that an investigation was underway. Lloyd's List DCN was awaiting comment from Evergreen Marine Australia on the extent of the damage to the 2001-built, vessel and whether the incident would impact on the vessel's sailing schedule. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News. (Note — *Ever Peace* sailed Kaohsiung Jun 17, arrived Botany Bay Jun 27 and sailed Jun 28.)

Melbourne, July 4 — Understand Container Carrier *Ever Peace* did not require repairs and sailed for Brisbane arriving July 3 and departing today. — Lloyd's Agents.

FAIRWEATHER (U.S.A.)

London, July 3 — An Alaska Marine Highway System press release, dated June 30, states: The Alaska Marine Highway System has cancelled the July 1 sailing of passenger ro/ro *Fairweather* from Juneau to Sitka due to electronic problems with the controller affecting clutch assemblies on two engines. Travellers who booked tickets on the July 1 sailings between Juneau and Sitka are being contacted by the AMHS and their tickets will be refunded. At this time, the AMHS is still planning to keep the July 2 sailing from Juneau to Haines and Skagway. *Fairweather* has been undergoing repairs since January when workers found damage to its four diesel engines. Later investigation found damage to four reduction gears and other mechanical problems. *Fairweather* is still expected to sail from Ketchikan to Juneau on Friday to begin revenue service at the earliest possible time. The ship will be performing sea trials during the trip to Juneau, which will delay its arrival.

London, Jul 5 — Passenger ro/ro *Fairweather* sailed from Juneau at 0800 hrs, Jul 2, bound for Sitka,

where it arrived at 1230 hrs, Jul 3. The vessel departed at 1330 hrs, Jul 3, returning to Juneau, where it was reported arriving at 1800 hrs, Jul 3.

FOLEGANDROS (Greece)

London, Jun 30 — Eletson Corporation, owners and managers of the double hull product tanker *Folegandros*, report that the vessel remains aground in the Maracaibo Channel. In close co-operation with the local authorities, efforts continue to resolve the situation through lightering and/or refloating the vessel. No pollution or injuries have been reported as a result of the incident.

FORTUNE BRIGHT (Hong Kong)

London, Jul 3 — Bulker *Fortune Bright* sailed from Chittagong on Jun 19, bound for Singapore, arriving at 0921 hrs, Jun 30. The vessel departed later the same day, at 1814 hrs, bound for Cape Cuvier, Australia.

FRANKLIN REINAUER (U.S.A.)

See *Alex Mac*.

FREEPSUM (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jul 3 — General cargo *Freepsum* sailed from Boston(Lincs) on Jun 20.

GALAXY-1 (Mongolia)

Karachi, Jul 4 — Karachi Port Trust (KPT) said in a statement that its personnel rescued a Mongolian ship on Sunday (Jul 2) which had an acute fuel shortage and subsequent technical failure. The Mongolian vessel, *Galaxy-1* while on voyage to Bushire Port (Iran) from Penang (Malaysia) with an Iranian crew on board, suffered fuel shortage and technical failure at 1045 hrs. The vessel, without power and anchors, was drifting in the Arabian Sea near Karachi Port. The ship signalled KPT operations room for immediate help. The Harbour Master, Capt Shaukat Ali along with Pilot, Capt Rashid Baig, assisted the vessel, which was not carrying any cargo. KPT personnel steered the ship to safety and brought it to the mooring near Manora inside the harbour. The rescue entailed a hectic four-hour operation braving adverse weather conditions and strong waves. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jul 6 — Understand from Karachi Port Trust (KPT) that vessel *Galaxy-1* sailed at around 1530 yesterday. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

GENOA (Bahamas)

Ponta Delgada, Jul 6 — Refrigerated general cargo *Genoa* (8254 gt, built 1983) arrived Ponta Delgada inner port Jul 5 for bunkers. After bunkered, vessel proceeded to outer roads for repairs account of main engine damage. — Lloyd's Agents.

GLOBAL CARRIER (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jul 5 — Roll On Roll Off *Global Carrier* arrived at Burns

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

Harbor on/about Jun 9, sailing on/about Jun 14, for Milwaukee, where it arrived on Jun 15. The vessel departed on Jun 16, bound for Antwerp.

HARTENFELS (Germany)

London, Jul 4 — General cargo *Hartenfels* experienced an engine black-out in the Dortmund-Ems-Kanal Jul 1 and struck the canal wall at Km 78.24. The pressure of the collision pushed in the iron side of the canal over about five metres, and the vessel's anchor caused further damage to the canal side. The vessel sustained damage to the starboard side, where the railing was pushed in, and sustained a five-cm-long tear below the waterline. The vessel's own pumps were able to cope with the water ingress. The Munster Wasserschutzpolizei held an investigation. There was no obstruction of shipping traffic in the canal and no injuries were reported.

HOHEBANK (U.K.)

Liverpool, Jul 6 — General cargo *Hohebank* is still under repair. — Lloyd's Agents.

HYUNDAI FORTUNE (Panama)

London, July 3 — A Svitzer Wijismuller Salvage report, dated June 30, states: On June 16 SvitzerWijismuller Salvage completed its salvage operations involving the 5,501 TEU container vessel (Container Carrier *Hyundai Fortune*) it was involved in since Mar 21. On that date a devastating fire erupted on the aft part of vessel off Yemen which forced her crew to abandon the vessel. Despite the infrastructural problems SvitzerWijismuller had a fire fighting tug with salvage and fire fighting-experts on site within 36 hours, some 140 miles off Aden. More men, equipment and crafts were moved in as necessary whereby in a relatively short time control was obtained over the vessel and the fire. Subsequently port entry had been obtained by the salvors in the port of Salalah where, in a pre-planned operation, 2,249 containers were discharged for onwards transport during a port stay of less than 48 hours. To move out of harms way the convoy then moved out of the Arabian Sea prior to the onset of the SW-monsoon towards the Gulf of Oman, where the casualty was re-delivered to new owners offshore the UAE coast. This concluded operations on the largest container vessel to date requiring salvage services.

London, July 6 — New fireworks are threatened over efforts to resolve cargo claims in the Container Carrier *Hyundai Fortune* case, with fears that claimants could have a huge struggle to get their money. Underwriters have commissioned both fire experts and fireworks experts to reach a conclusion over what caused the massive explosion and blaze on the Hyundai Merchant Marine containership. A leading cargo claims consultant said the determination would decide whether the recovery is against the

shipowner, or against the manufacturer and shippers of fireworks or potentially other hazardous items. Although the cargo included fireworks, there remains controversy over the cause of the accident and, as speculation stands at present, any dangerous cargo, perhaps unspecified by the shipper, could be to blame. Should liability be pinned on a wayward shipper, the chances of finding him or his assets would be about nil, a senior recoveries expert told Lloyd's List. A key issue will be whether the carrier exercised full care in handling and positioning a dangerous cargo on board, for instance well away from any source of heat. Recovery action could proceed clearly against the carrier if that company were alleged to have been negligent. So complex is the web of commercial interests involved in the *Hyundai Fortune* consignment that instructions are still arriving from cargo underwriters at law firms and specialist cargo recovery businesses, with most of the work coming into London. Intense work is already under way. While on the legal front Clyde & Co is representing interests collectively with \$100m worth of cargo, independent recovery firm WK Webster has been asked to recoup losses on behalf of more than 70 insurance companies for cargo said to be worth some \$30m. WE Cox Claims Group is acting for several overseas clients who are seeking substantial sums and other competitors have additional slices of such work. Surveyor LGSA of London is appointed to carry out work in the common interest for the general average aspect of the case. While a first instinct has been to blame fireworks, some experts say it is unlikely that if correct loading procedures were followed they could have caused such devastation. Proponents of the fireworks theory saw support in May from an unconnected incident when more than 200 containers were destroyed or badly damaged by a series of explosions and a huge blaze in the Chinese port of Changsha. It was said that the containers were loaded with fireworks waiting to be exported to the US or Europe. At least seven people were injured and the blast shook houses elsewhere in the capital of Hunan province. The containership blaze caused such alarm in maritime circles that some lines, including Hyundai Merchant Marine, prohibited the carriage of fireworks, although this will call for heightened vigilance against cargo misdeclarations, with procedural rules differing according to country. Independent fireworks expert Charles Weeth, who investigated the *Hanjin Pennsylvania* fire, has said that the formulae for modern fireworks are stable and only a series of packing, handling or other mistakes could lead to their ignition.

IRAN MUFATEH (Iran)

London, Jun 30 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0945,

UTC: Bulker *Iran Mufateh* (25768 gt, built 1985), Santos for Bandar Abbas, cargo sugar, reported engine problems in Saldanha Bay harbour last night. Vessel is currently at anchor off port.

London, Jun 30 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1410, UTC: Bulker *Iran Mufateh* is now alongside in Saldanha port.

London, Jul 1 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0945, UTC: Reported bulker *Iran Mufateh* is currently effecting repairs alongside in Saldanha port.

IZVORUL MARE 1

Bucharest, Jun 29 — Pusher tug *Izvorul Mare 1* was refloated Jun 28. The salvors also succeeded to release the floating Crane No. 682 from underneath the collapsed members of the portal crane. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Jul 5 — Pusher tug *Izvorul Mare 1* and United Shipping Agency SRL floating crane No.682 have both been delivered to their owners/operators. *Izvorul Mare 1* is still at Berth No 64. The owners report that they have not yet taken any decision regarding repairs. The crane has been taken to a different berth and, following hull repairs, will be taken to Budapest for renewal of its jib by the manufacturers, Ganz Budapest. Understand the salvors are continuing with the cutting of the portal crane's collapsed members. — Lloyd's Agents.

JADRANKA (Croatia)

Rijeka, Jul 5 — Ferry *Jadranka* completed repairs and sailed from Punat on Jun 26. The vessel is in regular exploitation in cabotage and is presently at Biograd. — Lloyd's Agents.

KARIM I (Cambodia)

Bucharest, Jul 5 — General cargo *Karim I* has not yet been refloated. Understand the salvors are currently fitting floatation cases. — Lloyd's Agents.

KELLY LEE (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated Jun 29, states: A Mississippi company has been cited by the Kentucky Division of Water for polluting the Ohio River at Louisville when a barge spilled asphalt, diesel fuel and heating oil in January. Magnolia Marine Transport, of Vicksburg, MS, owned the barge, one of three that broke loose from tug *Kelly Lee* on Jan 26 near the McAlpine Lock and Dam. The barge lodged against the K&I Railroad bridge and leaked an estimated 200,000 gallons of liquid asphalt, 8,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 3,000 gallons of heating oil. The notice of violation issued by the DOW alleges the company violated a Kentucky statute and regulations that prohibit water pollution. The notice of violation also says the company failed to immediately notify the state of the environmental emergency it created, as Kentucky law requires. A marine salvage company removed remaining material from the barge, which was towed from the bridge last month.

LIBERTY A. (Cyprus)

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control".

LNG EDO (Bahamas)

Ferrol, Jul 6 — Liquid Natural Gas Carrier *LNG Edo* is still under repairs and will also be drydocked before departure expected now to be end of August/beginning September. — Lloyd's Agents.

LUCKY STAR (Bolivia)

Taipei, Jul 5 — Non specific tanker *Lucky Star* was successfully towed away from the coast at 0923 hrs, Jun 29, and is scheduled to shift to the drydock for repairs on Jul 29/30. — Lloyd's Agents.

MALITAM (Philippines)

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

MARC MITCHELL (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jul 3 — Following received from Coastguard Portland, timed 1833, UTC: General cargo *Marc Mitchell* now underway.

MARIAM IV (Panama)

London, Jul 4 — Understand general cargo *Mariam IV* (3523 gt, built 1980), Salalah for Zanzibar, cargo 4,700 tonnes cement, has sunk off Socota. (Note — *Mariam IV* was last reported to have sailed Salalah Jun 18 for Zanzibar.)

Salalah, Jul 5 — Understand that general cargo *Mariam IV* had sailed from Salalah at 0100 hrs, on Jun 23, laden with cement. The vessel called at Aden for bunkers and then sailed for Zanzibar. From Jun 29 the owner, on not getting any contact with the vessel, informed Yemen Police. It is assumed that the vessel sank either on Jun 29 night or Jun 30. There are unconfirmed reports that 12 survivors have been picked up by Yemen navy/helicopters and that the master is not among them. — Lloyd's Agents.

Aden, Jul 5 — General cargo *Mariam IV*, Salalah for Zanzibar with cement, sank in heavy weather off Socotra Island, in lat 12.9N, long 52.2E, Jun 30. Thirteen crew were rescued, one was killed and five are missing. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARINA STAR (Bahamas)

Algiers, Jun 30 — General cargo *Marina Star* (4989 gt, built 1990), which arrived at Oran on Jun 26, experienced a mechanical problem with its rudder, while departing from Oran, on completion of operations in port. The vessel was re-berthed yesterday, with the assistance of port tugs and has been arrested by the Algerian Coast Guard. Understood a tug has been contracted, out of Italy to tow the vessel from Oran, but its ETA at Oran, is not presently known. — Lloyd's Agents.

Oran, Jul 3 — General cargo *Marina Star*: The vessels problems occurred during unberthing manoeuvres, when vessel's main engine did not start and tug line broke. Consequently the

vessel proceeded astern and slightly touched the breakwater, apparently damaging the rudder. The tug *Priolo* arrived at Oran on Jul 1. The tug was authorised to "fast lines at port" and sailed yesterday at 2250 hrs, with *Marina Star* in tow, bound for a shipyard in Italy (Genoa). — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MARJOLAINE II (Canada)

Montreal, Jun 29 — Passenger (cruise) *Marjolaine II* is currently under repair at Ile au Coudre, ETC Jul 2. — Lloyd's Agents.

MASSACHUSETTS (U.S.A.)

Boston, MA, Jun 30 — Passenger ro/ro *Massachusetts* has been released for evaluation and repair following the National Transportation safety Board investigation, which lasted 10 days. Understand from Mass Bay Lines that several shipyard representatives have been on board the vessel, and they are in the process of obtaining quotes for repairs. Repairs are expected to take between three and six months, depending on the yard that wins the repair contract. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAUNAKEA (Liberia)

Port Klang, Jul 6 — Refrigerated general cargo *Maunakea* is still anchored off Port Klang, awaiting the arrival of an ocean-going tug. — Lloyd's Agents.

MIDNIGHT RIDER (U.S.A.)

London, July 2 — A Coast Guard Boston, press release, dated July 1, states: Three New Bedford based fishermen were rescued by the Coast Guard about 0001 today after their 71-foot fishing (general) *Midnight Rider* (135 gt, built 1967) grounded and began taking on water in Muskeget Channel, between Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, Mass. An HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter crew from Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod hoisted Kevin Arrula, 40; Donald Bachand, 40 and Roy Lasham 40, to safety and took the three men to Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod. All three men are reported to be in good condition. Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England received a VHF radio call from the master of the vessel stating *Midnight Rider* was hard around in Muskeget Channel about 2200 yesterday. At about 2237 hrs, the master of the vessel notified the Coast Guard that they were taking on water and in need of assistance. Rescue boat crews from Coast Guard Station Brant Point and Station Menemsha were launched about 2205 hrs. The rescue helicopter crew from Air Station Cape Cod was launched about 2310 hrs and arrived on scene in six minutes and started hoisting the men to safety. The rescue was completed in 42 minutes. No pollution has been reported. A Coast Guard aircraft located *Midnight Rider* today and did not locate any pollution in the water. The position of *Midnight Rider* was given to a salvage company that has been hired to tow the vessel into port.

London, Jul 5 — A press report, dated Jul 4, states: High seas and gusting winds over the weekend prevented the safe removal of fishing (general) *Midnight Rider* that washed onto Norton Point Beach Saturday (Jul 1) morning. The unmanned New Bedford scalloper came ashore Saturday more than nine hours after the vessel ran aground on a sand bar near Wasque, necessitating a U.S. Coast Guard rescue of its three-man crew. Its presence, in close proximity to nesting least terns and piping plovers, raised concerns among beach managers about possible fuel spills. However Chris Kennedy, Islands regional director for The Trustees of Reservations, said he was told by the Coast Guard that the chances of an oil spill were minimised by the way the vessel sat, hard aground. Had the vessel been listing on its side the situation would have been more serious. Also, the vessel was boarded yesterday and the estimate on the amount of fuel was lowered to 500 gallons. Today a crew plans to use pumps and barrels to off-load the fuel. The next priority will be the boat's removal; it may be refloated in the days ahead. The area around the vessel is currently closed to the public. *Midnight Rider* and its crew first ran into trouble 2200 Friday, about 2.2 miles southeast of Wasque. It is believed the vessel ran aground on or near the locally known navigational hazard called Skiff's Island. The Coast Guard was told by radio the vessel was hard aground and taking on water. They responded with a boat crew from both Woods Hole station and a second boat from Menemsha Station. The vessel grounded in lat 41 18.8N, long 70 26.2W. A helicopter from Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod made the rescue at about 2330 hrs and hoisted the master along with two crew members to safety. While the men were safely taken to dry land, the vessel was left where it sat. The rescue was completed in 35 minutes. More than nine hours later, the vessel drifted toward Norton Point Beach and eventually came ashore. The vessel is about 1,000 feet west of the well-known fishing spot known as Metcalf's Hole, or about three-quarters of a mile west of Wasque. Mike Popovich, a senior chief with the Southeastern New England Coast Guard station in Woods Hole said the Coast Guard did a flyover Saturday morning to check out the status of the vessel and did see it adrift. He said that on the night of the rescue, the Coast Guard told the master of the vessel to hire a salvaging firm to recover the vessel. On Saturday afternoon two salvage tugs responded. Conrad Roy of Tucker-Roy Marine Towing and Salvage in Mattapoisett said the waters surrounding the fishing boat were too shallow and the waves too big to rescue the vessel on Saturday afternoon. "We couldn't get a line to it," said Mr. Roy. There was also a visible sandbar about a 100 yards offshore which prevented access. He had two boats try: 100-foot tug

R. Marcel Roy and 57-foot tug *Janice*. "The small tug started hitting bottom," Mr. Roy said, so the effort was called off. The salvage company did manage to remove the sea scallops from the fishing boat using a powerboat. On Sunday morning, a day after the grounding, two personnel from the Coast Guard marine safety office on the Cape came to the scene with a representative from another contractor. Kirk Franklin of Environmental Services Corp., in New Bedford, said he had been hired by the Coast Guard to remove the fuel onboard. Mr. Franklin said his priority was to get the fuel off the vessel and work with the Trustees to make sure that it was done in a safe way. At the time on Sunday, everyone thought there were 2,000 gallons of fuel onboard, based on a report given by the boat's owner. High seas at South Beach and strong gusting winds continued for most of the day on Sunday, so boarding the vessel was not possible. Mr. Popovich said yesterday that the contractor plans to remove the fuel by pumping it into 55-gallon barrels on the beach and transporting those barrels to a tank truck parked at Wasque. Mr. Popovich said the priority now is to off-load the fuel, and then the next step will be the removal of the fishing boat which could take days. Weather is a serious concern and will determine how quickly they will be able to act. Mr. Kennedy said: "Our primary concern is whether the hull were to break apart and have a fuel spill. Our next concern is the disposition of the hull." Scott Carr, a spokesman for the Coast Guard First District Boston office, said the salvaging of the fishing boat has been federalized. He said the owner of the vessel does not have the economic means to cover the costs of the salvage of the vessel so the Coast Guard will take over. Mr. Kennedy said there are some serious questions about the whole incident. "The one question we have is what happened. We'd like to know the whole time frame of what happened. To be fair to the Coast Guard we want the salvage work to run its course and let them do their own investigation. Right now we want the fuel taken care of and the boat taken care of." Mr. Popovich confirmed that there is an internal investigation into how the unoccupied fishing vessel made its way onto the beach. "Obviously there is an ongoing investigation. Lieut. Eric Brown of our prevention department is doing it," Mr. Popovich said. Mr. Carr said the Coast Guard is also investigating the circumstances that surrounded the call for help. At the time the winds were southwest at 19 knots and seas were four feet.

London, Jul 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Salvage efforts began yesterday for fishing (general) *Midnight Rider*, which ran aground on a beach off Martha's Vineyard on Saturday morning (Jul 1). Authorities had feared the vessel might leak diesel fuel onto the beach's protected shorebird nesting habitat. Bad

weather over the weekend delayed fuel removal from the vessel's tanks, but the fuel was pumped out without leakage yesterday, said David Belcher, superintendent for The Trustees of Reservations. Belcher said nesting shorebirds on the beach — including piping plovers and least terns, both protected by the Endangered Species Act — were mostly out of danger, though salvage efforts could still drive some from their nests or accidentally kill chicks. The vessel originally grounded in the channel between Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Island. After Coast Guard officials rescued its three-man crew by helicopter, the vessel drifted to its current location on Norton Point Beach, less than a mile from the Wasque nature reserve on Chappaquiddick Island. Coast Guard officials, who are overseeing removal efforts, had not yet completed a plan yesterday to remove the vessel from the beach, said Lieutenant Alford Danzy. "We can move to get that vessel out of there once we've gotten rid of that pollution threat" Danzy said. "The first thing is to alleviate the threat to the environment"

London, Jul 5 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1318, UTC: Fishing *Midnight Rider*: All oil cleaned-up except for 10 gallons. Awaiting salvage plan.

London, July 6 — A press report, dated today, states: As of late yesterday afternoon, Coast Guard officials were still working out the best way to refloat fishing (general) *Midnight Rider*. The Coast Guard is working with a private marine towing and salvage company in order to pull the boat from the shore when weather conditions comply. On Tuesday, a private company removed the 1,200 gallons of diesel fuel that were onboard by pumping it into 300-gallon tanks, and then into 55-gallon drums. The drums were transported down the beach to a waiting tank truck. The process began around 0900 hrs and was completed by 1500 hrs that afternoon.

MONTE STELLO (New Zealand)

London, July 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Cook Strait ferry operator Bluebridge has delayed the introduction of its second passenger ship after it developed engine problems. Passenger ro/ro *Monte Stello* (11630 gt, built 1979) had been conducting sea trials since arriving in Wellington last month and was expected to begin sailings within a month. - But engineers discovered a fault in one of its two engines after it had made two return trips to Picton, and Bluebridge says it will completely recondition the engine. "The reconditioning will take some time due to the size and nature of the vessel's engines," a spokeswoman said. Some parts might have to be ordered from Europe and the *Monte Stello* would now be introduced early in the summer. *Monte Stello's* starboard

engine had to be shut down for repairs during its voyage to New Zealand in January. Further work on refitting the ship's lounge will continue while the ship is berthed.

NANTUCKET CLIPPER (U.S.A.)

Troy, Mich., Jun 30 — Passenger (cruise) *Nantucket Clipper* arrived at Toronto at around 0900 hrs, Jun 26, and berthed at the old fast-ferry terminal. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping News.

NAPOCOR POWER BARGE 105 (Philippines)

Manila, Jul 5 — The National Power Corporation reported that the Cunningham Toplis Phils. Inc., insurance adjusters representing the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), have initially recommended that barge *Napocor Power Barge 105* be declared a "constructive total loss." Under the terms of the hull insurance policy issued by the state insurance agency for *Napocor Power Barge 105*, if the assessed loss reaches 80% of the vessel's value, the Napocor has the option to claim for a total loss. The Napocor, however, is hesitant about choosing this option. For one, the insurance proceeds would not cover the cost of purchasing a replacement power barge. Second, even if the insurance pay-out was sufficient, it would take months before a new vessel could be purchased. Napocor officials said that despite the extensive damage, repairing the power barge may still be a faster option than purchasing one. Since it caught fire, the island has been suffering from serious power outages. There is an urgent need to get the barge running at the soonest possible time, a Napocor official said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

NEVA (Russia)

London, Jul 5 — A press report, dated Jul 4, states: General cargo *Neva* (1497 gt, built 1988) touched the edge of the fairway, was holed and stranded near Voznesenye on the Svir river on Jul 3. The vessel was carrying 1,346 tons of timber from Voznesenye through St. Petersburg to Finland. Today floating crane *T-569* and tug *OT-2443* started the refloating and reloading operation.

St. Petersburg, Jul 6 — Understand from ship's owner (ENECS) that general cargo *Neva* did not sustain significant damage and there were no salvage operations because she just grazed the edge of channel and continued her voyage. — Lloyd's Agents.

NGANHURRA (Australia)

London, Jul 4 — Floating production tanker *Nganhurra* sailed from Singapore at 0725 hrs, Jul 3, bound for Dampier.

NORWAY (Bahamas)

Ahmedabad, Jun 30 (Reuters) - A former cruise liner anchored in Indian waters today, despite protests by environmentalists who say it contains

toxic asbestos hazardous to the health of the ship-breakers. India's Supreme Court has allowed the scrapping of the 46,000-tonne passenger *Blue Lady*, ex *Norway*, provided it is declared safe by experts. The vessel is berthed 73 nautical miles off Alang and port officials said experts were checking the asbestos content. Greenpeace and other groups say the ship contains more than 900 tonnes of asbestos and due to the lack of modern technology at yards like Alang, it is not safe for the workers to break it. In a report last December, the group said thousands of workers in the ship-breaking industry in countries such as India, China and Pakistan had probably died over the past two decades in accidents or due to exposure to toxic waste. But the workers at Alang are eagerly waiting for the ship. "We pray to scrap the *Blue Lady*. By cutting it, we will get money every day," said one worker. — Reuters.

Mumbai, July 1 — Passenger (cruise) *Blue lady* ex *Norway* has anchored at Pipavav Port and is likely to reach its final destination at the Alang ship-breaking yard around July 9 during the next high tide, reports reaching here said yesterday. The ship, on its way to be dismantled at Alang, anchored at Pipavav Port, awaiting clearance from customs. This would be followed by a thorough inspection by Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB). The GPCB chairman, Mr. K. V. Bhanujan, said that a technical experts committee has been constituted to assist the board for inspection of the Ship breaking Private Ltd. "First of all, the customs have to do the rummaging of the ship. As soon as we get a report from the customs, we will start our work. Since it is a big ship, it is not possible to say at this moment how long would it take to complete our work", he added. Meanwhile, reports from Bhavnagar said the vessel, after its customs' clearance, would wait for the next high tide in the Arabian Sea around July 9 to beach at Alang. Preparations at Pipavav were in full swing for the crucial customs clearance and inspection by official of Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB). GMB and GPCB would then send their reports to the supreme Court's experts committee, appointed after environmentalists and NGOs raised objection to the ship being broken into India on grounds that it was laced with asbestos, considered hazardous to human health. — Lloyd's Agents.

NURAGHES (Italy)

London, Jul 4 — Ferry *Nuraghes* arrived at Naples on Jun 30.

OCEAN D. (Malta)

London, June 30 — A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage report, dated today, states: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage provided emergency towage and standby assistance to a 26,780 ton DWT bulkcarrier (bulker *Ocean D.*) off the Yemen coast after it ended up immobilized due to a limited engine-room fire. The vessel needed

immediate assistance to prevent it from drifting into pirate infested waters and possibly to tow it to a repair port. Immediate tug assistance was arranged, which arrived on site within 24 hours and which connected up to tow the vessel closer towards the Yemen coast. The operation continued for five days after which the tug was released and the casualty could proceed again to the Persian Gulf region for permanent repairs.

OCEAN SPRING (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jun 29 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: After inspections, general cargo *Ocean Spring* sailed Myre and in lat 68 51N, long 13 69E, southbound at 1540, local time.

OLYMPIA PALACE (Greece)

London, Jul 5 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the afternoon of Jul 4, passenger ro/ro *Olympia Palace* (36825 gt, built 2001), from Italy, via Igoumenitsa, contacted with the breakwater against her port side, while entering the port of Patras. The 494 passengers on board are in good health. Minor damages were sustained by the vessel but no pollution was caused. The Port Authority of Patras prohibited departure pending inspection of the repairs and issuance of a class maintain certificate.

ONDERNEMING (Netherlands)

London, Jun 30 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Fishing (general) *Onderneming* (471 gt, built 2003) ran aground on the River Scheldt on Jun 29. It stuck fast on a sand plate at 1020, local time. At low tide two hours later it was lying high and dry.

London, Jul 5 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Fishing (general) *Onderneming* refloated on the next tide.

ORAN STAR (Panama)

London, Jun 30 — General cargo *Oran Star* sailed from Tuzla on Jun 23 and subsequently passed through the Dardanelles at 2240 hrs, Jun 29, in a westerly direction, bound for La Spezia.

OTTON (Panama)

Bilbao, Jun 30 — Firefighting tug *Ottton* is still under repair at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

PACIFIC ADVENTURER (Hong Kong)

London, July 3 — Chine Navigation's general cargo *Pacific Adventurer* and its 26 crew look set to be detained indefinitely following the collision with a Chinese patrol vessel in the Pearl river estuary on June 22. Officials from China's Maritime Safety Administration in Guangzhou and Beijing had assured investigators from Hong Kong's Marine Department that the ship and crew would be released last week. But Marine Department marine accident investigation chief

Leung Hou-kin said last week that the MSA could now not give a department investigator a release date for the ship and crew. The Marine Department is involved because the vessel was Hong Kong-flagged. The change came after meetings between the investigator and the MSA last week. The Marine Department has taken statements from the crew, which comprised an Australian master, British chief engineer, Tuvaluan second engineer and 23 Chinese seafarers. Mr Leung said that because of the sensitivity of the collision the MSA had been reluctant to agree to the release of any new information. The MSA and Marine Department are carrying out separate investigations, while China Navigation has concluded its own internal probe.

PAMELA (Finland)

London, Jul 4 — Following received from Turku MRCC, timed 1039, UTC: General cargo *Pamela* (585 gt, built 1978), Naantali for Kolobrzeg, grounded near Uto Island, in lat 59 48.55N, long 21 19.23E, at 0055, local time Jul 1. The vessel refloated by its own means at 0555 same day. One hole was reported in the bow area but the vessel was able to proceed under its own power. The vessel is currently in port at Naantali.

PANAM SERENA (Bahamas)

London, Jul 4 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: As at Jun 22, chemical tanker *Panam Serena* was still undergoing repairs at Keratsini.

London, Jul 5 — As at Jul 4, chemical tanker *Panam Serena* was still in port (at Keratsini), effecting repairs.

PHILIPP (Antigua & Barbuda)

Falmouth, Jun 28 — General cargo *Philipp* is currently still Queens Wharf, Falmouth, undergoing repairs.

Falmouth, Jul 4 — General cargo *Philipp* completed repairs and the vessel sailed from Falmouth at 2015 hrs, Jul 3, bound for Greenock. — Lloyd's Agents.

PICO EL AGUILA (Panama)

Ponta Delgada, Jul 5 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Pico el Aguila* (8017 gt, built 1982) is presently at Ponta Delgada outer anchorage with main engine damage waiting arrival of the spare sparts for the necessary repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

PONTONOSTOS (Cyprus)

Kandla, Jun 30 — It is reported that there was a collision between motor launch *Komal 15*, carrying labourers and bulker *Pontonostos* (16725 gt, built 1990), sailing after discharging pine logs at Kandla port, at Navigational Buoy 12 in the Kandla Creek, at about 2030, local time, Jun 29. Due to the impact of the collision about 19 people fell overboard from *Komal 15* Twelve were rescued, five were reported dead, and two are still missing. The labourers were reportedly working on a dredger located at Navigational Buoy 12. The

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

local MMD, has reportedly detained *Pontonostos* for investigation and further legal action. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, June 30 — A press report, dated today, states: An inquiry was initiated today by the Marine Mercantile Department (MMD) of the Directorate General of Shipping into a collision between two vessels that took place at the Kandla port yesterday. Several workers on board a vessel got drowned in the mishap. So far, eight bodies have been fished out, search for the remaining is on. The accident occurred yesterday evening in the navigational channel of Kandla port when bulker *Pontonostos*, allegedly hit anchor handling barge (AHB) (*Komal 15*), from behind. The boat with 22 workers on board was moving ahead to its company's dredger engaged in the widening and deepening of the port channel. The barge's owner Jaisu Shipping Private Limited was awarded Rs 86-crore contract by the Kandla port. "We rescued 11 workers and fished out five bodies yesterday. Another three bodies were fished out today and search is on for the remaining three missing workers with the help of our six small crafts and five fishing boats," said Pritambhai Kewalramani, director of the dredging company. Kewalramani said that all the workers rescued had been admitted to a private hospital in Gandhidham and were doing well. He said his company had already registered a complaint with the Kandla police against the Cyprus ship. Police have recorded statements of the survivors. The ship has been detained at the port harbour till the inquiry is completed and it will be released after we get clearance from the authority concerned," H K Sibal, deputy conservator, KPT, said. Sibal also said that the incident had not affected shipping activities at his port. "Activities at the port continued last night as the navigational channel, which is a marked path for ships coming to Kandla, had no obstruction of any kind. Things would have been different if the ill-fated barge had sunk and lay at the bottom of the sea. It has been taken away to a safe distance," he said.

London, July 4 — A press report, dated July 3, states: The dredging company whose barge was involved in a collision with bulker *Pontonostos* in the navigational channel of Kandla port last Thursday (June 29), filed a petition with the Gujarat High Court seeking the ship's confiscation today. It has also sought Rs 10 crore in damages, company officials informed. The inquiry for which the ship was detained has been completed but port authorities say they won't let the ship leave port till they got an all-clear from authorities concerned. "We have filed a petition seeking the ship's confiscation and Rs 10 crore compensation as our work boat was badly damaged in the collision. Out of the 32 workers who were on board, only 13 were rescued. We have managed to recover the bodies of 14 workers till now," Suresh

Kewalramani, owner of Jaisu Shipping Company Limited. Meanwhile, company director Pritam Kewalramani said this afternoon that he had received intimation of the recovery of one more body and was leaving for the site. The company had been engaged by Kandla port for widening and deepening of the port channel. Suresh Kewalramani said the Cyprus flag ship, which was on its return journey, should have stuck to the fixed navigational path in the channel i.e., on the port-side of the channel where there was sufficient draught. "But it went on the starboard side, where the water was shallow. As a result, it hit our barge which was following its designated path," he added. "The ship's crew did not come to help our crew thereby violating the international convention of SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea). This constitutes a criminal offence under maritime laws. Considering the seriousness of the accident, the loss of life and the negligence on part of the ship's master and crew, we have initiated legal proceedings," he said. But highly placed sources with the Kandla Port Trust (KPT) said that both *Pontonostos* and the barge were in the middle of the navigational channel midstream when they collided. "The width of the navigational channel is 300 metres, which is marked. At the time of collision, both the vessels were midstream that is 150 m away from the port. It was because of the impact of the collision that the barge drifted towards the shallow waters near Satsaida island," said an official. Meanwhile, the port trust has decided to detain the ship till inquiries are completed. "We will not allow the ship to leave the port till required clearance is obtained from all concerned agencies like the police, the Directorate General of Shipping and the court," Captain R K Chhabra, harbour-master of KPT said. The Mercantile Marine Department of the Directorate General of Shipping has completed its inquiry and its representative Captain Shukla has left Kandla for his Jamnagar office. Sources said that Shukla would submit his report to the DG Shipping, who will pinpoint the responsibility.

London, Jul 5 — Following received from MTI Network, dated today: A report from Athens, dated Jul 4, states: Owners and managers of bulker *Pontonostos*, which was involved in a collision with anchor handling barge, *Kamal XV* on the night of Jun 29 in the navigation channel of Kandla Port, wish to express deep sympathy and condolences to the families and friends of all those who tragically lost their lives and to wish those injured a speedy recovery. While investigations on site are still ongoing, initial reports from those on board and involved in the preliminary investigation suggest that this was a tragic maritime accident exacerbated by the significantly higher freeboard of the *Pontonostos* in comparison with that of

the barge and the fact that another large ship was anchored at a anchorage located in the narrow navigation channel. The radar signal of the barge and the close by anchored vessel may also have appeared as one image on the radar screen on the bridge of *Pontonostos*. While not confirmed, early reports indicate that *Kamal XV* may have come in view too late and when there was little likelihood of avoiding a collision. Following the accident, the chief officer immediately ordered that life jackets be thrown into the sea for those who had gone overboard from the barge and issued orders to launch life boats for the rescue operation. Kandla Port Control advised that there were other craft in the vicinity engaged in picking up survivors and further boats would not be necessary. *Pontonostos* was then instructed to re anchor in Kandla Creek pending enquiries. Owners of the *Pontonostos* are committed to assisting the families of those sadly lost and, regardless of fault, are liaising with local authorities with a view to setting up a family assistance centre for relief of hardship at this difficult time. Owners will also be liaising with the owners of the *Kamal XV*, Jaisu Shipping Company, in the hope that both companies jointly collaborate in setting up the family assistance centre. Both crew and owners of the *Pontonostos* are co-operating fully with the local authorities and investigation into this unfortunate incident.

PXXI P21

London, June 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Salvage tug *Zouros Hellas* arrived off Tristan da Cunha to begin the salvage of oil platform PXXI P21 on June 22 where it proceeded to the anchorage on the island's north. The salvage team on board *Zouros Hellas* has since completed a rig inspection although bad weather has disrupted further salvage operations.

London, June 29 — Understand the name of oil platform PXXI P21 was changed to *A Turtle* about a week ago. Salvage tug *Zouros Hellas* has now connected to the platform and is preparing to make a refloating attempt later this afternoon after further inspections.

REEF ZANZIBAR (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jul 4 — Following received from the operators of roll on roll off *Reef Zanzibar*, dated today: The tug is due to arrive on scene Jul 5 and take *Reef Zanzibar* in tow for Mahe, ETA Jul 13-14.

London, Jul 6 — Following received from the operators of roll on roll off *Reef Zanzibar*, dated today: *Reef Zanzibar* was taken in tow yesterday afternoon by tug *Akhtiar* and is now under tow for Mahe, ETA Jul 13.

RICHARD (Germany)

London, Jul 4 — On Saturday (Jul 1) afternoon, the empty German non

specific tanker *Richard* (1107 dwt) ran on a groyne on the River Beneden-Merwede, off Km mark 966,7, near Werkendam, and slid several metres over the groyne. At first a cutter yacht tried to pull the tanker off, but with no result. Then the tug *Gepke III* successfully refloated her, after a few attempts. The cause of the stranding was a failure in the vessels steering system, according officials of Rijkswaterstaat. There was no leakage or damage to the *Richard* and after an investigation the vessel was given permission to resume her voyage.

ROCKNES (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jun 30 — A Norwegian transport safety lobby group has demanded a full maritime inquiry into the capsized and heavy loss of life of the bulk carrier *Rocknes* off Bergen in Jan 2004. The Skaggerak Foundation, formed in Mar, 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 vessels 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 vessel 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 shipping 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.

ROMI

London, Jul 6 — Following received from Antwerp Harbour Authority, dated today: General cargo *Romi* is still under repair at Antwerp.

RUBICONE (Republic of Ireland)

See "Belgium" under "Port State Control".

SAFMARINE AGULHAS (Liberia)

London, Jun 29 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1740, UTC: Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* remains aground in the same position. A refloating attempt is likely to take place again tomorrow morning.

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* moved a few metres in a salvage attempt at high tide on Thursday afternoon (Jun 29), said the National Ports Authority (NPA). "We have had limited success," said NPA East London spokesperson Terry Taylor. Two tugs attached to the bow and stern of the 16800 ton container vessel would keep a steady line overnight. This meant there would still be a pull on the *Safmarine Agulhas* and it was possible the vessel could move off the sandbank overnight, said Taylor. He emphasised that circumstances were changing all the time.

London, Jun 30 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0950, UTC: Container carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* remains aground, with tug *Smit Amandla* attempting to refloat it. High tide is this morning.

London, Jun 30 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1405, UTC: Container carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* is still aground. Further attempts to refloat will be made tonight and tomorrow. Tug *Smit Amandla* remains on scene and another tug is proceeding from Saldanha Bay to assist. Some containers may be taken off.

London, June 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Pictures taken yesterday afternoon, ahead of the first attempt by the salvage tug *Smit Amandla* to haul the grounded Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* from its rocky and sandy perch outside East London harbour, indicate just how the position of the ship has been worsening by the hour. Earlier pictures showed the ship several hundred metres off the western breakwater but the latest available images, taken at 1500 yesterday show the vessel's stern to be firmly wedged in among the dolos making up the breakwater. Other images show that the bulbous bow has been broken off sometime since Tuesday evening when the vessel lost all power and began drifting towards the beach. Bad weather en route delayed the arrival in East London of *Smit Amandla* and preventing any thought of attempting to pull the vessel away at high tide on Wednesday evening. As a result the salvage team decided to make the first attempt on yesterday's high tide at approximately 1800 hrs. In a statement the salvors said that the attempt would be made with the assistance of one or more harbour tugs. Should this attempt fail the structural integrity of the ship would be re-assessed and consideration given to lightening the vessel including taking off the 662 tonnes of heavy fuel and 88 tonnes of diesel on board. SAMS (South African Maritime Safety Authority) has also arranged for the presence of a Sikorsky S61 helicopter to assist with operations and the coastal patrol vessel *Victoria Mxenge* is on station along with one of the older Kuswag oil pollution abatement vessels. In addition a coastwatch aircraft, Kuswag VIII has transferred to East London and is undertaking daily flights over the casualty to monitor for any pollution. Because the grounding took place on the outer side of the western breakwater, shipping operations are able to continue normally in the port. *Safmarine Agulhas* is owned by FA Vinnen & Co GmbH of Bremen and is on charter to Safmarine on its intermediate South Africa Europe container service. The ship was en route to Durban with 469 loaded containers and 112 empties.

London, Jul 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A multi-million plan to offload the fuel and cargo from container carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* has commenced as the ship remains firmly grounded behind the East London harbour wall. The man in charge of the operation, Captain Okkie Grapow, SCR (Special Casualty Representative) yesterday said the costs would run into "many millions" but he had an "open chequebook". "We are talking US dollars here... it's impossible to do the maths at this stage. Not because I don't want to, but because I simply cannot," said Grapow, who represents the interests of all key role players — owners, insurers and salvors. "If the ship and its cargo is valued, at, say, \$30 to \$35

million and we spend another \$10m in the salvage attempt... it's still worth the effort and the expense," Grapow said. At a media briefing hosted by the National Ports Authority at East London Port Control yesterday it was disclosed that about a dozen railway tanker trucks, each capable of holding 30 tons of fuel, had been secured to begin taking on as much of the *Safmarine Agulhas's* 800 tons of heavy fuel and diesel oil as soon as possible. The ship's own pumps will be used to discharge the fuel. A massive 400 ton crane with a 33-ton lifting capacity and a boom "able to reach over the ship from the breakwater" was also on its way to East London from Johannesburg yesterday. This involved first getting special permission for the massive piece of equipment to be moved by road. Government agencies required a R40 000 deposit before a road-use permit was issued. The crane is expected to reach the salvage site on Monday (Jul 3). Once the cargo is off, fresh attempts will be made to refloat the ship. According to South African Maritime Safety Association principle officer Captain Peter Kroon, the fuel is being discharged not so much to lighten the vessel, as to minimise potential pollution. Kroon said adequate precautions had been taken, both on land and at sea to deal with any possible pollution threats. The issue of "hazardous cargo" was again addressed by Kroon who said there was no cause for alarm. "Of course the authorities are concerned... about life and any form of pollution. But we've had sight of the ship's manifest and have had experts on board checking out everything. We know exactly where every container is and what it contains. There are no explosives or radio-active materials on the ship. What is on board ... in containers we have identified, are some small canisters of nitrogen - the stuff the automotive industry uses to inflate airbags in cars," Kroon said, adding that the entire area was also being regularly patrolled and observed from the air. Grapow said the salvage operation was being done in terms of a Lloyd's Open Form "No cure - No pay" clause. "Basically this means that the salvors - Smit Salvage - are picking up the bill. The contract has a special "scopic" clause related to environmental issues. The more the salvors do in terms of preventing pollution, the more they will benefit both financially and in prestige." Smit Salvage's Dutch salvage master, Captain Piet Sinke, said the 17000 ton ship had sprung a small leak but its pumps were holding their own in keeping the engine-room dry. He said the structural status of the ship was not a major concern. Sinke is conducting the salvage operation from the salvage tug *Smit Amandla*. The *Smit Amandla* and East London harbour tug, *Impumzi*, are maintaining their stern and bow tows to the stranded ship. Sinke said that since Thursday (Jun 29) night the stern of the 184m freighter had been "pulled about 10m away from

the harbour wall", and she was no longer bumping up against the dolosse. The German captain of the stranded vessel and his crew of 22 have remained on board since their ship ran aground on Monday (Jun 26) night after losing engine power as it was leaving the harbour, bound for Durban.

London, July 3 — A press report, dated today, states: With Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* resting on a sandbank barely five metres from East London's western breakwater, salvors this weekend began removing the fuel and diesel oil as the first step in lightening the ship before making any further attempts at pulling her clear into deep water. By 1100 yesterday about 120 tonnes of fuel had been removed from the ship into rail cars propelled onto the breakwater, which fortunately possesses railway shunting lines. The ship remains connected to tug *Smit Amandla* which is holding it from being subjected to excessive wave action against the breakwater. Harbour tugs from the port remain on standby to assist *Smit Amandla* should weather conditions deteriorate. Yesterday morning Smit Salvage said it hoped to begin removing some of the containers within 24 hours, making use of a giant crane that was expected in East London later today. The crane when placed on the breakwater will have the required reach across the ship and will be able to work the cargo onto the breakwater. This cargo lightening operation remains subject to good weather and sea conditions and will continue only as long as it is deemed safe for those involved. The safety of the environment also remains a priority and several anti pollution vessels remain on standby. In addition overflights by a patrol aircraft are taking place each day. In the meantime the structural condition of *Safmarine Agulhas* is being closely monitored by the salvage team, who remain on the ship with the vessel's master, officers and crew. Shipping operations are continuing as normal in the port and are not impacted on by the current situation.

London, Jul 3 — A press report, dated today, states: With a cold front heading their way, salvors are working at full speed to remove fuel and cargo from container carrier *Safmarine Agulhas*, which ran aground last week at East London harbour's breakwater. Although the vessel's crew are still on board, and there are no signs yet of serious damage to the vessel, further attempts to refloat it will resume only after the load has been removed. The vessel has 469 loaded containers and 112 empty ones on board. About a quarter of its 662 tons of heavy fuel were pumped out yesterday. "The cargo removal is reliant on good weather and sea conditions and will continue only while it is safe to do so, because safety of the salvage team remains a top priority. It is difficult to say when another attempt will be made to pull the vessel off. Salvors had a good weather window yesterday

and today, but there is a cold front moving in, so we have to assess the situation," Clare Gomes, spokesperson for salvors Smit Amandla Marine said yesterday. She said the vessel was connected to tug *Smit Amandla* and National Ports Authority harbour tugs were on standby should the sea conditions deteriorate. A Department of Environmental Affairs patrol aircraft continued to monitor the situation for any pollution.

London, Jul 3 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0930, UTC: Container carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* is still aground. Lightening operations are still progress.

London, Jul 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A salvage team will today attempt to remove containers from container carrier *Safmarine Agulhas*, the National Ports Authority (NPA) said. "We are going to discharge containers from the vessel on to shore," said spokesperson Terry Taylor. A 400-ton crane arrived in East London yesterday to help with the exercise, Taylor said, adding that the rescuers had made "fair progress" to refloat the ship since Friday's (Jun 30) attempt. Today, when a heavy lifting crane arrives in East London, the ship's cargo would be removed. Taylor said the vessel was still intact and there was no pollution.

London, July 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The owners of Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* have declared general average. The ship is carrying a cargo of 469 loaded containers and 112 empties. Salvors from SMIT Salvage said yesterday they hoped to commence with the cargo removal operation later in the day. This was made possible following the arrival from Johannesburg of one of Johnson's 550-tonne mobile Liebherr cranes. Once the crane has been erected on the breakwater it will be possible to begin removing the containers onto either road or rail transport, which will then be taken to a secure area within the port. According to Smit Salvage a total of 180 tonnes of fuel oil has been removed from the ship by early yesterday and loaded into rail wagons brought onto the breakwater alongside the ship. *Safmarine Agulhas* had a total of 662 tonnes of heavy fuel oil and a smaller quantity of diesel on board when she sailed from East London. The ship has developed a small leak which is however not considered serious at this stage and is being controlled by the salvage team.

London, Jul 4 — A press report, dated today, states: About half of the bunker fuel from container carrier *Safmarine Agulhas*, stuck on a sandbank near the East London harbour, has been removed in an attempt to refloat it. The National Ports Authority said today that almost 200 tons of bunker fuel was discharged overnight and the salvage team are continuing with the pumping this morning. NPA spokesperson Terry Taylor said containers on board the vessel are also being discharged. The

vessel was carrying 662 tons of heavy fuel, 88 tons of diesel and 37 tons of lubrication oil. The fuel will be pumped into 10 Spornet rail tankers waiting on the railway line on the breakwater. Taylor said the vessel had moved about 15 metres out to sea since Thursday (Jun 29).

London, Jul 4 — A SMIT Salvage report, timed Cape Town 1500, today, states: At 0830 this morning, the removal of containerised deck cargo with respect to the grounded Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas*, with a specialised 400 tonne crane, capable of lifting some 33 tonnes at the required reach, lifting the first container off of the casualty and onto the breakwater. Under current operational conditions, the teams onboard the vessel and on the breakwater are able to lift seven containers an hour off of *Safmarine Agulhas* and this operation is proceeding well in favourable weather conditions. Containers removed from the casualty are being transported by road to a secure area in the Port of East London. To date approximately 200 tonnes of fuel have been pumped from *Safmarine Agulhas* into rail tank cars located on the Western Breakwater. The vessel had a total of 662 tonnes of heavy fuel oil on board prior to the fuel removal operation commencing and this operation is proceeding well. Safety of life and the protection of the marine environment remain the top priorities for the *Safmarine Agulhas* Joint Operations Committee, which meets daily. A number of proactive environmental protection measures are in place: The Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism's (DEAT) oil pollution patrol aircraft Kuswag VIII is stationed in East London and continues to overfly the casualty daily. DEAT's Inshore patrol vessel *Victoria Mxenge* remains on site. DEAT has mobilised oil spill abatement equipment and a team of experts to East London. This team is conducting daily beach patrols to monitor any impact on the environment. The SMIT oil pollution abatement vessel *Kuswag IV* is on site as an additional precaution. Tug *Smit Amandla* is connected to *Safmarine Agulhas* and is holding it off of the breakwater. The vessel's structural integrity is being monitored by the SMIT Salvage team, who remain on the casualty with the *Safmarine Agulhas*' master, officers and crew.

London, July 5 — A SMIT Salvage report, timed Cape Town 1600 today, states: Efforts to remove the fuel and deck cargo from Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* continue. To date, 80 containers have been removed from the casualty in a cargo removal operation that began yesterday morning. A total of 277 containers are on deck and a crane on the breakwater and capable of lifting 33 tonnes at the required reach is being utilised in this operation. Under current operational conditions, the teams onboard the vessel and on the breakwater are able to lift seven containers an hour off of

Safmarine Agulhas and this operation is proceeding well in favourable weather conditions. Deck cargo will continue to be lifted off of the casualty both day and night but will be halted should working conditions be deemed unsafe. Containers removed from the casualty are being transported by road to a secure area in the Port of East London. While salvors have reported water ingress in two of the cargo holds, the ingress is being monitored by the salvage team and this is not affecting the progress of the cargo removal operation. The impact of the water ingress on the cargo will be determined by surveyors. The structural integrity of the vessel continues to be monitored by the salvage team and their naval architects and the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism's oil pollution patrol aircraft Kuswag VIII, stationed in East London, reported no oil pollution after it overflew the casualty this morning. The fuel removal operation continues day and night, with fuel being pumped from *Safmarine Agulhas* into rail tank cars located on the Western Breakwater. The vessel had a total of 662 tonnes of heavy fuel oil on board prior to the fuel removal operation commencing and this operation is proceeding well.

London, July 6 — A press report, dated today, states: It will be at least a week before there's another attempt at pulling the grounded Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas* into deep water. The mobile crane, brought by road from Gauteng, has gone to work and is lifting containers from the ship at an average rate of seven an hour. At the same time the ship, which has recovered the use of its engines is pumping fuel oil ashore into rail wagons. The intention now is to lighten the ship as much as possible and then on next week's spring high tides an attempt will be made to pull the vessel clear. Salvors hope the spring tides will be accompanied by strong swells to further assist the operation. The ship is reported to have developed several leaks and a number of small compartments are flooded. This is not considered as being too serious at this time but is being monitored closely. The ship has also lost its bulbous bow. No pollution into the sea has been reported but the Department of Environmental Affairs has several vessels and an aircraft on station to monitor this closely. Meanwhile the owners of the vessel have declared general average and a German average adjuster is expected to be appointed for this task.

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Two of the stricken Container Carrier *Safmarine Agulhas*'s four cargo holds are partially flooded but marine architects who assessed the grounded ship yesterday were satisfied with the vessel's structural integrity. National Ports Authority spokesperson Terry Taylor said the flooding was being monitored closely but that the situation was not affecting the

removal of container cargo and bunker fuel oils. By last night, 80 of the 277 containers on the upper deck of the 17000-ton ship had been moved ashore by the ship's cranes working in concert with the huge 400-ton crane brought from Gauteng. Taylor said cranes on the 184m long *Safmarine Agulhas* had first moved containers stacked towards the ship's bow, putting them in position to be swung ashore by the giant quay-side crane. "Now the operation is moving slowly astern," he said. "It is a painstaking operation and safety of personnel remains the top priority." Weather permitting, the operation would continue around the clock, Taylor said. "The salvage tug *Smit Amandla* is maintaining its holding station off the *Safmarine Agulhas* with a towline attached to the grounded ship," Taylor said, adding it was too early to comment on another attempt at floating the vessel.

SALONA (Honduras)

London, Jun 30 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1110, UTC: General cargo *Salona* remains aground. It is believed tugs will be on scene tomorrow morning, at which time refloating attempts can commence. Weather on scene is very favourable.

Gothenburg, Jun 30 — At approximately, 0630 hrs, yesterday, general cargo *Salona* ran aground at Luroe archipelago in Lake Vanern. The vessel is loaded with around 1200 tons pellets and 40 tons of bunkers. Police and Coast Guards have been onboard and have completed initial interrogations and the vessel has been inspected by divers. The master, a 43 year old Lithuanian citizen, was arrested yesterday on suspicion of "drunk driving". There is currently no information on why or how the master navigated so incorrectly and off the normal route. A Coast Guard Officer has reported that discharge of the cargo into a barge, using crane equipment, commenced this morning and it is estimated around 200 tons will need to be discharged. That will be more than one full load for the barge and it need to go to a local port to discharge, but it has not yet been decided which port. It is hoped that the first refloating attempt will be made tonight. The vessel has been holed in the bow and starboard side. The water ingress has been temporarily stopped and pumps holding the vessel steady. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Jul 1 — Following received from Coast Guard Gothenburg, timed 0952, UTC: A Coastguard cutter, on scene, has just reported that general cargo *Salona* is now afloat. The intention is to now anchor the vessel and perform an inspection.

Gothenburg, Jul 2 — The master of general cargo *Salona*, who was prosecuted over the grounding, was released and allowed back onboard late Friday (Jun 30) evening. The vessel was pulled off the ground after having discharged around 200 tons of the "wooden pellets" and local tugs

assisted. Water penetrated into a ballast tank, but not into cargo and the holes have been temporary sealed. The cargo is to be discharged at Lidköping. The vessel loaded at Kristinehamn and was bound for Vanersborg. — Westax Marine Services AB.

SASS (Estonia)

See "Belgium" under "Port State Control".

SEA JAGUAR (Marshall Islands)

London, Jul 3 — Following press release issued today by Thome Ship Management Pte Ltd., Singapore: At approximately 0730 hrs, today, crude oil tanker *Sea Jaguar* (50272 gt, built 1985), with a pilot on board, ran aground near 83Km mark of the Suez Canal whilst proceeding within the southbound convoy. The vessel subsequently refloated under its own power. No injuries were sustained and her crew are safe and well. All cargo tanks remain intact and there has been no pollution. Following initial divers inspection it was agreed that the tanker, which is owner by Seatankers Limited, Cyprus, should proceed under its own power to the Great Bitter Lake, where divers will undertake a further inspection. It is believed the *Sea Jaguar* has sustained some damage to the forepeak area, which is not considered to be serious, but the nature and extent of which will be established by the further diving inspection. The authorities have been informed and are in close contact with the vessel and managers. *Sea Jaguar* is on passage from Kavkaz in the Black Sea to Singapore.

Port Said, Jul 4 — Crude oil tanker *Sea Jaguar* which entered the Suez Canal with the southbound convoy on Jul 3, went aground at Km 82 in Canal. S.C A tugs succeeded in refloating vessel after five hours and she resumed her passage again to Suez pilot station where the vessel requested diver inspection and to carry out any necessary repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA TRADER

London, Jun 29 — Lying in the Canal Ghent-Terneuzen is the wreck of the gutted Roll On Roll Off *Sea Trader* (8454 gt, built 1976), under demolition at Ghent at a breakers Yard. While being nearly broken down to the water line, water entered the hull and sank. Despite the help of the tugs *Hendrik 3* and *Hendrik 5*, which both tugs made fast a line to keep it in position, in the end the wreck turned over and sank this afternoon. The authorities and the owners of the breaker yard are looking how to lift the wreck out of the canal. (Note — *Sea Trader* had fire on main deck while moored at Quay 222, Antwerp, Jul 16 2004. Towed to Ghent 18 Sep 2004 for demolition.)

SETSUYO STAR (Bahamas)

London, Jul 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Dormac says it has successfully completed a cofferdam repair to bulker *Setsuyo Star* in False

Bay, which limped into Cape Town earlier with damaged shell plating. The vessel was taken to the relative safety of False Bay where repairs could be carried out in sheltered waters. According to Dormac the ship experienced detachment or tripping of a number of frames which caused panting of the side shell. "A cofferdam was used to carry out repairs to a minor crack in the side shell. This was done after suitable strength had been restored to the shell."

Cape Town, Jul 6 — Local P&I correspondents of bulker *Setsuyo Star* report that she sailed False Bay yesterday, destined for her discharge port in China. — Lloyd's Agents.

SKAGERN (Sweden)

Hull, Jul 5 — General cargo *Skagern* is still in dock at Hull. An inspection was carried out today with regard to repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOFRANA MAGELLAN (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jul 3 — Part containerised general car *Sofrana Magellan* arrived at Tauranga at 0712 hrs, Jun 30 and departed at 1200 hrs, Jul 2, bound for Whangarei.

SPAR JADE (NIS)

London, Jul 3 — Bulker *Spar Jade* sailed from Tema on Jun 26.

STOLT ZULU (Singapore)

London, Jul 4 — Chemical tanker *Stolt Zulu* arrived at Ulsan on Jun 28. The vessel departed on Jul 2, bound for Hong Kong, where ETA Jul 6.

SWAN (Netherlands Antilles)

London, July 1 — A press report, dated June 29, states: With low tides and calm currents in their favour, builders of the new Tacoma Narrows bridge moved into place overnight the boat (semi-sub HL/tank *Swan*) carrying several of the deck sections for the structure. Crews were mooring *Swan* to anchors under the new bridge this morning after the late night and early morning move, said state Department of Transportation spokeswoman Claudia Cornish. The ship, which had been in Commencement Bay, arrived at the bridge site around 0330 hrs. *Swan*, which carries 16 of the deck sections for the new bridge, will remain there through August, transportation officials reported. The deck sections will be hoisted into place on the new bridge with gantry cranes that straddle the bridge's two main suspension cables. That work is expected to begin during the first two weeks of July, Cornish said. The first section to be lifted will be the exact middle of the bridge. This was the second attempt to move *Swan* into place and was completed without problems, Cornish said. The first attempt, on Friday (June 23), failed when scaffolding on the deck sections scraped the underside of the existing bridge and crews had to return *Swan* to Commencement Bay. Neither the deck sections nor the existing bridge

were damaged. Earlier this week, the state's project manager said a miscalculation in the elevation of the existing bridge led to the error. With *Swan* moored under the new bridge, all marine traffic on the west side of the span has been closed. Marine restrictions are in place around *Swan*, a barge, the gantry cranes and other equipment.

SYMS SONGSHAN (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jul 3 — General cargo *SYMS Songshan* arrived at Kobe on Jul 2.

Yokohama, Jul 4 — General cargo *SYMS Songshan* was refloated by a tug at 2253 hrs, Jun 28. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 5 — General cargo *SYMS Songshan* sailed from Kobe on Jul 4, bound for Moji.

TAI HUA HAI (China)

London, Jul 3 — Bulker *Tai Hua Hai* arrived at Rizhao, Chiona, on Jun 22.

TAIGLAD (Panama)

London, Jul 5 — Bulker *Taiglads* sailed from Zhangjiagang on Jun 26, bound for Singapore, where it arrived at 0638 hrs, Jul 4. The vessel sailed later the same day, at 1645 hrs, bound for Port Klang.

TIRTA NIAGA I (Indonesia)

Kolkata, Jul 5 — Product tanker *Tirta Niaga I* is still in Paradip Port and the repair work is in progress. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRANSFER (Antigua & Barbuda)

Belize City, Jul 4 — Part containerised general cargo *Transfer* is still aground on the reef and it appears that it will remain there. — Lloyd's Agents.

TROCHUS (Isle of Man)

Tunis, Jul 5 — Crude oil tanker *Trochus* (62806 gt, built 2006) was in collision a Tunisian fishing vessel in International waters off Tunisia on Jul 4. The fishing vessel sustained severe damage. *Trochus* continued on voyage to Ireland, and the fishing vessel returned to Bizerta for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

UAL TEXAS (Netherlands)

London, Jun 30 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth, timed 1046, UTC: General cargo *UAL Texas* (6577 gt, built 2002), Antwerp for Las Palmas, is currently anchored in lat 53 07.7N long 01 20.7E. Tug to be organised by vessel owners.

London, Jun 30 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRSC, timed 1838, UTC: Tug *Goliath* is currently 11 miles from general cargo *UAL Texas*. Vessel has engine bearing problems which its crew are unable to fix. *Goliath* will tow vessel to the River Tyne, ETA a.m, Jul 2.

London, Jun 30 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRSC, timed 2101, UTC: General cargo *UAL Texas* is under tow by tug *Goliath*.

London, July 2 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS general cargo *UAL Texas* was at Tyne at 0528 today.

Hull, Jul 4 — General cargo *UAL Texas* is currently at the Tyne Commission Quay. The vessel is due to be shifted to Tyne Dockyard Jul 5 for ongoing investigation. — Lloyd's Agents.

VARMDO (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jul 5 — General cargo *Varmdo* sailed from Keadby at 1650 hrs, Jun 22, bound for Tornio, Finland, arriving on Jun 28. The vessel departed later the same day.

VERRAZANO BRIDGE (Panama)

London, Jul 3 — Container Carrier *Verrazano Bridge* arrived at Tacoma at 0125 hrs, Jul 1.

London, Jul 4 — Container carrier *Verrazano Bridge* sailed from Tacoma at 0545 hrs, Jul 3, bound for Vancouver, arriving at 1720 hrs, on Jul 3.

VITAFOS (Panama)

London, Jul 5 — Bulker *Vitafos* arrived Ravenna Jun 27 and sailed Jul 1.

YARD NO.273

London, Jul 3 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: A broken stopper has been identified as the reason chemical tanker *Yard No.273 Lindenau* accidentally slipped into the water in Kiel, on June 30. The ship was been thoroughly searched for further leakages once dewatered, but no further damages were found. The vessel was christened "*Seacod*" as planned on Jul 1.

YARD NO.273 (Germany)

London, Jul 1 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: One day before its scheduled launch the German chemical tanker *Yard No.273 Lindenau* (21353 gt, to be named *Seacod*) fell into the water in Kiel harbour from the slipway at Lindenau Yard, on Jun 30. One man was hurt. The hull and some yard installations were damaged. At 1430 hrs, June 30, the 188m vessel, scheduled to be christened today, started to move while the last checks for the launch were being carried out. The ship was evacuated when it became clear that it could not be stopped and the electricity cut off. As it fell down the slipway, one worker was hurt and had to be treated in hospital. A helicopter then carried some workers to the ship which had floated free in the harbour, to attach ropes to the tugs *Robbe*, *Holtenau* and *Bilk* which rushed to the scene. The *Seacod* was pushed against the pier of the yard. At 1700 hrs, it started listing. Firefighters onboard the fire fighting ship *Kiel* were called and dewatered a ballast water tank on the side starboard which was leaking through a 60 cm gash. Divers stopped the leak by fixing a metal plate on the hull. The ship which is owned by the German Tanker Shipping Bremen will still be christened today.

London, Jul 1 — A press release, issued by German Tanker Shipping on Jun 30, states: Despite the launching of a vessel of the new building *S 273* prematurely on Friday, Jun 30, in Kiel, the baptizing celebration for our new building takes place at 1100, on Saturday, Jul 1. According to the statement of the managing director of the Kieler lime tree-outer-thrown, Mr. Dirk Lindenau, the new building *S 273* from a still unsettled cause ran from the pile. A throwing co-worker was hurt. The stoppers could not hold heavy new building "for the 10,500 t on the Helgen. The ship is for Friday evening because of the jetty threw."

YM EARTH (Panama)

See *Astro Luna*.

YOUNG LADY (Isle of Man)

London, Jul 3 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1512, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Young Lady* (56204 gt, built 2000) grounded in the Houston Ship Channel at about 0900, UTC, Jul 2. The vessel refloated by its own means shortly afterwards and is now berthed at Houston, awaiting an inspection.

YUE DA 28 (Panama)

London, Jun 30 — General cargo *Yue Da 28* was reported arriving at Wakamatsu on Jun 22 and sailing on Jun 29, bound for Busan.

YUNG CHANG

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

ZHI QIANG (Hong Kong)

London, July 3 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0300, UTC: A report was received at 0509, UTC, July 1 that bulker *Zhi Qiang* (26062 gt, built 1998), cargo sugar, had run aground in lat 11 13S, long 151 40E, on Long Reef, 25 miles west of Jomard Passage. Vessel is still aground with some holeing. Believed Lloyd's Open Form signed with United Salvage. (Note — *Zhi Qiang* sailed Townsville June 29 for Korea.)

London, July 4 — A press report, dated today, states: An Australian marine salvage company has been called in to rescue bulker *Zhi Qiang* that ran onto a reef off Papua New Guinea. *Zhi Qiang*, loaded with Australian sugar out of Queensland, hit the reef about 525km east of Port Moresby on Saturday (July 1), an Australian Marine Safety Authority (AMSA) spokeswoman said. A distress alert was received from the ship but AMSA had received no request for assistance, though it had offered to assist PNG authorities with any pollution clean-up if required, she said. Adsteam Marine has been contracted to prepare a rescue plan for the vessel.

London, July 5 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0305, UTC: Bulker *Zhi Qiang* is still aground.

Sydney, Jul 5 — Salvage experts from Papua New Guinea's Pacific Towing, of which Adsteam Marine is a joint venture partner, were today assessing

the damage to bulker *Zhi Qiang*. An Adsteam spokeswoman told Lloyd's List DCN that four salvage personnel were "doing their investigation, figuring out what equipment was needed" to save the bulker. Pacific Towing's tug *Brighton* arrived at the scene early yesterday and four salvage personnel began preliminary planning. *Zhi Qiang* is carrying 37,000 tonnes of Queensland sugar from Townsville bound for South Korea — "Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News."

London, Jul 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A salvage crew has boarded bulker *Zhi Qiang*. A tug from Port Moresby reached *Zhi Qiang* yesterday morning, with a sail master expected to board the ship via a helicopter today. There are 24 crew members on board the ship, which left Townsville last week loaded with Australian sugar. A spokeswoman for PNG salvors Pacific Towing says no attempt will be made today to refloat the bulk carrier, but an inspection is under way. The Australian Marine Safety Authority is monitoring the situation but has not been asked to help.

Sydney, July 6 — Preparations for the salvage of bulker *Zhi Qiang* continue, with salvage tug *Austral Salvor* departing Brisbane for Papua New Guinea early this morning and expected to arrive at the casualty on Sunday. Adsteam Marine issued a statement saying *Austral Salvor* would join Pacific Towing's tug *Brighton* to assist with the salvage operation. A salvage team has been mobilised to Papua New Guinea to develop and undertake the salvage operation. Preparation of the salvage plan continues following the initial investigation. An extensive range of salvage equipment will be flown to Port Moresby today. This includes air compressors, submersible pumps, patching and repair equipment, generators and air blowing equipment. *Zhi Qiang* is still being assessed. A refloat attempt is not expected until any necessary repairs to the casualty have been made and the cargo removed, if necessary. The timing was not yet clear, Adsteam said. The salvage is being undertaken by Pacific Towing, a PNG company of which Adsteam Marine is one of the joint venture participants. United Salvage, a wholly owned subsidiary of Adsteam Marine, is assisting with the salvage operation. — Lloyd's List daily Commercial News.



MALACCA STRAITS

London, Jul 5 — A press report, dated Jul 4, states: A Japanese cargo vessel today foiled a pirate attack in the Strait of Malacca off Indonesia's coast, days after pirates raided two U.N.-chartered vessels in the same

area, a maritime watchdog said. In this latest attack, pirates on an unlit speedboat off Indonesia's Sumatra island followed the 26,989-gross-tonnage Japanese vessel and tried to board it from the stern, said Noel Choong, chief of the International Maritime Bureau's piracy reporting center in Kuala Lumpur. A duty officer raised an alarm and the crew turned on floodlights and sprayed water from fire hoses, preventing the pirates from boarding, Choong said.

STRAITS OF MALACCA

London, Jul 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Pirates attacked two U.N.-chartered ships carrying construction materials off the Indonesian coast in the Strait of Malacca, a maritime watchdog said today, raising fears about a resurgence of piracy in one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. Both ships, flying Indonesian flags, were heading to Indonesia's Aceh province on the northern tip of Sumatra island when they were attacked Sunday (Jun 2) night, said Noel Choong, chief of the International Maritime Bureau's piracy reporting centre in Kuala Lumpur. He said no injuries were reported among the all-Indonesian crew aboard the two boats, which were transporting construction materials for the rebuilding of the tsunami-hit Aceh province. The ships had been chartered by the U.N. World Food Programme. "The attacks took place not far apart from each other. There is a possibility that they were carried out by the same pirates," Choong told The Associated Press. He did not know how many pirates were involved or what kind of boats they used. The pirates stole and damaged equipment on the first ship and robbed the crew of cash and personal belongings on the other, he said. "At the moment we don't know if these are isolated cases or the start of attacks again in the Malacca straits," Choong said. "We are still monitoring. But we urge ships to keep a strict piracy watch." According to the IMB, there were no pirate attacks in the strait in the first three months of 2006, but Sunday's attack raised to five the number of incidents reported since April.

Port State Control



AUSTRALIA

London, July 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Neptune Marine Services Limited (NMS) has been selected to provide its core underwater welding technology, on a partially laden 70,000 dwt panamax coal carrier, (bulker *Sea Challenge*, 36788 gt, built 1987) at Gladstone. The vessel was loading coal in Gladstone, when a substantial crack was discovered along a transverse weld on

the underwater hull, the company said today. Its classification society and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority were alerted to the situation, loading was halted, and the vessel was detained in the port of Gladstone pending repair of the defect. Neptune was initially asked to provide urgent advice on the repair and were subsequently contracted to undertake the repair. Class approved the NEPSYS repair solution and Neptune said it arrived on-site within 24 hours. Neptune said its technology enables the repairs to be carried out in-situ, with minimum mobilisation time and with significantly less impact to the commercial operating schedule of the vessel. Neptune's managing director Christian Lange said that given the extent of the damage, the project was anticipated to be the company's largest ship repair project to date. (Note — *Sea Challenge* arrived Gladstone June 21.)

London, July 5 — According to Gladstone Port Authority bulker *Sea Challenge* is due to start repairs today repairs.

BELGIUM

Zeebrugge, Jul 4 — The departure of bulker *Rubicone* (8907 gt, built 1991) from Antwerp has been suspended due to the detention of the vessel on Jun 30. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Rubicone* arrived at Antwerp at 0915 hrs, Jun 27.)

Zeebrugge, Jul 4 — General cargo *Sass* (284 gt, built 1976) is currently under Port State Control detention at Zeebrugge. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Sass* was last reported arriving at Bruges on Apr 2, 2001.)

Zeebrugge, Jul 4 — General cargo *Bellatrix* (1939 gt, built 1981) is under Port State Control detention at Antwerp. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Bellatrix* arrived Antwerp at 0444 hrs, Jul 3.)

CYPRUS

Limassol, Jun 30 — General cargo *Liberty A.* is currently still at Limassol, under Port State Control detention. — Lloyd's Agents.

Seizures & Arrests



AGINSKOYE (Russia)

Vladivostok, Jun 30 — Fishing (general) *Aginskoye* (738 gt, built 1986) is currently at Vladivostok Fishery Port, under detention. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Aginskoye* arrived at Vladivostok on Jul 19, 20904.)

ANJUM (North Korea)

Karachi, Jul 3 — General cargo *Anjum* is still under arrest due to "a dispute between owners". — Lloyd's Agents.

ASRA (Libya)

London, Jun 30 — General cargo *Asra* was reported sailing from Limassol on Jun 16, bound for Novorossiysk, where it arrived on Jun 22.

ASTRAKHAN (Russia)

Zeebrugge, Jul 4 — General cargo *Astrakhan* (4110 gt, built 1993) was arrested/placed under embargo at Antwerp at 1425 hrs, Jun 28 and released at 1425 hrs, Jul 3. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Astrakhan* arrived at Antwerp at 1335 hrs, Jun 25 and sailed at 2041 hrs, Jul 3.)

BIGA (Canary Islands)

Bilbao, Jun 30 — General cargo *Biga* is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

BOREAS (Cyprus)

Bilbao, Jun 30 — General cargo *Boreas* is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

CHINESE TRAWLERS SEIZED BY AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Australia has released 25 trawler crew members back to China, after seizing them and their vessels, trawlers *Da Yuan Yu 001* and *Da Yuan Yu 002*, in Australian waters three months ago, China News Service reported today, citing the Chinese Embassy in Australia. Embassy officials saw the crew off at the Sydney airport on Monday (Jul 3). The crew was happy to go back to China and felt grateful to the official for their care. Two vessels, carrying 27 crew members in total, were intercepted by an Australian naval vessel inside the fishing zone northwest of the Wessels islands in March. They were taken to Darwin, where the vessels were burnt and destroyed after they were seized. Australian authorities are investigating into whether the crews were taking part in any illegal activities, and decided to release the 25 crew members. However, two of the vessels captains are still being kept in Darwin and an Australian court will hear the case in August. The Chinese Embassy in Canberra said the two vessels were on their way to a nearby refueling station, and said they were in Australian waters because of the wind and current. The Chinese embassy in Australia will be closely monitoring the case.

DAISY CHRISTIANE (U.K.)

London, Jun 29 — A press report, dated today, states: The owners / master of a UK fishing (general) *Daisy Christiane* (283 gt, built 1975) were fined a total of £8462 and ordered to pay costs of £6,229 for fishing within a closed area. The defendants were found guilty at Camborne Magistrates Court (Jun 26) for illegally fishing within a closed area of the Celtic Sea in February 2005. The trawler was caught by MFA's surveillance aircraft carrying out an investigation after the vessel had been monitored by satellite

surveillance within the closed area. The case was brought by the Marine Fisheries Agency (MFA) on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra). Following the verdict, Justin Williams, District Inspector with the Marine Fisheries Agency, said: "These closed areas were proposed by the fishing industry themselves to limit the impact of fishing, especially cod, in the Celtic Sea at a time of year when these fish are spawning. "It is in everyone's interest that we do our best to sustain our stocks and it is essential that all boats abide by the regulations to ensure that we maintain a sustainable fishing industry".

DANE SEA LINES

London, July 6 — Greece's Blue Star Maritime has snapped up the fleet of bankrupt fellow ferry operator Dane Sea Lines at an auction yesterday on the island of Rhodes. Blue Star, which falls under the Attica Group that also includes Superfast Ferries, is paying a total of E19.9m (\$25.3m) to take control of Dane's assets, including passenger ro/ro *Diagoras* (6939 gt, built 1990), passenger ro/ro *Patmos* (8992 gt, built 1972) and Roll On Roll Off *Rodos* (10298 gt, built 1973). Of this, E4.5m is to meet part of Dane's debts to the national seamen's pension fund. Other assets purchased are understood to include a valuable piece of real estate in Rhodes town as well as a couple of vehicles. Dane's collapse two years ago left Blue Star in competition with only GA Ferries on the Dodecanese routes that were for many years considered Dane's home turf. Other parties said to have shown interest at the auction included Crete-based Anek Lines, which at one time owned about half of Dane as a strategic partner, and Hellenic Seaways, the country's largest coastal operator. Blue Star said the move was "in line with the company's policy of strengthening its presence in the Greek domestic market routes" where it already operates five vessels. Managing director Michalis Sakellis said the price was "fair" as an outlay for the *Diagoras* acquired by Dane in 2000 that was the main reason for interest in the company's assets. There will inevitably be speculation that the new owner will team the vessel with its four-year-old Blue Star 2 on something like its old route between Piraeus and the Dodecanese islands, including Rhodes. But Mr Sakellis insisted no decision was likely for at least a fortnight and said: "We are looking at a number of different proposals." The vessel is unlikely to be back in operation this summer. The company will also be mulling the fate of the two other vessels, *Rodos* and *Patmos*, both of which are currently over the Greek government's recently introduced age ceiling for ferries in Greek waters. "If this changes - which I think and hope they [the government] will change - then we shall decide what to do with them," said Mr Sakellis. The successful

auction administers the last rites to Dane, which was established in 1979 as a Rhodes-based community-owned shipping company. It entered the Greek stock exchange in November 1994 but the listing was suspended due to the line's financial troubles several years ago. Numerous rescue plans and potential saviours were tried by the company but the formal liquidation procedure began last year.

EMIR (Turkey)

Taranto, Jun 30 — The situation of general cargo *Emir* is unchanged. The case has been passed back to the Customs Police and Public Prosecutor's Offices. — Lloyd's Agents.

FANTASY II (Panama)

Aden, Jul 5 — Bulker *Fantasy II* sailed from Aden on Jun 26 for Jeddah after a guarantee was placed in the Commercial Court. — Lloyd's Agents.

JAVA BASSET

See *Java Beagle*.

JAVA BEAGLE (Singapore)

Karachi, Jul 3 — Anchor handling tug *Java Beagle* and anchor handling tug *Java Basset* are still lying in the shipyard channel, under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

MERCAN A. (Turkey)

Bahrain, Jul 3 — Bulker *Mercan A.* is still in port at Bahrain and is reportedly still under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

MYS TIKHIY (Russia)

Vladivostok, Jun 30 — As at Mar 31, fish factory *Mys Tikhiiy* was still under detention at Vladivostok. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORIENT ALLIANCE (Hong Kong)

London, Jul 1 — Bulker *Orient Alliance* was reported arriving at Las Palmas at 0701 hrs, Jun 30 and sailing later the same day at 2301 hrs, bound for Port Talbot, where ETA Jul 7.

OTAPAN (Mexico)

Amsterdam, Jul 1 — Tank barge *Otapan* remains at Amsterdam awaiting demolition. — KVSA Rapportage.

PULKOVSKIY MERIDIAN (Russia)

Vladivostok, Jun 30 — Fish factory *Pulkovskiy Meridian* (4312 gt, built 1974) is currently at Vladivostok Fishery Port under detention. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Pulkovskiy Meridian* arrived at Vladivostok on May 3.)

RODOS (Greece)

Enter Text Here

RYBAK AMURA (Russia)

Vladivostok, Jun 30 — Fishing (general) *Rybak Amura* (732 gt, built 1987) is currently at Vladivostok Fishery Port, under detention. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Rybak Amura* arrived at Vladivostok on Apr 23.)

RYBAK VLADIVOSTOKA (Russia)

Vladivostok, Jun 30 — Fish factory *Rybak Vladivostoka* remains at Vladivostok Fishery Port under detention. — Lloyd's Agents.

SANDRIEN (Bolivia)

Amsterdam, Jul 1 — Chem.tank *Sandrien* is still at Amsterdam Shipdock, under embargo. — KVSA Rapportage.

SPITAK (Russia)

Vladivostok, Jun 30 — Fishing (general) *Spitak* (448 gt, built 1989) is currently at Vladivostok Fishery Port under detention. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Spitak* arrived at Vladivostok on Apr 26.)

THANKS TWENTY (Hong Kong)

London, Jul 6 — General cargo *Thanks Twenty* (5144 gt, built 1990), which arrived at Hong Kong at 1849 hrs, Jul 5, is today reported at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under Admiralty & High Court arrest.



Pipeline Accidents

LITTLE FALLS AREA, MINNESOTA, UNITED STATES

New York, Jun 28 — Minnesota Pipeline Co., owned by Koch Industries Inc., has shut a 300,000 barrel-per-day pipeline network after a leak was discovered, a company spokeswoman said today. The two lines in the network, which carries Canadian crude to two refineries south of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, were shut down last night 20 minutes after the leak was found at 2120 hrs near Little Falls, Minnesota, spokeswoman Patty Dunn said, adding that clean-up has begun. No one was injured, she said. The leak in the pipeline spilled about 1,600 barrels of crude oil into an area "fairly closely confined" to the pipeline, according to sources at the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The company hopes to restart flows through one of the pipelines by tomorrow and through both lines by the weekend. However, the sources at the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration said the line that failed will be out of service while the cause of the leak is determined, and that could take anywhere from 24 hours to a week or longer. — Reuters.

ROSTOV REGION, RUSSIA

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Almost 20 tonnes of oil leaked from the oil main in the Rostov Region, the Russian Emergencies Ministry's information department said. The incident took place at the Samara-Tikhoretsk pipeline at 0700, Moscow time, today. The oil covered an area of 2,500 square metres. There are no water reservoirs near the site. The pipeline

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section is blocked. A cleanup operation is under way at the site. Contaminated ground is gathered and removed from there. The Emergencies Ministry assured there was no serious threat to the environment. The leakage cause has yet to be established.

Pollution



CALCASIEU RIVER, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 29 — The pricetag for cleaning up 47,000 barrels of waste oil spilled into a southwestern Louisiana waterway last week is likely to shoot upwards of \$10 million, and CITGO Petroleum Corp. will pay much of that bill, the state's top oil spill official said late yesterday. Costs for the early days of the effort to clean up waste oil from CITGO's storage tanks that was released into the Calcasieu Ship Channel totaled about \$1 million a day, with 600 people on the scene to aid in the effort, Roland Guidry, Louisiana's Oil Spill Coordinator said. As more sophisticated equipment has come in, along with an additional 1,000 people, the price has risen to about \$2 million a day. Just one week into the effort, Guidry estimated that CITGO has already run up a \$10 million bill. At the most, another week of intensive cleanup will be needed, Guidry said. After that, the price structure for the effort will change as fewer personnel using increasingly specialized equipment work for several months or more to address the more sensitive shoreline areas. During that period, the costs may subside, but the ultimate price tag will rest on just how clean CITGO ultimately makes the area, he said.

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated Jun 29, states: About 11 miles of the Calcasieu Ship Channel remained closed today and the Coast Guard said about 31,000 of the 47,000 barrel spillage had been cleaned up by today. A Citgo spokesman said the clean up was going well partly because a lack of a wind kept oil patches in place and the dry, sunny weather was evaporating much of the oil. Citgo said the spill occurred because oil flowed over the tops of the tanks when torrential rainstorms overwhelmed the tanks' pumps. An earthen berm surrounding those tanks failed to contain 47,400 barrels of waste oil that eventually flowed into the ship channel, Citgo spokesman David McCollum said. The Coast Guard is investigating the cause of the berm's failure. State environmental officials were investigating as well. Department of Environmental Quality spokesman Rodney Mallett said several miles of wetlands and shoreline were covered in oil. Mallett said rain may have played a part in the spill but "there is no guarantee" that it was the cause.

The blocked ship channel runs from the inland refineries in the Lake Charles and Westlake areas of Calcasieu Parish south about 40 miles to the Gulf of Mexico. The channel has outlets into area lakes along the way, including Calcasieu Lake, a major recreational and fishing area, which had been cleared for boating as of today. Closure of the channel has been blamed in part for recent oil price increases, and led Energy Secretary Samuel W. Bodman yesterday to authorize a loan to two refineries of a total of 750,000 barrels of crude oil from the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The Citgo refinery was lent 250,000 barrels of the SPR oil; the ConnocoPhillips refinery, 500,000 barrels. Spokesmen for the two plants said neither was idled by the blocking of the channel, but both operated at reduced capacity. Cleanup had progressed to the point where parts of the channel were being reopened, but it was unclear when unfettered traffic would resume.

London, July 1 — A press report, dated June 30, states: Commercial vessels began using the Calcasieu Ship Channel today for the first time since a spill of 47,000 gallons of oil forced its closure last week and cut off energy companies' connection to four refineries. As a test, the U.S. Coast Guard allowed a barge full of gasoline to move down the channel to get to the Gulf of Mexico, spokesman Petty Officer 2nd Class Adam Eggers said. The vessel's wake did not disturb the spill cleanup, so the Guard began allowing a limited number of ships to use the channel to head out into the Gulf, though during daylight hours only, he said. "The hull came through and it did not have oil on it, it didn't disturb any of the cleanup operations, it didn't disturb any of the oil contained by boom," he said. Vessels were expected to be allowed to use the channel to head inbound, up the channel from the Gulf toward Lake Charles, tomorrow. More than 37,000 gallons of the spilled oil have been cleaned up, the Coast Guard said.

London, Jul 4 — A press report, dated Jul 3, states: Yesterday, in the Calcasieu Ship Channel, six vessels transited safely into the port and three were expected to transit outbound. Contingency operational plans have been devised, as well as equipment and temporary dams placed in at risks areas, in the event of heavy rainfall in the area to counter any problems that may arise from such an event. All commercial docks have been cleared by the Coast Guard to receive vessels. "We've made outstanding progress the past few days in getting commercial traffic moving in the Intracoastal Waterway and the Calcasieu Ship Channel," said Coast Guard Captain Thomas Sparks, Captain of the Port of Lake Charles. The easing of commercial traffic restrictions is a highly positive sign of progress in the clean up and recovery operation.

Houston, Jul 4 — Citgo Petroleum Corp. said today its 430,000 barrel per

day (bpd) refinery in Lake Charles, Louisiana, was back to planned production rates after being cut for a 10-day closure of a ship channel through which tankers supply crude to the refinery. A ConocoPhillips spokesman said he did not know if production at the company's 240,000 bpd refinery in Lake Charles had returned to full capacity. The refinery also cut production because of the 10-day closure of the Calcasieu Ship Channel that supplies oil to three refineries in southwest Louisiana. A spokesman for Calcasieu Refining Co., which cut production by 80 percent at its 85,000 bpd Lake Charles refinery was not available to discuss operations today. — Reuters.

Weather & Navigation



BULGARIA

London, Jul 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Hotels in several resorts along the Black Sea coast have been flooded in the region of Sozopol, Chernomorets, Nessebar, Primorsko, as well as Gradina, Smokinya, and Kavatsi camping-sites. There are isolated people and the Civil Protection Agency is taking all the necessary measures to help them. Four kids were saved from an island formed from the tidal waters of the local river in Irakli resort. The fire department is helping the Civil Protection Agency. There is additional equipment provided so the situation is expected to come to normal in few hours. Ground floors of four hotels in the resort of Sunny Beach were flooded, as well as three hotels in Obzor, 15 houses in Sozopol, four in Kiten and Primorsko, including the police department in Primorsko. Four streets in Pomorie are under water. There are 25 buildings flooded in Burgas. Thirty-four people were isolated after a collapse of a bridge leading to the village of Emona (Burgas region) but have finally been evacuated, the chief of the Civil Protection Agency in Burgas Yordan Lozev said. A total of 150 houses in seven villages in the region of General Toshevo (north-eastern Bulgaria) have been flooded by a torrential rain yesterday. The municipality will apply for compensation of damages under the Disasters and Damages Funds, after a commission estimates the damages, Mayor Dimitar Mihaylov stated.

London, Jul 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Nessebar municipality declared a state of emergency because of the floods resulting from the intense rainfall over the past 24 hours in the Black Sea coastal region. The regions which suffered most damage included Obzor, Irakli, Primorsko, Pomorie and Sozopol, Darik Radio reported. Roads from Bourgas to Sunny Beach resort,

which was flooded by Aheloiska River, were now accessible, but traffic jams hindered normal movement, Darik reported. Transportation was also difficult in Sozopol. The town's streets were covered by over 50 cm of water, but officials lacked information of casualties and damages. Emergency teams pumped water out of the flooded constructions, Darik said. Damages include bridge collapses, electricity cuts, flooded constructions, roads and agriculture plots, Darik said. Emergency teams worked in all flooded areas and some of the damage was already overcome.

CHINA

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll in flash floods last weekend in central China has risen to 21, with another six people missing, the official Xinhua News Agency said today. The floods swept through Lonhui county in Hunan province on Sunday (Jun 24) after some 10 inches of rain fell. Some 11 villagers were still hospitalized, Xinhua said. While the months of June through August mark the annual rainy season that sets off floods and landslides in China, storms this year arrived unusually early. Almost 200 people have been killed and more than a million have been forced from their homes since late May. (See issue of Jun 30.)

London, Jul 2 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 14 people were killed, two others missing and over one million affected after incessant rains hit southwest China's Sichuan province. The rainstorms hit the cities of Luzhou, Bazhong, Dazhou, Liangshan and Panzhihua in the central and southern parts of the province from Wednesday (Jun 28) until yesterday. The rainstorms brought about mountain torrents and mud-and-rock flows, affecting more than one million people and damaging over 1,500 houses. At least 14 people have been killed and two others missing. The Governments in the disaster-hit areas have already sent teams to guide rescue work. The Sichuan provincial Government urged the Governments of all levels to spare no efforts to control the flood and undertake the relief efforts, Xinhua news agency reported. The water resources department of the province allocated \$ 1.4 million in repairing and fortifying the dams and has prepared the disaster relief materials worth about \$ 2.9 million in case of emergency.

London, Jul 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Torrential rains in China are continuing to flood various provinces in central and eastern China as the country braces for more summer rainstorms during the week. The rain has triggered flooding and landslides since last week which have left at least 45 people dead and up to nine missing, state media reported. It has also caused damage to parts of a railway in China's eastern Shandong province. Workers are working to repair the damage and resume train

services in the area. Millions of people are in need of relocation as their homes have been destroyed by heavy rain. Altogether, at least 349 people died in weather-related disasters in June, while 99 others were still missing, Xinhua news agency quoted the China Meteorological Administration as saying. The administration estimated economic losses at \$2.53 billion from the disasters, the most serious of which were rainstorms which caused floods, landslides and mud-rock slides in a dozen provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in southern China.

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Storms and torrential rain have battered eastern China, leaving 13 million people affected by flooding and storm damage, state media said. At least 30 people have died as a result of the severe weather in the two provinces of Jiangsu and Anhui, and some 40,000 people have been evacuated. Residents have been using rafts to move through flooded streets, reports said. Earlier this week, the government said at least 349 people died in disasters caused by the weather in June. Another 99 people were missing and the cost of the flooding was estimated at 20bn yuan (\$2.5bn, £1.36bn), Xinhua news agency reported. The most recent stormy weather has hit Jiangsu province hardest. "So far, 27 people are reported dead, nearly 40,000 have been evacuated, and more than 8,400 houses have collapsed," Zhao Jie of the Ministry of Civil Affairs told the China Daily newspaper. Three more people have been killed in neighbouring Anhui province. Seasonal heavy rains and typhoons causes hundreds of deaths in China each year. But meteorologists expect this summer to be particularly bad, with warm Pacific currents causing more typhoons than usual.

GREAT LAKES

Toronto, Jul 3 — Several large vessels have run aground on Michigan's Saginaw River this shipping season, caught in shallow waters a few miles from Lake Huron. The river port is as shallow as 13 feet in a passage that is supposed to be 22 feet deep, a sign of low water levels in the Great Lakes. Water levels declined in 1998 and have remained low, forcing vessels to take on lighter loads and sparking concern about shorelines and wetlands in the Great Lakes. "It's a pretty different mindset to come off 30 years of above-average water levels and to suddenly, since the late 1990s, have below-average levels," said Scott Thieme, chief of the US Army Corps of Engineers' Great Lakes Hydraulics and Hydrology Office in Detroit. Lakes Huron and Michigan, where water levels have declined the most, are down about three feet from 1997 and about 20 inches from their 140-year average, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory.

When homeowners on Lake Huron's Georgian Bay noticed wetlands were drying up, the Georgian Bay Association funded a \$223,000 report that last year concluded shoreline alterations such as dredging and erosion in the St. Clair River, at the bottom of the lake, were responsible. In partial response, US and Canadian governments approved funding for a \$14.6 million study of the upper Great Lakes by the International Joint Commission, which resolves border disputes and was denied funds for a similar study in 2002. Depending on what it finds, the commission could recommend changes to the amount of water that flows out of Lake Superior, the first and largest in the chain of lakes. Water levels in the Great Lakes have always fluctuated, but experts point to climate change, dredging, private shoreline alterations and even lingering effects of glaciers to explain the latest changes — the decline of Lake Huron and slightly higher water levels in Lake Erie, into which Huron flows. For every inch water levels go down, vessels bound for destinations outside North America forfeit about \$8,400 in freight revenue, said Dennis Mahoney, president of the United States Great Lakes Shipping Association. Saginaw and other ports have done emergency dredging to accommodate vessels and barges that can be hundreds of yards long. However, Lake Superior's largest American vessels carried 3,000 fewer short tons of cargo last year than in 1997, when water levels were 12 inches higher, according to the Lake Carriers' Association. "Obviously water levels are crucially important to this industry, and we have been in a period of decline," said Glen Nekvasil, vice president of corporate communications for the association. "When you're not utilising your full vessel capacity you can't give your customer the best freight rate." — Reuters.

HONDURAS

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated Jun 29, states: Floods caused by heavy rains have left four people dead, forced 1,500 others from their homes and caused more than \$8 million in damage to Honduran croplands, officials said today. Two people drowned in the northern province of Cortes along the Caribbean coast, and two others drowned in western Intibuca province, said Juan Carlos Elvir of the Emergency Response Commission. Flooding caused by downpours during the past three weeks has damaged more than 300 homes and forced 1,500 people to seek refuge in government-run shelters, Elvir said. Meanwhile, bridges have been wiped out in some villages, leaving at least 5,000 residents stranded, Elvir said. Flooding also damaged 5,200 acres of farmland, causing more than \$8 million in damages.

HURRICANE "KATRINA"

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Tenet Healthcare

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Corp. today said property insurers paid the U.S. hospital chain \$340 million to settle claims related to Tenet's physical damage and business interruption during Hurricane "Katrina." Tenet operated five hospitals in New Orleans when Hurricane "Katrina" made landfall on Aug 29, along with five outpatient radiology centers and other property. All locations sustained "significant" storm damage, Tenet said. Tenet said that resolution of its claims avoided a potential dispute, which could have taken months or years to resolve. The settlement is one of the first major commercial property insurance settlements resulting from Hurricane "Katrina" damage. The settlement is being paid by interested insurers who underwrote Tenet's property insurance in 2005 and 2006. Tenet will record \$240 million in the second quarter ended June 30 and recorded \$100 million in previous quarters.

INDIA

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A number of homes have been washed away and a power station has been damaged after heavy rain led to a landslide in Kullu, India. Authorities say three houses were completely destroyed, while two others suffered severe damage when the slide happened Jun 27. The Parvati Hydro-Power Project was thought to be in danger of being closed after it received substantial damage from the slide. However, officials say the project will survive and the damage is repairable. Fortunately no fatalities or serious injuries were reported during the landslide.

Mumbai, Jul 3 — Monsoon rains flooded homes, submerged rail lines and forced hundreds of thousands of people to wade through muddy streets in India's financial capital today. The city's antiquated drainage system is struggling to cope with the downpours, prompting civic workers to use spades and crowbars to open clogged manholes to flush out the rainwater. "Our locality looks like a sea. There is knee-deep water and rainwater is also entering many houses," Sylvester Nato, a resident of Bandra, among several neighborhoods in the city's west badly affected by the overnight rains. The downpours inundated several arterial roads in central and northern Mumbai and rainwater submerged rail tracks at some places. Air services were also running a little late. Weather officials forecast heavy to very heavy rains in the next 48 hours, prompting civic authorities to check drainage systems, traffic management and the suburban railway that is a lifeline for most of Mumbai's 17 million people. "There are some reports of water-logging in some areas, but we are working to clear those roads," said Johny Joseph, Mumbai's chief civic official. Millions of dollars have been approved to overhaul Mumbai's 150-year-old drainage system, but experts say flooding is difficult to prevent because

of rampant growth of buildings on wetlands, the city's natural drainage system. — Reuters.

Kolkata, Jul 4 — Heavy rains triggered floods and landslides across India, killing 32 people and disrupting life in the financial hub of Mumbai for a second day today, officials and residents said. The bad weather was caused by a depression over the east coast and a revival of the June-September annual monsoon rains. At least 24 people were killed in the eastern states of Orissa and Jharkhand and several were missing in neighbouring West Bengal after torrential rains caused rivers to break their banks and triggered landslides, officials said. Six people, including four women, were killed in a landslide in the coffee-growing Kodagu district in the southern state of Karnataka, police said. Two people were washed away in flood waters, 10 fishermen were missing and thousands displaced in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh as hundreds of villages were inundated. Navy boats and helicopters had been pressed in to rescue marooned people from rooftops and also to drop food, medicine and water packets, authorities said. In Mumbai, the country's commercial capital, schools and colleges were shut and emergency workers flushed muddy waters from submerged streets as the bustling city struggled to cope with a second day of monsoon rains. Weather officials said a depression on the east coast was weakening and was heading towards Mumbai. This would bring more rain to the city and the central state of Madhya Pradesh over the next few days, they warned. — Reuters.

London, July 6 — Incessant rain in Mumbai since Monday (July 3) has crippled cargo handling operations and ship movements at Mumbai port and neighbouring Jawaharlal Nehru port. Mumbai port, which handles 25,000-30,000 tonnes of cargo every day, could only handle around one-eighth of that volume during the brief periods of respite from the rain. "Barely 10,000 tonnes of cargo could be handled against the normal 75,000-80,000 tonnes over a three-day period," said TVS Sowrirajan, Mumbai port's additional docks manager. The port had earlier undertaken monsoon precautionary measures, including plugging of leakages and removing blockages in the dock areas. But the sheer quantum of rain made cargo operations extremely difficult, and many dock employees could not make it to work. Similarly, normal operations at Paradip port in Orissa on India's eastern coast were badly hit by the inclement weather. Heavy rains along with windspeeds of 90 km per hour lashed the port, forcing the authorities to raise cyclone signal No.3. Ship movement to and from the port was particularly hit. As a result, several berths remained vacant even as the number of ships waiting for berths increased. "No ships could be either taken in or taken out of the impounded dock system between Sunday and Wednesday due to the

unfavourable weather conditions," a Paradip Port Trust spokesman said. "As a result, six out of 14 berths remained vacant." The number of ships waiting at anchorage for berths was nine yesterday and 11 today. With the weather situation having improved a little by yesterday afternoon, port operations were limping back to normal.

INDONESIA

London, Jun 29 — Floods triggered by heavy rains in the Indonesian portion of Borneo island have forced at least 40,000 people to flee their homes and killed at least two people. "Some 40,000 people ... in Banjar district have left their homes for safer ground after the waters of the Martapura and Riam Kiwa rivers began flooding," said Hadi Susilo, from South Kalimantan's disaster control office. Downpours to the north of South Kalimantan province had swollen the rivers drastically from yesterday morning and flooded most of the district, with some areas under more than two metres of water, he said. About 3,000 of the evacuees feared that a local dam would burst its banks, Susilo said. "Besides the number of people who left their homes, what is making it more difficult to handle is that this is happening at the same time in so many places across the district," Susilo said. Floods had also hit some areas in Tanah Bumbu district but as the waters were not too deep, mass evacuations had not occurred, he said. Two people swept away by floods in the district's Setui area however were found dead, he said. Widespread floods and landslides hit the Kotabaru district of South Kalimantan earlier in the week, cutting off roads and bridges. Heavy tropical rains have also lashed regions on the island of Sulawesi this month. In South Sulawesi, flash floods and landslides killed more than 200 people and left some 13,000 people homeless.

ITALY

London, Jun 29 — Several dozen people suffered minor injuries when trees were blown down causing accidents in storms that hit the Venice area and other parts of northern Italy today, local authorities reported. More than 30 victims were hospitalised in the region of Treviso north of Venice suffering mainly from leg injuries in traffic accidents caused by trees and branches falling. The injured included nine employees at the US air base at Aviano, the ANSA news agency reported. The wind with gusts over 100 kilometers-per-hour also damaged the tail of a military Black Hawk helicopter, ANSA said. After a week-long heatwave, a cold spell with strong winds, heavy rainfall and occasional hail set in in the region late yesterday.

ROMANIA

London, Jul 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Six people were killed and six others missing after torrential rains flooded villages in northern Romania, the Interior

Ministry said today. The most affected county was Suceava, close to the northern border with Ukraine, where the deaths occurred. Floodwaters killed five peasants in the village of Arbore and another one in the village of Cacica. About 530 people were evacuated from eight counties, most of them in northern Romania, and around 2,700 homes were damaged.

Bucharest, Jul 3 — The Sulina channel was closed at 0600 hrs, Jul 2, due to bad weather, winds north-north-east force six-seven, seas six metres. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Jul 4 — The Sulina channel was re-opened at 2230 hrs, yesterday. — Lloyd's Agents.

THAILAND

London, Jul 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Torrential rains caused flash floods as high as two metres in some areas in Thailand's eastern seaside resort province of ChonBuri today, inundating hundreds of houses and causing some damage, the Thai News Agency reported. Rains are forecast to continue for two more days. Many villages in Chonburi's coastal Banglamung district were submerged last night after heavy downpours brought flash floods in the areas. The floods caused heavy damage to hundreds of homes and buildings, roads and other infrastructure. Some villagers said they were unprepared as floods hit the areas quickly and they never experienced such a large scale flood before. Rescue workers rushed to help the flood victims with boats but relief efforts were hampered as a main road was cut due to two-meter high waters and some parts of the road were impassable. Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department issued its updated weather forecast, warning residents in the Eastern region, particularly in Rayong, Chanthaburi and Trat provinces to brace for possible flash floods and water run-off today and tomorrow.

TROPICAL STORM "EWINIAR"

London, Jul 1 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Ewiniar" was located near lat 09.2N, long 137.0E, approximately 70 nautical miles west-southwest of Yap and has tracked northwestward, or 320 degs, at nine knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 50 knots, with gusts to 65 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 60 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 65 nautical miles in the south-east and southwest quadrants. Maximum significant wave height is 21 feet. At 0600, UTC, Jul 2, the centre is predicted to be near lat 11.6N, long 134.7E, with maximum sustained winds of 70 knots and gusts to 85 knots.

London, Jul 2 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Ewiniar" was located near lat 11.2N, long 135.3E, approximately 200 nautical miles west-northwest of Yap and has tracked northwestward, or 305 degs, at five knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 55 knots, with gusts to 70 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 85 nautical miles in the north-east and south-west quadrants and 80 nautical miles in the south-east and north-west quadrants. Radius of 50 knot winds: 20 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Maximum significant wave height is 23 feet. At 0600, UTC, Jul 3, the centre is predicted to be near lat 12.9N, long 133.6E, with maximum sustained winds of 70 knots and gusts to 85 knots.

London, Jul 3 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Ewiniar" was located near lat 13.1N, long 134.4E, approximately 310 nautical miles northwest of Yap and has tracked northward, or 10 degs, at seven knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 75 knots, with gusts to 90 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 125 nautical miles in the north-east and south-west quadrants and 110 nautical miles in the south-east and north-west quadrants. Radius of 64 knot winds: 25 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Maximum significant wave height is 31 feet. At 0600, UTC, Jul 4, the centre is predicted to be near lat 15.5N, long 132.8E, with maximum sustained winds of 100 knots and gusts to 125 knots.

London, Jul 4 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Ewiniar" was located near lat 16.1N, long 132.5E, approximately 655 nautical miles south-southeast of Okinawa and has tracked north-northwestward, or 330 degs, at eight knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 25 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 110 knots, with gusts to 135 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 140 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants, 100 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant and 120 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant. Radius of 64 knot winds: 45 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants and 40 nautical miles in the south-west and north-west quadrants. Maximum significant wave height is 36 feet. At 0600, UTC, Jul 5, the centre is predicted to be near lat 18.3N, long 130.2E, with maximum sustained winds of 120 knots and gusts to 145 knots.

TROPICAL STORM "JELAWAT"

London, Jun 29 — Passenger and freight liners in south China's island province of Hainan resumed service this morning, after a 24-hour suspension caused by the tropical storm "Jelawat". The first vessel with 160 passengers and 39 vehicles was allowed to set sail from Haikou, provincial capital, to Hai'an in neighboring Guangdong Province at 0800 hrs. And more set off for Guangdong and Guangxi around noon, when gale on the Qiongzhou channel abated to below eight Beaufort scale. Two passenger trains to Guangzhou via ferry ship, cancelled yesterday, will resume service, said an official with the Yuehai Railway Company. The tropical storm that appeared in the South China Sea on Tuesday (Jun 27) landed on Zhanjiang, Guangdong, at 0740, today and subsided to tropical depression, according to the Chinese Central Meteorological Station. However, the Office for Flood, Drought and Typhoon Relief of Hainan advised fishermen to keep close watch to the weather forecast. The office called 19,082 vessels back to port yesterday to avoid the storm. Air traffic across the Qiongzhou Strait wasn't interrupted, said Li Jianguo, spokesman with the Meilan International Airport in Haikou, where 126 flights with 13,000 passengers were due to take off or land yesterday. Seven flights with over 1,000 passengers, whose landing was hindered by strong wind in Haikou yesterday and were diverted to Sanya, returned to the Meilan International Airport.

TYPHOON "CHANCHU"

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated today, states: The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has warned that the four tanks of liquid sulfuric acid on board tank barge *Billy Star*, that sank at the Keppel Shipyard in Batangas province, needed to be salvaged and disposed of because of the risk of explosion and other hazards. The *Billy Star* sank on Saturday (Jun 24) while moored at the shipyard. It was carrying 1,270 metric tons of sulfuric acid that the PCG described as a "highly corrosive" and "highly reactive" substance. The barge was brought to the shipyard after it ran aground between Sibuyan Island and Romblon province while en route to Manila on Jun 4. Lieutenant Commander Joseph Coyne, PCG spokesman, said in an interview that while there were no fish kills in the area where the barge had sunk, there was no guarantee that the tanks were stable and uncontaminated. "The sulfuric acid could react with water and cause an explosion," Coyne said. The PCG noted in a statement that even before the barge sank, there had been reports of a leak. It quoted findings by the barge's owners that based on samples collected, all four tanks were contaminated with salt water before the barge sank. This was believed to have occurred when the vessel ran aground. Based on the

findings, experts recommended that the sulfuric acid be removed immediately, but this was not done because there was no safe place to store the cargo or an alternative vessel to take it in. "The possibility of corrosion exists, which all the more raises the risk of explosion from the emission of hydrogen that could cause pressure build-up inside the tanks," the PCG said.

Manila, Jul 3 — Grand Asian Shipping, the owners of sunken tank barge *Billy Star*, have appointed Manila-based Harbor Star Shipping Services and Fort Lauderdale-based Titan Maritime to refloat the vessel. "We have agreed in principle to refloat *Billy Star*," Harbor Star president Ricardo Bella said today. He said that the company was now mobilising salvage tug *Regulus* and a salvage barge, as well as diving and pumping equipment, for the salvage operation. Work is expected to begin in two to three days. Mr. Bella estimated that it would take at least 20 days to complete the refloating. Titan Maritime will be sending technical consultants specialising in the handling of sulphuric acid. Earlier, the Philippine Coast Guard took over the salvage of the vessel from Grand Asian Shipping because of delays in appointing a salvor. The Coast Guard relented, however, after Grand Asian Shipping and Henderson International, representing the hull underwriters and the Owner's P&I Club, finally agreed to contract the two salvors. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, July 5 — Product tanker *Malitam* is still moored at Pasig River, with no repairs in progress. It is understood however that the vessel has been gas freed. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, Jul 6 — Harbor Star Shipping Services president Ricardo Bella reported that it had entered into a contract to refloat tank barge *Billy Star* on Tuesday (Jul 4). The contract covers the refloating of the vessel and its cargo of 1,270 tons of sulphuric acid. Harbor Star will also be responsible for bringing the vessel to a still to be designated shipyard if the barge is still repairable. The contract also provides for the offloading of the sulphuric acid cargo but does not include its delivery to an area where it can be safely disposed of. The refloating will be undertaken as a joint operation with Ft. Lauderdale-based Titan. The Titan salvage crew, who are already in the country, have brought with them much needed expertise in handling hazardous materials as well as hazardous materials salvage gear. Harbor Star officials said that they were still mobilising for the operation which has been moved from today to Saturday (Jul 8). — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TYPHOON "EWINIAR"

London, Jul 5 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Ewinia" was located near lat 18.2N, long 130.1E. Movement past

six hours 290 deg at eight knots. The position is accurate to within 25 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds 125 knots, with gusts to 150 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 130 nautical miles north-east, 120 nautical miles south-east and south-west and 115 nautical miles north-west. Radius of 64-knot winds 60 nautical miles north-east, south-east, south-west and north-west.

London, Jul 6 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Ewinia" was located near lat 19.6N, long 128.5E. Movement past six hours 315 deg at four knots. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds 105 knots, with gusts to 130 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 140 nautical miles north-east, 130 nautical miles south-east and north-west and 145 nautical miles south-west. Radius of 64-knot winds 45 nautical miles north-east, south-east, south-west and north-west.

TYPHOON "HAITANG"

Taipei, Jul 5 — According to Kaohsiung Harbour Bureau, vessel *Eastern Rich* ex *Yung Chang* is still berthed at pier No.11 Kaohsiung Harbour, with no ETD. — Lloyd's Agents.

UNITED STATES

Trenton, Jun 29 — Up to 200,000 evacuees from water-logged Wilkes-Barre were told they could go home today after levees held back the Susquehanna River, but swollen rivers still wreaked havoc in the U.S. northeast. New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine told reporters water levels along the Delaware River could crest in the afternoon near 25 feet, a level that would rival floods of last year, and could lead to serious problems in the state capital, Trenton. He said damage in the state could be comparable to floods last year that caused losses valued at \$30 million. New York Gov. George Pataki said after visiting the flooded city of Binghamton the destruction was unprecedented and the cost could run into hundreds of millions of dollars, according to a spokesman, Saleem Cheeks. Days of torrential rain followed by floods had killed at least 16 people in the eastern United States today, including those killed in storm-related road accidents. With buildings submerged, roads washed out and rivers surging, authorities declared emergencies yesterday and ordered hundreds of thousands of people evacuated in New Jersey, New York, Maryland and Pennsylvania. The National Weather Service warned there could be severe thunder storms across New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland later in the day. — Reuters.

Philadelphia, Jun 30 — As the waters receded today, authorities

estimated damages could easily top \$100 million after floods destroyed roads and bridges and drove hundreds of thousands from homes in the U.S. Northeast. Art Stephens, deputy chief of staff to Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, said at least a quarter of a million people in Pennsylvania alone had left their homes at some point since the floods started on Tuesday. Tens of thousands more were evacuated in parts of New Jersey and New York. New York Gov. George Pataki assessed the damage in his state in the hundreds of millions. "If you look at all the homes that have been lost, businesses, and of course the infrastructure — the roads and bridges that have been washed out — it's got to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars," Pataki told CNN as he toured devastated areas by helicopter. The worst hit area in New York was around the city of Binghamton. Deputy Mayor Tarik Abdelazim said the sewage system sustained around \$20 million worth of damage. In Pennsylvania, state emergency management director James Joseph said officials had started to assess the damage but conditions in some areas were still severe. For example, the central Pennsylvania city of Bloomsburg was 40 percent under water yesterday, Joseph said. In northeastern Pennsylvania's Luzerne County, preliminary estimates indicated 500 to 1,000 houses and businesses were damaged, ten to 15 bridges were either swept away or made unstable, and six to seven miles of road were washed out. Todd Vonderheid, one of the county commissioners, estimated the cost of repairing public infrastructure at between \$15 million and \$30 million. — Reuters.

Earthquakes



INDIA

New Delhi, Jun 28 — An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.8 hit off India's Andaman and Nicobar archipelago overnight, but there were no reports of any damage, officials said today. An Indian meteorological official said the quake was moderate and the epicentre was off the Nicobar chain of islands. — Reuters.

IRAN

London, Jun 29 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake shook southern Iran early this morning, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. Radio reports said residents of the southwestern city of Bandar Abbas "poured into the streets" after the quake hit. The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake struck at 0132 hrs and had a magnitude of 5.6. It was centered about 35 miles southwest of Bandar Abbas or about 650 miles

southeast of Tehran, the capital. No other details were immediately available.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Jun 30 — A moderate quake with a magnitude of 5.6 has struck off the western coast of Papua New Guinea, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The earthquake hit at 0807, GMT, about 85 kilometres west of Arawa on the PNG island of Bougainville and at a depth of 60 kilometres, the USGS report said.

UNITED STATES

London, Jun 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A magnitude 6.0 earthquake caused a slight tremble yesterday at a mostly abandoned air strip in the Aleutian Islands. The Alaska Earthquake Information Center reported the 1915 hrs quake was felt strongly in Shemya Station. There were no immediate reports of any damage. The quake was centred about 90 miles southeast of Shemya, or about 1,400 miles south-west of Anchorage, and was located at a depth of about 23 miles.



VOLCANO OF FIRE, MEXICO

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated Jun 29, states: Western Mexico's Volcano of Fire sent a towering column of ash and gas more than a mile into the air today, authorities said. Winds blew a 7,150-foot column of ash toward the west. No communities were affected, said authorities in Jalisco state. The 2.5-mile-high volcano, on the border of Jalisco and Colima states, 420 miles west of Mexico City, sent up twin eruptions in January, triggering several small landslides.



AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Jul 2 — Two British soldiers were killed in Afghanistan in an attack on their base in the south of the country. The two were killed in the volatile Sangin district of Helmand province, where more than 3,000 British troops are based. "We can confirm that two British soldiers ... were killed in action in Sangin yesterday when their base came under small-arms and RPG (rocket-propelled grenade) attack," a spokesman for Britain's Ministry of Defense in London said today. Five British soldiers have been killed since UK forces were deployed to Helmand in

recent months. Helmand provincial police chief Nabi Mullahakhail said 11 Taliban were killed in fighting in Sangin yesterday night. — Reuters.

Kabul, Jul 3 — Twenty insurgents were killed in southern Afghanistan after they ambushed U.S.-led forces, the latest battle in the bloodiest phase of violence since the Taliban were ousted in 2001. Two coalition personnel were wounded in the clash in the Sangin district of Helmand province yesterday, the force said in a statement. "The patrol had just completed a cordon-and-search operation, where they recovered an enemy weapons cache, when up to 30 extremists attacked," the force said in a statement. In a separate incident today, a bomb went off at a university in the generally peaceful western city of Herat, killing a student and wounding nine, officials said. The governor of Herat province, Sayed Hussein Anwari, said the bomb was planted in a water jug. He blamed "enemies of peace and stability" for the blast. In a separate incident, a suspected Taliban bomber was killed when a thermos flask packed with explosives went off in Khost town, in eastern Afghanistan, on Monday. A boy was wounded, a provincial official said. An Apache attack helicopter from the U.S.-led force crashed yesterday evening while hunting insurgents who fired rockets into the main foreign military base in the south of the country. One crewman was killed and one injured in the crash, shortly after the aircraft took off from the base outside the southern city of Kandahar. The force declined to give the nationality of the crewmen killed and injured, but the U.S. army operates the Apache helicopters out of Kandahar. — Reuters.

London, Jul 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Bombs ripped into two government buses in the Afghan capital Kabul during the morning rush hour, killing one person and wounding more than 40 others, most of them army officers, officials said. The blasts caused by explosives packed into carts were among around four detonations in the city, the NATO-led military force said, without providing immediate details of the other explosions. It was the second day in a row that bombs have exploded in tightly-guarded Kabul, which is normally relatively immune from the Taliban-linked violence blighting the south of the country. The extremist Islamic movement, which is waging an insurgency against the government, said it had planted the bombs. It also claimed responsibility for a similar attack yesterday that injured four people. An explosion at 0800 hrs, struck a bus taking commerce ministry office workers to work in the northern Khair Khana suburb, according to officials and NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) that patrols the city. About an hour earlier a similar blast struck a bus transporting Afghan National Army (ANA) army officers in a busy southcentral area of Kabul,

police said. "A bomb exploded on the side of the bus in which around 40 officers were wounded, many of them lightly wounded," defence ministry spokesman General Mohammad Zahir Azimi told AFP. After the blast, the bus veered off the road and slammed into a shop selling petrol. The bus was gutted in the blaze, and part of the shop was also destroyed.

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Afghan and US-led forces have killed at least eight suspected Taleban militants in separate clashes in southern Afghanistan, the police and army say. The militants were killed in fighting in the restive provinces of Zabul and Paktika yesterday. Authorities say 11 militants were captured during the operations aimed at flushing out the Taleban. Six militants were killed and three others captured in two separate operations in Zabul province yesterday, reports say. In neighbouring Paktika, two militants were killed after a two-hour gun battle between a group of Taleban fighters and the security forces. US-led forces said yesterday that they had killed about 35 militants in a raid on a "known Taleban compound" in southern Helmand province. The Afghan capital, Kabul, was also hit by blasts for a second day yesterday when triple bombings killed one and wounded at least 40. The Taleban claimed responsibility for both Tuesday (Jul 4) and yesterday's attacks in the capital.

BANGLADESH

Dhaka, Jul 2 — Millions of Bangladeshis were stranded today as opposition parties enforced a countrywide transport shutdown amid tight security and scattered violence, police and witnesses said. They said buses, trains and ferries were mostly idle as hundreds of opposition leaders and activists blockaded terminals in the capital, Dhaka, and elsewhere across the country. At least 20 people were injured in clashes between opposition and pro-government activists in the southern coastal town of Barisal, 300 km from Dhaka, witnesses said. Authorities deployed more than 8,000 extra police and paramilitary troops in the capital, and more in other cities, trying to avert violence and damage to property. A 14-party alliance led by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, chief of the opposition Awami League, called the shutdown in an attempt to force the government to implement electoral reforms before a general election due next January. The opposition notably demands the immediate removal of chief election commissioner M.A. Aziz for alleged pro-government bias, and a say in choosing a caretaker administration to supervise the polls. In Dhaka's Mahakhali area, witnesses said about 10 activists were injured in clashes with police. Scattered violence was also reported from other areas of the city. "We may call for general strikes if the government tries to break the peaceful blockade by using

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force,” Amir Hossain Amu, a senior leader of the Awami League, told reporters. — Reuters.

Dhaka, Jul 4 — Nearly 50 people were injured in clashes with police as opposition activists tried to enforce a general strike in Bangladesh today, police and witnesses said. Ten people were injured in the capital’s Russell Square after baton-wielding police swooped on rock-throwing activists attacking vehicles. About 40 others were hurt in similar violence in northern Patgram area, local officials said. Police detained an unspecified number of activists in Dhaka and elsewhere. A 14-party alliance led by Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, a former prime minister, called the latest strike as part of their campaign to force the government to implement electoral reforms before parliamentary polls due in January. Schools were closed but most offices and banks were open. Streets were crammed with rickshaws and cabs. Trading on the country’s two stocks exchanges in Dhaka and Chittagong were suspended, but most offices and banks were open, witnesses said. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, secretary-general of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party, accused the opposition of trying to cause anarchy through a long series of strikes and vowed not to give in. “We have no other language instead of strikes to express our protest against this repressive government,” Abdul Jalil, Awami General Secretary, told reporters late yesterday. — Reuters.

BURUNDI

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated Jul 5, states: Burundi’s army says it has arrested three senior commanders of the country’s last active Hutu rebel group, the National Liberation Forces (FNL). They were detained during a raid on the outskirts of the capital, Bujumbura. An army spokesman said operations against the FNL would continue despite the peace talks in Tanzania aimed at ending the 12-year civil war. Correspondents say the talks have stalled after an earlier agreement to sign a ceasefire by last weekend. The FNL has accused South African mediators of trying to bully them into signing the peace accord. FNL spokesman Pasteur Habimana accused the government of trying to sabotage the talks, but he said that in spite of the commanders’ capture, the rebels would not leave the discussions. Over the past couple of weeks the authorities have accused the FNL of carrying out mortar attacks on the capital. “The army will continue to chase and erase FNL rebels as long as they have not yet signed the ceasefire,” army spokesman Col Adolphe Manirakiza told Reuters news agency. Observers say a deal on a ceasefire with the FNL is seen as one of the final hurdles for stability after the long civil war. One the main sticking points in the negotiations is the ethnic make-up of the army. In the peace process that brought President Pierre Nkurunziza to power last year,

the previously Tutsi-dominated army has been split equally between Tutsis and Hutus.

COLOMBIA

Bogota, Jun 28 — Colombian soldiers killed the rebel leader overseeing a campaign to take over a central part of the country abandoned by right-wing militias who pulled out after peace talks, the army said today. The guerrilla commander known as “Juan Carlos” was killed in a battle with government troops yesterday in the central province of Santander. He was on the 25-member military strategy committee of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, which is fighting a four-decade-old insurgency. “This is a strategic blow to the FARC, because Juan Carlos was in charge of retaking the areas that had been abandoned by the paramilitaries after their demobilization,” Gen. Jose Cortes told reporters. More than 30,000 paramilitaries have disbanded in exchange for benefits including job training and reduced sentences for crimes such as massacre and drug smuggling. The government is trying to establish state presence in areas formerly controlled by paramilitaries, but it is being challenged by the FARC. As a member of the FARC’s military strategy committee, Juan Carlos had a say in appointing the group’s seven-member Secretariat, or top governing body. “This is a significant strike against the FARC, at least on a symbolic level,” said German Espejo, an analyst with Bogota think tank Security and Democracy. “But it will not have a strategic impact, because the FARC is a bureaucratic organization that can rapidly replace someone like Juan Carlos.” Last week, in a reversal of the group’s earlier refusal to negotiate, the FARC said it will talk peace with President Alvaro Uribe if he halts U.S.-backed anti-insurgent operations and pulls soldiers and police out of two provinces. Uribe says he will neither cease anti-guerrilla operations nor demilitarize a large part of the country to hold talks. — Reuters.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Kinshasa, Jul 1 — Nearly 2,000 militia fighters have laid down their weapons in Congo’s lawless Ituri district in the last two weeks, ahead of historic polls in the vast African country, a disarmament official said today. Disarmament centres reopened two weeks ago after being closed for a year, giving militia groups a second chance to give up their guns a month before the Democratic Republic of Congo is due to hold presidential and parliamentary elections. Much of the mineral-rich country remains violent and Ituri — a remote northeastern district where fighting has killed 60,000 since 1999 and militia fighters are still holding five U.N. Nepali peacekeepers hostage — is no exception. “More than 1,800 people have disarmed — the figure is getting near 2,000,” Colonel Francois-Xavier

Duku, the head of Congo’s national disarmament commission for Ituri, told Reuters by phone from Bunia, Ituri’s main town. Last year over 15,000 gunmen signed up to U.N.-sponsored disarmament programmes before the centres closed when the deadline expired, but despite the presence of thousands of U.N. peacekeepers and their support of the national army, the violence continued, as the militia re-recruited former fighters who were not given fresh starts as civilians. However Duku said that with elections just weeks away and the disarmament centres open again, the “time was right” for the gunmen to lay down their weapons. — Reuters.

EAST TIMOR

London, Jun 29 — A press report, dated today, states: The Indonesian military began strengthening security in the border areas between Indonesia and Timor Leste as fresh violence hit Dili yesterday, following the step down of Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri. “The situation in border areas is still conducive, but our soldiers have begun strengthening security there to prevent any East Timorese from entering our territory,” said East Nusa Tenggara military chief Col. Inf. Noch Bola in the provincial capital of Kupang yesterday. Gangs hurled rocks at a camp housing refugees and torched buildings in Dili yesterday, as fresh violence erupted between supporters and opponents of recently ousted Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri. Australian peacekeepers repulsed the attack by 100 young men on the camp, which houses tens of thousands of people who fled clashes last month, an Associated Press reporter at the scene said. Sporadic shots were heard and 20 houses and at least four shops were torched elsewhere in the city. Alkatiri appeared on national television Tuesday (Jun 27), one day after he resigned under pressure from street protesters and the country’s popular president, urging 2,000 supporters who gathered on Dili’s outskirts to descend on the city in coming days. Noch stressed that the Indonesian military was only tasked to secure border areas between the two countries in East Nusa Tenggara province, therefore Indonesian soldiers would never be involved in any conflict in the country.

INDIA

London, Jun 27 — Eight Maoist rebels, including six women, were killed by security forces in a shootout today in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. The gunbattle occurred in the dense forests of Mahboobnagar district, about 230km south of the state capital, Hyderabad, senior police officer K. Srinivas Reddy said. “The shootout is still continuing,” he added.

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated today, states: An army officer and 10 suspected militants have been killed in two separate clashes in Indian-administered Kashmir, officials

say. The officer was killed in a clash in which two militants were also killed, officials say. Eight suspected militants who tried to cross the Line of Control which divides Kashmir are also said to have been killed in a separate clash. A defence ministry spokesman said a lieutenant colonel in the Indian army was shot dead in a clash which occurred after troops laid siege to a house in Bandipora, about 60km from the state's summer capital Srinagar. He said troops have recovered the bodies of two militants from the site. The spokesman said the clash is still continuing. Separately an army spokesman said eight suspected militants were killed in a clash that took place early today when the militants apparently cut through the barbed wire fence along the Line of Control and moved in. The army spokesman, Col H Juneja, told the Associated Press news agency that the militants were killed after a long gun battle.

IRAQ

London, Jun 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Unknown gunmen abducted up to 60 workers of Baiji refinery after they ambushed a bus in northern Iraq today, police said. A group of gunmen stopped a bus near the Hemrin mountain area and abducted the workers on board, who were heading to work from their homes in Tuz Khurmato, some 90 km east of the northern city of Tikrit, a Tuz Khurmato police source said on condition of anonymity. The kidnappers burned the bus after they took the workers to the mountainous area, the source said, adding Iraqi security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search campaign.

London, Jul 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A huge explosion has ripped through a busy Baghdad market, killing at least 66 people, officials say. About 100 others were injured in the car bomb attack in Sadr City, a Shia area frequently targeted by insurgents. The explosion left a scene of carnage and devastation, with the dead and injured lying amid the wreckage of cars, shops and market stalls. The new government has been battling to improve Baghdad security, and last weekend unveiled a national unity plan, but the attack was the worst incident in the capital for weeks. Reports say the car bomb was detonated as a police patrol passed, causing both police and civilian casualties. It was detonated at one of the busiest times of the day in a popular market in a densely-populated area. In a separate incident today, a female Sunni MP and at least seven of her bodyguards were kidnapped, parliamentary sources said. Taiseer Najah al-Mashhadani is a member of the Iraqi Accordance Front, the largest parliamentary grouping of the Sunni community. The unrest comes three weeks after the government of Prime Minister Nouri Maliki imposed a major security clampdown in Baghdad in a bid to stem the wave of attacks. It was imposed only days

after the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, died in a US air strike, but yesterday, Reuters news agency quoted US Army Col Jeffrey Snow as saying the number of attacks had risen since the clampdown was imposed. As more security force patrols were on the streets, more attacks on them were being made, he said.

London, Jul 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A car bomb has exploded in a market in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, killing at least five people and wounding about two dozen others. Police said the attack targeted a police patrol, but most of the casualties were civilian market-goers. Meanwhile, the US military announced that insurgents had killed two of its forces in separate incidents. A soldier was killed when a roadside bombing struck his vehicle and a marine died in combat, statements said. The killings, the first yesterday in an area north of Baghdad and the second in the western Anbar province today, raise the number of US deaths in Iraq to at least 2,529, news agencies report. A Sunni district in northern Baghdad erupted into fierce clashes between government troops and gunmen yesterday, after rockets landed near the Abu Hanifa mosque, one of the country's most revered Sunni Muslim sites. The area is reported to be calm a day later, but sectarian tensions remain high across the capital, correspondents say. Prime Minister Nouri Maliki, who is Shia Muslim, has been trying to win backing for a national reconciliation plan designed to dampen inter-communal violence. However, the country's main Sunni political faction has said it will boycott parliament until the release of a female Sunni MP who was kidnapped on Saturday (Jul 1) with seven of her bodyguards. Tayseer al-Mashhadani was kidnapped in a Shia area of Baghdad by gunmen who blocked off a road. A second woman MP, a Shia, escaped an attempted abduction yesterday. Members of the Iraqi Accord Front walked out of yesterday's parliamentary session and called for other political factions to follow suit.

Baghdad, Jul 4 — Gunmen abducted Iraq's deputy electricity minister and 19 bodyguards after ambushing their convoy in eastern Baghdad today, police and Interior Ministry sources said. Deputy Minister Raad al-Harith was travelling in a convoy near Baghdad's Shiite Sadr City district when gunmen in up to seven vehicles wearing military uniforms blocked their way and kidnapped them, police said. The Electricity Ministry said it could not confirm the report, but an official said Harith had not arrived for work. Police said the abduction took place at 7730 hrs (0330, UTC). — Reuters.

London, Jul 4 — A press report, dated Jul 3, states: A bomb struck an oil pipeline in northern Iraq today, setting it on fire. Police Brigadier Sarhat Qadir said the pipeline that was attacked was pumping oil to filter

stations in Kirkuk, 290 km north of Baghdad, for export to Ceyhan in Turkey. He said the explosion occurred at 0500 hrs, in Bye Hassan, 65 km from Kirkuk. Firefighters on the scene were optimistic they could extinguish the flames by the evening, and Qadir said the attack was not expected to affect oil exports. The reported sabotage came after an optimistic forecast by the Oil Ministry last week, when it said that total exports from Iraq had increased to 2.5 million barrels per day, the highest level since the US-led invasion in March 2003.

Kufa, Jul 6 — A suicide car bomber blasted two coach-loads of Iranian pilgrims outside a Shiite Muslim shrine in Iraq at dawn today, killing 13 people and wounding 41, police and hospital sources said. The attack came a day after the U.S. military warned that al Qaeda's supposed new leader in Iraq, following the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in a U.S. air strike a month ago, could launch a new campaign of car bombings. The bomber drove his car between the two Iranian coaches as they arrived at the Maithem al-Tamar shrine in Kufa, a religious center on the outskirts of the main Shiite holy city of Najaf, 160 km south of Baghdad, police said. The U.S. military warned only yesterday of a possible increase in car bomb attacks after the supposed succession of Abu Ayyub al-Masri as head of al Qaeda in Iraq. Masri, named by Osama bin Laden last week, has a reputation as an organizer of car bombings. — Reuters.

ISRAEL

Gaza, Jun 30 — Israeli warplanes pounded Gaza today, setting ablaze the Interior Ministry offices of the Hamas-led Palestinian government in a widening military effort to secure the release of a captured soldier. Egypt's Al-Ahram newspaper said the Hamas Islamist group had given "conditional approval" for the release of 19-year-old Corporal Gilad Shalit, who was captured in a cross-border raid on Sunday (Jun 25). But while Israel held off a threatened ground attack into northern Gaza to give Egyptian mediation time, there was no suggestion it would agree to demands from militants, who want Israel to free jailed Palestinian prisoners. Israeli warplanes roared over Gaza in darkness, striking more than 20 targets. One missile hit the office of Hamas Interior Minister Saeed Seyam, setting the building ablaze. Seyam was not there at the time. The army said it was used to plan attacks on Israel. Planes also struck an office of more moderate President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah group as well as roads and open areas that have been used by militants to fire rockets at Israel. An Islamic Jihad gunman was killed, the first fatality from the offensive. Three militant groups, including the armed wing of Hamas, have claimed responsibility for the attack into Israel during which Shalit was abducted on Sunday. None has said whether the soldier is still alive, demanding

prisoner releases even for information on his fate. "Israel will not give in to terrorist blackmail and will not enter into negotiations to release murderers in Israeli prisons," said Tzachi Hanegbi, a senior member of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's Kadima party. Israel has said it holds Hamas responsible for Shalit's safe return and on Thursday seized more than 60 members of the Islamic group, including cabinet ministers, in the West Bank. Israel has vowed to try them on charges of involvement in "terrorist" acts. It says they are not bargaining chips. Israeli air strikes and artillery in recent days have destroyed bridges, water systems and a major power transformer, causing blackouts in most of Gaza, home to 1.4 million Palestinians. — Reuters.

Gaza, Jul 2 — An Israeli helicopter fired a missile into the empty office of Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh today in an apparent signal the Hamas leader could be targeted unless militants released an abducted soldier. The air strike was part of a military offensive in the Gaza Strip that has been coupled with statements from Israeli leaders that no one in the Hamas-led government should believe he was immune from attack. Haniyeh was not in the office at the time of the strike, witnesses said. One Hamas member was killed in a second attack on an office used by forces loyal to the Islamic militant group, whose charter calls for Israel's destruction. A third strike hit a Hamas school, but there were no casualties. With a Palestinian humanitarian crisis looming, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was expected later in the day to seek cabinet approval for reopening the main commercial crossing into Gaza so Palestinians could import food, emergency electricity generators and other vital items. "We expect Karni (crossing) to be opened by Monday," an Israeli political source said on condition of anonymity. "But the military operations are going ahead." Even before the standoff, the Palestinian government was already straining under a U.S.-led economic embargo imposed to get it to recognize Israel, renounce violence and accept past interim peace deals. The militants holding Corporal Gilad Shalit have demanded Israel release of hundreds of Palestinians from its jails before they will free him. Israel has ruled this out and threatened to step up its military offensive in Gaza. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Egyptian mediators have been involved in round-the-clock negotiations with Hamas in an attempt to defuse a stand-off that has plunged relations with Israel to new lows and dashed hopes of renewed peace talks. A Palestinian official quoted mediators as saying 19-year-old Shalit was alive after being treated for wounds. — Reuters.

Gaza, Jul 3 — Palestinian militant groups that abducted an Israeli soldier gave Israel until 0300, UTC, tomorrow to meet their demands for the release of Palestinian prisoners, threatening

unspecified consequences if it refuses. "Military Communique 3" issued today by Hamas's armed wing and two other factions said: "If the enemy does not agree to our humanitarian demands... we will regard this case as closed." In previous statements, the groups demanded that Israel, as a first stage, release Palestinian women and youths in its prisons in exchange for information about Corporal Gilad Shalit, kidnapped by gunmen in a cross-border raid on June 25. The groups — Hamas's Izz el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades, the Popular Resistance Committees and the previously unknown Islamic Army — have also called on Israel to free 1,000 Palestinian prisoners. Unless their demands were met, the factions said, "the enemy will bear full responsibility for future consequences." Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has said he would not bend to "extortionist" demands to release prisoners. Meanwhile, Israeli tanks, bulldozers and troops moved inside northern Gaza today but a military source said the operation did not mark the start of a threatened large-scale incursion against Palestinian militants. "This is not a massive ground entrance. This is a pin-point operation to locate tunnels and explosives near the border fence," said the source. The movement came after Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert ordered the army to intensify operations to secure the release of an abducted soldier, Corporal Gilad Shalit, who was seized by militants in a cross-border raid a week ago. A number of tanks, armoured personnel carriers and bulldozers pushed inside the border just after dawn, moving in from Nizmit Hill, an Israeli position not far from the border, and approaching the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun. Palestinian witnesses in Beit Hanoun said Israeli commandos entered two or three houses in the town. Gunfire was heard but there was no word on casualties. The army had no immediate comment. — Reuters.

London, Jul 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Israeli aircraft intensified their attacks on Palestinian targets in Gaza early today, a day after Israel's prime minister ordered his military to do whatever necessary to pressure militants to free an Israeli soldier captured a week ago. Israeli fighter planes attacked offices of the Fatah political party in Gaza City as well as sites in northern Gaza Strip.

Gaza, Jul 4 — Israel warned the Palestinian's governing Hamas group the "sky will fall on them" if they harm a captured soldier as a deadline passed today for Israel to accept a prisoner exchange. Three Palestinian factions, among them the Hamas armed wing, pulled out of negotiations with Egyptian mediators seeking Corporal Gilad Shalit's release, a Hamas political leader said. Israel rejected a 0600 hrs (0300, UTC) ultimatum set by the factions, which demanded that the Jewish state free

1,000 prisoners. Unless the demands were met, the factions said, "the enemy will bear full responsibility for future consequences". Israel said it would not negotiate with the militants, and the Maariv newspaper reported that the government gave the army a green light to launch a deeper incursion into northern Gaza. The smallest of the three militant groups, the previously unknown Islamic Army, said there would be no further information released on 19-year-old Shalit, who was seized in a cross-border raid on June 25. They sent conflicting signals about his fate. "Whether he will be killed or not killed, we will not disclose any information... Discussion is closed," said Islamic Army spokesman Abu al-Muthana, but he later said: "We do not kill captives. Our Islam requires that we treat captives well and fairly." He declined to say whether Shalit was alive or dead. Osama al-Muzaini, a Hamas political leader, said the militant groups have withdrawn their representatives from the talks with the Egyptian mediators. He compared the fate of Shalit to that of Israeli airman Ron Arad, who has been missing since bailing out of his plane over southern Lebanon 20 years ago. There has been growing speculation Arad is dead. "They (the militant factions) may kill him (Shalit), take him to another country or may hide him. All options are open," al-Muzaini said. Palestinian security sources said Israel had increased the number of armoured vehicles on the northern edge of the strip. A small Israeli force moved deeper into northern Gaza in search of explosives and tunnels but the army said it was not part of a broader incursion. Overnight, an Israeli air strike in northern Gaza killed one militant. Israel has hinted it could assassinate leaders of Hamas, whose government is under an international aid embargo, if Shalit is not freed. Hamas, which advocates Israel's destruction, does not want to lose face by freeing Shalit without getting something in return. Israel says it does not want to set a precedent that could lead to more abductions. Hamas sources said Western diplomats, whom they did not name, had told the group that Israel had prepared a 13-man hit list headed by exiled leader Khaled Meshal and including Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh and Foreign Minister Mahmoud al-Zahar. — Reuters.

Gaza, Jul 5 — Israeli missiles tore through the Palestinian Interior Ministry building in Gaza today, as Israel kept up nightly air attacks to pressure militants to release an abducted soldier. The air strike, which wounded at least three people, was launched hours after militants from the governing Hamas movement fired a rocket into a major Israeli city for the first time, an attack that deepened a 10-day-old crisis. The army said an upgraded Qassam rocket, powered by two engines instead of the usual single motor, flew 12 km from Gaza and slammed into a schoolyard in the

centre of Ashkelon, a city of 115,000 and the site of a major power plant. No one was hurt, but Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert made clear militants had crossed a red line in their deepest rocket attack yet into Israel. "This is an escalation without precedent in the terrorist war waged by the Hamas movement that now controls the Palestinian Authority," Olmert said in a speech at a U.S. Independence Day celebration at the American ambassador's house. "This (rocket) attack ... will have unprecedented, far-reaching consequences. The Hamas organization will be the first to feel them," he said, after its Izz el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades claimed responsibility for the strike. Hamas said in a statement it was not frightened by what it termed Zionist threats. Israeli aircraft struck the same Interior Ministry complex on June 30, five days after gunmen from Hamas's armed wing and two other factions snatched Corporal Gilad Shalit in a cross-border raid into Israel from Gaza. There has been little information about Shalit's fate since the 19-year-old tank gunner was captured. Israeli newspaper "Yedioth Ahronoth" today quoted Arab mediators as saying seven gunmen were holed up with him in an underground bunker somewhere in Gaza, with a hoard of food. — Reuters.

IVORY COAST

London, Jul 1 — A press report, dated Jun 30, states: Ivory Coast's loyalist and rebel military leaders have failed to agree on most issues at a meeting in the rebel headquarters, Bouake. The New Forces rebels want back pay, to keep the military ranks they have awarded themselves, and an integrated or joint army command structure. The loyalist armed forces rejected all those points. Presidential elections are due in October but the likelihood is that they will not take place this year. They have already been postponed by a year. The loyalist and rebel military will meet again, in Abidjan next Thursday (Jul 6).

Yamoussoukro, Jul 5 — War-divided Ivory Coast's government and rebels, under pressure from African leaders and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, agreed on deadlines today to meet a timetable for elections by end-October. Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo and the chief of the New Forces rebels Guillaume Soro agreed to re-set the deadline for the disarmament of pro-government militia to July 31, after two dates were already missed. Gbagbo also vowed to hand authority for the disarmament process to independent Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny, named under the U.N.-backed plan to organise elections to unite the West Africa country in the wake of a 2002-2003 civil war. The U.N. road map, drafted after efforts to hold presidential elections last October fell apart, tasks Banny with achieving disarmament, issuing identity cards across the country and organising elections

within a year. But with less than four months left before the plan expires, all of these key hurdles have yet to be completed as government and rebel sides continue to bicker over the deal's small print. The opposing factions agreed that a scheme to issue citizens with identity papers needed to be rapidly implemented to allow for voter registration throughout the Ivory Coast, divided since rebels seized the north after a failed bid to topple Gbagbo. The two sides also committed to deploying an Independent Electoral Commission in both halves of the territory by the end of the month. But the summit did not discuss the possibility of delaying the polls, despite a warning from Annan at the weekend that a postponement of a few months could be necessary. "Obviously, if at some point we decide that some adjustments to the calendar are required we will have to meet together to do that," Annan said, adding that all parties would meet again in September on the margins of the U.N. General Assembly. Annan said there was a funding shortage to implement all of the necessary steps to polls, but expressed confidence donors would be forthcoming once there were signs of progress. Fighting has largely stopped since 2003 but efforts to reunite the West African country have stalled over a series of disputes between Gbagbo's government and the rebels. — Reuters.

NIGERIA

Yenagoa, Nigeria, Jul 5 — Unknown gunmen in a speedboat tried to attack an oil rig offshore Nigeria's violent Niger Delta today, but withdrew after a brief battle with security guards, oil industry sources said. A navy spokesman said one retired naval officer working as a security guard for Nigerian oil firm Conoil was abducted during the failed attack, but he had no further details. It was not clear if the attackers reached the rig or were intercepted on the way, nor if Nigerian security forces were involved in repelling the raid. "They abducted him because of a misunderstanding over an MOU (memorandum of understanding)," the navy spokesman said. Oil firms in the impoverished Niger Delta often sign MOUs with local communities promising jobs and investments. Attacks on oil facilities or kidnappings of oil workers by groups who accuse companies of not keeping their MOU promises are frequent in the delta. Oil facilities are often protected by both private personnel and Nigerian troops or police. The target of the failed attack was a rig operated by Transocean for Conoil but the facility was unaffected by the incident, security sources said. They said members of the Sengbama community in Bayelsa state, whose shoreline is closest to the rig, were involved. — Reuters.

PAKISTAN

London, Jun 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Unknown men today blew up two gas pipelines in

southwestern Pakistani town of Dera Bugti, the private GEO Television quoting gas officials reported. The pipeline supplying gas to Pakistan's southern province Sindh and southwestern province Baluchistan was blown up in Dera Bugti district, Baluchistan, leaving thousands of consumers in the region without natural gas, according to GEO. Gas supply to the damaged pipeline has been stopped and steps are being taken to repair, GEO said.

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated Jul 5, states: At least 25 rebels have been killed by Pakistani security forces targeting militant hide-outs in the south-west province of Balochistan, officials say. Troops, backed by helicopter gunships, found a cache of arms and ammunition at the compound in the tribal district of Dera Bugti, they added. Those killed are said to be supporters of tribal leader Nawab Akbar Bugti. "During a two-hour operation, security forces killed at least 25 militants and wounded several others," Razik Bugti, provincial government spokesman, said.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, Jun 30 — Hundreds of people fled four villages on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao as Muslim rebels exchanged mortar and gunfire with paramilitary forces, police and rebel officials said today. Security and rebel forces have blamed each other for starting the fighting on Wednesday (Jun 28) around Shariff Aguak town, where seven people were killed last week by a bomb intended for the powerful governor of Maguindanao province, Andal Ampatuan. There were no clashes today but members of the government and rebel ceasefire panels, worried about the potential impact on Malaysian-brokered peace talks, were struggling to prevent the fighting from escalating and threatening a three-year-old truce. "There was continued shelling of our communities until late last night," Eid Kabalu, a spokesman for the MILF, said by 'phone from his hideout on Mindanao. "More than 200 families left their homes to avoid getting caught in the crossfire." Army officials said no regular soldiers were involved in the clashes. The paramilitary forces are civilians trained and armed by the military to help defend their communities, but analysts say they are often used by local politicians as private armies. Talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the largest Muslim separatist group in the mainly Roman Catholic country, stalled in May over issues of the size and wealth of a proposed Muslim homeland. Manila has offered to include an extra 600 villages outside the existing Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao as part of the proposed ancestral land, but the MILF wants at least 1,000 more than the government's proposal. Kabalu said MILF rebels had killed about 30

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paramilitaries in intense fighting near the vast marshlands in Shariff Aguak and Datu Unsay towns in Mindanao's central region. "Our troops seized the militia's command post to stop the shelling on Thursday," he said. "We lost only one fighter and 10 others were wounded." Superintendent Lumala Gunting, police chief of Maguindanao province, disputed the rebel spokesman's account, saying it was the paramilitaries who killed dozens of guerrillas. "I had not seen any casualty from our side," Gunting told reporters. "Fighting has subsided because the enemies ran out of ammunition." There was no independent confirmation of the casualties because members of the ceasefire panels, together with a team of Malaysian peace monitors, had difficulty getting to the area. "Only the president can stop the fighting and save the peace negotiations," said Benny Bacani, executive director of the Institute of Autonomy and Governance in Cotabato City. "If there's no political will displayed here, violence may escalate, threatening the ceasefire and may break the confidence of the peace talks." — Reuters.

Manila, Jul 3 — The largest Muslim rebel group in the Philippines ordered its forces to stand down after six days of sporadic fighting on the southern island of Mindanao, a guerrilla spokesman said today. Security and rebel forces have traded blame for starting the fighting last Wednesday (Jun 28) around Shariff Aguak town, where seven people were killed by a bomb intended for the powerful governor of Maguindanao province, Andal Ampatuan. "Our forces on the ground were ordered to stand down," Eid Kabalu, spokesman for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), told Reuters. "They were ordered not to attack and would fire only if threatened by the enemy. We're keeping our position." Kabalu said the situation remained "tense and dangerous" as paramilitary forces continued to shell MILF positions in two towns near the vast marshlands on Mindanao's central region. Church and non-government organizations said thousands of people from seven towns in Maguindanao province have fled their homes, swelling evacuation centers that lack food, drinking water, clothing and bedding. They expect more civilians to abandon their homes and farms after a buffer zone was setup by Malaysian peace monitors to allow people to move safely from the conflict area. — Reuters.

RUSSIA

London, Jul 5 — A press report, dated Jul 4, states: An unidentified gunman attacked a Russian military convoy in war-ravaged Chechnya today, killing six servicemen and wounding 25 others, the Interfax news agency reported. The attack came when the convoy was travelling between two towns southeast of the Chechen capital, Grozny, Interfax reported, citing an unidentified source

in the headquarters for the campaign against militants in the region.

SRI LANKA

London, Jun 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Tamil Tiger rebels attacked two small Sri Lankan navy vessels at sea around 100 miles north of Colombo today, setting one alight, the military said. Military sources said that around 15 Tiger vessels were involved in the clash, the latest in a series many fear could rekindle civil war on the island. There were no details of any casualties, but communications were lost with one of the boats with an estimated seven people on board. "Firing is still going on. One of the navy boats is on fire," Navy spokesman Commander D.K.P. Dassanayake said. "The Air Force is also engaged." He said the incident occurred around 93 miles north of the capital, and not 22 miles as previously believed. The attack comes on the heels of a rash of ambushes and military clashes that have killed around 700 people, half of them civilians, so far this year. In a separate incident, the military said one soldier was killed and three civilians were wounded when Tiger rebels attacked an army camp with mortar fire, while residents in the district said five Tamil youths had been stabbed to death. The Tigers were not immediately available for comment. Wednesday's incidents came as the military prepared for the funeral of the Army's deputy chief of staff, who was assassinated by a suspected rebel suicide bomber on Monday. Sri Lanka's tortuous peace process is deadlocked and teetering on collapse. The government and rebels are sharply divided over the Tigers' demands for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east.

Colombo, Jul 1 — Sri Lanka's navy sank a Tamil Tiger vessel approaching a military base at the island's northern tip overnight, naval officials said today. "The navy fired and destroyed one Tamil Tiger boat approaching Kankasanturai in Jaffna (peninsula)," navy spokesman Commander D.K.P. Dassanayake said early on Saturday. "The boat ignored our warnings to stop, so we fired. Generally such boats have two or three people aboard." In a separate incident, Nordic truce monitors reported heavy artillery fire in the restive eastern district of Trincomalee. The army had no details. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had no immediate comment on either incident. — Reuters.

Colombo, Jul 3 — Two suspected Tamil Tiger rebel blasts killed seven people in Sri Lanka's north and east today as a top Indian diplomat, Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran, visited the island to discuss rising violence amid fears of a new civil war. The army said a bomb ripped through a road junction in the northeastern port town of Trincomalee, killing five security personnel and a civilian. They blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). "It was an explosion in

a three-wheeler parked by a roadblock," said army spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe. "The police had tried to search the three-wheeler and it was detonated remotely." Fourteen people were wounded, the army said. It was the worst attack on land since a suspected Tiger fragmentation mine attack on a civilian bus in mid-June killed 68 people and prompted government air strikes. An army source said a mine blast on the northern Jaffna peninsula also killed one soldier and wounded another, while a spokesman said a similar attack in the east earlier in the day wounded two police Special Task Force troopers. — Reuters.

Jaffna, Jul 4 — With a ceasefire in tatters and frequent clashes between soldiers and suspected Tamil Tiger rebels in Sri Lanka's north, residents say law and order is breaking down as criminals take advantage of the chaos. Both sides deny it, but human rights observers say the military and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) appear to be carrying out abductions and killings. The military say they know crime is rising and that they are holding meetings with the police and local community. But they are already overstretched trying to track down rebels. "Civilian support is required," said army spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe. "That is why we have formed these committees. We are getting some information from the civilians." One soldier was killed in a fragmentation mine attack in Jaffna yesterday, while grenade attacks and night-time firefights have become routine in the city. Currently army-held, the Tigers seem to want the ethnic Tamil town back. This morning, a member of an anti-Tiger political group was found dead in a Jaffna well, the latest of more than 700 people killed so far this year across the island. Sri Lanka's Human Rights Commission office says 220 people have disappeared in Jaffna since December. The army can be blamed in 70-80 cases, they said, but the rest are more difficult to prove. Local residents say they fear practically everyone. "Every day there is robbery and killing in our area," said 52-year-old Vimalan Pathmaligam. Streets are deserted well before dusk. The army repeatedly search houses. Some civilians say they are heavy-handed, others that they behave decently — and better than during the war. — Reuters.

SUDAN

Banjul, Jul 3 — African leaders agreed today to extend their military mission in Darfur, after U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan failed to persuade Sudan to allow in international peacekeepers to try to end years of bloodshed. But Annan said he expected a U.N. peacekeeping force, widely seen as the only way to end a crisis in which tens of thousands have died, to be deployed eventually. Annan met Sudanese leader Omar Hassan al-Bashir on the fringes of an African Union summit in Gambia

dominated by the bloodshed in Sudan's huge western region. He failed to reverse Bashir's repeated rejection of a U.N. force but did persuade the summit to extend the mandate of the overstretched, 7,000-strong AU force in Darfur. AU chairman Denis Sassou Nguesso told reporters after the two-day summit ended: "On the request of the secretary general, the African Union will continue to fulfil its mission until the end of the year." The AU had wanted to pull its force out on September 30 and have it replaced by U.N. troops. Annan told a news conference the United Nations would work with the AU to strengthen its force, which has failed to stem the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, where three years of murder and rape have pushed 2.5 million people out of their homes and into squalid camps. Referring to his meeting with Bashir, Annan said: "I of course continued to press for the eventual deployment for a U.N. force in Darfur and we agreed that dialogue had to continue." U.N. forces cannot be deployed in Darfur without Bashir's consent but diplomats say little leverage is available to persuade him. Khartoum says the deployment would be a Western invasion, attracting Islamic militants and creating an Iraq-like quagmire. Annan said a conference in Brussels on July 18 would seek more support for the AU force and Bashir would present a plan for the next six months by the end of July. Annan said a May 5 peace deal signed by Khartoum and one rebel group must be implemented immediately. The agreement has been undermined by its rejection by two other rebel groups and AU forces have been attacked in refugee camps. Annan said the hold-out groups must be brought on board. — Reuters.

London, Jul 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Rebels from the Sudanese region of Darfur have carried out an attack outside the region, on a town about 400km from Khartoum. Government aircraft have been sent to Hamrat al-Sheikh, where fighting is continuing, the army says. A local official said 12 people had died. The raid was carried out by rebel groups which did not sign a peace deal. Governor of North Kordofan state Faisal Hassan Ibrahim said that eight policemen, two security men and two women were killed in the fighting in Hamrat al-Sheikh, during which several public buildings were destroyed, reports the AFP news agency. The rebels attacked the town with 50 trucks armed with heavy weapons, he said. After refusing to sign the accord in May, rebels from the Justice and Equality Movement, (Jem) and breakaway factions of the Sudan Liberation Army formed an alliance. The deal has failed to win the support of people in Darfur and fighting has continued. Head of the United Nations mission in Sudan Jan Pronk has warned the deal may collapse without further concessions, but yesterday, Foreign Minister Lam Akol, said the deal could not be changed. "This is a

peace agreement, it can only be amended according to the articles therein," he said.



IRAQ

See under "Political & Civil Unrest".



FRANCE

London, July 5 — Newly privatised French Mediterranean ferry operator SNCM has apologised to its clients after some 3,000 passengers found themselves stranded in the open in sizzling heat at the port of Marseilles yesterday following industrial action by seafarers. The dispute was the first public clash between seafarers' unions and the company since SNCM came under the control of its new majority shareholders Veolia Transport and Butler Capital Partners at the start of June. The company claimed yesterday, however, that the dispute had appeared worse than it was because many passengers had already been left stranded by the cancellation of a sailing to Algeria on Sunday (July 2) because of the late arrival of one of its ships from repair. Passenger Ro/Ro *Ile de Beaute* had been due to leave Marseilles for Algiers at midday on Sunday but was delayed at a repair yard in Genoa. The company proposed transporting the stranded passengers on Passenger Ro/Ro *Mediterranee* on Monday but this vessel was held up unexpectedly by industrial action by seafarers who were protesting over the company's plans to axe three jobs as part of plans to reduce operating costs. Their action left more than 2,000 passengers on the open quayside in temperatures of over 30 degrees centigrade, many of them without refreshment. A number had to be given treatment by the emergency services after being overcome by the heat. In addition to passengers waiting to leave for Algeria, 850 passengers destined for the island of Corsica found themselves caught up in the dispute; SNCM claimed that it had secured an agreement over the seafarers' grievances at a meeting on June 27 but said that it had decided to take unilateral action to end the strike on humanitarian grounds yesterday evening. A spokesman declined to confirm that it had given in to the seafarers' demands yesterday but said that *Mediterranee* had been able to leave Marseilles shortly before midnight on Monday. He added that services were operating normally yesterday and that *Ile de Beaute* was due back in service this evening.

INDIA

London, Jun 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Chennai Port Trust is ready to extend manpower assistance to its privatised container terminal whose operations have come under strain following the ongoing strike by a section of the workforce. Some 30 operators to man the gantry cranes at the terminal and several "mazdoors" to manage the loading and unloading of the containers have been identified by the port trust, according to its chairman K. Suresh. The identified personnel performed such duties when the container terminal was operated by the port trust. Following privatisation of the facility in late 2001, a deal under which the private operator shares slightly over 37% of the revenue with the port trust, the personnel were deployed elsewhere. Noting that the manpower was in a "state of readiness," Mr. Suresh told *The Hindu* on Tuesday (Jun 27) that the decision to offer such assistance was taken in the backdrop of the potential drop in the revenue share receipt if the performance of the terminal suffered. He added that the situation at the terminal was getting back to normal with the private operator firm bringing in manpower reinforcements from its facilities in the country and even abroad. Sources associated with the export-import trade, however, say the situation at the terminal was far from satisfactory with a drop in the container handling and delay in clearance of the cargo boxes. They also cited a communication sent by the terminal management to the trade indicating around 5,500 export and import containers were waiting to be handled yesterday. Moreover the labour strike, essentially to demand reinstatement of seven employees dismissed by the terminal management sometime ago, resulted in six feeder vessel operators imposing a congestion surcharge (\$30 per twenty-foot equivalent unit) on the containers from Saturday.

ITALY

London, Jun 28 — A press report, dated Jun 27, states: For the second time this year, the island of Capri has totally shut down to protest cuts in ferry service. The other two islands in the Bay of Naples archipelago, Ischia and Procida, staged similar protests today. The "strike" on Capri was the most successful with shops, bars and all commercial activity in the port of Marina Grande, the central town of Capri and its mountain neighbour Anacapri shutting from 0400-2100 hrs. A blockade by islanders stopped the arrival of ferries and hydrofoils packed with tourists, who are the lifeblood of the island's economy. The island first shut down in April. At the time organisers warned that this was only the first in a series of actions aimed at drawing attention to a number of pressing problems on the island. Aside from ferry service, these include the condition of the local hospital and road traffic. The decision to stage a second strike was made last

Wednesday (Jun 21) during a joint session of the Capri and Anacapri municipal assemblies, together with the hotel operators' association and other commercial organisations. An attempt by the governor of the Campania region, Antonio Bassolino, to avert the strike failed on Friday. The Capresi are particularly angered over the decision by the Caremar ferry lines to reduce its service to Naples and end service completely between the island and neighbouring Sorrento. According to Capri Mayor Ciro Lembo, the private ferry line Caremar is "committing grand larceny. They are out to rob us blind and suck out all the wealth that we islanders produce". Last month, the mayors of Capri, Anacapri and Procida joined a similar protest against Caremar on Ischia which successfully blocked all maritime traffic to and from the island for most of the day. The mayors of the three islands have repeatedly asked the region to revoke Caremar's operating licence unless it reinstates recently cancelled services.

London, Jun 28 — The Isle of Capri has shut down just as the summer season is starting to protest against cuts in ferry services. Similar protests are being staged on Ischia and Procida, the other two main islands in the Bay of Naples, and on the volcanic Aeolian islands near Sicily. The ferry cuts are blamed on a reduction in government subsidies. The strike on Capri has closed shops and bars in the port of Marina Grande and the two main towns, Capri and Anacapri, throughout the day. The blockade stopped the arrival from Naples of ferries and hydrofoils, normally packed with tourists. The protests began in April, and have since escalated. The protesters are objecting not only to the reduction in ferry services but also to the damage they say is being inflicted by budget cuts on amenities such as Capri's hospital and roads. The decision to shut down the island was taken by a joint session of the Capri and Anacapri councils together with the local hotel operators' association and shopkeepers and bar owners. At the heart of the dispute lies a decision by the state-run Caremar ferry line to reduce its service to Naples and abolish sailings between the island and Sorrento.

London, Jul 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Taxi drivers staged strikes across Italy today in the first wave of protests against Prime Minister Romano Prodi's deregulation plans, causing transport chaos. Prodi's new centre-left government on Friday (Jun 30) announced surprise measures to cut red tape and boost competition for taxi drivers, public transport firms, lawyers and pharmacists. Prodi plans to increase the number of taxi licences and issue temporary permits, a move that was welcomed by consumer groups as a step towards bringing down taxi fares. The reforms will also allow private companies to run public transport services and supermarkets to sell painkillers, while lawyers will be banned from imposing minimum

fees. Today, travellers were left stranded at airports and flights were delayed as taxi drivers blocked roads and refused to accept passengers. "There will be a national strike on July 11, but until then taxi drivers in all cities will move as they see fit to express their anger," said Ermanno Simiani, president of the CAT taxi drivers' union in Bologna. Some 300 taxi drivers staged a protest at Milan's Linate airport, news agency ANSA reported, where Italian President Giorgio Napolitano was due on his way to a stock market conference. In Turin, taxi drivers blocked Caselle airport and several flights left late as they waited for travellers to arrive on foot or by public transport. There were no taxis at Rome's Fiumicino airport. At the weekend, taxis operated during the day but left revellers stranded at night.

London, Jul 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Unofficial strikes by taxi drivers have escalated across Italy, leaving airline passengers stranded at major airports, including Rome and Milan. Taxi cabs also converged on one of the main squares in the capital, causing gridlock. Cab drivers' unions plan a national strike next Tuesday (Jul 11). "This is a spontaneous fight against the competition law," Rome taxi drivers said in a pamphlet, which also condemned the "lack of consultation and dialogue" on the issue.

MALTA

Valletta, Jul 4 — A local press report, dated today, states: Stevedores at the Freeport will not be processing any containers addressed to local importers until "matters are cleared up" with regard to the new tariff regime introduced by the Malta Maritime Authority on Friday (Jun 30). The Chamber for Small and Medium Enterprises - GRTU issued a statement yesterday afternoon saying that until matters are cleared up with regard to the new tariffs, the stevedores will not be processing any containers. Grand Harbour is not affected by the action. The matter may not be settled until tomorrow when the shipping agents - a key third party to this dispute - meet the Malta Maritime Authority to clarify the new tariffs system. On Saturday (Jul 1), GRTU director general Vince Farrugia heavily criticised the port reform, saying the new tariffs charged to importers, introduced by the MMA, could cause the cost of cargo handling to shoot up, for instance from Lm131 (£211) to Lm185 (£298) (an increase of Lm54 or about 40 per cent) on 20-foot containers, when the cost of the shipping agents was considered. The authority's chairman Marc Bonello rebutted the claim, saying that the role of the shipping agents would change and that they would no longer be involved with cargo handling, so they would not be charging importers for it. "The shipping agents would only be dealing with their business, the shipment of freight, but not cargo handling, despite what GRTU may

insist on assuming," he said. But matters are not that clear to the shipping agents themselves. Karl Gollcher, a shipping agent on the Shipping Agents' Association committee, said that the new regime raises a lot of questions, which so far have remained unanswered. "The new tariff regime was announced on Friday and had to come into effect the day after... now you would have to be Superman to change your software and pricing structures to accommodate a change like that overnight," he said. Besides, he continued, there were a number of issues which needed to be cleared up, especially with regard to the legal responsibility of the shipping agents under the new regime. "All this hassle would have been avoided had these matters been discussed beforehand," he said. The issue does not seem to be so much to do with price increases. Ernest Sullivan, the president of the association, for instance, concurred with the statement given to The Times by the MMA chairman with regard to the changing role of the shipping agents, saying that as consequence they will not be charging the same rates as they used to previously. This means, according to Dr Bonello, that the new tariffs would represent an estimated decrease of some five per cent rather than a radical increase. Nonetheless, when asked to comment on the situation in the morning, Mr Farrugia complained that the whole matter had been badly managed. "That is exactly what I said in Saturday's press conference isn't it? Namely that unless we all sing from the same hymn book... understand the situation in the same way, there will be confusion. All this could have been avoided..." But the GRTU has also complained with the authorities about the fact that the Freeport wants to shift its paperwork offices from Marsa to the headquarters in Birzebbuga. Besides raising the fuel costs of the stevedores, this move does not make any logistical sense, Mr Farrugia had argued. "We have filed a complaint with the Office of Fair Trade because we feel that as a monopoly the Freeport cannot act this way." Dr Bonello was unavailable for comment yesterday. — Lloyd's Agents.

PERU

Lima, Jun 27 — Peru's government ended a week-long pay strike at Chinese-owned iron miner Shougang Hierro Peru today and the company said production had restarted. Workers rejected a new government-mandated pay offer but a labor ministry resolution forced them back to work with the salary issue still pending. Vera said the company had started loading ships to meet deliveries. The company sells 53 percent of its iron to China and the rest to South Korea, Japan, Trinidad and Tobago, Mexico, the United States and Peru, Vera added. The ministry, which declined to comment, has also proposed a one-off, 1,000-sol (\$306) bonus, which miners refused, union leader Cirilo Yarihuaman said. "We're

going to appeal but we're not hopeful of anything better," said Yarihuaman, who confirmed the end to the strike. Shougang, which operates the mine 200 miles (325 km) south of Lima, offered a raise of 1.90 soles a day. Shougang, which is owned by China's state-run steel maker Shougang Group, said the strike cost \$400,000 a day in losses. It declared force majeure on its iron shipments, protecting the company against any legal action for failing to meet its supply contracts. — Reuters.

SOUTH KOREA

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Hyundai Motor Co.'s labour union has decided to extend a partial strike for higher wages and better working conditions, the union and company said today. The stoppage, which so far has involved workers at three plants laying down tools for several hours a day at three plants, resulted in a production loss of 8,997 vehicles worth 122 billion won (US\$129 million; euro101 million). Hyundai spokesman William Park said. Union members will continue striking through Monday (Jul 3), said Seo Bo-yeon, a union spokesman. The company and union plan to meet Tuesday for talks after they failed to reach a compromise during nine previous sessions, Park said. They last met on June 9. (See issue of Jun 28.)

London, Jul 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers at South Korea's largest automaker Hyundai Motor have extended a partial strike after negotiations on higher wages broke down. The union said its members would "down tools" for up to four hours a day through until Monday (Jul 10). The strike began on June 26 after the company rejected the union's demand for a 9.1% pay rise and bigger financial incentives, claiming a stronger won has undermined its earnings, which are heavily dependent on exports.

London, Jul 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Unionised workers at top South Korean auto maker Hyundai Motor Co. will continue to strike for pay increases from today to next Monday (Jul 10), the labour union said, extending last week's partial strike action. The unionised workers, representing about 80% of Hyundai's domestic workforce, already completed a six-day strike from Jun 26 to Jul 3. Hyundai has said the six-day stoppage cost it 262.8 billion won (151 million pounds), or 18,985 vehicles, in lost production. The union said it was scheduled to go on strike again for three hours today, two hours tomorrow, four hours on Friday and three hours on Monday. "The company side did not make any productive offers in today's negotiations," union spokesman Song Hi-sok said when asked about the reason for the new labour action. "They said the company was in a difficult situation and made no counteroffer for wages."

Awards & Settlements



DEFAMATION, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A federal jury has awarded nearly three million dollars to a North Yarmouth woman in what's believed to be the largest judgment ever in a defamation case in Maine. Deborah Galarneau's lawsuit claimed she was defamed by Merrill Lynch after she was fired. Merrill Lynch contends it did nothing wrong. The company contends it was legally mandated to explain the firing to the National Association of Securities Dealers. Galarneau contends the form indicated she was fired for inappropriate bond trading, and for making decisions on trades that she was not authorized to make. She insists she did nothing wrong and that Merrill Lynch's actions meant she couldn't find work elsewhere. Galarneau sought damages for lost pay, and for future pay that she would have earned if she had continued working to retirement age in 2012.

ILLEGAL HIRING OF WORKERS, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 1 — A press report, dated Jun 30, states: The Ralphs grocery chain said today that it had agreed to pay \$70 million in fines and restitution to settle criminal charges that it illegally rehired locked-out workers during the supermarket labor dispute in Southern California more than two years ago. Under a proposed agreement filed today in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles, Ralphs would plead guilty to five felony charges included in the 53-count grand jury indictment returned against the company in December. Ralphs was charged with violating federal laws by secretly rehiring about 1,000 locked-out workers during the 4.5-month strike and lockout from October 2003 to February 2004. The case had been scheduled to go to trial Aug. 15 before U.S. District Judge Percy Anderson, who must approve the plea agreement. In the agreement, Ralphs admitted that it used fake names and Social Security numbers to pull off the deception. Authorities said the scheme was designed to help keep stores running during the labour dispute, the longest and largest in U.S. history involving the supermarket industry. The dispute affected 852 stores and nearly 60,000 grocery workers at supermarkets across Southern and Central California. It cost the grocery companies more than \$1.5 billion in sales before it ended on February 29, 2004, when workers ratified a new contract whose terms were widely seen as a defeat for the union. Ralphs said it would plead guilty to violating federal laws regarding identity fraud, pension reporting and Social Security

and Internal Revenue Service record-keeping, as well as one count of conspiracy. The grocery chain said it would pay a \$20-million fine to the federal government and create a \$50-million restitution fund. Most of the money would be paid to the 19,000 Ralphs grocery clerks and meat cutters who were locked out during the dispute. Officials of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, which represented the grocery employees, estimated that some workers could receive as much as \$3,000 from the settlement. The amount each union member receives from the fund would depend on factors such as the worker's pay rate, the amount of regular strike pay received and how much money, if any, the worker made at other jobs during the labour dispute. The fund also would be used to reimburse the union for benefits paid to Ralphs employees during the standoff and to reimburse the grocery workers' health and retirement funds. The company also would be placed on three years' probation and would establish court-supervised training programmes. Ralphs and its parent, Cincinnati-based Kroger Co., also agreed to cooperate with the government's continuing investigation into the illegal hiring. The agreement doesn't prevent the government from prosecuting current or former employees of Ralphs or related companies that were involved in the illegal conduct. So far, no individuals have been charged in the case. The U.S. attorney's office said Ralphs admitted that two of its executives who helped oversee the employee health and retirement funds concealed the illegal hiring from other fund trustees. The unnamed executives were serving as top negotiators in contract talks with the union at the time, the government said. If convicted on all counts in the indictment, Ralphs and Kroger could have faced fines of more than \$100 million, plus restitution for workers and the union. At a news conference in the parking lot of a Ralphs store in Studio City, Rick Icaza, president of UFCW Local 770 in Los Angeles, said the company "made a big mistake. They should never have done what they did. If not for this illegal activity, this dispute would not have gone on for so long." Workers said money from the settlement wouldn't come close to repairing the financial damage they suffered during the strike and lockout, but they said they felt vindicated by Ralphs' guilty plea.

OUTBREAK OF LEGIONNAIRES DISEASE ON CRUISE SHIP, UNITED STATES

Chicago, Jun 29 — Diversified manufacturer Pentair Inc. said today it has been ordered by a jury to pay \$193 million related to an outbreak of Legionnaire's Disease on a cruise ship in 1994. Pentair said the jury did not act consistently with U.S. law as the case began before the company acquired Essee Corp., which owned the

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cruise ship *Horizon* when the outbreak occurred. Golden Valley, Minnesota-based Pentair said in a statement it intends to make all appropriate post-trial motions to reverse the verdict. — Reuters.

London, Jun 30 — A press release, issued by Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., Miami, on Jun 29, states: Celebrity Cruises announced today that a federal court jury in New York has awarded Celebrity \$193 million in a lawsuit against Essef Corp. Celebrity has remaining claims for interest and certain legal fees. Celebrity filed suit against Essef Corp. for damages stemming from a 1994 outbreak of Legionnaires' disease on Celebrity's vessel *Horizon*. Celebrity claimed for out-of-pocket losses, lost profits, and loss of business enterprise value related to this incident. Dan Hanrahan, President of Celebrity Cruises, stated: "This was a long awaited result for Celebrity Cruises. We feel vindicated by this verdict. In the cruise industry, the safety of our guests and employees is paramount." The verdict is subject to appeal and, due to the ongoing nature of the proceedings, the ultimate financial impact to Celebrity Cruises is undetermined at this time. Any gain from this verdict will only be recognized when the outcome is known with certainty.

OVERBILLING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Tenet Healthcare Corp. is expected to announce as early as today it will pay \$725 million to settle charges it overbilled the U.S. health insurance program for the elderly, *The Wall Street Journal* reported. The Dallas hospital chain has long sought a settlement about a case in which it was accused of misusing the Medicare program to trigger extraordinarily large payments to the company in 2000 to 2002. Questions were raised in 2002 about Tenet's Medicare revenue related to its sickest patients, known as outliers. The company's stock plunged and management was forced out after it was revealed payments masked serious problems at Tenet.

WRONGFUL DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A federal judge yesterday approved a \$3.5 million settlement of a civil rights lawsuit filed by the family of an undercover Oakland police officer shot to death in 2001 by two fellow officers who mistook him for a criminal. U.S. District Court Judge Maxine Chesney's decision puts an end to the case that roiled the police department. The lawsuit, filed on behalf of Officer Willie Wilkins' widow, Kely, his now 6-year-old son and his parents, accused the department of not adequately training uniformed patrol officers to recognize undercover officers. But the resolution has not brought peace to Wilkins' family. Kely Wilkins said

yesterday she still worries that another officer will die in similar circumstances. And it still hurts, Wilkins said, that her family has never received an apology from the city or the former chief of the department. Wilkins son will get the bulk of the settlement, \$2.15 million, said Michael Haddad, the family's attorney. Kely Wilkins said her son, William, is still having difficulty accepting his father's death. On Jan 11, 2001, Willie Wilkins, 29, was arresting a car theft suspect at gun point near 90th Avenue and B Street in East Oakland after spending most of the evening working for the Alameda County drug task force. About 2315 hrs, Officers Andrew Koponen and Tim Scarrott arrived on the scene, ordered Wilkins to drop his weapon, and opened fire. Wilkins was hit nine times and died in surgery. According to court records, Wilkins did not identify himself as an officer, and police were afraid he was going to shoot the other man. A friend of Wilkins, Officer Torrey Nash, arrived on the scene just before shots were fired. In a deposition, Nash recalled saying: "Hey, it's Willie" from about 30 yards away, but acknowledged he probably didn't speak loudly enough for Koponen and Scarrott to hear him. The Oakland City Council's approval of the settlement isn't required. The city's insurance carrier will cover the cost of the settlement, not taxpayer funds, officials said.



CROSBY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 28 — A press report, dated Jun 27, states: Several train cars, carrying a highly toxic chemical, jumped the tracks in Crosby, Texas not far from Houston. The accident happened shortly before 1300 this afternoon. Several cars left the tracks, but one of the cars ended up in a bayou. Officials say the tank cars contain Methanol. Hazmat crews contained any and all leaks. Authorities had to close nearby roads and divert drivers to I-10 as one of the alternate routes. No one was hurt.

London, Jun 28 — A press report, dated Jun 27, states: About one dozen cars left the tracks today in a derailment along Highway 90 in Texas. TV footage from the scene showed several tanker cars overturned. One rail car could be seen in a creek, along a railway bridge.

KEMPTON PARK AREA, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jul 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A man was killed and 42 people injured when two Metrorail trains collided north of Kempton Park yesterday night, Ekurhuleni emergency services said. Spokesperson Sugan Naidoo said the

accident happened just after 1900 hrs, between the Pinedene and Olifantsfontein stations when two trains that were both on their way to Pretoria collided. Metrorail spokesperson Thokozani Zitha said one train rear-ended the other. She said an investigation would be conducted to establish the cause of the accident. Of those hurt, two were in a critical condition, while five others were seriously hurt. Three of the injured were train crew. The man killed was a commuter, North Rand police spokesperson Superintendent Eugene Opperman said. Three coaches were extensively damaged, he said. Zitha said Metrorail's technical staff would work around the clock to clear up the scene. The railway line was closed and the electricity has been switched off. "We will work the whole weekend to repair the line, so we hope that it will be operational again at the latest on Monday." She said Metrorail would supply busses for commuters until the line was reopened. The United Transport and Allied Trade Union (Utatu) today welcomed news that an investigation had been launched into the crash and said the union would launch its own enquiry. Utatu general secretary Chris de Vos said the accident happened while the signals were not functioning and train drivers had to rely on communication from a train control officer, known as "abnormal working". "The investigation will determine why the signals were not working, whether it was cable theft or electrical problems. Once you fall back on abnormal working you can't rely on signals. Eighty percent of accidents take place during this time," de Vos said. "I spoke to the train driver in hospital and he ensured me that he was authorised to pass the signal and that the line was clear. The question that arises now is why was there miscommunication."

LILLOOET AREA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A train derailment in British Columbia killed two crew members yesterday evening and a third is in stable condition in a Kamloops hospital. The accident happened about 1700, local time and involved a CN Rail locomotive and one freight car carrying lumber. Emergency crews responded quickly to the scene, located about 40 kilometres north of Lillooet, the train's final destination. CN investigators worked through the night and more were en route this morning to determine what caused the derailment. Only minor track damage occurred. The rail line at the site is closed, but otherwise rail lines are operating as normal. There are no indications of any environmental damage. The names of the dead crew members have not yet been released. The accident is under investigation by the Transportation Safety Board, Transport Canada and the rail company.

**NORWICH TOWNSHIP AREA,
PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated Jun 30, states: Officials in McKean County say about 16-thousand gallons of a caustic chemical spilled onto the ground and into a high-quality trout stream when at least a dozen box cars and tankers derailed yesterday morning. No injuries were reported, but 50 people around Norwich Township were temporarily evacuated because of the possibility of leaking chlorine from one of the Norfolk-Southern tankers. Crews were working to either upright or empty that tanker, which was not breached. The sodium hydroxide that spilled is also known as caustic soda or lye and can cause severe burns. Crews were building dams in Portage Run to contain the chemical. It was not known how many fish were killed, but Waterways Conservation Officers did verify a fish kill. Rudy Husband, a spokesman for Norfolk-Southern Railroad, says the train was traveling from Binghamton, New York, to Harrisburg.

**PHILADELPHIA AREA,
UNITED STATES**

London, Jul 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Two commuter trains collided on a suburban rail line outside Philadelphia today, injuring 30 people, officials said. The injuries were minor, said Jim Whitaker, spokesman for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority. Nine people were treated for trauma injuries at Abington Memorial Hospital but none of the were life-threatening, hospital spokeswoman Linda Millevoi said. The two commuter trains, one headed north from Philadelphia toward Warminster and the other headed into the city, collided just before 1500 hrs, Whitaker said. A car on one of the trains derailed, Whitaker said. Shuttle buses were used to take people between the Glenside and Warminster stations, he said. Officials do not know how fast the trains were going or how many people were on board, Whitaker said.

**PUTNEY, VERMONT,
UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 22 — A press report, dated Jun 21, states: Thirteen railroad cars carrying coal derailed today on the Putney-Dummerston town lines, but there were no injuries, police said. Emergency responders initially feared a chemical release accord during the derailment, but the investigation determined that two cars carrying carbon dioxide did not leave the tracks and did not leak, police said. Almost 50 people were evacuated from the area, most from the Puntney Paper plant, as a precaution. The 13 cars that left the track were part of an 82-car train.

**ST. LOUIS AREA, ILLINOIS,
UNITED STATES**

London, Jun 28 — A press report, dated Jun 27, states: About 50 people

were evacuated from their homes today after a freight train derailed 20 miles east of St. Louis. No one was injured in the incident, which happened around 1500 along US Highway 40 between Troy and St. Jacob, said Troy City Fire Department Chief James Hampton. At least 15 cars derailed, Hampton said. Five tanks of chemicals spilled, including hydrogen peroxide, methylamine anhydrous and dimethylamine anhydrous, causing the evacuation of homes within a half-mile radius of the train. The chemicals “can be flammable and they’re also a lung irritant, which is why we evacuated the residents,” Hampton said. Illinois Emergency Management Agency spokeswoman Patti Thompson said the train was operated by CSX Corp. Fire departments from Troy and St. Jacob, the Madison County Hazardous Materials team and IEMA were evaluating the scene, Hampton said.

London, Jun 29 — A press report, dated Jun 28, states: The Metro East train derailment that spilled ammonium nitrate and hydrogen peroxide is no threat to the public or the environment. That’s the word today from Maggie Carson of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. About 50 people are still displaced from their homes near Troy and St. Jacob, where about 20 of the 131 cars on the CSX Corporation train went off the tracks. CSX spokesman Gary Sease says three of the cars spilled ammonium nitrate, a fertilizer. Hydrogen peroxide also escaped from at least one car. Cleanup is continuing. And it’s unclear how long that might take or when displaced residents might be allowed to return home. The train was headed to Indianapolis from St. Louis. No word yet on what caused the derailment.

VALENCIA, SPAIN

London, Jul 3 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 30 people were killed today when a subway train derailed in the eastern city of Valencia, a leading radio station reported. A local government spokeswoman said two cars of the train derailed when it was leaving Jesus station in downtown Valencia. Some 150 people had to be evacuated from the station.

London, Jul 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A subway train accelerated, shuddered and “flipped” off the tracks yesterday in Valencia, killing at least 41 passengers and injuring 47 in one of Spain’s worst rail accidents, officials and witnesses said. Regional authorities and a witness said the train was going too fast and one of its wheels broke into pieces, derailling the first car, which overturned. Victims were strewn in the tunnel. Officials did not say if the second car derailed. Authorities ruled out terrorism but have not determined the cause of the crash. Justice Ministry official Rosa Sanchez told The Associated Press that at least 41 people were killed and all but eight had been identified. She said that the

driver was among those killed. Jorge Alvarez, secretary-general of the Independent Railway Union, said it was too early to blame human error for yesterday’s tragedy. He said his union repeatedly warned of safety problems on Valencia’s 18-year-old subway system, particularly the No. 1 line. “The train began to go faster than usual and started to move from one side to the other,” Cesar Hernandez Nunez, a 21-year-old student traveling in the second car, told the newspaper El Mundo. “Right after that it was chaos.” The accident occurred around 1300 hrs, as the train approached Jesus station on a curved section of the track, authorities said.

Robberies & Thefts



**THEFT OF COCAINE FROM
MEDICAL LABORATORY, MILAN,
ITALY**

London, Jun 28 — Thieves posing as policemen strolled into a medical laboratory in Milan yesterday and stole 220lb of cocaine worth an estimated £7 million. The authorities in the Italian city said the robbers had worn carabinieri uniforms to gain access. They asked two medics to accompany them to the room where the cocaine was stored, tied them up with plastic tape, snatched up the cocaine parcels and left. — “The Daily Telegraph.”

Miscellaneous



OUTBREAK OF “BIRD FLU”

Beijing, Jul 1 — China has found the H5N1 avian influenza virus in birds in the northwestern region of Ningxia, the Agriculture Ministry said, suggesting a fresh outbreak. The National Bird Flu Reference Laboratory identified the virus on Thursday (Jun 29) in samples taken from the town of Xuanhe in Ningxia’s Zhongwei city, the ministry said late yesterday on its Web site (www.agri.gov.cn). Measures had been taken to prevent the outbreak from spreading, it said. The announcement did not say whether the virus had been found in domestic or wild birds, or how many birds had died. The northern province of Shanxi reported an outbreak of bird flu in poultry last month, which led to the culling of about 1.5 million birds. China has reported about 40 outbreaks of bird flu in birds across a dozen provinces over the past year. — Reuters.

London, Jul 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The most lethal strain of bird flu has been detected in the eastern Nigerian state of Taraba,

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bringing to 15 the number of states, out of a total of 36, to be affected by the virus, a state official said. "Last week an outbreak of bird flu was confirmed in Ibbi local government area and it has spread to Gassol," said Yusuf Sanda, a spokesman for the state governor. "So far 20 farms have been infected and chickens killed. The case has been taken over by the federal ministry of agriculture for containment and culling. The state government has set up a committee to look into the ways and means to assist the farmers. Veterinary experts have been sent to these areas to ascertain the damage and the extent of the spread." The presence of the H5N1 virus was confirmed by a laboratory of the National Institute of Veterinary Research at Vom after tests on samples provided by three local government departments in Tabara, which lies on the border with northern Cameroon. More than 450,000 chickens have already been slaughtered in Nigeria, mainly in the north where the disease was detected last February for the first time in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition to Nigeria, three other west African countries — Ivory Coast, Niger and Burkina Faso — have reported cases of the disease. West African ministers last month adopted a plan for fighting the outbreak of the deadly avian influenza in the region and preventing its spread to humans. The plan, which includes setting up an emergency fund, was agreed at the end of a one-day meeting in Nigeria organized by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) of ministers in charge of agriculture, health, livestock, environment and integration.

London, Jul 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Indonesian authorities have confirmed their country's 40th death from bird flu. The victim, a five-year-old boy, died last month in Tulungagung, East Java. He is thought to have caught the virus from infected chickens. Indonesia could soon overtake Vietnam as the country with the highest bird flu death toll. Vietnam has 42 deaths, though nobody has died this year after an aggressive culling and vaccination policy. In contrast, Indonesia has been criticised for not doing enough to stem the spread of the disease. "Results from tests on a five-year-old boy from Tulungagung, East Java, have been confirmed by the WHO-affiliated laboratory in Hong Kong," senior Indonesian health ministry official Hariyadi Wibisono told the French news agency AFP. "Reports suggest that he had been in contact with dead chickens," he said. Hariyadi Wibisono added that the health of relatives of the boy was being investigated, but said that so far there have been no reports of new cases near where the boy lived. Indonesia has been criticised for its reluctance to cull fowl in infected areas - a measure that experts say is the best way to stem the spread of the disease. But the government says it does not have

enough money to compensate farmers, and has asked for \$900m (£495m) over the next three years to tackle the virus.

OUTBREAK OF BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY, WORLDWIDE

Beijing, Jun 30 — China has restored imports of United States beef, ending a two-and-a-half year ban prompted by fears of mad cow disease, state media reported. The Chinese Ministry of Agriculture would allow boneless beef imports from U.S. cattle 30 months or younger that have been stripped of spines, brains and other parts, the official Xinhua news agency reported late yesterday. China's decision follows Japan's announcement earlier this month that it may also soon lift its block on U.S. beef. China, Japan and South Korea imposed the bans after mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), was found in U.S. cattle in December 2003. China's Agriculture Ministry said on its Web site (www.agri.gov.cn) that the ban had been lifted from yesterday and Chinese inspection agencies would issue specific regulations concerning restored imports. — Reuters.

OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON BAHAMAS VESSEL

London, Jul 5 — A press report, dated Jul 4, states: Passenger (cruise) *Black Prince* (11209 gt, built 1966) detained in Leith last month after a major outbreak of sickness has been struck again. About 100 passengers onboard *Black Prince* are thought to have been affected by a vomiting virus similar to one which hit the same vessel in June. On that trip 136 cases of the Norovirus bug were confirmed among passengers. Nigel Lingard, marketing director for Fred Olsen cruises, said the ship would dock in Leith tomorrow for "thorough disinfecting". He said: "I can confirm that we have got cases of what appears to be Noro-virus type gastro-enteritis bug onboard the ship. Approximately a quarter of the passengers, about 100 people, have been affected during this latest cruise." Mr Lingard said that the company had undertaken extensive cleansing and disinfecting programmes after the last outbreak and departure for the next cruise was delayed by a day. This time even more stringent measures will be taken to the extent of stripping out and replacing carpets. *Black Prince* will be held in Leith for two days, delaying the next voyage, to allow for extensive sanitisation, Mr Lingard said. He added that, if this is the same virus as before, it is endemic in many places and could be carried onboard by a passenger. Health officials said the outbreak would be investigated. The ship which left Leith for a 13-night excursion to Greenland and Iceland on June 22 is expected back at the port tomorrow. Gordon Greenhill, head of community safety for Edinburgh Council, said: "We will be meeting the ship tomorrow when it docks in Leith.

"We will then be working very closely with the company to investigate. "Once we have carried out our investigation we will be recommending an action plan aimed at eradicating any sources that may be associated with this type of virus. "We will of course work in close collaboration with our colleagues at NHS Lothian. We will be in a position to provide more information once we have inspected the ship." On its current sailing, the ship has 393 passengers and 210 members of crew.

WELHAM GREEN, HERTFORDSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated Jul 5, states: Engineering firm Balfour Beatty has had the £10m fine for its part in the Hatfield train crash cut to £7.5m. The record-breaking fine was reduced by the Court of Appeal after defence lawyers argued it was excessive. The company had admitted breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act after the disaster in October 2000, in which four people died and 102 were injured. Balfour Beatty was then responsible for track maintenance. Railtrack was also fined £3.5m for breaching safety laws. Today, three judges, headed by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Phillips, ruled that the disparity between the original £10 million fine given to Balfour Beatty, and the £3.5 million fine incurred by railtrack was so great that a reduction was appropriate.

Fires & Explosions



DISTILLERY, WARRINGTON, CHESHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated Jun 29, states: A 55-year-old man has been accused of starting a fire which caused extensive damage to a Cheshire distillery. Firefighters from across the North West were called to tackle the blaze at the G & J Greenall site on Loushers Lane, Warrington, in October 2005. The man, from the Walton area of the town, is charged with arson, reckless as to whether life be endangered. He was released on conditional bail and will appear before Warrington magistrates on Jul 7.

FACTORY, BELL BAY, TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 30 — The forestry union says it could be weeks before production restarts at the Carter Holt Harvey fibreboard plant in Tasmania's north. It took 14 crews several hours to control the blaze which began at 2200, AEST at the Bell Bay plant last night. While no one was injured, firefighters stayed at the factory until early this morning to dampen hot spots. Scott McLean from the

Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) says the press section is central to the plant's operations and the fire will affect all 100 workers on site. "At this stage while they're still assessing the damage that hasn't been determined, I suspect it would be a number of weeks before they got back into production," he said.

FACTORY, PEPILIYANA, SRI LANKA

Karachi, Jul 4 — Colombo's Fire Brigade said a fiberglass boat factory - U.S.S Service Company, in Pepiliyana, Boralsasgamuwa, Sri Lanka was completely gutted after a major fire broke out early yesterday morning. The factory building and its chemicals warehouse were completely destroyed in the fire, causing damage running into millions of rupees. Firefighters from Colombo and Dehiwela-Mount Lavinia controlled the fire with the help of the Air Force. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

FACTORY, SHARJAH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

London, Jul 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A huge fire erupted today at the Sleep Easy factory in the 10th Industrial Area in Sharjah, causing major financial losses. The fire reduced the factory to ashes. The firefighting teams managed to control the fire and prevent it from spreading to the neighbouring areas, averting a disaster. No casualties were reported. Civil Defence teams from Sharjah, Dubai and Ajman, aided by Armed forces, rushed to the site immediately after receiving information about the fire at 1130 today. The 200 workers at the factory managed to escape unharmed. The police and Civil Defence teams cordoned off the area and closed the roads leading to the factory. The factory, spread over an area of 200 square metres, is surrounded by a number of factories, carpentries and scrap sites. The firefighting operations lasted for more than four hours. Experts are investigating the causes of the fire.

FOREST, CANADA

London, Jun 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A temporary lull in forest fire activity yesterday allowed firefighters to battle flames that have choked the air and forced the evacuation of nearly 300 residents of three northern Saskatchewan communities. Aircraft spewing water and fire retardant attacked the main fire that has devoured more than 30,000 hectares on the north side of the Fond du Lac River, across from the hamlet of Stony River. Gentle winds were blowing the fire and smoke away from Stony River yesterday morning, said Jeanette Kraveski, a spokesperson with Saskatchewan Environment's provincial fire centre in Prince Albert. Nearly 50 forest fires are currently raging across Saskatchewan.

PIER, LAKE UNION, SEATTLE, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A four-alarm fire damaged an old creosote-soaked government pier, three boats and a building on the east side of Lake Union early today, and two firefighters were slightly injured. The fire was reported about 0130 hrs in a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration pier and spread to the north until the flames were contained about daybreak, city Fire Department spokeswoman Helen Fitzpatrick said. The pier is part of NOAA's Pacific Marine Operations Center on the lake, which is linked to Puget Sound by the Lake Washington Ship Canal. The fire occurred before NOAA offices were open for the day. According to a NOAA Web site, five ships are based at the center, including hydrographic survey vessels *Rainier* and *Fairweather*, and five others that are based elsewhere rely on the center for support services. Smoke and darkness delayed a damage assessment, and Fitzpatrick said she did not know the ownership or the size of the damaged boats and building. No homes, houseboats or large ships were damaged or threatened, she added. More than 100 city firefighters were at the scene and others were summoned to city fire stations from Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond, all suburbs east of Lake Washington, under mutual aid agreements, Fitzpatrick said. One firefighter was examined after experiencing chest pains and another was treated for a knee injury, she said. The fire started more than two hours after the end of a large July 4 fireworks show over Lake Union, but Fitzpatrick said the cause remains undetermined. Because of the dense smoke, the Roanoke Street offramp from Interstate 5 southbound was closed at the start of the morning commute, and motorists also were affected by frequent openings of the Fremont Bridge to accommodate fireboats and other fire-related boat traffic.

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated today, states: At 0120 yesterday, flames erupted on two large NOAA piers and two smaller piers, damaged two decommissioned ships and burned two outbuildings on Lake Union. The fire burned for much of the day. Fire investigators will be at the site today, looking for the cause of the blaze. A damage estimate has not yet been calculated. The fire apparently started at the end of one of two NOAA piers, which jut about 500 and 600 ft into Lake Union. A couple of Seattle police department Harbour Patrol boats arrived within minutes, and officers "were madly pumping water onto the fire but they weren't even making a dent," Robbins said. Seattle firefighters attempted to fight the blaze from the pier but were forced back to the lake's eastern shore when the wind suddenly changed, causing flames "to mushroom" to both the north and south, said Seattle Fire Chief Gregory Dean. The fire was fueled by flammable creosote, which

was used to preserve the piers. It quickly raced north underneath the old pier, he said. Fireboat *Alki*, which is docked at Fishermen's Terminal, joined the fire fight at 0152 hrs, Dean said. A second fireboat, *Chief Seattle*, was dispatched from Elliott Bay but took about three hours to get to the scene because an off-duty crew had to be called in before piloting the boat through the Ballard Locks, he said. It took 100 Seattle firefighters, along with dozens more from several Eastside departments and the Coast Guard, until about 1100 hrs to get the stubborn blaze under control. Two of five buildings on the 15-acre NOAA Pacific Marine Operations Center were destroyed and two large steel-hulled ships suffered heat damage to their starboard sides, said Cpt. Mark Ablondi, the commanding officer of NOAA's Pacific Marine Operations Center. Ablondi said of the fire that will force NOAA officials to find alternate berths for four ocean-research vessels when they return to their Seattle homeport in the fall. It could be a couple of years before the piers are rebuilt, he said. Two new fireboats are expected to be added to the Seattle Fire Department's fleet within the next year.

PLYWOOD PLANT, OMAK, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 1 — A press report, dated Jun 30, states: Portions of a plywood plant that burned yesterday evening will be rebuilt, managers at the Colville Indian Power and Veneer said today. The fire caused \$3 million to \$4 million in damages and idled 210 workers. Mill managers said they expect to rebuild the structure that houses the plant's log processor and replace equipment in about 10 days. A company official said most workers would be back on the job in a couple of weeks. Conveyor equipment that moves fuel to the plant's steam powerhouse must also be replaced, said Lou Toulou, plant manager, but firefighters and plant workers saved the main building where plywood is produced, and the powerhouse was also undamaged, Toulou said. The plant is owned by the Colville Confederated Tribes. The fire started in very fine sawdust, which provides fuel to power the plant, he said. Wind quickly spread the flames to nearby buildings. A vacant building that was part of the old lumber mill was also destroyed, he said. There were no serious injuries, but two people were taken to Mid-Valley Hospital in Omak for treatment of smoke inhalation, said Dan Wood, assistant Omak fire chief. An estimated 100 firefighters from around Okanogan County responded to the 1730 hrs, blaze at what was once the Biles-Coleman lumber mill, and later the worker-owned Omak Wood Products. The Colville Confederated Tribes bought it almost five years ago.

REFINERY, ESMERALDAS, EQUADOR

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire that

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broke out mid-day at the residual gas burning section at the Ecuadorian refinery in Esmeraldas has been controlled. Although timely action prevented the 328-foot high flames from spreading to other areas of the most important refinery in Ecuador, it forced the evacuation of neighboring schools and residences.

WILDFIRES, CANADA

London, Jul 5 — A press report, dated Jul 4, states: Residents from Tumbler Ridge are seeking refuge in nearby towns in the north-east corner of British Columbia today after being ordered to evacuate due to fire. Chetwynd Mayor Evan Saugstad says his community has been able to handle the overflow of people. By late last night about 2,000 had gone through the reception centre in Chetwynd as the fire raged on. Some Tumbler Ridge residents checked in at the emergency headquarters in Chetwynd before moving on to Dawson Creek, Prince George and other areas, he says. Saugstad says he plans to meet with Provincial Emergency Program officials to discuss how many people are actually staying in Chetwynd and for how long. Tumbler Ridge Mayor Mike Caisley says the evacuation of the community went smoothly. All 4,000 residents from his community were ordered to evacuate yesterday evening after forest service officials feared the fire could shut down the only route out. The uncontrolled fire, near Hourglass Creek, has already resulted in the closure of Highway 52. While the fire was still 12 km from town last night, the forest service and district decided it was better to get residents out now while one highway is still open. At 1930 hrs, the District of Tumbler Ridge issued an evacuation order and began notifying residents through local radio and door-knocking. Baljinder Jacques, a fire information officer, said residents are being encouraged to go to nearby Chetwynd, where they will be put up in hotels or a school gymnasium. There are about 3,500 people living in Tumbler Ridge and another 500 mine workers in the area. Fenn said the Hourglass fire nearly doubled in size yesterday from about 4,000 hectares in the morning to 7,400 by early evening. Three 20-person crews were battling the Hourglass fire yesterday, said Fenn, along with 14 helicopters. In addition, there were three other fires blazing near Tumbler Ridge, said Fenn, but they were all at least 50 kilometres away and posed no immediate risk to the town. The forest service is also battling a wildfire in the Anahim Lake area which has forced the evacuation of one resident. Five aircraft and 118 firefighters have been dispatched to combat that blaze.

London, Jul 6 — A press report, dated Jul 5, states: Residents of Tumbler Ridge displaced by a forest fire are being allowed to return to their homes after an evacuation order was lifted. Chetwynd Mayor Evan Saugstad said today the evacuation order has been downgraded to an

alert, allowing them to go home but remaining on notice should the fire flare up again. The area had up to five millimetres of rain overnight. "Because of the rainfall and number of days for the fire to rekindle itself and become a threat again, and looking at the weather forecast they can make substantial progress with a direct attack," Mr. Saugstad said. About 500 people were evacuated from the Anahim Lake and Testla Lake areas in the Cariboo region because of forest fires. The town's 3,500 residents and about 500 people in the surrounding area were forced to leave late Monday (Jul 3) night. About 1,900 people have fled their homes north-east of Saskatoon because of forest fires. The province of Saskatchewan was preparing to move 70 people from the north-western community of Beauval because a fire was threatening the village. There are currently more than 100 forest fires raging in northern Saskatchewan. About 150 residents of Nordegg, Alta., were ordered from their homes after a forest fire edged within three kilometres of the hamlet in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Recent lightning strikes have pushed the number of fires in Alberta to 146, with 50 burning out of control, including the Nordegg blaze. A B.C. Forest Service official said the growing number of new forest fires in the province is alarming. So far this fire season there have been more than 900 fires that have charred about 635 square kilometres of B.C. forest.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 3 — A press report, dated Jul 2, states: Firefighters endured triple-digit temperatures today in their battle against two wildfires in the Desert National Wildlife Refuge in southern Nevada. A 21,120-acre fire centered on the Sheep Mountains about 50 miles north of Las Vegas was 50 percent contained, with full containment expected Tuesday (Jul 4), fire information officer Hillerie Patton said. No containment estimate was available for a 2,500-acre blaze about four miles north of Las Vegas that was visible from the city. Winds caused the blaze to "kind of blow up on us," Patton said. The fires threatened endangered species habitat, Patton said, noting the 1.5-million-plus-acre refuge is home to both desert bighorn sheep and the desert tortoise. The refuge is one of the largest intact blocks of desert bighorn sheep habitat in the Southwest and the largest national wildlife refuge in the mainland U.S. A 150-acre wildfire in southern California that slowed traffic on a portion of Interstate 15 for three days was nearing containment tonight, said California Department of Forestry spokesman Jeff Windham. The fire began Friday (Jun 30) in steep terrain near the freeway, which serves as a major artery for San Diego, the inland cities east of Los Angeles and Las Vegas. The cause of the fire was under investigation. Six firefighters have been treated for minor, heat-related injuries since the

blaze began. In Utah, a voluntary evacuation order for the small town of Gunlock was lifted today, after thunderstorms passed and winds shifted, forcing the fire away from the community of about 80 homes. In Arizona, about 200 employees have returned to Grand Canyon National Park in anticipation of tomorrow's opening of the park's North Rim after a wildfire shut down the only paved highway leading into the area. The blaze, discovered on June 8, in the Kaibab National Forest, was about 25 miles from the North Rim and wasn't burning in Grand Canyon National Park. The fire has burned 58,630 acres and is expected to be contained on Tuesday.



9G-MKJ

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated Jun 29, states: The October 2004 crash of a Boeing 747 (9G-MKJ) aircraft that killed seven crew members was caused in part by incorrect data entered into takeoff software, but crew fatigue "increased the probability" of such a crucial mistake, the Transportation Safety Board said today. The board's final report on the accident found the crew of the MK Airlines jet failed to notice that the engine throttles were set too low before the crash. The report said the disaster likely occurred because a crew member neglected to click on the correct icon of a computer software program. That inadvertently put the weight from the previous takeoff, more than 220,000 pounds lighter, into the system, which caused the aircraft to attempt an underpowered takeoff and crash just beyond the runway. The heavily loaded aircraft carrying lobsters and tractor parts failed to lift off from the Halifax International Airport and dragged its tail along the runway before crashing into the woods. All crew members were killed. British-based MK Airlines has said it believes the crew received adequate rest, and that it provided adequate training on the software used for takeoff.

C-FXVL

London, Jun 30 — The Conair Air Tractor AT-802F, C-FXVL, was in the circuit at Kamloops airport when the engine stopped at 1834, Jun 28. The pilot landed the aircraft about 600 feet short of the runway. The pilot was not injured but the aircraft was substantially damaged.

C-GMZQ

London, Jul 5 — The privately operated Morane Saulnier MS 893E aircraft, registration C-GMZQ, was operating from a private airstrip six nautical miles north west of Grimshaw, Alberta. Shortly after take-off, the engine lost power. The aircraft settled

into some trees causing substantial damage at 1045, local time, Jul 3. The pilot and front passenger sustained minor injuries and the two rear passengers received serious injuries. TSB investigators have deployed to the scene.

C-GPGX

London, Jul 5 — The Precision Helicopters Inc. Bell 206B helicopter, registration C-GPGX, was departing the Nose Mountain forestry observation tower, Alberta, in support of forest fire suppression operations. Shortly after lift-off the helicopter struck the ground killing one passenger and seriously injuring one other at 1815, local time, Jul 3. The pilot and third passenger sustained minor injuries.

C-GRHM

London, Jul 5 — The Remote Helicopters (NWT) Ltd. Bell 206B, registration C-GRHM, was conducting bucketing operations in support of forest fire suppression activities approximately 25 nautical miles north east of Wabasca, Alberta. The helicopter collided with trees and came to rest in an inverted position at 1620, local time, Jul 4. The pilot, the sole occupant, was fatally injured. TSB investigators were deployed to the scene.

CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS, BRAZIL

London, Jun 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Brazil's state-run airport administration agency (Infraero) reports that yesterday morning, a total of 73 Varig flights were cancelled, which works out to 78% of the 94 scheduled flights for the period. Today the Rio de Janeiro business court judge, Luiz Roberto Ayoub, is scheduled to proceed with further hearings on the proposal by Volo Brasil to buy Varig. Volo is an investment group of Brazilian businessmen, the American investment fund, Matlin Patterson, and investors from Macau. In Rio, the Varig worker union continues to oppose the sale to Volo by filing suits in court questioning the composition of the investment group, based on information that the foreign investors in it own more than 20% of the firm, which is illegal under Brazilian legislation.

CRASH, CEDAR RAPIDS AREA, IOWA, UNITED STATES

See N2877F.

CRASH, HAMBURG, GERMANY

London, Jul 2 — A press report, dated today, states: At least four people were killed, among them a child, and two more were severely injured when a water plane crashed today in the port of Hamburg, news reports quoted the Hamburg fire department as saying. The small aircraft, type De Havilland Beaver DHC-2, crashlanded on railway tracks in the Hamburg district of Wilhelmsburg, bursting into flames. Ambulances transferred the injured,

suffering severe burns, to nearby hospitals. Reports said the plane was fully booked at the time of the incident but did not specify the total number of passengers. It was also unclear whether anyone was injured on the ground. The cause for the crash of the plane which was flying a 20-minute sightseeing tour in a 600-metre altitude over Hamburg, has yet to be determined.

CRASH, MONTROSE, COLORADO, UNITED STATES

See N1800Z.

CRASH, ORLANDO EXECUTIVE AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated Jun 29, states: Two people were injured today when a small aircraft flipped at Orlando Executive Airport. Local 6 News reported that the Piper Cub flipped upside-down after landing on an airport runway. The pilot received a head injury during the crash and was transported to Orlando Regional Medical Center. A passenger aboard the aircraft received minor injuries and was treated on the scene. About 30 gallons of fuel spilled on the runway. Airport officials also closed a taxiway because of the presence of fire-rescue trucks, Local 6 News reported. The runway and taxiway were reopened a short time after the crash. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

CRASH, THIRSK, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A pilot was believed to have died when his Piper Aztec crashed into fields near Thirsk this afternoon. Witnesses to the crash described seeing smoke pouring out of its engine before it hit the ground and exploded at 1240 hrs. It crossed the A19 near Thirsk, before crashing into fields nearby. Witnesses ran to help the pilot but were said to have been driven back by the intense heat. An ambulance service spokesman said the pilot was dead when paramedics arrived at the scene. The Tees, East and North Yorkshire Ambulance service spokesman said: "At 1238 hrs we received an emergency call to attend an incident at Thirsk Lodge near Thirsk. The air ambulance and three officers attended. An aircraft had crashed and there was one fatality. The person was pronounced dead at the scene." The crash scene was close to Bagby airfield. John Dundon, spokesman for Bagby Airfield, said: "At approximately 1240 hrs a Piper Aztec with one person on board crashed approximately half a mile south of Bagby. The emergency services are in attendance and the air accident investigation branch has been informed." The only remains of the aircraft was a tail-piece, lying in a corn field, 200 yards from the A19.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BANGKOK, THAILAND

London, Jul 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A Thai Airways domestic

flight with 251 people on board made an emergency landing in Bangkok today after the plane experienced problems with its landing gear, the airline said. The flight's captain decided to turn the plane around 30 minutes after it took off from Bangkok because he could not properly retract one of the Airbus 300-600's wheels, the airline said. The flight had been bound for Khon Kaen, 390km northeast of the capital. The passengers were transferred to another plane and reached their destination about one and a half hours late, it said. The airline said the plane was about 20 years old, and was scheduled to soon be phased out of the Thai fleet.

EMERGENCY LANDING, DETROIT, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated today, states: The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating what caused an aircraft to catch fire in the air at City Airport in Detroit. The Falcon 200 two-engine aircraft departed the airport last night and returned because one of its engines was on fire. It was en route to Quincy, Ill., with four people on board. Fire crews waited on the runway for the aircraft, which made its emergency landing at about 2213 hrs, according to authorities. By the time the aircraft landed, the fire had been extinguished. No injuries were reported.

EMERGENCY LANDING, INDIRA GANDHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, INDIA

London, Jun 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Boeing aircraft with 14 passengers onboard today landed safely at the Indira Gandhi International Airport after an engine trouble. The Boeing 707 aircraft of the Aviation Research Corps landed amid full emergency measures at 1250 hrs after the pilot informed to the Air Traffic Controller that the third engine of the aircraft had shut down.

EMERGENCY LANDING, NEW DELHI, INDIA

London, Jul 2 — A press report, dated today, states: An Air India plane with more than 160 passengers and crew aboard made an emergency landing at New Delhi's international airport today, an official for the airline said. The Airbus A-310 reported engine trouble while travelling from the Saudi city of Jeddah to New Delhi via the northern city of Lucknow, the official said. "The aircraft reported a technical fault and the flight landed under emergency conditions," said Jitender Bhargava, director of public relations for Air India. "The fire brigade was put on alert as part of normal procedures for such a landing," he said. No injuries were reported among the passengers and crew.

INCIDENT AT ISLAMABAD AIRPORT, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jul 3 — Reported that a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Airbus A310, was involved in an incident at Islamabad International

airport, yesterday. It was reported that PIA flight 308 from Karachi to Islamabad, went out of control during its landing and the captain used an emergency break. As a result, four of the aircraft's tyres burst. No injuries to anyone onboard the plane were reported. Captain Farooq Shaikh told airlines and the civil aviation authorities, the incident may have been due to over-speeding during landing. PIA later arranged to for replacement tyres from Karachi. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

INCIDENT, PAPHOS AIRPORT, CYPRUS

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A German LTU flight carrying 187 passengers and crew from Dusseldorf to Paphos yesterday suffered a four-tyre blow out upon landing on the runway of Paphos Airport. The incident occurred at 1830 hrs, with airport officials taking two-and-a-half hours to clear all the debris from the runway. No injuries were reported and all passengers were safely taken off the aircraft. Paphos Airport Civil Aviation Services Manager, Androula Christodoulou said the problem forced the authorities to close the airport, affecting a total of five flights scheduled for last night. Some were diverted to Larnaca Airport. "We couldn't fix the aircraft and we are waiting for spare parts from Germany," she said, adding however that she could not speculate as to the time required to reopen the airport because of the problem's "technical nature."

N1800Z

London, Jul 4 — A press report, dated Jul 3, states: London, July 4 — A press report, dated July 3, states: A small plane crashed into a tractor-trailer rig parked on a residential street today and burst into flames, killing both people aboard, authorities said. No one on the ground was injured, said Allen Weese, Montrose Fire Protection battalion chief. The victims were identified as David Gibson, 61, a prominent architect from Aspen, and Larry Smalley, 65, a flight instructor from Rifle with more than 40 years flying experience, Montrose County Coroner Mark Young said. Gibson had bought the plane about a week ago and was working to gain 15 hours of flight experience, including "stop and go" landings with the six-passenger plane for insurance purposes, Young said. Young said some witnesses reported the plane's engine was sputtering or had stopped. He said a preliminary investigation indicates the propeller wasn't powered when it crashed.

London, Jul 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators examined the wreckage of a single-engine Beechcraft Bonanza yesterday, trying to determine why it crashed into a parked truck in a residential neighborhood, killing a pilot and a flight instructor. National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Paul Schlamm said the wreckage would be moved to a salvage hangar in Greeley and the engine would be disassembled there. Schlamm said investigators had made no determination about the

possible cause. Montrose County Coroner Mark Young said earlier that witnesses reported the engine was sputtering or had stopped. The aircraft crashed Monday (Jul 3) morning while practicing takeoffs and landings at Montrose Municipal Airport about 180 miles south-west of Denver, authorities said. Young identified the victims as David Gibson from Aspen and Larry Smalley a flight instructor from Rifle with more than 40 years flying experience. It was not immediately clear which man had the controls at the time of the crash. Gibson, who was also a pilot, had bought the aircraft about a week ago, Young said. The parked truck and a nearby pickup were destroyed in the fiery crash, but no one on the ground was hurt, officials said. Schlamm said investigators will also review the pilot's experience and training and the maintenance records of the aircraft and will interview any witnesses. He said a preliminary report could be available in a week to 10 days but a final report could take six months to a year.

London, Jul 5 — Beechcraft Bonanza A36TC N1800Z crashed near Montrose, Colorado, at 1610, Jul 3, while on a flight from Montrose to Rifle, CO. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N1SE

London, Jul 4 — A press report, dated Jul 3, states: A Tulsa doctor died and his grandson is in critical condition after a small plane crash in Owasso. State troopers said the pilot was 61-year-old Dr. William Ronald Barnes and that his grandson broke both of his arms and legs and was burned over 30 percent of his body. Troopers said Dr. Barnes' Cessna 180 went down near East 76th Street North and North 181st East Avenue. Investigators are still trying to establish what caused the crash. The FAA was on the scene investigating and the National Transportation and Safety Board will also investigate.

London, Jul 4 — Cessna 180K (Skywagon) N1SE crashed near Owasso, Oklahoma, at 1425, Jul 2, while on a flight from Owasso. The aircraft was destroyed. One of the two persons on board was killed and the other was seriously injured.

N2877F

London, Jul 1 — A press report, dated Jun 30, states: A helicopter being used to film scenes for a movie struck wires and crashed in eastern Iowa today, killing one person and critically injuring two others, authorities said. The helicopter crashed just before 1300 hrs, said Jim Saunders, a spokesman for the Iowa Department of Public Safety. Federal Aviation Administration officials in Kansas City said the helicopter, a Bell 206, crashed after a "wire strike." It was reported that the helicopter was filming a parade for the movie "The Final Season" about a high school baseball team. Witnesses said the helicopter was carrying the pilot, a producer and a photographer when it hit power lines and crashed into a field about 10 miles southwest of Cedar Rapids. Benton County Sheriff Randy Forsyth said the

person who died was from out of state, and the two injured were conscious when they were taken from the wreckage. The helicopter was contracted through Ri Tel Copter Services Inc. in Hudson. A woman who answered the telephone at the company said a family member was piloting the aircraft and declined to comment.

London, Jul 4 — Bell 206B JetRanger N2877F crashed near Walford, Iowa, at 1750, Jun 30. The aircraft was destroyed. One of the three persons on board was killed and the other two were seriously injured.

N615M

London, Jul 2 — A press report, dated Jul 1, states: Two people were killed when their small plane crashed in a rural area of Ventura County and burst into flames. Sheriff's Captain Tom Convery said two others, including a boy, were ejected and seriously injured. Sheriff's deputies and firefighters discovered the plane in a drainage ditch along a road in Somis. The single-engine plane had broken apart and was engulfed in flames. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the cause of the crash.

London, Jul 4 — Beechcraft Bonanza A36 N615M crashed near Camarillo, California, at 1840, Jul 1. The aircraft was destroyed. Two of the four persons on board were killed and the other two were seriously injured.

N681FD

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A Chicago Fire Department helicopter (Bell UH-1H, N681FD) on its way to a report of a person in the water at a North Side beach was forced to make an emergency crash landing today on the South Side, landing upside-down on the lakeshore near 39th Street, according to fire officials. Four people were aboard the helicopter — two pilots and two divers. Fire Commissioner Ray Orozco said they were taken to hospitals in stable condition. A witness, however, saw one person in apparently serious condition put into an ambulance. The accident forced the closure of southbound Lake Shore Drive at the accident scene while crews clear away the wreckage just south of 31st and north of Oakwood. The three people on board walked away, with no one hurt.

London, Jul 4 — Bell UH-1H N681FD crashed on South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois, at 1659, Jun 30. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were injured.

N6867T

London, Jul 1 — A press report, dated Jun 30, states: An airplane owned by a Sioux City man crashed in West Virginia this morning, killing both people inside. The airplane was owned by Russell C. Ross of Sioux City. It crashed near the Braxton County Airport in Sutton, W. Va., around 1145 hrs. West Virginia State Police said the aircraft apparently clipped a tree just after taking off, crashed just beyond the runway and

caught on fire. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Jim Peters said the plane was a twin-engine 1960 Cessna 310 and was headed to Norfolk, Va. No more information on the victims was available, except that the people killed were an elderly man and woman. Jetsun Aviation officials confirmed that Ross and his wife took off in an airplane from the Sioux Gateway Airport yesterday morning. Pilots at the Braxton County Airport today told the Charleston (S.C.) Gazette that the couple said they had stopped in Sutton for the night before going to New York because of weather conditions. FAA officials were at the site and investigating, the State Police said.

London, Jul 4 — Cessna 310D N6867T crashed near Sutton, West Virginia, at 1430, Jun 30, while on a flight from Sutton to Norfolk, Virginia. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N6970S

London, Jun 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people were injured late last night when their Cessna 150 N6970S crashed after encountering mechanical trouble and attempting to make an emergency landing at the base of some pine trees on the grounds of the Delaware Hospital for the Chronically ill, off Sunnyside Road, Smyrna. The crash occurred about 2300 hrs. and was a few yards from the shore of Lake Como. A private airstrip is located nearby, just outside of the town limits. State police were on the scene and a representative from the Federal Aviation Administration said the agency will investigate. They were expected to arrive this morning, police on the scene said. Smyrna police, firefighters and emergency medical technicians also were at the crash site early today. The aircraft, manufactured in 1967, is registered to Galdieri Aviation Inc., of Grasonville, Md.

N7601P

London, Jul 4 — Piper PA-18-150 (Super Cub) N7601P flipped over on landing at Orlando Executive Airport, Florida, at 1410, Jun 29, following a local flight. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. One of the two persons on board was seriously injured.

ORLANDO EXECUTIVE AIRPORT, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

See N7601P.

YV-229C

London, July 1 — Cessna U206 YV-229C, owned and operated by Rutaca Air Services, was destroyed following a loss of control while landing near Chiguao, Estado de Bolivar, Venezuela, at 1500, UTC, June 26. The pilot, sole occupant of the aircraft, was fatally injured. The flight originated from Ciudad Bolivar with Chiguao, at its intended destination; however, the flight was forced to divert to Canaima due to inclement weather along the route of flight.

ZS-POG

London, Jul 2 — A press report, dated Jul 1, states: Three people were injured when a South African light aircraft crashed yesterday evening in the Southern Mozambican resort of Vilankulo, the Maputo daily newspaper "Noticias" reported today. The three injured occupants are; Neil Petry, Brad Watson and Shelly Gould, all South African tourists. They were conscious when they were taken to the local hospital. The plane came down close to a house, but there are no reports of any deaths or injuries on the ground. It knocked down two palm trees, and, as a result, the plane is a complete write off. It was a Grand Caravan, with the registration number ZS-POG. The plane had set off from Polokwane in the South African province of Limpopo. According to the flight plan, it was to have landed at Vilankulo airport. The South Africans planned to stay overnight in Vilankulo, and had reservations at a local hotel. They were to have flown on to Madagascar today. The causes of the crash are not yet known.

London, Jul 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A Cape Town-based pilot died and two others were seriously injured when their 10-seater Grand Caravan aircraft crashed in the southern Mozambican town of Vilankulos on Friday (Jun 30) after apparently losing engine power as they were coming in to land. The aircraft was damaged beyond repair. Brad Watson of Southern Right Air Charters at Cape Town International Airport, which was operating the flight, died of his injuries. Shelley Gould, a pilot and instructor at Base 4 Aviation at Cape Town International Airport, was seriously injured and had surgery after being airlifted to Milpark Hospital in Johannesburg. She broke her jaw and has extensive dental damage as well as lacerations. Neil Petrie, also of Base 4, had cuts and bruises. Gould and Watson were co-piloting the aircraft and had flown in from Polokwane in Limpopo. Petrie was a passenger. Darryl Waterford, chief executive officer of Base 4, said he was not yet aware of the exact details of what had happened. The Grand Caravan is used extensively in Africa on game farms and for humanitarian relief and is regarded as extremely reliable by people in the aviation industry. The aircraft knocked down two palm trees as it crash-landed but there were no reports of any fatalities or injuries among people on the ground. The Mozambican authorities said the South Africans had filed a flight plan, according to which they would have landed at Vilankulos, spent the night in the town, then flown on to Madagascar yesterday.

London, Jul 5 — A press report, dated Jul 4, states: South Africa is sending two aviation experts to join the investigation of an aircraft crash in which a Cape Town pilot was killed and two others were injured in Mozambique. Gilbert Thwala, the Civil Aviation Authority's executive manager of occurrence investigations,

said they would send a pair of officials to investigate the crash site today. Brad Watson, a pilot for Southern Right Air Charters at Cape Town International, died of his injuries at Lanseria Airport, west of Johannesburg, to where he had been airlifted. Watson flew the 10-seater Grand Caravan when it crashed in the town of Vilankulos at about 1900 (Jun 30). Watson's co-pilot, Shelley Gould and passenger Neil Petrie, both from Base 4 Aviation at Cape Town International, were injured. The three were to refuel at Vilankulos before flying to Madagascar on Saturday. Gould suffered lacerations to her face and a broken jaw, and Petrie had lacerations and bruises to his head. Darryl Waterford, chief executive of Base 4 Aviation, said while Petrie was to be discharged from Milpark Hospital yesterday afternoon, Gould was to remain in intensive care for a few more days. Ian Cornish, regional general manager of SOS Air Rescue Services in Johannesburg, said Gould and Petrie were both airlifted to Milpark Hospital around midnight on Friday. Netcare 911 sent an aircraft for Watson a few hours later on Saturday morning. "We dealt with the two patients as one of them was covered by Discovery and the other was a private patient with a guarantee of payment. (Watson's) scheme was handled by Netcare 911, so he was dealt with separately by them," said Cornish. He said it cost about R92,000 for the use of each aircraft.

Space Vehicles



DISCOVERY

London, Jul 5 — A press report, dated Jul 6, states: The space shuttle Discovery's astronauts have begun their first full day in orbit by inspecting the nose and wings of their craft to make sure it experienced no damage during its launch. Discovery's seven crew members deployed a robotic arm equipped with cameras and a laser to check on the shuttle. During the seven-hour operation, the crew focused on the protective heat shield on the shuttle wings' leading edge. They will also search for any damage that may have been caused by the small pieces of foam insulation that broke off in the first few minutes after launch. The astronauts will then configure their spacesuits in preparation for two or three spacewalks after the shuttle docks with the International Space Station (ISS) on Thursday (Jul 6). Tuesday's launch marked just the second shuttle mission since the Feb 2003 Columbia disaster, in which the shuttle splintered apart upon re-entry into Earth's atmosphere, leading to the grounding of shuttle flights for nearly two and a half years. But NASA appeared pleased with the

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performance of Discovery's external fuel tank, which lost only small pieces of foam insulation Tuesday, without posing any serious threat to the shuttle's heat shield. NASA officials have struggled to fix problems associated with the persistent loss of foam insulation since the debris doomed Columbia. NASA placed more than 100 cameras around Discovery's launch pad for Tuesday's lift-off to detect any loose debris. The ISS will then take pictures of the vessel's heat shield while it performs a back flip during its approach. "The tank performed very well this time," space shuttle program manager Wayne Hale told reporters Tuesday, hours after Discovery blasted off from the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida. "This is a great improvement." He said there was no concern for the seven Discovery astronauts' safety. "We don't see any concerns for the orbiter," Hale said. The agency had said the seven astronauts could take refuge at the ISS and wait for a rescue mission in the event the shuttle suffered irreparable damage. During their 12-to-13-day mission to the ISS, the astronauts will test new equipment and procedures aimed at increasing shuttle safety. They will also deliver 12 tonnes of critical supplies and other cargo to the ISS, including a new oxygen generator for the space station that would allow crews of six people, double the current amount, for the ISS starting in 2009.

Product Recalls



CHILDRENS WINDSUITS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 26 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Jun 22, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Adjmi Apparel Group, of New York, N.Y. (Adjmi is an authorized licensee of children's apparel products of Reebok International Ltd., of Canton, Mass.), today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 55,000 Reebok Children's Windsuit. The Reebok logo applique on the clear rubber zipper pull on the jacket can detach, posing a choking or aspiration hazard to young children. Reebok has received one report of a child that began to choke from a detached Reebok logo applique. No injuries have been reported. The recalled Reebok children's windsuits are full-zip boys polyester jacket and pants sets with a cotton lining and the name Reebok and/or Reebok's Vector logo embroidered on the chest of the jacket. The suits were sold in eight different color combinations: orange/navy, light blue/royal blue, red/navy, yellow/gunmetal, yellow/navy, blue/navy, green/navy and red/black. Manufactured in Bangladesh, the

garments were sold exclusively at Mervyns and Toys 'R Us/Babies 'R Us nationwide from December 2005 through May 2006. The suits were priced by size including: newborn/ infant about \$18, toddler between \$22 and \$28 and ages four to seven about \$24.

CORDLESS NAILERS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 30 — A press release issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission on Jun 29, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Porter-Cable, of Jackson, Tenn., today a public safety notice in respect of about 25,000 Porter-Cable Cordless Brad Nailer. The nailer can eject a nail while the switch is in the "off" position if the trigger is pulled and it is placed on a surface. This can pose a serious injury to consumers or bystanders. Porter-Cable has received two reports of injuries, including puncture wounds to the leg and back requiring surgical removal of the nail. The nailer is used to drive nails into wood. Model number BN200V12 is located on the name plate on the magazine of the unit. "Porter+Cable" is printed on the nailer's motor housing. Manufactured in Taiwan, the nailers were sold at major home centre and hardware stores nationwide from September 2001 through to December 2005 for between \$230 and \$280.

DIGITAL DIVE COMPUTERS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 26 — A press release, issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated Jun 22, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Oceanic, of San Leandro, Calif., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 6,100 Versa Pro 2A Digital Dive Computers. When using the dive computer set for "User Selected Digital Gauge Mode," the "Elapsed Dive Time" displayed can exceed the actual elapsed time under water. This can cause divers to ascend before fulfilling a decompression obligation, resulting in decompression sickness. Oceanic has received one report of the dive computers malfunctioning. No injuries have been reported. The recall involves Oceanic-brand Versa Pro 2A dive computers with serial numbers 12000 through 18176 which can be accessed and viewed on the computer's display. The serial number and "r2A" are printed on the side of the unit. This recall does not include any other Oceanic brand dive computer, or Versa Pro 2A while operated in normal decompression dive computer mode. Manufactured in the United States, authorized Oceanic dealers sold Versa Pro 2A digital dive computers nation-wide from March 2003 through to April 2006 for between \$430 and \$640.

FIREPLACES, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 29 — A press release, issued by The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission on Jun 28, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety

Commission, in co-operation with CFM Corp. of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 1,300 Sequoia Wood Burning Fireplaces. Due to insufficient insulation or a missing weld, some of these fireplaces could pose a fire hazard. No incidents/injuries have been reported. Only models EWF30, EWF36, and EWF36A are affected by this recall. The recalled fireplaces are 400 or 700 pound steel plate wood-burning fireplaces with the trade name "Sequoia." The fireplaces measure 30-inches-wide or 36-inches-wide, have doors which seal them and are designed for installation in openings in the walls of homes that connect to chimneys. Manufactured in Canada and the United States, the fireplaces were sold at authorized Vermont Castings dealers in Canada and the United States from January 1, 2003 through mid-April, 2006 for about \$2,200 for the EWF30 and about \$3,000 for the EWF36 and EWF36A.

HONDA MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

Tokyo, Jun 29 — Honda Motor Co Ltd has informed the transport ministry it plans to recall 124,322 cars due to a defective brake lamp, the ministry said. The recalled vehicles include Acty light trucks and Vamos minivans, manufactured between February 2002 and June this year. In a worst case scenario, the brake lamps in these models could malfunction, Honda told the ministry. Japan's third-largest automaker said it has so far received eight claims relating to the defect, but that there have been no reports of the fault resulting in any incidents that caused death or injury. — Reuters.

Port Conditions



AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 28 — Vessels at Australia's southern Port of Newcastle are waiting for more than five days to load coal because of congestion following port maintenance, Reuters said yesterday. The waiting time at the port for vessels scheduled to load rose to 5.35 days, the longest in at least six weeks, and up 1.95 days from the previous week. A port official said the longer waiting time was probably caused by a backlog of vessels waiting to load since last week. Another official said last week that the planned port maintenance of loading equipment was scheduled to finish within the week ended Jun 26. The Port of Newcastle terminal shipped a total of 1.3 million tonnes of coal for the week ended Jun 26 and about 36,000 tonnes, or 2.9%, over the previous week, including exports to Japan, Korea and China. Of the total, three vessels with gross registered tonnage of 202,212 tonnes were headed to Mexico and the Netherlands, said the Newcastle Port Corp. Currently, 22 vessels are waiting

off the port to load 1.9m tonnes of coal, compared with 18 the previous week. Three vessels are waiting in the port to load 350,649 tonnes, the NPC data showed. A total of 15 coal vessels entered the port in the week, three more than the week ended Jun 19. Coal stocks at the Carrington and Kooragang berths dipped last week by about 220,290 tonnes to 784,102 million tonnes, the NPC said.

Sydney, Jun 28 — The port of Newcastle was not experiencing any unusual delays, contrary to media reports this week, a spokesman for the Newcastle Port Corporation said this morning (Jun 28). Overseas news services and Newcastle media had reported that port maintenance had caused loading delays this week. A spokesman for the port said that there was no maintenance being carried out at present and the port was operating smoothly. A \$4m upgrade of the port, announced by state ports minister Joe Tripodi this month, had not begun yet, the spokesman said. There are presently 22 vessels waiting off the coast of Newcastle to load almost 2m tonnes of coal, up from 18 last week. The port expects to handle almost 7m tonnes this month. The average waiting time for vessels this week is 5.35 days, up 1.95 days from last week. The port handled 54 vessels in week ending Tuesday (Jun 27), with 69 vessels expected in the next seven days. That figure is scheduled to drop back to 49 vessels for the week starting Jul 5. The port of Newcastle handled 74.2m tonnes of coal between

July 2005 and May this year, and expects to bring its total to 79.1m by the end of the financial year. — “Lloyd’s List Daily Commercial News.”

London, July 5 — Coal exports from Newcastle port could hit a record high this month in spite of congestion that has caused a long queue, the port operator said yesterday, Reuters reports. The waiting time for coal vessels to load at Newcastle rose to 7.63 days in the week to July 3, the longest in at last seven weeks and up 2.28 days from the previous week, Newcastle Port Corporation data showed. But exports over the week climbed to 1.7m tonnes, about 420,000 tonnes or a third more than the previous week. The NPC projects coal exports for the whole of July to rise 10.8% from June to 7,751,000 tonnes, which would surpass the previous record from October last year by 105,000 tonnes. A source from the port said the longer waiting time last week was due to congestion that was probably caused by lower-than-usual production at mines, railway maintenance and an increase in demand from Japanese utilities. Currently 24 vessels are waiting off the port to load 2,448,609 tonnes of coal, up from 22 vessels last week, the NPC data showed. Five vessels are waiting in the port to load 428,400 tonnes. A total of 19 coal vessels entered the port in the week, five more than the week ended June 19. Of the 22 coal vessels that left the port, 13 were headed to Japan, five to Taiwan

and three to South Korea. Coal stocks at the Carrington and Kooragang berths rose last week by 142,169 tonnes to 926,271 tonnes, the NPC said.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, July 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A congestion surcharge has been imposed at Matadi port in the Democratic Republic of Congo by members of the Europe West Africa Trade Agreement (EWATA - CSAV, Delmas, Hapag-Lloyd, Libra, Maersk Line, Nile Dutch Africa Line, OT Africa Line and Safmarine). The surcharge is a result of the recent strike which led to berthing delays. The new surcharges are £445 per TEU and £3 per freight ton for conventional cargo. They take effect from July 5.

ITALY

Genoa, Jun 26 — Port situation: Genoa: One bulk carrier waiting for berth. Average delay in berthing 12 hours. Savona: No vessels awaiting normal or special berth. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd’s Agents.

SYRIA

Aleppo, Jun 24 — Waiting time presently 24 hours at Lattakia and two days at Tartous. — Lloyd’s Agents.

Aleppo, Jul 1 — Waiting time presently 24 hours at Lattakia and two days at Tartous. — Lloyd’s Agents.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	10-Jul-2006	Coal: 8 vessels due by 25/7; there will be a maintenance shutdown from 07.00 15/8 to 07.00 21/8. ..
Brisbane	10-Jul-2006	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 1 vessel due 22/7..
Dalrymple Bay	10-Jul-2006	Coal: DBCT berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; DBCT berth 2: at present experiencing a 48 hour maintenance shutdown; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; other vessels not scheduled: 14 vessels waiting; 24 vessels due by 28/7.
Dampier	10-Jul-2006	Iron ore: Parker Point A berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 13 vessels due by 29/7; Parker Point berth 2: 2 vessels waiting; 8 vessels due by 22/7; Parker Point berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 8 vessels due by 20/7.
Esperance	12-Jul-2006	Jul 12: Grain: 4 vessels due by 4/8, 1 to load grain pool, 3 wheat; up to 7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Jul 10: Iron ore: 3 vessels due by 16/6.
Geraldton	12-Jul-2006	Jul 12: Grain: 4 vessels due by 21/7, all to load wheat; up to 13 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Jul 10: Iron ore: 4 vessels due by 26/7.
Gladstone	12-Jul-2006	Jul 12: Grain: 1 vessel loading wheat; no delays expected. Jul 10: Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 1 berthed, 15 waiting; 37 vessels due by 4/9; shiploader 2 will be shut down for repairs and maintenance from 00.01 on 17/7 to 23.59 on 20/7; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed, 1 waiting; 8 vessels due by 20/9; shiploading operations will be shut down for maintenance from 10-15/7.
Hay Point	10-Jul-2006	Coal: Berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 8 vessels due by 19/7; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 3 vessels due by 18/7; 3 vessels due by 23/8, not yet scheduled for berthing.
Newcastle	12-Jul-2006	Jul 12: Six vessels due by 23/7, 5 to load wheat, 1 sorghum/barley; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Jul 10: Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 12 waiting; 44 vessels due by 14/8; 5-19 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 12 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 9 waiting; 16 vessels due by 29/7; 8-12 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 8 vessels off port awaiting coal.
Port Hedland	10-Jul-2006	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 5 vessels due by 17/7; there will be a 48 hour shutdown for shiploader maintenance on 18/7; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 7 vessels due by 19/7; 7 other vessels due by 31/7, no e.t.a. received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 1 vessel due 16/7; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 6 vessels due by 18/7; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 2 vessels due by 21/7.
Port Kembla	10-Jul-2006	Coal: 11 vessels due by 5/8.
Port Walcott	10-Jul-2006	Iron ore: 5 vessels waiting; 13 vessels due by 17/7.
Azerbaijan		
Apsheron	10-Jul-2006	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 2 vessels berthed, 1 stopped discharging crude oil, 1 discharging fuel oil; 1 vessel in roads to discharge crude oil; 2 vessels due by 11/7, 1 to discharge fuel oil, 1 crude oil.
Baku	10-Jul-2006	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; Azerneftiyag terminal: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: 1 vessel due 10/7 to discharge crude oil; Sangachal district: no vessels.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	10-Jul-2006	Seventeen vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (1 sulphur, 1 metals, 3 coils, 1 baryte concentrate, 1 bagged ammonium nitrate, 1 barley, 1 copper anodes), 8 discharging (1 lead concentrate, 1 scrap, 2 metals, 2 copper concentrate, 1 iron ore, 1 billets); 3 vessels in roads, of which 1 empty vessel to load, 2 to discharge (1 coal, 1 copper concentrate); 12 vessels due, of which 3 to load (2 coils, 1 containers), 6 to discharge (1 containers, 2 manganese ore, 1 salt, 1 fuels, 1 iron ore), 3 passenger vessels.
Varna	10-Jul-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 3-10 July: Thirty-four vessels in port operating of which 17 loading (1 wheat, 3 equipment in packing cases, 1 chamotte, 1 soda light, 1 caustic soda, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 2 bulk clinker, 1 kaolin, 5 soda/TSP, 1 construction materials), 10 discharging (1 iron bars, 6 bulk coal, 1 bulk slag, 1 raw phosphate, 1 clinker), 6 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.
Cyprus		
Laranaca	11-Jul-2006	Two conventional vessels discharging at berth; no vessels due 12/7; no delays expected.
Limassol	11-Jul-2006	Five container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 4 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 2 container vessels, 1 conventional vessel, 3 passenger vessels due 12/7; no delays expected. .

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Port Conditions

Egypt

Adabiya	10-Jul-2006	Three vessels berthed (loading/discharging), all general cargo.
Alexandria	10-Jul-2006	Thirty-three vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 27 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 3 container vessels; 9 vessels at inner anchorage, 6 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	10-Jul-2006	Twenty-six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 19 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 5 container vessels; 22 vessel at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage..
Dekheila	10-Jul-2006	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 6 bulk carriers; 2 vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	10-Jul-2006	Eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 5 container vessels.
Suez	10-Jul-2006	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 4 passenger vessels; 3 tugs, 1 vessel dry-docked.
Suez Canal	10-Jul-2006	Twenty-six vessels transiting Northbound, 25 Southbound.

Estonia

Tallinn	10-Jul-2006	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 oil products vessel loading at berth, no vessels waiting at anchorage; 1 vessel due, with 7 days berthing delay expected.
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Georgia

Batumi	10-Jul-2006	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed at CBM loading crude oil, 2 at other berths of which 1 discharging gasoil, 1 loading gasoil; 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil; 8 vessels due by 31/7, all to load, of which 4 crude oil, 1 kerosene, 1 LPG, 1 gasoil, 1 naphtha.
Poti	10-Jul-2006	Oil products: no vessels.
Supsa	10-Jul-2006	Oil products: 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil; 1 vessel due 21/7 to load crude oil.

India

Kolkata	10-Jul-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading Containers, 3 vessels discharging (P. Coke, Container, Edible Oil), 2 vessels waiting to discharge (Containers, Edible Oil); 5 vessels under repair; 2 vessels under dry docked; 2 vessels due (General Cargo, Containers).
Haldia	10-Jul-2006	14 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Iron Ore-4, POL), 9 vessels discharging (Crude, Coke-2, Rock Phosphate, Met Coke, CBFS, Pulses, POL, Prx1); 13 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (5 to discharge, 8 to load), 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load; 2 vessels due (Iron Ore, Containers).
Paradip	10-Jul-2006	8 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Iron Ore-3, Chrome Ore), 4 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, Lime Coke, Rock Phosphate); 9 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (6 to discharge, 3 to load), 2 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to load, 1 to discharge); 22 vessels due.
Visakhapatnam	10-Jul-2006	15 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (Food Grains, WR Coil, Steel Plates, HR Coils, Fold Spar, Product Tanker-2), 8 vessels discharging (Steel Pipes, Timber, Coking Coal-2, P. Coke, Steam Coal, L. Ammonia, Urea); 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge, 6 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (4 to discharge, 2 to load); 34 vessels due (Iron Ore-8, Steel Cargo-3, Granite, Ferro Chrome, Soya, Product Tankers-2, Molten Sulphur-2, Rock Phosphate, Coking Coal-8, Containers-2, Steam Coal, Bauxite, Anthracite Coal, Methanol).
Chennai	10-Jul-2006	14 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Project, IOL, Iron Ore), 7 vessels discharging (Urea, Steam Coal-2, Thermal Coal-3, High Speed Diesel), 4 vessels loading and discharging (General Cargo/Granite Block, Containers-3); 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (1 to load, 1 to discharge), 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load ; 4 vessels due (Steam Coal, Containers, MEG, C. Oil).
Tuticorin	10-Jul-2006	6 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Salt, General Cargo), 4 vessels discharging (LPG, Thermal Coal, Copper Concentrate, DAP); 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load.
Cochin	10-Jul-2006	4 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Naphtha, 1 vessel discharging coal, 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers.
New Mangalore	10-Jul-2006	6 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading Iron Ore Fines, 2 vessels discharging (Coal, LPG); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 21 vessels due (POL Product-4, POL Crude-4, Iron Ore Fines-7, LPG, Crude Palm Oil, Granite Stone-2, Crude Soya Oil, Urea).
Mormugao	10-Jul-2006	3 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Iron Ore, 2 vessels discharging (MOP, Coal), 1 vessel working at midstream and loading Iron Ore; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load); 4 vessels under dry docked; 7 vessels due (S. Slabs, Alumina, Lime Stone, Met Coke, Iron Ore-3).
Mumbai	10-Jul-2006	20 vessels operating at berth of which 10 vessels loading (POL, Bagged Sugar-3, Steel Cargo-3, Containers/Steel/ General / Veh-2, Rice/Sugar), 8 vessels discharging (POL, Steel Cargo-3, Peas in bulk, Rock Phosphate, Project Cargo, Plywood), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 8 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge, 4 vessels not ready to work at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load, 1 to load and discharge), 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 9 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 7 vessels under arrest; 37 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 31 vessels due (Contaners-4, Oil, General Cargo-26).
J.N.P.T.	10-Jul-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Naphtha, 1 vessel discharging SKO/ Naphtha, 5 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 3 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (2 to load and discharge, 3 to discharge); 5 vessels due (Containers-2, Liquid-3).
Kandla	10-Jul-2006	15 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (Cement-2, Agriculture Products-3, Other Liquids-2), 7 vessels discharging (POL-2, Other Liquids, DAP, Project Cargo, Timber Logs-2), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers, 3 vessels discharging at midstream (Timber Logs, St. Cargo, S.B.O.); 15 vessels not ready to work at anchorage (7 to discharge, 8 to load); 1 vessel under dry docked; 1 vessel for bunkering.

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Ennore	10-Jul-2006	2 vessels operating at berth discharging Thermal Coal; 2 vessels due (MV Tamil Anna (Thermal Coal), MV Sea Bulk Quality (Iron Ore)).
Israel		
Ashdod	10-Jul-2006	Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 10 vessels discharging at berth (7 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 3 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 passenger vessel); 3 general cargo vessels waiting at anchorage load/discharge; 20 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	10-Jul-2006	No vessels berthed, none waiting at anchorage; 2 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	10-Jul-2006	Five vessels discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 9 loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 1 car carrier, 3 tankers); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 2 tankers), 3 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 5 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 10 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	10-Jul-2006	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, 1 completed loading crude oil, 2 loading crude oil; 2 vessels in roads, both to load unknown cargoes; 4 vessels due by 11/7, all to load unknown cargoes.
Pakistan		
Karachi	10-Jul-2006	Three vessels loading at berth (1 rice, 1 MOL, 1 ethanol), 8 discharging at berth (4 sugar, 1 crude oil, 1 urea, 1 DAP, 1 peas), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 1 rice vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 crude oil, 1 fertiliser, 1 soya bean meal, 1 chemicals); 1 vessel awaiting orders; 8 vessels due (3 containers, 2 general cargo, 1 fertiliser, 1 chemicals, 1 base oil), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	10-Jul-2006	One rice vessel loading at berth, 2 vessels discharging at berth (1 MEG, 1 sugar), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 cement, 1 containers), 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 canola, 1 project cargo, 1 palm oil).
Russia		
Novorossiysk	10-Jul-2006	Sixteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (1 equipment, 1 scrap, 1 pig-iron, 1 steel billets/coils, 1 coils/pipes/steel billets, 1 copper/zinc, 2 slabs, 1 slabs/coils, 1 cellulose, 1 aluminium, 1 wheat), 3 discharging (1 bulk sugar, 1 vegetable oil, 1 debars), 1 discharging/loading containers; 7 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 steel blooms, 1 slabs, 1 H-beams, 1 tin plate, 1 WRIC, 1 copper, 1 diesel oil; 64 vessels due, of which 60 to load (8 slabs, 3 DRI, 9 steel billets, 5 wheat, 1 cellulose, 2 pig-iron, 1 UAN solution, 5 aluminium, 1 steel blooms, 4 copper, 1 scrap, 3 barley, 2 bulk NPK, 2 cement, 1 bulk NPK/bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 steel billets/WRIC, 1 HBI, 1 pipes, 3 coils, 1 zinc, 1 steel sheets, 1 WRIC/coils, 2 WRIC, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate), 4 to discharge (2 bulk sugar, 1 vegetable oil, 1 coils), 1 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 1 tanker berthed, loading crude oil; 2 tankers in roads, both to load crude oil; 7 tankers due, all to load, of which 6 crude oil, 1 diesel oil.
Slovenia		
Koper	10-Jul-2006	Port working normally. Fourteen vessels berthed of which 2 discharging/loading containers, 1 car carrier discharging/loading vehicles, 3 vessels discharging bulk cargo, 1 loading bulk cargo, 6 loading sawn timber/general cargo, 1 discharging general cargo; 5 vessels waiting at anchorage, of which 1 to discharge bulk cargo, 1 to load bulk cargo, 3 to load sawn timber/general cargo; 10 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 5 to discharge/load containers, 1 car carrier to discharge/load vehicles, 1 car carrier to load vehicles, 1 vessel to load sawn timber, 1 to load bulk cargo, 1 to discharge bulk cargo.
Spain		
Bilbao	10-Jul-2006	Thirty-five vessels operating (8 tankers, 27 other vessels), of which 9 loading, 15 discharging, 11 loading/discharging. .
Sagunto	10-Jul-2006	Twenty-one vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (2 bulk fertiliser, 1 cement), 15 discharging (12 steel products, 1 gas, 1 fruit, 1 vehicles), 3 loading/discharging (1 steel products, 2 general cargo); no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.
Turkmenistan		
Turkmenbashi	10-Jul-2006	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, of which 1 loading fuel oil, 1 completed loading gasoline; 1 vessel in roads to load kerosene; 1 vessel due 10/7 to load unknown cargo.
Ukraine		
Illichevsk	10-Jul-2006	Thirteen vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading (5 steel products, 2 wheat, 1 sunflower seed oil, 1 cake, 1 equipment), 3 discharging (1 nickel ore, 1 sunflower seed oil, 1 other); 2 vessel in roads, of which 1 to load steel products, 1 to load/discharge containers; 17 vessels due, of which 9 to load (6 steel products, 1 sunflower seed oil, 1 iron ore concentrate), 1 to discharge tropical oil, 7 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol	10-Jul-2006	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading (7 steel, 3 fire-clay), 1 discharging equipment; 11 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 7 steel, 1 coke, 2 fire-clay, 1 coal; 63 vessels due, of which 62 to load (34 steel, 12 coal, 12 fire-clay, 1 pitch, 1 sunflower beans/husks, 1 kaolin, 1 bran), 1 to discharge/load containers/fire-clay

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Odessa	10-Jul-2006	Sixteen vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (3 metal, 1 wheat, 1 pig-iron), 7 discharging (3 luggage, 2 sugar, 1 meat, 1 general cargo), 1 discharging/loading containers, 3 passenger vessels; 4 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 barley, 2 metal, 1 pig-iron; 95 vessels due, of which 49 to load (38 metal, 2 pig-iron, 3 scrap, 2 timber, 1 corn, 1 wheat, 1 ore, 1 car parts), 6 to discharge (1 metal, 1 oil, 1 wheat, 1 general cargo, 1 equipment, 1 citrus), 40 to discharge/load containers.
United States		
Beaumont, TX	11-Jul-2006	No new restriction in draft (40 ft. 0 ins. FW max. channel draft reported); Louis Dreyfus terminal: 4 days delay expected.
Corpus Christi, TX	11-Jul-2006	Channel open under normal traffic. New restrictions in draft (Max 42 ft. 0 ins. BW draft reported). ADM terminal: no delays expected; Interstate grain terminal: no delays expected.
Galveston, TX	11-Jul-2006	Channel open under normal traffic. Normal 39 ft. 6 ins. BW max. channel draft reported - 40 ft. 0 ins. with ideal conditions. ADM-Farmland terminal: no delays expected.
Houston, TX	11-Jul-2006	Channel open under normal traffic. (Normal Max channel draft is 45 ft 0 ins. to Shell, 40 ft. 0 ins. above Shell to 610 Bridge area) LDC Dreyfus terminal: no delays expected; Cargill terminal: 2-3 days delay expected.
Kalama, WA	11-Jul-2006	Kalama export terminal: 2 days delay expected; United Harvest terminal: no delays expected.
New Orleans, LA	11-Jul-2006	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: Repairs. Cargill-Westwego: 1-2 days delay expected. ADM/Ama: 2-3 days delay expected. Bunge/Destrehan: 3 days delay expected. ADM/ Destrehan: 2-3 days delay expected. ADM/Reserve: 2-3 days delay expected. Cargill/Reserve: 1-2 days delay expected. ADM/Paulina: performing maintenance. Zen-Noh/Convent: 2 days delay expected. Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays expected. Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 4 days delay expected; Mile 158.0 Myrtle Grove Midstream terminal: 5 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: no delays expected.
Portland, OR	11-Jul-2006	Columbia Grain terminal: 3 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: 5 days delay expected.
Seattle, WA	11-Jul-2006	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Tacoma, WA	11-Jul-2006	Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Vancouver, WA	11-Jul-2006	United Harvest terminal: no delays expected.

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