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Spain turns focus on Universe Maritime in new Prestige twist

Ship's manager may bear civil liability for spill damage, write Brian Reyes and Nigel Lowry — Thursday July 07 2005

THE criminal court investigating the Prestige casualty in Spain has declared that the ship's management company, Universe Maritime, could bear direct civil liability for the damage caused by the spill.

The new judge handling the Prestige case, María Jesús Souto, has named the Greek company in proceedings in Corcubión and ordered it to pay €87.8m (\$105m) into court as security, an amount that reflects the compensation paid to victims by the Spanish government.

Failing that, Universe Maritime's assets should be frozen to that sum, the court order states.

But the move ignores the provisions of the 1992 Civil Liability Convention, to which Spain is party, and has generated serious concern in the shipping industry.

The court's decision is based on Spanish criminal law but industry experts have warned that it clashes with provisions in the CLC, which forms part of Spanish law and limits the extent to which shipowners can be held liable after pollution incidents.

The CLC forbids claims for compensation against shipowners other than in accordance with the terms of the convention, as well as prohibiting similar claims against seafarers, charterers, managers and operators of a vessel.

In its order, the Corcubión court notes that Apostolos Mangouras, the ship's master, might bear criminal responsibility stemming from the casualty.

If that is found to be the case, then Spanish law states that the master will also bear civil liability for the damages arising from the casualty.

The court argues that by extension, Capt Mangouras' employer, Universe Maritime, could also bear civil liability.

The court order recalls how the master was in constant contact with his operations manager in Piraeus throughout the early hours of the casualty, suggesting that the company had a direct input into how events unfolded.

This latest twist in the Prestige saga was revealed at last week's meeting of the executive committee of the 1992 International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund.

"Several delegations expressed serious concern that by applying national criminal law the [Spanish] court was, in fact, defeating one of the key elements of the regime established by the 1992 Civil Liability and Fund Conventions, namely to channel the civil liability for pollution damage to the shipowner," the IOPC said in its official record of proceedings of last week.

"It was stated that it was important for the compensation regime that the courts in all member states applied the 1992 conventions in a uniform and correct manner."

The implications of the court's move are complex because under the 1992 conventions, judgments made by national courts are binding, the IOPC noted.

One delegate present at last week's

meeting told this newspaper that the Spanish delegation, after hearing concerns raised by Canada, Norway and South Korea, agreed that Spanish courts should respect the CLC since it was part of national law.

The IOPC record of the meeting made note of that position and added that the Spanish government intends to remind the appeal court of the obligation to apply international conventions as part of Spanish law.

Sources close to the Prestige case said the parties involved were certain to appeal the decision by the court in Corcubión.

A legal source close to Universe Maritime yesterday said the company was resolved to challenge the Spanish court move, adding that "the judgment cannot be enforced in Greece".

He told Lloyd's List: "The court's judgment has no substance in law because it does not attribute any particular action or blame to Universe."

In the wake of the Prestige disaster all of the Universe-managed vessels were sold, although the company is still in existence.

The source declined to discuss what assets Universe might own, while noting that virtually its "sole function" as an entity currently is responding to developments arising from the accident.

But industry experts said yesterday that most Greek ship management companies of Universe's profile would be unlikely to have the wherewithal or assets to put up security on this scale.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
ACBL 3247	bulker	USA	—	687	687	—	Sank in 25 feet of water Jun 29 while passing through the entrance channel at San Pedro de Macoris. Oceangoing shipping unable to pass through the channel. Reported Jul 4 salvage plans being made.
BUNGA MAS	container	MYS	AB ABS	8,957	9,039	1997	In collision with vessel <i>Qian Dao You No.1</i> five miles off Dalian, Jul 2 in heavy fog. Cause under investigation.
BUXTEHUDE	general	CYP	GL	2,565	3,020	1985	Put into Vigo in tow Jun 27, with engine gearbox damage. Still in port Jul 4 awaiting spare parts and carrying out other repairs. Repairs ETC 6 weeks.
CASITAS	pollution control	USA	—	270	—	1981	Grounded on Pearl and Hermes Atoll, about 86 miles ESE of Midway Island, Jul 2, and taking water. Coast Guard pumps placed on board by aircraft. Abandoned. Severe damage reported. Still aground Jul 6.
EILTANK 17	tanker	DEU	—	—	—	—	Ran onto breakwater at Haaften, near Zaltbommel, River Waal, Jul 6. Refloated and proceeded to mooring facility at Haaften. At least 30 tons of oil lost. Cargo to be removed Jul 6. Investigation under way.
HAVSTRAUM	chem/oil carrier	NIS	NV	4,931	7,975	1991	Arrived Tallinn in tow Jun 19, for main engine repairs. Under repair at shipyard Jul 6, ETC Jul 10.
JIN AN	bulker	HKG	AB ABS	28,707	50,786	2000	Grounded near Visakhapatnam Jun 30 while entering harbour channel. Still aground Jul 4. Arrangements under way to lighter part cargo.
ROYAL PACIFIC	passenger	PAN	LR	9,805	1,568	1967	Caught fire at Pier 54, Kaohsiung, Jun 29. All 211 crew evacuated. One minor injury. Capsized Jun 30 due to weight of water used during firefighting operations. Clean-up and righting operations underway.
SAUVETERRE	fishing	FRA	—	94	—	—	Sank in lat 50 01.72N, long 07 28.8W, off the Scilly Isles Jul 4. All four crew rescued.
THURINGEN	tanker	DEU	—	2,428	—	1992	Wheelhouse struck railway bridge over Rhein-Herne Canal, near Duisburg, Jul 1. Wheelhouse torn from foundations and fell into the canal. Master killed. Came into slight contact with another vessel. Wheelhouse raised same day.
TMM OAXACA	container	ATG	GL	11,153	16,500	1997	Had main engine breakdown Jun 7, two days after sailing Veracruz. Towed back to Veracruz Jun 10 for repairs. Repairs under way Jul 3, ETC 8 weeks. General Average declared.
VOC GALLANT	bulker	ATG	NV	30,928	51,215	2002	Grounded at Km 154, Suez Canal, Jun 26. Refloated by tugs and towed to Suez outer harbour. Inspection found serious rudder damage. Waiting to enter dry dock Jul 6.
ZHONG XING	—	—	—	—	—	—	Had fire at a pier near the Zavoiko settlement, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy Jul 5. Fire extinguished same day. Seventy per cent of vessel damaged.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AGENA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jun 24 -- Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 0830, UTC: General cargo Agena (2528 gt, built 2001), bound Venice, had an engine failure yesterday and was taken in tow by tug Brucoli. Tug and tow arrived Taranto pilot station 0800, local time, today and vessel was berthed at pier No.1, Taranto, at 0930, local time.

Taranto, Jun 24 -- General cargo Agena entered Taranto port this morning under tow of tug Brucoli following engine failure. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Taranto, Jun 24 -- Superintendents and surveyors are coming to Taranto to inspect general cargo Agena. Cause and extent of damage still unknown. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Taranto, Jun 28 -- General cargo Agena is now undergoing repairs alongside. Some more spares are still to be delivered, but it is hoped that the vessel should be able to complete repairs, class confirmation etc and sail later this week. -- Lloyd's Agents.

AGHIOS CHARALAMBOS (Panama)

London, Jun 26 -- A press report, dated Jun 24, states: Understood ore/oil Edward N. (112947 gt, built 1979) with ore, was in collision with Agios Charalambos (? bulk/oil Aghios Charalambos, 65819 gt, built 1979), berthing at the time in Tubarao Roads, Jun 21. (Note -- Edward N. arrived Tubarao Jun 10 and sailed Jun 22.)

ALASKAN FRONTIER (U.S.A.)

See "Cracks Found in Rudders of BP Tankers, United States" under "Miscellaneous."

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

London, Jun 26 -- A press report, dated Jun 23, states: The doctor of the assistant master of ferry Andrew J. Barberi, who lost consciousness minutes before the vessel crashed into a pier, pleaded guilty today to falsifying one of the pilot's medical reports. The crash killed 11 people. Dr William Tursi admitted concealing assistant master Richard Smith's use of blood-pressure medication on a routine Coast Guard medical report in August, 2000. Tursi could serve six months in prison under advisory federal sentencing guidelines. He also could lose his medical license, although his lawyer said he was optimistic Tursi would continue to practice. Assistant US Attorney Sarah Coyne said that Coast Guard examiners might have subjected Smith's medical condition to greater scrutiny if they had known about his blood-pressure medication. The scrutiny may have turned up Smith's use for back problems of the painkiller

Tramadol, which prosecutors allege contributed to his losing consciousness at the controls of the ferry on Oct 15, 2003. Smith has pleaded guilty to manslaughter charges and is awaiting sentencing in the case.

ANNA (Lebanon)

Valletta, Jun 24 -- General cargo Anna was reported passing Malta on Jun 23, on passage, Cagliari for "Area 4". -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Anna, which had a cargo of wood shift Apr 26, 2004, was towed into Cagliari Apr 26 for repairs and subsequently arrested.)

ARANDA (Honduras)

See "Johar State, Malaysia" under "Pollution."

ARATERE (New Zealand)

Wellington, Jun 23 -- Ro/ro Aratere lost power in Tory Channel again last night, and its 54 foot-passengers had to be taken off the boat by bus via the vehicle deck in Wellington, when the door would not open. "The ferry was late leaving Picton and partly lost power in Tory Channel, passenger Rob Tomkies said. The problem was eventually sorted, but when the vessel arrived in Wellington the foot-passengers had to be transported off bus because the door did not work. The ferry has sustained a string of problems, break-downs and near-misses since it began sailing in New Zealand in 1999. It has been investigated 45 times. The ongoing problems were an embarrassment with tourists using the service, Mr Tomkies said. A Maritime Safety Authority spokesman said last night's incident had been reported and would be investigated today. As the vessel still had full propulsion, the authority was not planning a full investigation. An Interislander spokesman said the two problems were unrelated. The partial loss of power happened after engineers tried to start up the vessel's fourth engine, which had been undergoing routine maintenance. In the process, air got into the cooling system, affecting the other engines. The vessel had to be slowed to turn the fourth engine off again, he said. It was closed down and the ferry continued its voyage with three engines. Interisland line spokesman Martin Weekes says there were no safety issues involved and the vessel never came to a stop as a result of the problem. An Interisland Line spokesman said the door problem was "one of those things. The two incidents were unrelated." -- Lloyd's Agents.

ATHOS I (Cyprus)

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated Jun 28, states: The US House of Representatives yesterday unanimously passed a bill aimed at preventing oil spills in the nation's waterways. Rep Frank LoBiondo wrote the "Delaware River Protection Act" following a November, 2004, accident involving crude oil tanker Athos I, that spilled 265,000 gallons of oil into the

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Delaware River. The spill hampered shipping and polluted more than 100 miles of shoreline in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware -- from the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge in north-east Philadelphia to south of the Smyrna River in Delaware. The measure now goes to the Senate. The measure would increase liability limits on single-hull tankers under the Oil Pollution Act; require vessels to report objects that are lost overboard to the Coast Guard for immediate recovery; create a new committee to report to Congress on ways to improve oil spill response and prevention, and establish a pilot project on the Delaware River and bay to test techniques to recover submerged oil. The spill happened when the vessel's hull was ripped open by a rusty anchor resting on the river bottom. Authorities have not determined where the anchor came from. "The unanimous support for this legislation shows that it is not only very important to our region, but to the nation as well," said LoBiondo, chairman of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee. "This bill will help ensure that the ecologically significant areas in New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania are protected from future oil spills, while allowing the vital commerce of the Delaware River and the nation to continue."

AUDACE A. (Italy)

Naples, Jun 29 -- Tanker Audace A. (583 gt, built 1962), cargo 922 tons water, collided with small fishing Padre Pio two miles north of port of Casamicciola, a small tourist port in the Island of Ischia, near Naples, at approximately 0210 hrs. The fishing boat has sunk and the three crew members at present are missing and searches are in progress. Damage to tanker, which is at present berthed at Naples port, not known. The seven crew members of Audace A. are being interviewed by Maritime Authorities. - Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The rescue teams of the coast guard and the port authorities of Naples and Ischia have been working for some six hours to find fishing Padre Pio that last night collided with chemical/oil carrier Audace A.. The incident is thought to have occurred at about 0215 hrs when Audace A., on its route from Naples to Ventotene to supply the island with water, was in collision with Padre Pio. The vessel is still missing. Dozens of patrol boats and two helicopters are currently looking for the three-man crew. It seems that the men on board the tanker didn't even realize that they had collided with the other vessel.

AUDACIOUS (Comoros)

See "Italy" under "Port State Control."

BASTO III (Norway)

London, Jun 27 -- Information received from Sandnes, dated today,

states: Passenger ro/ro Basto III is still at Horten undergoing repairs, ETC two to three days.

London, Jun 29 -- Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro Basto III has now completed repairs and is back in normal service between Moss and Horten.

BROWN WATER V (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated Jun 29, states: Families of eight people who were killed when tug Brown Water V caused a portion of the causeway to South Padre Island to collapse in 2001 are among plaintiffs who will receive about \$9 million in a settlement tentatively approved by a judge today, attorneys said. The bridge collapsed Sep 15, 2001, after a tug master lost control of a string of barges, and currents drove them into a bridge support. The impact caused two 80-foot sections of bridge roadway to tumble into the bay. Motorists crossing the bridge about 0200 hrs fell into the chasm. A third 80-foot section fell later that morning. Three people whose cars fell off the bridge survived. The settlement with Brown Water Towing comes about a week after U.S. District Judge Hilda Tagle dismissed American Commercial Barge Lines, based in Jeffersonville, Ind, from the lawsuit. Plaintiffs' lawyer Ray Marchan had said he hoped to prove that the barge line, said to be insured for \$500 million, hired a tow company that it knew had problems. Marchan said today that the settlement vindicated his claim that a cause of the accident was inadequate horsepower to control the boat in high current. How the Brown Water money will be divided is still unclear, said Will Pierson, attorney for the Rockport-based company. He said the plaintiffs would probably get the approximately \$9 million left in the company's insurance fund. "At one time we had \$17 million in our policies, so they've wasted about \$8 million by chasing after ACBL," he said. There are 17 plaintiffs in the case: family of the eight who died, three survivors, four fishermen who helped in the rescue and two children who lost parents. David Fowler, who had filed a negligence suit against his employer, already settled for \$50,000. At one point there were about a dozen lawsuits from the collapse. The plaintiffs' lawsuits against the barge and tow companies had been consolidated into this action.

CAMILLA DESGAGNES (Barbados)

London, Jun 30 -- Ro/ro Camilla Desgagnes arrived Quebec about Jun 26.

CARNIVAL LEGEND (Panama)

London, Jun 28 -- Passenger Carnival Legend sailed New York Jun 22 for San Juan (PR) and subsequently arrived St. Thomas Jun 26 from San Juan (PR) and sailed same day for Tortola.

CEC COPENHAGEN (Bahamas)

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: General cargo CEC Copenhagen (6714 gt, built 2001) reportedly damaged two Bangladesh navy vessels and the navy jetty while arriving at Chittagong Port, yesterday. CEC Copenhagen, carrying 585 containers to Chittagong port from Tanjung Pelepas in Malaysia, allegedly hit the jetty pontoons of the Bangladesh navy and two gunships when entering the Chittagong Port Channel at about 1745, local time, yesterday. The captain of the vessel told Chittagong Port officials that the accident was due to failure in steering the vessel and strong winds that led him to lose control. The extent of the damage is yet to be ascertained. The Chittagong Port Authority has formed a three-member team to carry out an inquiry into the incident. CEC Copenhagen was arrested and kept anchored at jetty No. 3 of the Chittagong port, reports said. (Note -- CEC Copenhagen sailed Singapore Jun 22 for Tanjung Pelepas.)

Chittagong, Jun 28 -- General cargo CEC Copenhagen, while proceeding from Chittagong Outer Anchorage towards berth No.13 of Chittagong Port Authority with 582 TEUs on board, collided with three Bangladesh Navy gunboats, which were moored at Bangladesh Navy Jetty within the Karnaphuly Channel. The accident was said to have occurred at 1700, Jun 27, as a result Bangladesh Navy gunboats were reported to have sustained severe damages along with jetty installation. Nature and extent of damages to vessel and Bangladesh Navy vessels are not readily available. We understand that the steering of CEC Copenhagen suddenly failed, as a result the engine of the vessel stopped. Pilot of the vessel dropped anchor to reduce the speed of the vessel, but this was not possible due to high tide and the force of the wind. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 29 -- Managers and hull and machinery surveyors for general cargo CEC Copenhagen are still investigating the causes of an accident involving naval vessels in Bangladesh's Chittagong port on Monday (Jun 27). Denmark-based CEC Ship Management could not confirm reports that three Bangladesh naval vessels had been damaged in the incident, saying it was too early to provide details of what had happened. Managing director Hans Froholdt confirmed that CEC Copenhagen had sustained minor damage in a "minor incident", adding that the company was working closely with the local authorities. There were no crew injuries, nor was there a threat of pollution, nor damage to the vessel's cargo of containers.

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated Jun 28, states: Three Bangladesh Navy auxiliary vessels and a pontoon were damaged when they were allegedly struck by general cargo CEC Copenhagen at BNS Issa Kha yesterday evening. Three enquiry committees have been set up to

investigate the incident. Chittagong Port Authority has constituted a three-member committee headed by Harbour-master Capt Nazmul Alam. The Principal Officer of the Mercantile Marine Department has set up another three-member committee headed by Sirajul Islam, an engineer and vessel surveyor. The Bangladesh Navy, CPA and POMMD have also put together a nine-member committee headed by Commodore M. S. Alam. All three committees have already started their investigation into the incident. According to CPA sources, CEC Copenhagen, which arrived Chittagong yesterday with 585 containers on board, was permitted to berth at the CPA jetty and had a CPA pilot on board. As the vessel neared the BNS base, its steering and the engine reportedly failed. The vessel allegedly struck the pontoon of Bangladesh Navy berth NB-6, badly damaging it. One patrol vessel, one tug, and one tanker moored at NB-6 were also hit and torn off their anchors. Sources said CEC Copenhagen was liable for the accident, as both its steering and engine were defective. The Navy will seek compensation from the vessel's owners. Orient Express Lines has chartered the vessel, the sources said. CEC Copenhagen is now anchored at CPA Jetty No 13, and will not be permitted to sail before the dispute is settled, the sources added.

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Existence of a naval base on and the zigzagging course of the Chittagong port channel in Bangladesh are the main reasons for accidents, ship operators said. The navy installation has toughened movement of vessels through the channel, which, because of the curves, is "always risky" for pilots, local daily New Age quoted ship operators as saying today. The issue came to the limelight following Monday's (Jun 27) accident involving container-loaded general cargo CEC Copenhagen which allegedly damaged three Bangladesh navy vessels and the navy jetty while entering the Chittagong Port Channel. Ship operators raised renewed concern over the existence of the naval base beside a risky curve, called "cutting bend". "Accident phobia always haunts the pilots while they pass through the cutting bend near the navy installation marked by heavy current," captain Nazmul Alam, the harbour master of the Chittagong Port, was quoted by New Age as saying. "Most of the accidents including Monday's one took place at this curved location by hitting the navy installation," said Nazmul. "Pilots have to remain very alert in manoeuvring both incoming and outgoing vessels." The 20-km port channel has a variation in depth and width and ship operators need to be more cautious in manoeuvring the vessels, the report said.

CEMCON (Bahamas)

London, Jun 24 -- Cement Cemcon sailed from New York 0600, Jun 23, bound for Venezuela.

CMA CGM ST.MARTIN (Marshall Islands)

Ponta Delgada, Jun 23 -- No repairs to c.c. CMA CGM St.Martin have been carried out at Ponta Delgada. Understand that the vessel has discharged some reefer containers of perishable products at the port and that the owners have decided to proceed with the vessel on reduced speed to drydocking in Lisbon where further inspections and repairs will be carried out. The vessel left Ponta Delgada today, Jun 23, bound for Lisbon. -- Lloyd's Agents.

COSCO VANCOUVER (Liberia)

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated Jun 26, states: Firefighters flooded a cargo container that caught fire at the Port of Long Beach after it fell five storeys from a crane and landed in a "weird position," an official said. It was not clear what caused the 1057 hrs fire, but Long Beach Capt. Jim Arvizu said it likely had something to do with its falling back into the ship, c.c. COSCO Vancouver (83133 gt, built 2004), which was docked at Pier J. Firefighters cut holes in the container, which held plastic toy batteries, and flooded it with water to smother the fire before a crane lifted it off the ship at 1431 hrs, he said. The Coast Guard and the city's harbour and health departments assisted firefighters, but there was not any release of hazardous materials, he said. (Note -- COSCO Vancouver arrived Long Beach 0625, Jun 25, from Yantian, and sailed 1755, Jun 28 for Ningbo.)

CSL NIAGARA (Canada)

Troy, Michigan, Jun 29 -- Bulk CSL Niagara (23983 gt, built 1972) grounded in the St Lawrence Seaway near St. Helena island, about a quarter of a mile east of the 1000 Island Bridge, at about 1300, yesterday. The vessel reportedly lost steering and grounded on a shoal. The vessel was reported to be taking on water in its forepeak but its pumps were keeping up with the flooding and no injuries were reported. Navigation in the area was temporarily suspended but resumed later that afternoon. Inspectors from the Seaway were expected on scene about 1800. After inspection efforts will begin to free the vessel. Divers inspected the vessel late yesterday night and notices have been issued for all vessels to stay clear of CSL Niagara. A 100-foot safety zone has been established around the vessel. The vessel is aground at St. Helena Island, its bow is about 15 feet off shore and the vessel angles out into the channel. -- Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News. (Note -- CSL Niagara was last reported arriving Quebec about Jun 24.)

London, Jun 29 -- Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 0745, UTC: Bulk CSL Niagara touched ground after the steering went out in the St. Lawrence Seaway yesterday. The vessel sustained minor damage and took on water which was dealt

with by pumps. The vessel is currently at the Welland Canal awaiting divers' inspection.

London, Jun 29 -- At 1410, local time (1810 UTC), Jun 28, CSL Niagara, with cargo of coal, experienced a steering failure and ran aground at St. Helena Island, St. Lawrence River, in lat 44 18.30N, long 75 58.07W, damaging the vessel's forepeak tank.

Troy, Michigan, Jun 29 -- Bulk CSL Niagara was freed early this morning and got underway about 0430 hrs. Shortly after 0600 hrs the vessel was westbound at Cape Vincent with an ETA of 0940, for Sodus Point. Vessel has a cargo of coke from Quebec City, destination is unknown. -- Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated Jun 29, states: Bulk CSL Niagara ran aground near St. Helena Island, forcing the U.S. Coast Guard to close the American Narrows section of the St. Lawrence River Seaway for 15 hours. CSL Niagara, owned by Canada Steamship Lines, was carrying coke upriver to Detroit when it struck some rocks around 1300 yesterday, just down river from the Thousand Islands International Bridge. The ship was cleared from the rocks overnight and resumed its voyage just after 0400 today, said Vicky Garcia, a spokeswoman for the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp. No chemicals or oil were spilled and the ship's cargo was not damaged, Garcia said. The ship's forepeak took on some water, but its pumps were working and the ship was never in danger of sinking, she said. The Coast Guard set up a security perimeter to stop recreational boating through the accident scene, she said. Commercial shipping was unaffected by the mishap, she said. The cause of the accident will not be known until after Seaway Corp. has completed an investigation, Garcia said.

DIXIE

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: A desperate search is on for four Guyanese sailors who disappeared over a week ago while transporting cargo from the Dominican Republic to the Turks and Caicos. The four have not been heard of since their tug Dixie disappeared while towing a barge loaded with concrete blocks, and daily sweeps by the Turks and Caicos Coast Guard have so far produced no results. Their relatives are growing impatient as they await word about the whereabouts of the crew of Dixie, which is registered to KRS Transport Ltd, a local charter company. The owner of the tug, Shirab Sears, was in the Dominican Republic up to Friday, when another of his tugs left the port also destined for the Turks and Caicos. It arrived the next day and he flew over to meet it and to wait on Dixie. On Saturday Jun 18, the tug departed Puerto Plata for Provinciales Island, in the Turks and Caicos, where it was supposed to arrive the next day. It never did. Sears said he spent all of Sunday trying to contact the men on the radio but there was no answer.

Finally, on Monday morning he reported the vessel missing to the Coast Guard, which immediately began aerial sweeps of the area in a bid to locate the tug. The US Coast Guard and the Dominican Republic Coast Guard were later informed of the disappearance and subsequently joined the search for the tug and its crew. Sears said what he found puzzling was that there had been no trace of the tug, which was supposed to make the 150-mile journey in the usual day's time. He explained that it was doubtful that the tug might have developed technical problems, as it was practically new and in case of emergency it was outfitted with a new dinghy that has an outboard engine, in addition to a certified lifeboat and life rings. There were also handheld radios and flares on board. The fuel drums onboard would be expected to float to the top if the vessel went down. In addition to the US Coast Guard and the Dominican Republic's Coast Guard, Sears said, he also tried to get help from the Cuban and Haitian authorities, who have agreed to comb their coastlines to see if the tug or lifeboats might have drifted ashore. He said the Cuban officials informed that they had been alerted to the disappearance and were already on the lookout for the tug and the crew. Many of the local Dominican Republic fishermen have been on watch for the men as well. Sears said, "I don't mind losing anything." Indeed, he has already estimated that his monetary loss stands at around US\$1 million. He said, "It's the four men, I want to know if they found the four men."

EDWARD N. (Panama)

See Aghios Charalambos.

ELISABETH (Malta)

Ponta Delgada, Jun 24 -- General cargo Elisabeth is still berthed alongside the quay, inner port of Ponta Delgada, under repairs account of main engine damage. Estimated time for completion of the repairs unknown. -- Lloyd's Agents.

EMC 423 (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated Jun 26, states: A Coast Guard hearing to determine the cause of a fatal barge (tank barge EMC 423) explosion on the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal in January will resume tomorrow. The tank barge was raised five weeks ago. The barge was hauling 14,000 barrels of slurry oil when it exploded about 1645, Jan 19 near the Cicero Avenue bridge. Coast Guard officials will resume the hearing at 0900 tomorrow. The hearing is expected to last three weeks. Investigators initially thought that a boiler used to heat the oil may have exploded. But the boiler later was found intact. They then shifted their focus to a propane torch that a crew member may have used to heat the lines that pump out the cargo. The barge owners, Egan Marine Corp., of

Lemont, is responsible for the cost of the cleanup effort, which now totals about \$4 million.

ENTERPRISE (U.S.A.)

Boston, Ma, Jun 24 -- The company in charge of salvage operations of fishing Enterprise, which had grounded on Nantucket in February, said that the vessel could not be refloated economically, and instead it was cut up in place and hauled away in pieces. The vessel is a total loss. Salvage operations ended less than one month ago. -- Lloyd's Agents.

EURO STAR (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jun 29 -- Following received from Coast Guard Japan, timed 1200, UTC; C.c. Euro Star (6701 gt, built 2005) arrived Sasebo in tow at 1530, JST, today. (Note -- Euro Star sailed Osaka Jun 25 for Shanghai.)

Moji, Jun 30 -- C.c. Euro Star sailed Osaka Jun 25 for Shanghai. At 0001, Jun 27 the vessel's main engine failed off Korea. At 0054 same day vessel contacted owners and reported main engine lubricating pump was out of order. At 0600 hrs vessel received instruction from owners to await arrival of tug to tow the vessel to a port for repairs. At 1930 hrs tug Nisshou Maru operated/managed by Fukada Salvage & Marine Works Co, Ltd., left Wakamatsu and arrived at Euro Star in vicinity of lat 33 52.9N, long 128 06.53E at 1115, Jun 28. At 1220 same day commenced towing operation to Hakata port. At 1700 hrs tug and tow altered course heading for Sasebo instead of Hakata. At 0800, Jun 29, the convoy arrived west of Hirado-Shima and waited entering into Sasebo. At 1630 hrs vessel berthed at Maebata Wharf No other damage to vessel or containers reported. Owner's superintendent and two technicians from maker, MAK, are arriving at Sasebo today and will start repairs. Details of damage and reason is unknown at present. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FLORENCE FILBERN (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated Jun 26, states: The U.S. Coast Guard spent today trying to salvage tug Florence Filbern that was sinking just north of the Ship Canal and just west of the Ballard Bridge, Seattle. Florence Filbern started sinking early Thursday morning (Jun 23). It had been moored in the area for quite a while. Coast Guard crews surrounded the tug with a double oil boom to catch any fuel that might leak out. Divers also inspected the tug to make sure all of the fuel on board was contained. Crews were still working tonight to try and raise the tug out of the water.

London, Jun 28 -- Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 0930, UTC: Tug Florence Filbern, local registration WN1936RA, no other details known, is still in the same position. There are two or three lines on board the tug attached to dump trucks on land to keep the tug stable. A crane is due on scene tomorrow to attempt to raise the vessel.

London, Jun 29 -- Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 1755, UTC: A barge with a crane on it was on scene of tug Florence Filbern yesterday evening, but salvage plans are not expected until later today/tomorrow.

FROHAVET (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jun 27 -- Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Livestock Frohavet (1075 gt, built 1975), Mo i Rana for Surnadal, grounded in Brendberglia near Hemnesberget at 0600, Jun 26. There were no injuries to the crew of six. An attempt will be made to refloat the vessel on high tide today, and tug Oyvag will assist. There are about 10 tonnes fuel oil/diesel on board but there is no pollution in the area.

Trondheim, Jun 27 -- According to a local press report livestock Frohavet, cargo floating stage elements loaded at Mo i Rana for discharge at Aalesund, and the remaining cargo, fertilizer, scheduled for discharge at Surnadal and Stryn, grounded outside Hemnesberget, Ranfjorden, at approximately 0600 yesterday. Crew of six persons on board, no injuries. Tug Oyvag arrived this morning, from Hitra, to assist, but according to owners, vessel refloated by own power between 0500 and 0600 this morning. Owners inform vessel now sailing south, accompanied by Oyvag en route to Surnadal and thereafter Aalesund for discharging of the cargo, whereafter repairs, possibly at Hitra. No pollution and no risk of water penetrating. According local press the vessel's grounding was caused by the first mate falling asleep on duty and the press report indicates that he has already accepted a fine of NOK 5,000 for carelessness during navigating. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 27 -- Following received from Sandnes, dated today: At 0512 hrs, today livestock Frohavet refloated under its own power, on the high tide. The vessel will now continue to its primary destinations and upon completion of all cargo discharge, will then go to Kvernhusvik Shipyard for repairs.

GEORGE ALLEN (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 30 -- A Coast Guard Seattle press release, dated Jun 29, states: Three crewmembers of fishing George Allen (132 gt, built 1970) are safe after battling an early morning fire with the assistance of the Coast Guard 15 miles west of Astoria. The crew of George Allen reported smoke and steady fire in their engine-room at about 0230 hrs, and requested Coast Guard assistance as their fire extinguishers were running low. Coast Guard cutter Orcas was directed to assist and arrived within minutes of the call. A Coast Guard HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter from Air Station Astoria also responded. Three crewmembers from Orcas boarded the burning vessel and extinguished the fire with chemical extinguishers and mechanical foam. A dewatering pump

with a fire hose adapter was used to cool the main space of the vessel, and a handheld fire finder was used to locate hotspots. Lifeboat Triumph arrived from Station Cape Disappointment in Ilwaco, Wash, at about 0600 hrs, and towed the vessel to Astoria. There were no injuries reported, but there was significant damage to the engine main space. Marine investigators from Marine Safety Office Portland, Ore, are on route to investigate the cause of the fire.

GIOVANNI BOTTIGLIERI (Italy)

See under "Pollution."

GRANVIN (Norway)

London, Jun 29 -- Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Passenger Granvin (115 gt, built 1931), Stord for Bergen, grounded near Raunane Light outside Hjellesstad at 1530, local time, Jun 28. No injuries to the crew of four. No passengers onboard. Rescue vessel Bergen Kreds arrived about 1615 and refloated the vessel at 1720, local time. The vessel was towed to Laksevaag for repair and drydocking. Only minor damage.

HILL (Liberia)

Taipei, Jun 29 -- General cargo Hill (12930 gt, built 1969), bound from a Korean port with 8,000 tonnes petcoke, is currently under tow to Keelung due to main engine failure, ETA pm, Jul 1. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Hill sailed Onsan Jun 25 for Singapore.)

HOPE & SYDNEY (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 24 -- Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1220, UTC: Fishing Hope & Sydney (95 gt, built 1981) became disabled with steering problems in lat 42 10N, long 67 44W, at 0803, UTC, today. Vessel has been taken in tow by the Coast Guard, bound for its home port of New Bedford, Mass.

IL JIN NO.3 (South Korea)

See Zhe Hai 128.

ISARGAS (Liberia)

Gdynia, Jun 29 -- Lpg Isargas is still in shiprepair yard in Gdansk, with repairs expected complete about Jul 15. -- Correspondent.

JAG LALIT (India)

London, Jun 27 -- Great Eastern Shipping Co Ltd has announced that due to an unexpected technical snag their Suezmax crude oil tanker Jag Lalit, 158,344 dwt, is on its way to Japan to carrying out necessary machinery repairs. These repairs are expected to take around 50 to 60 days. (Note -- Great Eastern Shipping took delivery of newly-built Jag Lalit from Hyundai Samho Heavy Industries on May 19.)

London, Jun 28 -- Following navigation warning issued at 1600, JST, today: Tug towing engine-troubled crude oil tanker Jag Lalit, 81,396 gt, from Mokpo to Aioi Ko,

speed six knots, maximum length of tow 843 metres. At 0500, JST, Jun 29 vessels will be in Tomogashima Suido, lat 34 17N, long 134 59E. Then at 1100, JST, same day Akashi Kaikyo traffic route eastside entrance, lat 34 36N, long 135 03E, with estimated time of arrival at Aioi Ko 1800, JST, tomorrow.

JIMILTA II (Malta)

Buenos Aires, Jun 29 -- Bulk Jimilta II grounded at KM 59, of the Parana River, Jun 17. It was refloated Jun 18, with the assistance of tug Luciano B. and anchor handling firefighting tug/supply Alianza Rosario. The vessel resumed sailing towards Zona Comun, La Plata Roads, where an underwater inspection was performed which revealed that the rudder did not sustain any damages. -- Lloyd's Agents.

KABALEGA (Uganda)

London, Jun 27 -- A report from LaSalle, PQ, dated Jun 23, states: The commission investigating the ro/ro Kabalega accident on Lake Victoria yesterday heard that the rescue equipment was painstakingly assembled by various agencies, failing to save the vessel from sinking. So much time was spent on mobilising resources that by the time most of the equipment had been assembled, the ferry had sunk. Appearing before the commission, the commander of the Presidential Guard Brigade (PGB), Lt. Col. Leopold Eric Kyanda, criticised the country's capacity to respond to catastrophes. Two other witnesses, Capt. Isaac Sebulime, the commanding officer of the PGB marine unit and Tim Cooper, the director of Lake Victoria Sailing Company, which owns Bulago Island, appeared before the commission. Kyanda said the army commander informed him of the accident at about 0800 hrs. Assisted by Sebulime, the Police and officials of other agencies, Kyanda said he tried to assemble rescue equipment as the ferry slowly sunk. Kyanda said they lacked logistics and by the time they got to the accident scene, the ferry had sunk. He said the PGB lacked rescue equipment and relied on "friends" when the need arose. Kyanda made recommendations, a copy of which he handed over to the commission. He called for the establishment of an agency for coordinating rescue operations.

KAPITAN VODENKO (Cyprus)

London, Jun 28 -- Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1035, UTC: Bulk/c.c. Kapitan Vodenko (14141 gt, built 1982), Riga for Hull, is trying to effect repairs at the Humber Light Float, Spurn Point, due propulsion problems; vessel cannot go astern. It is hoping to get away under its own power and proceed to King George Dock in Hull.

London, Jun 28 -- Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1523, UTC: Bulk/c.c. Kapitan Vodenko, cargo 14,000 tonnes of coal, is still anchored in lat 53 36N, long 00

25E, effecting repairs. Vessel hopes to complete repairs by early tomorrow before proceeding into Hull.

London, Jun 29 -- Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 0840, UTC: Bulk/c.c. Kapitan Vodenko is now under way into Hull and is expected to berth at King George Dock at around 1100, UTC.

KIPEROUSA (Malta)

London, Jun 24 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0710, UTC: Bulk Kiperousa is still aground. At the moment it is not known when the next refloating attempt will be made.

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: Attempts to refloat bulk Kiperousa would resume this afternoon, says the SA Maritime Authority (Samsa). "Yesterday we experienced technical problems so we couldn't pull it off, but that's been sorted out," said Samsa spokesman Peter Kroon. "We start pulling at about 1600 this afternoon and we expect to have it off by 1800 hrs." Yesterday, attempts to refloat Kiperousa were put on hold as the Greek salvors were unable to guarantee it could pay to clean up any oil spill that might occur. "The guarantee has been given by the company and so we are sure the refloating will happen today," said Kroon. The Department of Environmental Affairs and tourism confirmed receipt of a guarantee from the company. "The department can confirm that the salvage company has guaranteed that any spillages after the refloating will be cleaned up," said department spokeswoman Carol Moses. She said the department's response team and an anti-pollution patrol vessel were monitoring the coastline for oil spillages daily. "Our latest reports indicated that there aren't any oil leakages at the moment," said Moses. She said tugs continue to transfer dirty oil from the vessel and take it to East London, where it is pumped into railway tanker trucks at the quayside.

London, Jun 25 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1034, UTC: Bulk Kiperousa is still aground. There was no attempt to refloat the vessel yesterday, as scheduled, as a guarantee was being sort from the salvors that if any oil spillage or pollution occurred during any attempts, same would be cleared up by them. The salvors felt they could not currently give such a guarantee, so the attempts were postponed.

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Salvors have managed to move stricken bulk Kiperousa in their latest attempt to free the vessel last night but have not managed to free it, South African Maritime Safety Authority spokesperson Peter Kroon said last night. The breakthrough comes almost three weeks after the bulk carrier ran aground just off the coast between Bhirha and Hamburg on Jun 7. Kroon said the team, using tug Nikolay Chiker, had managed to get the vessel

moving but were not able to free it on last night's high tide. "Another salvage tug, the Smit Amandla, has been commissioned and tomorrow on the high tide with both tugs pulling we expect to get Kiperousa free." Work started in earnest yesterday morning to make final preparations for yesterday's big pull, following a decision on Thursday night (Jun 23) to go ahead with the salvage attempt of Kiperousa after the vessel's owners had posted a guarantee to cover the costs in case anything went wrong. The money, believed to be in the vicinity of \$25 million, was lodged late on Thursday. The bulkheads were all pumped out and tugs started pulling on the vessel as the tide started to rise about 1500 yesterday. Earlier yesterday Kroon said he was a little apprehensive about yesterday's attempt as the weather did not bode well for refloating. "The weather is too good for a salvage attempt. There is no swell. A swell on the high tide gives a bit of motion to the vessel and allows the tugs pulling to rock the bottom," he said. He and the salvage crew were optimistic the two tugs would be able to pull Kiperousa free. It would then be towed to Algoa Bay where repairs could be started in calm waters.

London, Jun 26 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0915, UTC: Bulk Kiperousa remains aground.

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Salvors expressed their disappointment as attempts to free stranded bulk Kiperousa at the weekend failed, leading them to decide to make plans to offload the vessel's cargo. An attempt on Saturday night's high tide led to tug Smit Amandla damaging the towing bollards on the upper deck and was not able to operate at full power, the operation's salvage master Godfrey Needham said last night. Arrangements have been made with the harbour here to help with the offloading process. Tug Toto, which carried oil and sludge from Kiperousa to railway tankers in East London harbour last week, was in port yesterday being fitted with the necessary supports and struts to be able to ferry the logs from the ship to port. "We will be loading about 250 tons of the logs at a time," Needham said. "This is because if there is a problem it might be difficult to deal with any more if they fall off, or if a problem occurs with the loading." Each log weighs between three and five tons. The loading of the logs onto Toto will be done with Kiperousa's onboard cranes, Needham said. There is a 72-ton mobile crane available in the harbour to help with offloading the logs in East London and there are a number of smaller cranes at the port's disposal, Port spokesman Terry Taylor said last night. There is space for the logs either near the grain elevator on the West Bank or on the East Bank between H and J sheds, he added. "The logs will most probably be offloaded directly onto trucks which will take them to wherever they will be stored," he said. Toto will take

about 14 hours for the round trip to Kiperousa, South African Maritime Safety spokesperson Captain Peter Kroon said. There are 1900 logs on the Kiperousa's top deck and the operation will start with the logs at the ship's stern, Needham said. Smit Amandla had been sent back to port and tug Nikolay Chiker is still attached to Kiperousa and will continue to pull and make sure the bulk carrier does not drift any closer to shore. Today's operation is expected to be "slow going" for two reasons: the initial loading will take time until a system is developed and a rhythm established, and bad weather is expected. Needham said Kiperousa moved a little in the Friday and Saturday attempts to refloat the vessel. "We don't know how much as our measuring equipment was washed overboard in a storm but we did make some progress. "Once the ship is lighter we will try and move it again." The salvage team will monitor the situation and assess when it will be able to take advantage of the high tide and the lightened vessel before another attempt is made to pull it free.

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated Jun 28, states: Bulk Kiperousa was still stranded on the coast near East London today. Repeated attempts to refloat the vessel have failed. SA Maritime Authority (Samsa) spokesperson Peter Kroon said the latest effort on Friday to pull the vessel was unsuccessful. He attributed this to the good weather. He said Friday's attempt had been abandoned and the salvors would now start removing the ship's 8,000-log cargo to make it lighter. "We will possibly try pull it off within the next week or two," Kroon said.

LICA MAERSK (DIS)

See Maersk Volos.

MADEIRA (Comoros)

Lisbon, Jun 29 -- Cement Madeira effected repairs to the gangway winch, landed the gangway for repairs and sailed Jun 21 for Praia da Vitoria. The gangway will be placed back on board when the vessel returns to Sines today. Bulk Mineral Oak effected repairs and sailed Jun 21 for Tubarao. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MAERSK TACOMA (Hong Kong)

London, Jun 27 -- The latest report by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, is scathing of the reporting procedures employed by the master and ship manager of c.c. Maersk Tacoma. The lengthy report into an incident in Bass Strait in August, 2001, lists a sequence of events that strongly suggest that parties failed to alert the relevant authorities in ample time of the seriousness of the vessel's plight. Indeed, the disabled vessel was already within eight cables - less than a nautical mile - of a rock in Bass Strait before the Rescue Coordination Centre in Canberra was alerted. This was 12 hours after it was clear that the vessel was in difficulty. The ATSB report concluded that the delay in notifying the Australian authorities of

the breakdown and the potential risk to the environment, together with the time taken to organise a tow, indicated serious deficiencies in the shipmanager's emergency planning. The vessel's main engine was disabled when a bottom end bearing failed, probably the result of a pre-existing condition combined with reduced lubricating oil flow. The report found that Maersk Tacoma's engineers placed themselves in significant danger by running the damaged main engine to save the vessel on two occasions when it was at risk of grounding on both Cutter Rock and the Hogan group of islands. Maersk Tacoma's 28 crew were unnecessarily imperilled by the failure to notify Australian authorities of the vessel's situation for eight hours after the main engine was found to be effectively unserviceable. The report recommends that shipowners and operators include procedures in their vessels' safety management systems which stipulate that local rescue co-ordination centres must be notified promptly if a vessel becomes disabled. Adding to the ATSB's disquiet was the lengthy delay experienced in obtaining the technical report written by the service engineer from the vessel's engine manufacturer, B&W Denmark. After repeated requests to the shipowners and their legal representatives the report was finally provided to the bureau 34 months after the incident. Asked to respond to the criticisms in the ATSB report, Peter Cremers, chief executive and chairman of Anglo Eastern Ship Management, which merged with Denholm Ship Management a month before the incident, said: "With the benefit of hindsight one could say yes, they should have alerted the authorities earlier. In fact we, on hearing of the incident, thought perhaps they should have called earlier. "But you cannot second judge those who are on the vessel. The people who are on the ship who encounter a problem have to make the decision that at a certain point they cannot handle it alone. I believe that is what they (the crew of Maersk Tacoma) did." Norwegian management at shipowner O T Tonnevold in Grimstad declined to comment on either the Australian safety report or the incident.

MAERSK VOLOS (Liberia)

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: C.c. Lica Maersk (50721 gt, built 2001), Santos to Pecem, Ceara, was in collision with c.c. Maersk Volos (18334 gt, built 2003) at Santos, Jun 22. The collision occurred briefly after the pilot had left Lica Maersk. Both vessels sustained only minor damages. Some containers on Maersk Volos were damaged and underwent an inspection at Santos. Lica Maersk could continue on voyage. (Note -- Maersk Volos arrived Santos Jun 22 and sailed Jun 23 for Walvis Bay. Lica Maersk sailed Santos Jun 22 for Rotterdam.)

MANTENHA (Portugal)

St. Vincent, Cape Verde, Jun 28 -- General cargo Mantenha arrived Praia, Cape Verde Jun 26 from Fall River and sailed same day for Brava, Cape Verde. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MARIA GALLEGRO (Spain)

London, Jun 27 -- Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0528, UTC: Fishing Maria Gallego (252 gt, built 1992), 11 crew members, taking on water in lat 49 50N, long 09 07W at 0312, UTC, today. Coastguard Valentia reported all crew members had been recovered by fishing Pescaberbbs Tres after the casualty sunk. No medical assistance required and vessel on route to Castletown Bere. Sarops terminated at 0429, UTC.

MATIAS F.ERAUSQUIN

Buenos Aires, Jun 29 -- Owners of vessel Matias F.Erausquin are still analyzing the vessel's current situation. No further information is available. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MINERAL OAK (Panama)

See Madeira.

MIRELLA (Panama)

Istanbul, Jun 25 -- General cargo Mirella completed necessary inspection/formalities at 1800, local time, Jun 23. Vessel sailed 1835, local time, for Bandirma, where ETA 0600, local time, Jun 24. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Bourgas, Jun 29 -- General cargo Mirella arrived Bourgas Jun 27 from Bandirma. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MODERN DRIVE (Panama)

London, Jun 28 -- Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 1355, UTC: Vehicle Modern Drive (33831 gt, built 2000), Mokpo for United States with 2,620 cars, is drifting with engine trouble off Niigata Prefecture, in lat 38 24N, long 138 39E.

London, Jun 30 -- Following received from the Tokyo-based managers of Modern Drive: Vehicle Modern Drive sustained small engine damage off Niigata. Latest position and situation is unknown.

MOK NAN (North Korea)

Singapore, Jun 28 -- Understand general cargo Mok Nan (10379 gt, built 1977) and bulk RM Everaim (30661 gt, built 2004) were in contact outside Singapore waters, western part of Singapore, at approximately 2130, local time, Jun 22. RM Everaim anchored for about two days for inspection. The hull of RM Everaim in way of cargo holds No.2 and 5 were reported to be not significantly damaged. As the vessel was found seaworthy and full of cargo, the vessel proceeded to its next port of call in India. Mok Nan was slightly damaged and sailed for Bangkok after the incident. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Mok Nan sailed Singapore 2140, Jun 22 for Bangkok, and RM Everaim sailed Singapore 2037, Jun 22 for Visakhapatnam).

MONI (India)

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Barge Moni, 1000 gt, struck the Howrah bridge this afternoon, causing "sufficient damage", with the effects likely to linger for at least two months. The Calcutta Port Trust (CPT), entrusted with the upkeep of Howrah bridge, said prima facie evidence suggested that the bridge would cost it Rs 1.5 crore to repair. Anup K. Chanda, chairman of the CPT, said it would take at least 60 days to fix the faults caused by the accident. The port had just completed maintenance work on the bridge but the mishap means that it would be back on the bridge with a full repair plan. "Initial investigation suggests damage under the structure, even though the deck of the bridge seems to have been saved," Chanda told Metro. "There are no problems as far as movement on the bridge is concerned. But we will carry out further tests to ensure that no damage was done to the deck," he added. The port has decided to sue Ganges River Transport Company Private Ltd, the company that owns the vessel, for damages. The mast of the barge has damaged two of the six girders that support the structure at that point. It also smashed into the trolley channel that the CPT had built recently for inspection of the under-structure. According to CPT guidelines, there should be a clearance of 51 ft under the bridge during the lowest end of the low tide. The port circulates tide charts predicting the schedule of high and low tides for the benefit of all vessels and barges. Sea-going vessels are not allowed to move upstream beyond Kidderpore dock. Moni today broke the rules and strayed from its sailing path to cause the first such accident on the Hooghly in the 62-year-old history of Howrah bridge.

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Howrah Bridge in Kolkata was reopened for traffic after cutting away a privately owned barge (barge Moni) caught between the bridge and the rising tide. The barge grated a few critical girders underneath the structure. Fearing lasting damage to the bridge due to vibrations caused by passing vehicles, police had stopped traffic between Kolkata and Howrah over the bridge. Several long distance trains from Howrah station were either delayed, or passengers were unable to reach the station in time. The bridge serves as a critical feeder for the station. Kolkata Port Trust, KPT, officials claim that the vessel violated river traffic norms. Teams from city police and KPT rushed to the accident site to take necessary steps to remove the vessel. Gas cutters were used to cut the wheel deck of the vessel and the barge, once free, was towed away. Total damage to the cantilever bridge is worth Rs 1.5 crore and the KPT will claim the money from the owner of the vessel, Ganges Water Transport Company.

Kolkata, Jun 28 -- Barge Moni, owners MJS Water Transport Company, at 1310, Jun 24, while proceeding from Budge Budge to Ghosuri for repair work, its mast got stuck in the Howrah Bridge's trolley track and subsequently jammed between two girders. The mast of the barge was chopped off, including a part of the master's cabin, to free the vessel from the bridge. At the time of the accident the barge was empty. The barge is currently under the custody of Kolkata Police. The master of the barge is also arrested for damaging public property. The owner of the barge has assessed the extent of damage and the repair cost estimated Rs 20 Lakhs. Extensive damage was caused to Howrah Bridge and the repair cost estimated at Rs 1.5 crores. The bridge is built over the Hooghly River, connecting two cities Howrah and Kolkata. The owner of the bridge is Kolkata Port Trust. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MSC ELENI (Panama)

London, Jun 29 -- C.c. MSC Eleni arrived Charleston Jun 16 and sailed Jun 17. Vessel subsequently arrived Altamira Jun 22 and sailed Jun 23, arrived Houston Jun 24 and sailed Jun 25, and arrived New Orleans Jun 26.

MSC GRACE (Panama)

Zeebrugge, Jun 29 -- General cargo MSC Grace (13258 gt, built 1991), Antwerp for Bremen, grounded at Buoy 33, vicinity Hansweert, about 1200 today. Three tugs are present for assistance and intend to attempt to release it at 1800 hrs. -- Lloyd's Sub-Agents. (Note -- MSC Grace sailed Antwerp 1035, Jun 29 for Bremen.)

Zeebrugge, Jun 29 -- General cargo MSC Grace refloated at 1937 hrs. -- Lloyd' Sub-agents.

London, Jun 30 -- At approximately 1245, Jun 29, general cargo MSC Grace had a black-out and as a result, ran aground in the River Scheldt, near buoy 35. Tugs Multratug 12, Multratug 15 and Zelzate came to assist and tried to tow it off the riverbank, but because the tide was ebbing, efforts were unsuccessful and the attempt was stopped at 1400 hrs. On the next incoming tide a new attempt to refloat it was started at 1800 hrs with tugs Holland, Schouwenbank and Zelzate. Efforts were successful, with MSC Grace being refloated at approximately 2000 hrs. After being refloated the vessel proceeded to Antwerp, where it is now moored at Quay 726/728.

NARRABEEN (Australia)

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Four weeks since ferry Narrabeen crashed into a wharf at Circular Quay, investigators have yet to figure out the cause -- except drugs and alcohol were not to blame. The vessel was carrying about 180 people when it hit Wharf 5 at the Circular Quay terminal on May 26. A 29-year-old American tourist was treated for facial cuts and three other

passengers for minor injuries. The ferry is still being repaired and is not expected to return to service until at least early July. A Sydney Ferries spokeswoman said the investigation was continuing as the cause remains unknown. However, tests have confirmed none of the crew were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the accident, she said.

NEPLINE DELIMA (Malaysia)

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

NICHOLAS M (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jun 24 -- Following received from Ankara MSRCC, timed 1235, UTC: Bulk Nicholas M has signed a salvage contract and tugs are expected to commence salvage operations at 1630, local time, today.

London, Jun 28 -- Following received from Ankara MSRCC, timed 0505, UTC: Bulk Nicholas M is still aground in the same position. Shifting of cargo continued over the weekend and salvage operations will continue today. (See issue of Jun 27.)

Istanbul, Jun 28 -- Bulk Nicholas M is still lying "as is" and there is no progress in salvage operations. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NIKOLAY KOLOMEYTSYEV (Russia)

Vladivostok, Jun 24 -- Research Nikolay Kolomeytsyev arrived Zarubino Jun 21 from Toyama. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NORWAY (Bahamas)

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated Jun 26, states: Passenger Norway was observed in Cape Town today, its tug De Da was refueling for the continuing voyage from Bremerhaven to Port Klang.

NOVA SCOTIA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Buenos Aires, Jun 29 -- Ref Nova Scotia is currently at Tandano dry dock, Buenos Aires, and it will remain there for at least two months for repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PACIFIC SKY (U.K.)

Brisbane, Jun 27 -- Passenger Pacific Sky sailed Brisbane Jun 26 for Sydney. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PADRE PIO

See Audace A..

POCHARD (Antigua & Barbuda)

Copenhagen, Jun 27 -- Bulk Pochard (22655 gt, built 2003), outbound from Muuga, cargo fertilizer, grounded close to Hatter Barn, Great Belt, sometime Saturday (Jun 25), without pilot on board. At the moment there is no danger of pollution. The master did not report the grounding to the Danish Authorities, so he has been fined 10,000 DKK for this offence. -- Correspondent. (Note -- Pochard sailed Gdynia Jun 11 for Muuga.)

London, Jun 27 -- Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 0645, UTC:

Coast Guard was notified at 0300, UTC, Jun 26, that bulk Pochard had grounded in lat 55 54N, long 10 50.5E. Vessel is expected to remain aground for another two-to-three days while the cargo of fertilizer is lightered into barges.

Gothenburg, Jun 27 -- Bulk Pochard, heading northbound in the Store Belt/Great Belt with a full load of fertilizer, ran aground at the Hatter reef early "Sunday morning". There was no pilot onboard at the time of incident. Support Marie Miljo was sent to the area to investigate whether there had been any oil spillage, but no immediate signs of any outlet or damage/problems were found. The Board of Shipping Inspectors and Insurers went onboard/arrived yesterday evening and diver surveys have been carried out to establish how hard the vessel is resting on the ground. A plan as to how to proceed with the refloating of the vessel and, if necessary, to discharge the cargo for survey purposes, is being formulated and it is being speculated that it may be some days before the vessel can be refloated. Salvors Svitzer and Roda Bolaget have reported that the matter is under investigation and thus far, nothing has been settled. Weather conditions on scene: increasing winds and seas. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Jun 30 -- Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1015, UTC: Bulk Pochard was refloated at 0700, UTC, this morning and is now undergoing diver inspection.

POLAR STAR (Barbados)

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tourist passenger Polar Star (4998 gt, built 1969) has run aground at Hinlopen off the coast of the Svalbard archipelago with 38 passengers and a crew of 34. It is understood no one has been hurt, and there is no immediate danger for those on board. The Norwegian Sea/Air Rescue Centre says the situation is not dramatic, and the crew will make an attempt to refloat the vessel at high tide this morning. If this attempt is not successful, the Coast Guard vessel Svalbard is already on its way to assist Polar Star, but will not arrive before late this afternoon, says Birger Haapnes of the Svalbard District Governor's Office.

London, Jun 28 -- Following received from Bodo RCC: Timed 0730, UTC: A report was received at 1627, local time, yesterday that passenger Polar Star, was aground on a sandbank in lat 79 18N, long 18 53E. Vessel is still aground. Two refloating attempts have been made on the high tide but the high tide was not high enough to refloat the vessel. Coast Guard vessel Svalbard is due on scene at 1500, local time, today, to attempt to pull the vessel off the sandbank. If that fails efforts will be made to lighten the vessel. Timed 0805, UTC: A report was received 10 minutes ago that Polar Star is now afloat.

London, Jun 28 -- Following received from Sandnes, dated today: At

approximately 1200, Jun 27, passenger Polar Star, trading in the Svalbard area, grounded on a shelf near Klosterbreen on Svalbard Island. There are 38 passengers onboard and a crew of 34. No injuries have been reported. The vessel refloated, by its own means, at 0800 hrs today. There is no pollution in the area.

Trondheim, Jun 28 -- According to local press passenger Polar Star grounded on a sand bank near Hinlopen, east of Spitsbergen, Svalbard, at approximately 1200, yesterday. The cruise managers, Spitsbergen Travel AS, Longyearbyen, inform today that attempts to get the vessel afloat yesterday evening failed, but on high tide this morning at 0855 hours it was afloat by own power. Apparently no damage to the vessel. Polar Star was on a one week cruise on the east side of Spitsbergen Island and had sailed from Longyearbyen Friday afternoon, Jun 24. There are "93" persons on board with 52 passengers of different nationalities. -- Lloyd's Agents.

QUINAULT (U.S.A.)

Seattle, Jun 29 -- According to Washington State Ferry engineer ro/ro Quinault returned to service Jun 22. -- Lloyd's Agents.

RM EVERAIM (Marshall Islands)

See Mok Nan.

ROCKNES (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: State prosecutors said yesterday that they had insufficient evidence to pursue dereliction charges against the state mapping agency Sjøkartverket and the local pilot in the capsizing of bulk Rocknes, which resulted in the death of 18 crew. Police had accused the National Mapping Authority of failing to point out dangerous underwater rocks that Rocknes hit before capsizing on Jan 19, 2004. "Even if censurable conditions can be demonstrated they are not sufficient to be punishable by law," public prosecutor Jarle Golten Smørdal said. Norway's Maritime Directorate (NMD) published their report on the accident last summer and concluded that the ship capsized so quickly because it had been poorly loaded and its unstable construction. The inspectorate criticized the ship's local pilot, the Norwegian Coastal Administration and Sjøkartverket. The prosecutor found the mapping agency had published new maps showing the rocks in 2003, and published the new information the same year in its regular "Notice to Mariners" report, and both were available before the accident. However, the investigation revealed weaknesses in communication between the agency that makes the sea charts, and the Norwegian Coastal Administration, which employs the ship's pilots who use them. The charges against the boat's pilot were dropped by police due to a lack of evidence. The Hordaland County prosecutor's office said that

the demands of gross dereliction of duty proved beyond a reasonable doubt could not be met in this case.

SEA FOX (Latvia)

London, Jun 24 -- Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1053, UTC: General cargo Sea Fox (2219 gt, built 1976), Odda for Liverpool, cargo 2,565 cubic metres of timber, in lat 57 17.3N, long 06 35.3W, at 1045, UTC, with multiple engine problems. Vessel drifting, but can use engines for short periods to manoeuvre away from any dangers. Coastguard salvage tug Anglian Prince tasked to standby the vessel and monitor the situation. Wind north north-east 3 (gentle breeze), sea calm. Vessel waiting for further information/instructions from owners and agents regarding towage arrangements.

London, Jun 24 -- Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1430, UTC: General cargo Sea Fox is still in the same position awaiting the arrival of tug Goliath, which due on scene tomorrow. Coastguard salvage tug Anglian Prince should be on scene in an hour or so to standby.

London, Jun 24 -- Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1450, UTC: General cargo Sea Fox: Tug Anglian Prince arrived on scene at 1430, UTC, and will remain in the area until tug Goliath arrives.

London, Jun 25 -- Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1040, UTC: General cargo Sea Fox continues to drift slowly. Tug Anglian Prince remains alongside, with a watching brief. Tug Goliath is due on scene around 2300 hrs, tonight. Weather conditions on scene are currently very good.

London, Jun 26 -- Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 0910, UTC: General cargo Sea Fox in lat 57 06N, long 06 10.7W, at 0900, UTC. Tug Anglian Prince remains on scene and tug Yewgarth is proceeding from Belfast, ETA sometime after midnight tonight.

London, Jun 27 -- Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 0810, UTC: General cargo Sea Fox: Tug Anglian Prince remains on scene. Tug Yewgarth is now due on scene at 1000, BST, it will then be decided where the vessel will be taken.

London, Jun 27 -- Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1102, UTC: General cargo Sea Fox: Tug Yewgarth established line and commenced tow at 0958, UTC. Position lat 57 05N, long 06 13.3W, course 275 degrees, speed 6.5 knots, destination Liverpool where ETA Jun 29. Tug Anglian Prince was released at 0956, UTC.

London, Jun 29 -- Following received from the Mersey Docks & Harbour Company, Liverpool, dated today: General cargo Sea Fox is expected to berth at Liverpool at 1400 today. It has just been boarded by a pilot.

SEEBRISE (Belize)

Dublin, Jun 24 -- North Korean general cargo Lady Hassan (ex

Seebriase) is currently undergoing repairs in accordance with the Dept of Marine requirements, and all being well, the vessel is expected to depart from the port of Cork, for an unknown destination, in the next couple of weeks. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SEMLOW

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

SIMEIZ (Ukraine)

Montevideo, Jun 23 -- Fishing Simeiz caught fire while alongside on Jun 22 and was towed to Montevideo Anteport, where fire brigade continues fighting the fire. Crew had signed off and travelled home except master, one Indonesian and nine Chinese who remained on board, but so far not accounted for and presumed dead in the vessel. Fire reported started at 0300 and vessel had onboard 160 tons heavy fuel and 6 tons ammonia gas. Firefighting continues. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, date today, states: Uruguayan officials confirmed yesterday they had found the charred remains of 11 crewmembers from Ukrainian longliner fishing Simeiz that caught fire in the port of Montevideo. "All the bodies were completely incinerated and found in the cabins area", said Jorge Rosqueta spokesperson for the Uruguayan Fire Department adding that in the next hours forensic experts will begin working to try and identify them. Simeiz docked in Montevideo harbour last Monday (Jun 20) to unload its catch of toothfish and the 39 crew members were given time off. Most crewmembers were visiting Uruguay or neighbouring countries when the longliner caught fire early Wednesday morning. Firemen and port authorities decided to tug the vessel to the bay given the intensity of the blaze plus the fact it had recently refuelled 300 tons and was also carrying 6,000 litres of ammonia for the freezing system. Uruguayan authorities managed to track all sailors with the exception of 11 including the Ukrainian master. "The remaining 28 crewmembers are in good health", revealed Mr. Rosqueta. The blaze lasted over 15 hours and was fought from tugs with high pressure hoses. "Once the vessel cools and we can pump out the water poured in, Simeiz will be docked and the cause of the fire will be investigated". Mr. Rosqueta said the ammonia and heavy fuel "fortunately" remained intact.

Montevideo, Jun 24 -- Fishing Simeiz: Fire on board has been extinguished. Eleven bodies have been found. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SIR MICHAEL (Honduras)

St. Vincent, Cape Verde, Jun 23 -- Anchor handling tug Sir Michael is still under arrest and we have no information regarding its release. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Sir Michael entered Cabnavé Yard, Cape Verde,

following engine failure Oct 28, 2003, and was reported Apr 13, 2004, due to sail but placed under arrest.)

SOUTHERN CROSS (U.S.A.)

Boston, Mass, Jun 27 -- Repairs to tug Southern Cross, which sank in January of this year, are nearing completion and the vessel is to be put back into service at some point in July. The vessel is reportedly owned by a company called Patriot Marine, of Winthrop, Massachusetts.

SPIRIT OF ONTARIO I (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 26 -- Passenger ro/ro Spirit of Ontario I arrived Rochester Jun 24 from Toronto. It reportedly carried out sea trials yesterday and is expected to resume its normal service Jun 28.

STARLUCK (Cyprus)

Buenos Aires, Jun 17 -- Lightening operations of cargo from bulk Starluck to general cargo BBC Sealand have finished. Inspections will be performed on Starluck in order to establish if the vessel can sail with the remaining cargo, or if it has to be fully discharged. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Buenos Aires, Jun 27 -- It is highly probable that bulk Starluck will sail from Necochea, Argentina, bound for Montevideo, Uruguay, with the remaining cargo still on board, in order that same can be lightened into another vessel (to be confirmed). Subsequently, it would effect permanent repairs in dry-dock at Montevideo. -- Lloyd's Agents.

STENA SAGA (Sweden)

London, Jun 28 -- Passenger ro/ro Stena Saga arrived Oslo Jun 23 from Frederikshavn and sailed same day back to Frederikshavn.

STORM (Liberia)

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

SUPREME (U.K.)

London, Jun 26 -- A press release from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated yesterday, states: At 0040 today Eyemouth RNLI lifeboat station informed Forth Coastguard that fishing Supreme (88 gt, built 1975) had experienced engine failure some 60 miles north-east of Eyemouth with five persons on board and requested assistance. Forth Coastguard established communications with the vessel via their satellite cell phone and it was established that the craft was drifting south south-east at approximately one knot per hour. Eyemouth RNLI all weather lifeboat was requested to launch and finally located the craft and established a tow at 0450 hrs. John Mayston, Forth Coastguard Watch Manager, says: "The fishing vessel is being towed on a south westerly course at a speed of nine knots. If this is maintained then they should reach Eyemouth Harbour safely at lunchtime today. Dunbar lifeboat has recently been launched with the aim of escorting the casualty

and Eyemouth lifeboat as a precautionary measure. The operation has been straightforward with the only difficulty being communications. However with close co-operation with our colleagues at Aberdeen Coastguard we were able to maintain contact via an array of mediums which included VHF and MF radio, Digital Selective Calling (DSC) and Satellite communications." Weather conditions are favourable with northeasterly winds at 10 Knots, good visibility and a slight sea.

TA LIH

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thirty-eight passengers were injured, one critically, when a ferry and general cargo Ta Lih were in collision in southern Taiwan's Kaohsiung harbour, a television report said. At least 100 passengers were on board the ferry when it collided with the 10,000-tonne cargo vessel, the Eastern Television cable news network said. The authorities were investigating the cause of the accident.

London, Jun 29 -- Following received from Taipei RCC, timed 0515, UTC: General cargo Ta Lih, BR3058, was in collision with a passenger ferry in Kaohsiung today. Understand damage to vessels is minor.

TAKASAGO 2 (Japan)

Yokohama, Jun 23 -- Repairs to lpg Takasago 2 were completed on Jun 23 and the vessel sailed for Hiroshima on the same day. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TAKI TOOO (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated Jun 28, states: Federal safety officials today faulted the skipper of a charter fishing vessel that sank off the Oregon coast in 2003, killing 11 people, saying he used poor judgment in deciding to take the boat out in hazardous conditions. The report by the National Transportation Safety Board also criticized the captain of Taki Tooo for failing to ensure that everyone on board wore lifejackets, and faulted the Coast Guard for failing to enforce federal regulations on the use of lifejackets in hazardous conditions. Eleven people, including veteran sea captain Doug Davis, were killed in the June 2003 accident near Tillamook Bay. Of those killed, only one was wearing a lifejacket; six of the eight people who survived were wearing lifejackets, the report said. The report said the condition of the Tillamook Bay channel and two aging jetties - which residents have long complained are unsafe - did not play a role in the accident. The report also said that an antidepressant the 66-year-old Davis was taking to combat his insomnia was not a factor in the accident. The report described Davis - who sold the boat two years before the accident but continued to operate it - as a veteran skipper who had crossed the sandbar at Tillamook Bay more than a thousand times. Davis's wife, Sharon, told investigators that her husband was in good health, feeling

fine and looking forward to taking the boat out that day. Ellen Engleman Conners, chairman-designate of the NTSB, said she found it incredible that Davis spent about 30 minutes deciding whether to cross the bar - given swelling seas with waves that topped 10 feet - but did "not spend 30 seconds doing the obvious: telling (passengers) to put their lifejackets on. It doesn't make sense." In fact, while six survivors were wearing lifejackets when rescued, the investigation found that none of the 19 people on board was wearing a life vest until the boat began to sink. Most of those who were rescued were inside the 32-foot boat's cabin and had grabbed flotation devices after the boat capsized, the report said. One passenger who grabbed a lifejacket was found dead in the cabin. It was not clear why that person, a 66-year-old man, was unable to escape, the report said. Mark Rosenker, acting chairman of the NTSB, called the accident one that "clearly could have been prevented" if Davis had heeded Coast Guard warnings about rough seas and stayed in port. Far fewer lives would have been lost if the 17 passengers and two crew members were wearing lifejackets, Rosenker said. The report said it was not clear whether Davis was trying to turn the boat around or had lost control when it was struck by a 15-foot wave and capsized.

TEXAS (U.S.A.)

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, dated Jun 22, states: One of Atlantic City's scruffier visitors may soon be on its way. The US Coast Guard said yesterday it will pay for and oversee demolition of fishing Texas, the oil-soaked scallop boat abandoned last year in the city's Northeast Inlet neighbourhood. US Rep. Frank A. LoBiondo said he hopes it will be gone in a couple of months. LoBiondo, R-2nd, is chairman of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Admiral Thomas H. Collins, commandant of the Coast Guard, announced the decision at yesterday's subcommittee hearing. No cost estimates were given. The boat will not get towed out to sea and then sunk, Coast Guard spokeswoman Kim Smith said. It cannot be cleaned first, she said, because the dilapidated boat is in such bad shape that an adequate cleaning would destroy it. Instead, Petty Officer First Class Smith said, the boat will have to be disassembled and then carted off because otherwise the oil-saturated vessel is a hazard to marine life. Texas arrived in May 2004, when the Coast Guard, getting a distress signal, towed the inoperative vessel into the city. Since it arrived, the vessel caught fire, nearly sunk and the Coast Guard repeatedly had to drain oil and water from the boat. After the original sailors left, first the city administration and the Police Department, then later the Coast Guard, were unable to track down the

owners. When the city found out it would cost them more than \$130,000 to demolish the boat, the city tried selling it on eBay. Last fall, bidding started at \$1 and a user named "mikesmarinesrvc" won it with a \$1,025 bid. But that also fell through when "mikesmarinesrvc" backed out of the contract. In May, City Council considered bidding for demolition, but voted down the measure. It is back on the agenda for today's meeting. LoBiondo said city Emergency Management Coordinator Tom Foley reached out to his office in January. The Coast Guard, using the Abandoned Vessels Act, looked for the owners for months until Collins declared Texas was abandoned yesterday. LoBiondo aide Brendan Brenner said demolition bids would go out in the coming weeks.

TOMISLAV GRAD (Croatia)

Rijeka, Jun 28 -- Chem.tank Tomislav Grad was sold to Lucky Maritime Enterprise, Monrovia, and sailed Kraljevica shipyard Jun 24 for Aliaga, for demolition. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TRADEWIND SUNRISE (Panama)

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: Investigators have been unable to identify the cause of the explosion that blasted through chemical/oil carrier Tradewind Sunrise on Wednesday (Jun 22). The Fire Service is exploring several theories in connection with the blast that has left two people dead and two still missing. "We are still unsure as to the actual cause of the blast," said Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) Noel Jones. "But the possession of a (welding) torch was found in the hands of one of the bodies which we recovered." Investigators are therefore questioning whether the tanker had indeed emptied the necessary hydrocarbons onboard before conducting welding operations. "If negligence is indeed proven to be the cause of these fatalities the necessary criminal charges will be laid against the responsible parties," Jones said. Jones, who is spearheading enquiries into the incident, has had officers from both the Four Roads and Chaguaramas Fire Service Divisions comb through the vessel several times with hopes of retrieving the other two missing crewmembers. These individuals, Lester Charles and Eustace Charles, have since been suspected as dead. The Fire Service - which relies on other services, such as the Coast Guard, to facilitate their responses to offshore fire incidents took almost three hours to contain the blaze. Jones noted that this was partly due to the lack of a fireboat being directly accessible to the Fire Service.

London, Jun 24 -- V. Ships, managers of chemical/oil carrier Tradewind Sunrise, have worked closely with the Trinidad authorities including the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Safety, the Police, the Coast Guard and the Maritime Authority throughout the day investigating to

determine the cause of the tragic accident. Four shipyard sub contractor workers perished in the explosion which appears to have occurred during a work break. There was no cargo on the vessel and the fuel tanks near the stern of the vessel were not damaged. There has been no pollution and the vessel is currently safely anchored.

WALNUT EXPRESS (Panama)

London, Jun 29 -- Following received from Halifax, NS, dated today: Product tanker Walnut Express has left the Shipyards and appears to be undergoing trials. It had a pilot move outbound this morning and return this afternoon.

YAMBURG (Georgia)

London, Jun 25 -- General cargo Yamburg arrived Tilbury 1428, Jun 23 and sailed 1422, Jun 24, bound for Aveiro.

ZHE HAI 128 (China)

Busan, Jun 29 -- Bulk Zhe Hai 128: Permanent repairs of the vessel deferred to next convenient time and place. Vessel sailed from Ulsan bound for Nanjing at about 1625, Jun 23 for cargo discharge. General cargo Il Jin No.3 is still lying sunk at the site without salvage operations. We understand that the water depth at the site is some 75 metres and the salvage operation of the vessel is considered practically infeasible. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.



LANGKAWI AREA, MALAYSIA

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: The remand order on the 10 Indonesians who attempted to hijack product tanker Nepline Delima on Jun 14 and two crewmen of the vessel was today extended for another two days. The orders against the 12 suspects, aged between 20 and 40, were issued by Sessions Court senior registrar Rusmini Mat Rashid this afternoon. The 10 Indonesians were arrested about 1500, Jun 15, 12 hours after they hijacked the tanker, which was laden with diesel worth about RM12 million. On the same day, Langkawi magistrate Norina Zainal Abidin issued a 12-day remand order against the 10. On Jun 16, Norina issued an 11-day remand order against the two crewmen, also Indonesians, after they were detained by police a day earlier. One of the suspects was the vessel's 35-year-old chief officer and another a 22-year-old deckhand. The remand orders for the suspects ended yesterday. Meanwhile, a local businessman, suspected to be the mastermind behind the hijacking, was brought to the Kota Star district police headquarters for an identification parade. The suspect, in his 40s, bought the speedboat that was used by

the hijackers from a Penang firm earlier this month. He was picked up in Kuala Lumpur on Jun 20.

MALACCA STRAIT

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ten Indonesians admitted a pirate attack on a Malaysian-owned tanker when they appeared in court in Malaysia, Bernama news agency said. It said the 10, mainly from the tsunami-hit province of Aceh and who were not represented by lawyers, admitted that they carried out the attack armed with machetes. They face up to 20 years in jail and caning when sentenced on Jul 10. The tanker, which was carrying diesel from Malaysia's Port Klang to Myanmar, was boarded before dawn off the northern island of Langkawi in the Malacca Strait earlier this month. The attack was foiled when a quick-thinking crewman from the tanker leapt into the robbers' boat and sped off in it to fetch the police. The governments of Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore have launched co-ordinated patrols in an effort to stem pirate attacks.

SOMALIA

Nairobi, Jun 30 -- Somali gunmen have hijacked general cargo Semlow (992 gt, built 1971), carrying 850 tonnes of World Food Programme (WFP) rice for Somali tsunami survivors, and are demanding \$500,000 to free the 10 crew on board, the ship's owner said today. Semlow was captured between Haradhere and Hobyo, some 300 km northeast of Mogadishu on Monday (Jun 27), while en route to the port of Bosaso. "The hijackers are asking for \$500,000 but we've told them we're just a small boat with relief cargo to feed your Somali people," said Inayet Kudrati, director of the Kenya-based Mokatu Shipping Agency which leased the ship to the WFP. He said the hijackers had told him the crew, a Sri Lankan master, a Tanzanian engineer and eight Kenyans, were safe. The WFP said the food aid, donated by Japan and Germany, was destined for thousands of Somalis affected by the Dec 26 tsunami, and appealed to the local community to help negotiate the release of the boat and its cargo. "We're urging local leaders and elders to allow the boat to go on with its journey," WFP spokeswoman Rene McGuffin said. -- Reuters.



ITALY

London, Jun 27 -- General cargo Audacious (1832 gt, built 1969) was today reported to be under a Port State Control detention at Genoa. Genoa, Jun 21 -- General cargo Audacious has been lying at Genoa

since March 2005. No seizures have been reported for the time being, but the owners have apparently abandoned it and it is understood that the crew are claiming missing salary. The vessel is in a very poor condition. (Note -- Audacious was reported arriving at Genoa on Mar 25.)

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 29 -- A press release, issued by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated Jun 28, states: Liberian flagged product tanker Storm (17233 gt, built 1982) was detained in Cardiff when a total of 31 deficiencies were raised after a Port State Control Inspection was undertaken by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on Jun 27. The vessel was detained for the following reasons: The port lifeboat engine was unable to start; the crew were unable to perform a satisfactory fire drill; the crew attempted to lower the lifeboat with the air lifting motor running as they did not trust the winch brakes to hold; both the port and starboard lifeboat davits had severe wastage in way of the aft davit arm. Other notable deficiencies that were raised are: The funnel fire dampers do not close properly; the fire main isolation valve did not close fully; essential equipment was missing from the port lifeboat; the engine-room access hatch wasted through. A large number of deficiencies with respect to sanitation were raised. A security related deficiency was also raised. Due to the large number of deficiencies raised and the crews inability to perform a satisfactory boat drill three major non conformities were raised against the ships ISM Safety Management System. As a consequence of these major non conformities the Recognised Organisation responsible for issuing the vessels Safety Management Certificate will be requested to carry out an audit of the vessel prior to the vessel being released from detention. (Note -- Storm arrived Cardiff 1947, Jun 24.)



AGIOS CONSTANTINOS (Cambodia)

Tenerife, Jun 30 -- Local Port Authorities inform that the situation of general cargo Agios Constantinos is still the same and that everything concerning this vessel is under judicial secrecy. -- Lloyd's Agents.

AL BIRUNI (Egypt)

Alexandria, Jun 29 -- General cargo Al Biruni is still under arrest at Alexandria. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ALBATROS (Cambodia)

Trieste, Jun 28 -- Ro/ro Albatros remains under permanent detention at Trieste. -- Lloyd's Agents.

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

ANNA (Lebanon)

See under "Marine."

APACHE (Honduras)

Reunion, Jun 29 -- Fishing Apache is still under arrest. The Court decision was confirmed last week and the vessel is now the property of Administration des Domaines. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Apache arrived Reunion Jul 1, 2004, and was arrested by the French Navy for the illegal fishing of toothfish.)

AUKUREN**(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Oslo, Jun 29 -- Our Sub-agents at Fredrikstad have advised us that according to the Port Authority cement Aukuren left Sarpsborg Jun 15, under its new name of Strilen. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CAPE DON (Australia)

Sydney, Jun 30 -- Lighthouse tender Cape Don, impounded at Sydney for over 15 months, is now owned by the Sea Heritage Foundation, which is a Public Museum and an ATO-endorsed charity with DGR status. Vessel is currently being restored to seagoing condition. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CAPO GRIFO (ITALY)

Genoa, Jun 21 -- Chemical tanker Capo Grifo is still laid-up at Genoa under the care of a liquidator. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CEC COPENHAGEN (Bahamas)

See under "Marine."

DAMANIA-1 (India)

Mumbai, Jun 29 -- Ferry Damania-1 is currently reported in the Mumbai Port Trust records as being docked alongside No.'G', P.D. Mumbai, under High Court arrest. -- Lloyd's Agents.

DANU BHUM (Singapore)

Mumbai, Jun 29 -- c.c. Danu Bhum (9675 gt, built 1996) is currently reported in the Mumbai Port Trust records as docked alongside No.4 Indira Dock, Mumbai, under Mercantile Marine Department detention. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Danu Bhum was reported as arriving at Mumbai Jun 26.)

ELENI A. (Comoros)

Limassol, Jun 27 -- General cargo Eleni A. (1125 gt, built 1978), which arrived Limassol Jun 23, was arrested by the Cyprus Supreme Court on Jun 24 and is still at Limassol. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Limassol, Jun 30 -- General cargo Eleni A. was released and sailed on Jun 29, for Piraeus. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ELLA L. (Panama)

Cadiz, Jun 24 -- Before departing from Algeciras on May 13, bound for Lagos, chemical/oil carrier Ella L. was sold to Jampur Ltd., Chicago, USA. The vessel has kept its name, but has been re-flagged, and now flies the Honduras flag. -- Lloyd's Agents.

EMIR (Turkey)

Taranto, Jun 29 -- General cargo Emir is still under arrest at Taranto, with no change in the vessel's situation. -- Lloyd's Agents.

GAGARINSKIY (Russia)

Vladivostok, Jun 7 -- Fishing Gagarinskiy is still under detention/repair at Vladivostok. -- Lloyd's Agents.

GEPARD (Cyprus)

Maassluis, Jun 24 -- Tug Gepard is still under arrest (at Flushing). -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

GLOBAL AFRICA (Brazil)

Mumbai, Jun 29 -- Ro/ro Global Africa (17016 gt, built 1994) is currently reported in the Mumbai Port Trust records as being at anchor "in Stream in Mumbai Harbour", under Mercantile Marine Department detention. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Global Africa arrived Mumbai Jun 20.)

KARAMYSHEVO (Russia)

Vladivostok, Jun 7 -- Fishing Karamyshevo is still under detention/repair at Vladivostok. -- Lloyd's Agents.

KRYUKOVO (Russia)

Vladivostok, Jun 7 -- Fishing Kryukovo is still under detention at Vladivostok. -- Lloyd's Agents.

LINCE (Belize)

Reunion, Jun 29 -- Trawler Lince, after confirmation of the Court's decision, became the property of Administration des Domaines and was renamed Osiris. The vessel is now operating as a patrol vessel by a group of fishing companies under the supervision of the French army and the TAAF administration. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Lince was arrested for illegal fishing in French Antarctic territorial waters in Jan 2003 and was escorted by French Navy to Reunion, arriving Jan 23, 2003.)

LION OF OLYMPIA (Greece)

Valencia, Jun 29 -- Sub-agents at Sagunto report that general cargo Lion of Olympia is currently still under arrest at Sagunto. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Lion of Olympia arrived Sagunto Mar 21, 2000 and was subsequently reported under arrest due to mortgage credit owed to Greek bank.)

MEGAMAR (Honduras)

Rio de Janeiro, Jun 29 -- General cargo Megamar is still lying at Niteroi. No scrapping so far. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MEKHANIK (Russia)

Vladivostok, Jun 7 -- Fishing Mekhanik is still at Vladivostok, but is no longer reported as being under detention. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NISHA**(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Mumbai, Jun 29 -- Bulk Nisha (16931 gt, built 1977) is currently reported in the Mumbai Port Trust records as

being anchored "in Stream in Mumbai Harbour", under Mercantile Marine Department detention. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- Nisha arrived Mumbai May 12.)

ROMANA I (Panama)

Port au Prince, Jun 29 -- Status of ro/ro Romana I has remained unchanged. It is still at anchor in an abandoned situation.

SALEM FOUR**(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Alexandria, Jun 29 -- General cargo Salem Four has reportedly been cut up at Alexandria. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SALEM SEVEN (Egypt)

Alexandria, Jun 29 -- General cargo Salem Seven sailed from Alexandria for orders some time ago. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SENTINEL (Comoros)

Genoa, Jun 21 -- General cargo Sentinel is still under court arrest at Genoa. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SIR MICHAEL (Honduras)

See under "Marine."

WEN FENG SHAN (China)

London, Jun 30 -- General cargo Wen Feng Shan sailed Hong Kong Apr 12 and subsequently arrived Incheon Jun 7 from Dalian and sailed Jun 8 for Xingang.

**CARDENAS, TABASCO, MEXICO**

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated Jun 27, states: Between 2,000 and 3,000 barrels of crude oil leaked from a pipeline in southern Mexico that had apparently been drilled open in a bid to steal fuel, the state-owned Pemex oil company reported today. The spill occurred at a 36-inch pipeline carrying Maya-grade crude in the township of Cardenas, in the Gulf-coast state of Tabasco. In a press statement, the company said that "everything indicates the spill was caused by people who were trying to steal fuel." The thieves may have tapped the wrong pipeline; while gangs frequently try to rob gasoline, crude oil would be of little use to most thieves. Authorities found equipment used to transfer fuel at the scene of the accident. The suspects apparently bored into the pipeline, inserted a valve and a hose that may have been intended to fill tanker trucks. Pemex said it was investigating the case and starting a cleanup at the site.

PESCHANYE KOVALI, RUSSIA

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: The fire at a fuel pipeline was extinguished in Tatarstan overnight, the Emergencies Ministry's Volga-Ural regional centre

told Itar-Tass. The incident occurred at the 530-mm-diameter main in the settlement of Peschanye Kovali. Diesel fuel leaked from the pipe and covered 100 square metres. The supposed cause of the fire is leakage from the valve. Nobody was hurt. The incident creates no danger for the residential areas. Sixty-two people and 21 machines have been working there to fight the blaze and remove the spilt fuel.

Pollution



ALBANY, AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Emergency services said no-one was injured by a potentially hazardous ammonia spill at Albany this morning. The spill was discovered about 0130, AWST. Emergency crews wearing protective suits took about two hours to contain the chemical, which was leaking through a broken viewing window on a refrigeration unit. Dean Simmonds from the Albany Fire Service says the chemical is highly corrosive and potentially flammable. "There was definitely some hazards there to people's health," he said. An area 800 metres downwind of the spill was evacuated, including the crew of a ship and dozens of construction workers. It is not known how much ammonia was spilled, or what caused the leak.

GIOVANNI BOTTIGLIERI (Italy)

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: An Italian shipping executive pleaded guilty on behalf of his firm to violating a US anti-pollution law and the company was fined \$325,000. Bottiglieri di Navigazione, based in Torre del Greco, Italy, pleaded guilty yesterday to violating the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships. Michele Bottiglieri, the director and vice president of the company, admitted that the firm provided false records to U.S. investigators after a Coast Guard inspector in Mobile spotted a pipe that could be used to dump oily waste overboard. Prosecutors accused the bulk Giovanni Bottiglieri (39385 gt, built 1995) of dumping oil into international waters at least 18 times over a nine-month period in 2003. Chief U.S. District Judge Ginny Granade accepted a plea bargain that defence lawyers negotiated with federal prosecutors. Besides a fine, the judge put the company on three years' probation and ordered it to pay for an environmental compliance program to ensure it adheres to all environmental laws and regulations. Defence lawyer Michael Chalos told the judge that the company takes full responsibility for the actions of its employees. "They want to make sure it doesn't happen again," he said. The vessel, which was hauling a coal derivative at the time,

was docked in Mobile in Feb 2004 when an inspector spotted a pipe that had been installed to the ship's oil/water separator, which is supposed to remove oil before bilge water is pumped overboard. Investigators contended the pipe was an illegal bypass designed to pump that oily wastewater directly into the ocean. The company admitted installing the pipe, which the plea agreement notes is not a recommended modification. Although company officials denied using the pipe as a bypass, they admitted as part of the plea bargain that the pipe could have been used for such purposes.

JOHAR STATE, MALAYSIA

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated yesterday states: Malaysia's southern Johor state has been hit by a giant oil slick believed to be the region's worst environmental disaster in recent years, a report said today. Fishermen in Pengerang, on the southernmost tip of Malaysia, on Saturday (Jun 25) alerted the state's environment department to the five-kilometre long slick. Environment officials have taken samples of the oil which has affected docks and beaches in the area known for its fishing industry. However, they are yet to determine the source of the spill. "The Pengerang shore has experienced oil slick cases before but this is the worst I have seen," fisherman Teo Seng Huat said.

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated today, states; Malaysian authorities vowed today to track down the ship responsible for a huge oil spill off its southern coast which has caused serious damage and forced hundreds of fishermen to lay down their nets. However, fishing groups criticised the slow pace of the clean-up and experts warned the spill could cause irreversible environmental damage to marine life. "We are trying to identify the ship that spilled the oil," said Abdul Rahman Awang, director of the environment department in southern Johor state. The busy shipping route was hit on Thursday by a five-kilometre long oil slick which left Johor beaches covered with tar balls and harbours full of black, oily water. Some 200 fishermen in Pengerang, on the southernmost tip of Malaysia, have not been out to sea since Friday because they fear the oil slicks will damage their nets. They also criticised local authorities for not carrying out immediate clean-up operations near the river mouth and on the beach, and said each boat was suffering daily losses of up to 1,000 ringgit (\$263). Abu Bakar Mohamad, president of the Fishermen Association of Pengerang, said that some 200 fishermen had been affected by the spill. Fisherman Harun Salim said that because the oil sludge still covered the local Rengit river, most of the fishermen were still not able to go out to sea. "The oil sludge will destroy our nets. The stain on the nets will drive the fish away," he said.

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Authorities in Malaysia have detained a Singapore-owned tanker suspected of spilling oil off the south coast which has forced scores of fishermen to lay down their nets, a state official said today. "We have detained a Singapore-owned ship and its crew. The chemistry department is doing a matching test to find if the oil in the water is the same as in the tanker," Freddie Long, a Johor state executive councillor said. Long said the tanker was detained on Saturday (Jun 25) and a clean-up was expected to begin tomorrow once equipment is deployed. The vessel is being held in Pasir Gudang port, said Long, who is in charge of environmental issues in the state. The busy shipping route was hit on Thursday by a five-kilometre-long slick which left beaches in Johor covered with tar balls and harbours full of black, oily water. Abu Bakar Mohamad, president of the Fishermen's Association of Pengerang, said Monday that some 200 fishermen had been affected by the spill.

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: The master of the vessel believed responsible for an oil slick off the Johor coast jumped onto a lifeboat and escaped to Batam, Indonesia, when police moved in today. However, six crewmen of product tanker Aranda (500 gt, built 1977) were detained for questioning by the state Department of Environment for polluting the area close to Sungai Rengit, last Sunday. State executive councillor for tourism and environment Freddie Long said the crew were detained three nautical miles off Tanjung Ayam, Kota Tinggi, while the vessel has been docked at Pasir Gudang. "DOE is investigating if the oil slick is caused by the vessel discharging oil into Malaysian waters," he said. It is believed that Aranda, owned by a company registered in Singapore, had earlier cleaned another cargo vessel, Zhong Hua (? chemical/oil carrier Zhong Hua 6), bound for a dry dock in Singapore. The cleaning was done in Malaysian waters. Long said the oil was a by-product of cleaning the cargo vessel, called "slop oil". It is believed that the slop oil could have been deliberately discharged to cut the cost of transporting it to a processing plant. "Slop oil is a scheduled waste by-product and it is prohibited from being brought into the country." He said the DOE had sent samples to the Chemistry Department to check if they matched those taken from the ship.

KOPER, SLOVENIA

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated Jun 22, states: Inspectors are still trying to determine who is to blame for a spill of over 5 tonnes of oil in the port of Koper last week, in what is estimated to be the most severe pollution of the Slovene sea in twenty years. According to preliminary estimates, between 5 to 10 tonnes of oil was spilled by a yet unidentified

vessel in the port of Koper Jun 17, with the cleanup expected to take up to three weeks. Two vessels, allegedly both owned by well-known companies, were said to be suspected of the spill, however the investigation so far could not pin the blame on either of the two. A spokesperson for the Koper police administration told STA today that they will file a criminal complaint once the sufficient evidence is gathered. Should this not be the case, the police will only write a report. The Trieste-based company Crismani, which is cleaning up the oil, estimates that the operation will cost up to 1m euros.

Weather & Navigation



AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: A storm system has caused serious flooding on the Gold Coast, with people trapped in cars and rising water causing havoc in many suburbs. "We have flooding happening in every suburb, we have entrapped persons in motor vehicles, we have lots of damaged roofs - we've got over 400 jobs so far," a Gold Coast State Emergency Service (SES) spokesman told the Nine Network. He said police were very worried about some of the stranded people. Rescue efforts were underway and additional SES units had been mobilised to help affected parts of the Gold Coast. No evacuations had yet been carried out, but the spokesman said further rain was expected to bring more flooding. "The fears is basically the flooding side of things, but we don't know where that's going to take us at this stage." Jeff Callaghan, a severe weather expert with the Bureau of Meteorology, said the southern end of the Gold Coast had recorded falls of 368mm in the past 24 hours. "Probably more significantly Coolangatta has been averaging about 80mm an hour for the past two hours," he said. Mr Callaghan said a low forming over Brisbane had caused the extreme rainfall, which was expected to continue throughout the morning. A police spokesman said almost the entire Gold Coast was under water.

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Flooding on Queensland's Gold Coast has shut down the local airport, disrupted hospital services and stranded motorists. More than 300 millimetres of rain was dumped on the Gold Coast between 0900, yesterday and 0500, today. Coolangatta Airport has been closed, with water waist deep outside the terminal. A house was in danger of collapsing at Kirra on the southern Gold Coast but it has since been stabilised. Police have taken over the search for two people reported missing in the Coomera River at Maudsland.

SES volunteers have responded to more than 600 calls for help. Elective surgery has been cancelled at the Gold Coast hospital because only half of the hospital's staff have been able to get to work. The Pacific Fair Shopping Centre at Broadbeach was also evacuated as a safety precaution. "We've got road closures in the surrounding area and Little Tallebudgera Creek," marketing manager Donna Rogers said.

BANGLADESH

Chittagong, Jun 29 -- According to local met office, the monsoon low pressure over Northwest Bay turned into a land depression and concentrated over parts of Bangladesh. The depression was moving slowly north-north-westwards. Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to keep cautionary signal No.3. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BRAZIL

London, Jun 23 -- Bunker delivery at Vitoria has been temporarily suspended, due to rough weather and strong winds. The adverse conditions are expected to last until Jun 25.

CANADA

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tomorrow, Prime Minister Paul Martin will tour parts of Calgary, High River and Okotoks affected by flooding, and Premier Ralph Klein says he expects Ottawa will ante up some assistance for flood victims across the province. Klein, who spoke to Martin about help on Sunday (Jun 19), said a federal disaster assistance program would help with agricultural losses and damage to small businesses and municipal infrastructure, such as roads, bridges and water treatment plants. The province has already promised \$55 million in flood relief to pay for damage not covered by insurance policies, but that announcement was made before the second round of flooding hit the province. Klein has said the amount of the aid package will have to be increased, but no decision has been made on what the new number will be. The limit per household will remain at \$100,000. Klein said he will press Martin on federal assistance when the two tour the flooded areas. Some estimates put the province-wide damage at \$200 million.

New York, Jun 23 - Storm damage and a power failure at a huge natural gas processing complex in southeastern Alberta forced BP Plc to shut down operations, a move that cut feedstock to petrochemical companies. BP said its Empress "straddle plants," which extract liquid hydrocarbons from natural gas, would be shut down while the company assesses the damage and makes repairs. It is not yet known how long that will take, Alexandra Wright, spokeswoman for BP's Canadian unit, said today. The company declared force majeure, a

legal move that allows the company to miss deliveries to its customers because of an event that is beyond its control. Empress partner Inter Pipeline Fund, which owns one of the plants at the complex and half of another, said initial assessments were "encouraging." "The Empress V facility sustained only minor damage and is expected to be fully operational within a few days," the company said in a statement. "Empress II damages are noncritical and operations are anticipated to resume within two weeks." Southern and central Alberta have been battered by heavy rains and flooding over the past week, with severe thunderstorms and funnel clouds in the southeast part of the province, Canada's main producer of oil and natural gas. Inter said power outages also forced it to shut down sections of its Bow River oil pipeline in the region, although flows were increasing today. The incident at Empress caused no injuries or environmental damage at the plants, located about 100 km northeast of Medicine Hat, Alberta, BP said.

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated Jun 24, states: Canada's Prime Minister Paul Martin spent this afternoon looking at flood damage around hard-hit High River, Alta. Martin and Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan met with mayors of flood-stricken areas. McLellan said that in considering federal aid for the province, two separate sets of flooding will be considered "one incident," and that would benefit the province. After a helicopter tour of the High River area, Martin walked some of the city's streets that were under water last week. Later in the day, Martin toured areas along the Bow River with Calgary Mayor Dave Bronconnier. Bronconnier said earlier he is hoping both Alberta Premier Ralph Klein and Martin stick to their pledge to provide substantial aid. Bronconnier said roads, pathways, electricity and water treatment facilities have all suffered extensive water damage. Provincial officials expect Ottawa could pay 90 per cent of compensation costs as damages are believed to top the Can\$100-million tab for flooding in 1995. Two weeks ago, the Klein government earmarked Can\$55 million for the initial round of flooding. While more aid is promised, the government hasn't announced a figure yet. Meanwhile, Calgary officials have eased water conservation measures in the city. Paul Fesko of the city's Waterworks department said in a statement: "The City's water treatment plants are beginning to recover from the high level of silt and debris in Calgary's raw water supply." Meanwhile in Saskatchewan, 2,000 residents of the northern community Cumberland House have been evacuated after the rising Saskatchewan River started flooding onto the only road. The Cumberland House Cree Nation and the adjoining village of Cumberland House declared a state of emergency Wednesday (Jun 22). While the river is

not expected to peak until the weekend, there are fears it could cause severe damage in the community.

CHILE

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated Jun 28, states: Chilean President Ricardo Lagos declared a state of emergency today in the country's south hit by torrential rains since the weekend. Lagos was given a full report on the situation by Governor Jaime Toha, who decreed a red alert yesterday, according to the National Emergency Office of the Interior Ministry (ONEMI). The downpour has caused five deaths and affected over 4,800 people in the southern part of the country, particularly in the 8th Region. In Concepcion, the precipitation reached 162.4 millimeters within 24 hours, the highest in the last 30 years. Torrential rains led to landslides in La Polvora hill, crashing three houses and killing their occupants, said ONEMI, which forecast a letup in the bad weather this afternoon.

CHINA

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Heavy rains and mudslides killed dozens of people across China's densely populated south-east, pushing the region's death toll to at least 131 and forcing the evacuation of more than 900,000 people, the government said today. The flooding in some places was the worst in a century, the government said. At least 81 people were killed by the latest rain and landslides across an area stretching from Guangxi on China's southern coast through Guangdong province to Fujian province in the south-east, the government said. The latest fatalities raised the southern death toll to at least 131 and the nationwide toll in China's three-week-old flooding season to at least 248. (See issue of Jun 24.)

Wuzhou, Jun 24 -- A bus was swept away by fast, muddy flood waters in south China and passengers were missing, the latest in a string of disasters across the country where 536 people have died in floods and landslides this year. Torrential rain has pushed rivers above their bursting points and triggered mudslides in the past week, killing at least 97 people and leaving 41 missing, state media said today. As rain inundated the south, the central province of Anhui was suffering widespread drought and a heatwave in the capital, Beijing, in the north lifted the temperature yesterday to close to 40 degrees Celsius. In Wuzhou, in the southern Guangxi region, houses on the banks of the Xijiang river have been flooded up to their roofs and downtown residents have been forced to move to upper-storey apartments or to flee to higher ground. People have fashioned make-shift boats and today were cruising around flooded streets in turbid waters at the level of bare electrical lines seeking food and other necessities. Eighteen people were missing in Fujian province to the east

after flood waters washed a bus and a pickup truck off a national highway yesterday, state media said. There was no clear death toll in Wuzhou, but locals say some elderly people who refused to evacuate were likely killed when the floods washed in, swelling up to four stories tall down narrow streets. And with the flooding set to peak on the Xijiang river and others in south China, there are fears the real disaster has yet to hit. "More than 100,000 people and soldiers are now bracing themselves for the worst peak of the floods on the (Xijiang) river as it passes Guangxi," an official from the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters was quoted as saying in the China Daily. Some 1.4 million people have been evacuated in six southern provinces, where the week's floods have caused over 11 billion yuan (\$1.33 billion) in direct economic losses and inundated huge tracks of crop land, Xinhua news agency said. Flood damage for the year so far totalled nearly 20.5 billion yuan, Xinhua said. Landslides in southern Guangdong province had damaged and cut off traffic on the Beijing-Hong Kong railway. "The Guangdong section of the Beijing-Kowloon railway will not be able to return to normal in the near future," a source from the Guangdong Railway Group told the China Daily. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Summer floods in China have killed 567 people and forced over two million from their homes, the government has said. Torrential rains in much of the country have left areas of southern China submerged beneath muddy waters in the deadliest early floods for a decade. Heavy rains have come sooner than usual, leaving the city of Wuzhou, and the provinces of Guangxi and Guangdong seriously affected. President Hu Jintao has ordered officials to increase emergency relief. "Faced with a serious fight against the floods... we must quickly step up efforts at organising construction and inspections of major dykes, reservoirs and reserve flood areas," he said at a flood prevention meeting. Officials have warned of the spread of cholera and other intestinal diseases. The Chinese Health Ministry said, that nearly 3,400 cases of cholera, dysentery and typhoid fever had been recorded in the first six months of the year, and that the figure was still rising. The worst flooding in recent years was in 1998, when 4,150 people died. Rivers have burst their banks and mudslides have contributed to the death toll in the south, where 124 people died in the past week, Chinese state media said. Central drought Chinese officials expressed concern that the floods have yet to peak. Some 2.45 million people have been evacuated from their homes, officials said. In Wuzhou, a city of 300,000 people, residents were forced to construct makeshift boats and rafts as flood water approached the upper floors of houses. Meanwhile water levels reached their highest in at least

90 years in the Pearl River, which flows past the regional business centre Guangdong. Much of China is hit by floods every year, often spreading quickly because of deforested hillsides that trigger landslides and do not prevent flood waters from building up. The floods, which have come early in the annual wet season, have caused an estimated 22.9bn yuan (\$2.77bn) worth of damage, reports say. Hong Kong was hit by heavy rains yesterday, causing traffic delays. Services on the main rail line from Hong Kong to China were suspended after a landslide. The situation in the south contrasted with soaring temperatures in central and northern regions. The central province of Anhui is enduring a record drought, while a heat wave has persisted in the Chinese capital, Beijing.

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: China has raised the number of killed and missing in this year's floods to 771. According to a report by the Xinhua news agency, citing the Ministry of Civil Affairs, a total of 607 have been confirmed dead and 164 remain missing. Nearly 2.9 million people have been evacuated because of the floods, while a staggering 21.5 million people have been affected to various degrees. The most severely affected areas are the southern provinces of Zhejiang, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan and Guangdong, as well as Guangxi Zhuang region, where unusually heavy rain has caused rivers to swell. As the water receded, the mercury started climbing, which was bad news for officials nervous about the outbreak of water-borne diseases. "The hot weather creates ideal conditions for the spread of many infectious diseases," a flood control official in Guangdong province told the China Daily. In Guangdong's capital Guangzhou, temperatures yesterday rose to 34.2 degrees Celsius. Guangdong, home to 80 million people, was severely affected by the floods. As in previous flood seasons, the People's Liberation Army has been charged with playing a key role in relief efforts. Around 144,000 active soldiers and reservists have been dispatched to help in the flood-ravaged areas. They have been engaged in evacuations, relocating half a million people and reinforcing dykes under pressure from the soaring water.

EL SALVADOR/HONDURAS

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated yesterday states: Heavy rains caused flooding and landslides in El Salvador and Honduras, leaving a total of 39 dead in both countries, including 21 people killed when a bus was carried away by flood waters. Authorities were still searching for nine people missing after the bus was engulfed late yesterday 35 miles west of San Salvador. It was carrying home a total of about 40 players and fans of a non professional soccer team called Los Leones. Ten passengers have been found alive. In towns west and

southwest of the capital, seven people were killed in landslides and three people were killed when their homes were carried away by flood waters. In neighbouring Honduras, officials said eight people died and 200 homes were damaged during three days of flooding.

HONDURAS

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least six people were killed yesterday as a storm triggered a mudslide and flood that forced the evacuation of hundreds of people in the Honduran capital, Tegucigalpa, firefighters said. Three people were buried by the mudslide in their homes in the southeast of the capital, two young girls were also killed by the mudslide in the northwest of the city and a sixth victim drowned in the east neighbourhood of Las Colinas, firefighters' spokesman Oscar Triminio.

HONG KONG

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The most severe rainstorm warning has been issued by the government of Hong Kong as the territory faces widespread disruption from torrential rain. Hong Kong is on the red rainstorm warning today after officials received more than 100 reports of flooding. Schools and several roads have been closed, whilst the official Chinese news agency reports that the wet conditions have delayed as many as 64 flights at Hong Kong International Airport. According to the information services department of the Hong Kong government, landslides on Victoria Road in Pok Fu Lam also caused the closure of all roads between Baguio Villa and Sandy Bay Road. The Home Affairs Department has opened an emergency co-ordination centre, along with shelters for those in need of temporary accommodation.

INDIA

Chandigarh, India, Jun 27 -- Thousands of people fled their homes in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh after a river burst its banks, which police said may have been caused by a swollen lake in neighbouring China. Dozens of homes, bridges and roads in the mountainous state have been washed away since the Sutlej river rose yesterday forcing an estimated 5,000 people to seek shelter in schools and government buildings on higher ground. But no deaths have been reported from anywhere in the state. A police official said the rise in river water levels could be due to the overflow of an artificial lake in neighbouring Tibet which was formed last year after a landslide blocked the Pareechu river -- a tributary of the Sutlej. "Satellite imagery will reveal the exact cause of the floods, but we believe the rising water was the result of an overflow of the lake," Arvind Sharda, a police officer told Reuters. -- Reuters.

JAPAN

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Many parts of Niigata Prefecture experienced heavy rain yesterday, prompting Gov Hirohiko Izumida to ask the Ground Self-Defence Force to dispatch troops for aid operations, while an evacuation advisory was issued for thousands of homes, local officials said. The GSDF mobilized around 70 troops to Kashiwazaki City and rescued around 200 people from flooded homes. According to the prefectural government, about 900 people in Kashiwazaki and six other municipalities were forced to stay overnight at shelters.

RUSSIA

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A hurricane yesterday in Moscow region killed one person. This morning 1,000 people still remained without power supplies. The press service of the Emergency Situations' Ministry told Interfax today that torn transmission lines on Orekhovo-Zuyevo district electrocuted a 34-year-old man. Power supplies have not been restored in 24 villages, a spokesman said. In Dubna, the site of a reknown nuclear research centre, the aftermath of the calamity has been cleared. In neighbouring Tver region two power substations are being repaired in Konakovo and power supplies revived in the old part of the town of Gorodnya. Yesterday vice governor of Moscow region Alexei Pantelejev told Interfax that nine people were injured in the hurricane but after receiving medical assistance were all discharged.

SOUTH ASIA

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than a week of sweltering heat has left more than 100 people dead in Pakistan, many of them in the country's eastern Punjab province, officials said yesterday. Temperatures have soared up to 122 degrees in some parts of Punjab, and in the capital Islamabad Saturday (Jun 25) was the hottest day in 11 years with 113 degree temperatures, said Imran Siddiqi, an official at the Pakistan Meteorological Department. Since the heat wave began more than a week ago, 105 people have died in Punjab, said Javed Asghar, a health ministry official in the province's capital of Lahore. Sunstroke, dehydration and food poisoning have caused most of the deaths, he said. At least 19 deaths have been reported in the southern Sindh, southwestern Baluchistan and North West Frontier provinces in recent days. In the neighbouring countries of India and Bangladesh, a heat wave has left more than 400 dead in the past two months. Siddiqi said monsoon rains likely later this week are expected to break the hot spell in various parts of Pakistan.

SOUTH KOREA

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The rainy season started yesterday with heavy

rain, causing several flights to be cancelled across the country. Yoju of Kyonggi Province reported a total of 103 millimetres of rain as of 2100, today. Nearby Yangpyong received 81 millimetres of rainfall, Seoul 31, Incheon 38, Pusan 17, Taejon 18, and Ulsan 8.5, according to the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA). A heavy rainfall alert was issued in Yoju and Yangpyong as of 2100, today, and the rest of Kyonggi Province, Seoul and Incheon were warned of downpours of up to 90 millimetres expected until this afternoon. Fifty-six domestic flights were cancelled today due to fog and heavy rainfall in the southern part of the country, including 31 flights connecting Seoul and Pusan and 16 between Seoul and Ulsan. The Korea Airports Corporation warned that more flights may be cancelled today since the rain is likely to continue all over the country.

TROPICAL STORM "BEATRIZ"

London, Jun 24 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of Tropical storm "Beatriz" was located near lat 17.4N, long 112.2W. Movement for the past six hours: 285 degrees at nine knots. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds 25 knots, gusts 35 knots. The maximum significant wave height is 10 feet. At 0600, UTC, the centre is predicted to be near lat 17.9N, long 114.3W, with maximum sustained winds of 20 knots, and gusts to 25 knots and dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over water.

TROPICAL STORM "BRET"

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: The second tropical storm of the Atlantic hurricane season formed off the Mexican coast last night. The Mexican government issued a tropical storm warning from Veracruz to Tampico, the National Hurricane Centre said. Tropical Storm "Bret" was located near lat 19.9N, long 95.8W, or about 55 miles north-northeast of Veracruz. The depression is moving toward the west-northwest near 5 mph and the motion is expected to continue overnight. On the forecast track, the centre is expected to move inland within the warning area early this morning. Maximum sustained winds are near 40 mph, with higher gusts. Some additional strengthening is expected before it makes landfall.

London, Jun 29 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: At 0900, UTC, the centre of tropical storm "Bret" was located near lat 20.6N, long 96.7W, or about 55 miles east-south-east of Tuxpan, Mexico, and about 135 miles south-east of Tampico, Mexico. "Bret" is moving toward the west-north-west near eight mph and this general motion is expected to continue during the next 24 hours. "Bret" is expected to make landfall within the warning area later today.

Maximum sustained winds are near 40 mph with higher gusts. Some slight strengthening is still possible before "Bret" reaches the coastline. "Bret" is a very small tropical cyclone with tropical storm force winds extending outward up to 35 miles from the centre. Estimated minimum central pressure is 1005 mb, 29.68 inches. Total rainfall accumulations of three to six inches, with locally higher amounts over mountainous terrain, are possible in association with "Bret". Conditions deteriorating along portions of the coast of Mexico as "Bret" approaches. A tropical storm warning remains in effect from Veracruz to Tampico.

Miami, Jun 29 -- The second tropical storm of the Atlantic hurricane season moved over coastal Mexico today, threatening to bring heavy rain of up to six inches to mountainous areas. At 0800 hrs, Tropical Storm "Bret" was near Tuxpan on Mexico's Gulf Coast, with maximum winds of 40 mph, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said. The storm was moving west-north-west at 10 mph and was expected to weaken today as it moved inland. Tropical storm warnings from Veracruz to Tampico were expected to be discontinued later, the hurricane center said. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated Jun 29, states: Tropical storm "Bret" hit the Gulf coast of Mexico about 360 miles south of the Texas border today, pelting communities with heavy rain and prompting flood warnings. The second tropical storm to develop in the Gulf of Mexico this month hit just south of the coastal city of Tuxpan, Mexican authorities said. A tropical storm warning was in effect from the port of Veracruz north to Tampico, about 250 miles south of the Texas border. Civil protection authorities urged residents in low-lying areas to leave their homes in case of flooding from heavy rains. The storm was moving west-north-west at 10 mph, packing maximum winds of about 40 mph. The storm was expected to weaken during the day as it moved inland over rugged terrain, the US National Hurricane Centre said. Tropical-storm force winds extended for 35 miles from the storm's centre.

London, Jun 30 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical depression "Bret": Depression centre located near lat 22.3N, long 98.5W, at 0300, UTC, Jun 30. Position accurate to within 20 nautical miles. Present movement towards the north-north-west, or 330 deg, at six knots. Maximum sustained winds 25 knots with gusts to 35 knots. Forecast for 0001, UTC, Jul 1: Dissipated.

TROPICAL STORM "CALVIN"

London, Jun 27 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Calvin": A tropical storm watch is in effect from Lagunas de Chacahua westward to Lazaro Cardenas. Storm centre located near lat 14.6N, long 98.4W, at 0900, UTC, Jun 27. Position accurate to within 45

nautical miles. Present movement towards the north-north-west, or 330 deg, at four knots. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 50 nautical miles north semicircle, nil elsewhere. Radius of 12-foot seas 60 nautical miles north semicircle, nil elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jun 28: Position lat 15.6N, long 101.0W. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 60 nautical miles north semicircle, 30 nautical miles elsewhere.

London, Jun 28 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Calvin": Storm centre located near lat 15.6N, long 101.2W, at 0001, UTC, Jun 28. Movement past six hours 295 deg at nine knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Forecast for 0001, UTC, Jun 29: Position lat 16.7N, long 105.0W. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: The cost of rebuilding North Yorkshire's flood-damaged roads and bridges is expected to top £3m. Roads, bridges and property in areas around Helmsley and Thirsk were the worst affected by flash floods which swept through the county on Jun 19. The Sutton-under-Whitstonecliffe to Thirlby road needs to be completely rebuilt, contractors have said, as does the village's Sutton North bridge. North Yorkshire County Council said the work would take until mid-July. Although priority routes have reopened, council contractors are continuing to work in Hawnby, Sutton-under-Whitstonecliffe and Thirlby. A temporary structure has been put in place over Chapel Bridge, Hawnby, after it was partially swept away. Mike Moore, director of environmental services, said: "Engineers across the area are completing a detailed assessment of precisely what work needs to be done. That work will be carried out over the coming weeks and months. Our target is to get things back to normal as quickly as possible for the many small communities across the area that were affected by the flood damage."

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: A major clean up operation is under way after heavy overnight storms brought flooding to parts of Devon. There were at least 60 incidents last night with south Devon particularly badly affected. Homes were flooded in Torquay, Totnes, Dartmouth and Shaldon after lightning strikes on a house and school in Plymouth earlier in the day. In Ashburton, at least 10 properties were affected, including two pubs and the bakery.

UNITED STATES

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: A freak windstorm hit the Cape Girardeau Regional Airport, Missouri, on Friday (Jun 24) and caused substantial damage to hangars, planes and the airport terminal. The gust occurred at about 1700, Friday, and damaged the wings of two aircraft. It also bent the door of one hangar, and a piece on the corner of another hangar was blown off. Some terminal windows also were broken after the wind caught under the canopy of a portable passenger boarding ramp and tossed it through the glass. Instruments in the airport control tower clocked the wind speed at about 48 mph, but Loy said this was about a quarter mile away from where the worst damage occurred. He estimated that the wind may have actually reached speeds of 60 to 70 mph. Airport and insurance officials are still trying to estimate the total cost of the damages.

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated Jun 28, states: Hail and wind storms earlier this month in the Dickinson and Walhalla area (of North Dakota) caused more than \$18 million in damage, Insurance Commissioner Jim Poolman says, citing insurance company estimates. The figures, which do not include crop damage, came as the state braced for another round of storms tonight and tomorrow. Western and central North Dakota were under a flood watch until tomorrow morning, and the eastern part of the state was under a flood watch until Thursday (Jun 30) morning. Western North Dakota was under a severe thunderstorm watch until Wednesday morning, which replaced a tornado watch issued earlier for the southwestern part of the state. Major insurance carriers in North Dakota indicate they have received more than 4,500 claims. Of those, about 4,000 claims in the Dickinson area are for more than \$14 million in damage, and 500 claims in the Langdon-Walhalla area total more than \$4 million in damage, Poolman said. The claims from the Dickinson area generally are homeowners' claims, while the claims from the Langdon and Walhalla areas are from farms and ranches with damage to grain bins and other farm property, Poolman said. Stark County Emergency Manager Gary Kostelecky said damage in Dickinson included roofs, siding, windows and vehicles. "There was a varied amount of damage done to anything that was in the path of the hail," he said. "There were several different paths (the storm) took to get through our area." Kostelecky said cleanup will continue for a while. "There's still a lot of trees to reduce to kindling," he said. Poolman said that after storms earlier this week, the damage estimates his office compiled "are sure to rise on a statewide level." The National Weather Service said more severe storms could hit the state today and tomorrow, influenced by unstable air and a warm front. Forecasters said some thunderstorms could drop heavy rain on already-saturated areas

Earthquakes



INDONESIA

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake jolted Garut regency early on Thursday morning (Jun 23) but no fatalities were reported. The quake, measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale, was felt as far away as Bandung and Cilacap regencies. Hendri Surbakti, head of the Bandung Meteorological and Geophysics Agency, said the epicentre of the quake was located in the ocean some 100 kilometres south of Garut regency.

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: An earthquake measuring 5.8 points on the Richter scale shook the city of Manado, the administrative centre of North Sulawesi in East Indonesia, today. The epicentre was located 104 kilometres east of the province at the depth of 50 kilometres. There have been no reports about casualties or damage.

MEXICO

London, Jun 28 -- A report, dated Jun 27, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 1135, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.3 event has been located off the coast of Jalisco, Mexico, lat 18.78N, long 107.34W. The hypocentral depth was poorly constrained.

Volcanic Activity



MOUNT EBOKO, KURIL ISLANDS, RUSSIA

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Mount Ebeko, a volcano on the island of Paramushir, which belongs to the Northern Kuril chain in Russia's Far East, has started emitting vapour and gas for the first time since spring. The Russian Emergency Situations Ministry's Sakhalin department said vapour and gas emissions had been registered early this morning. The volcano does not currently pose a danger to Severo-Kurilsk, a town seven kilometres away, as the clouds of vapour and gas that have risen to 200 metres high are moving to the south-west, i.e. in the opposite direction. There is also no hydrogen sulfide in the air, unlike during the last period of activity.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: Afghanistan's defence ministry spokesman says more than 100 Taliban rebels have been killed in a battle which has raged in the country's south since Tuesday (Jun 21). It is one of the largest single battles waged in Afghanistan since the Taliban regime was toppled in late 2001. Now entering its fourth day, Afghanistan's defence ministry has announced that the number of Taliban dead has reached 132. There are also reports that two senior Taliban commanders, who are said to be close to the Taliban's elusive leader Mullah Mohammad Omar, have been surrounded. Hundreds of Afghan army troops have been fighting in Zabul province since Tuesday with the support of the US-led coalition in Afghanistan. Interior Ministry spokesman Lutfullah Mashal said that most of the Taliban casualties are the result of fire from helicopter gunships. The Taliban have denied losing a single fighter.

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated Jun 26, states: The Afghan Defence Ministry says 76 insurgents have been killed in fighting in the last three days in some of the deadliest fighting involving both Afghan and US forces in southern Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban in 2001. Another 102 had already died in action from Jun 20 to 23, bringing the total to 178, and more than 71 detained, the Defence Ministry said yesterday. A total of 178 insurgents have died in fighting in Mianishin district of Kandahar Province since Monday last week (Jun 20)," Defence Ministry spokesman Zahir Marad said by telephone. Six high-ranking Taliban commanders were among the dead, he said, declining to elaborate. Two high-ranking Taliban commanders who were previously thought to be surrounded in area are now believed to have fled, he said. US-led coalition warplanes and attack helicopters were also part of the battle, which has ended, he said. Taliban insurgents have intensified their attacks on US and Afghan forces after a winter lull. Around 465 insurgents have been reported killed since March. More than 100 civilians have also been reported killed. Two German soldiers are missing after an explosion in north-eastern Afghanistan that wounded many Afghans, a German army spokesman said late yesterday. The blast took place near Rustaq, about 290 kilometres north of Kabul, as vehicles were being loaded with decommissioned arms and munitions,

he said. Its cause was unclear and no further details were available, the spokesman added. Around 1,600 German soldiers are stationed in Afghanistan, where they form part of an international peacekeeping force in the capital Kabul, and provide reconstruction teams in towns in the north of the country.

COLOMBIA

London, Jun 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Leftist rebels killed at least 25 soldiers in two clashes yesterday in Colombia, the worst death toll in a single day for the military since President Alvaro Uribe came to power three years ago on pledges of crushing the guerrillas. Another 18 soldiers were reported missing. Fighting broke out in southwestern Putumayo state when as many as 300 rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, ambushed an army convoy during an attack targeting several nearby oil wells, said Gen. Carlos Lemus, Inspector General of the Army. Also yesterday, government troops launched an offensive to dislodge leftist rebels blocking a road in northeast Colombia, leaving at least six soldiers dead, local army commander Gen. Edgar Ceballos said.

INDIA

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 21 people have been killed in a fierce gun battle between Maoist rebels and police in the Indian state of Bihar, police said. The dead are said to include 16 rebels, two police officers and two civilians. Police said the overnight fighting took place when nearly 100 rebels attacked a police station and two state-run banks in a village in East Champaran. They say the rebels belong to the Maoist Communist Centre which operates in five Indian states. They are also believed to have close links with Maoist rebels in Nepal. The authorities in Bihar say the rebels also attacked the house of a local MP, Sita Ram Singh, who represents the Rashtriya Janata Dal in the lower house of parliament.

IRAQ

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: A suicide car bomber in the northern Iraqi city of Tikrit failed to kill the assumed target yesterday, when a senior oil ministry official escaped with his life. The suicide bomber collided with the oil worker's car in an attempt to detonate the bomb and kill him, but the manoeuvre failed. US and Iraqi forces surrounded the area and defused the bombs in the car. In another incident, a remote controlled car bomb detonated north of Baghdad today, hitting an Iraqi police patrol. One policeman was killed and nine civilians wounded in the attack in Tuz Khormato, north of Baghdad. Insurgents also launched another attack on Iraq's oil production, setting fire to an oil pipeline in Beiji. The

pipeline begins in Kirkuk and passes through Beiji before entering Baghdad. Elsewhere, Philippine Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for special concerns Rafael Seguis said at a press conference today that Roy Hallums, the American kidnapped along with Filipino accountant Robert Tarongoy, released Wednesday (Jun 22) is still in captivity alive. Seguis denied reports that the Philippine government paid between 1.4 million dollars to 10 million dollars for the exchange of the safe release of Tarongoy, who arrived home yesterday. The British Government, meanwhile, yesterday announced that a further 600 reservists are to be called up to support British military operations for Iraq. The call-up means that more than 10,000 part-time service personnel will have been deployed in Iraq since the invasion in March 2003. Adam Ingram, the armed forces minister, said the soldiers would be replacing existing reservists on activities including medical support. Forces in Iraq have also had to rely on reserves for communications and intelligence specialists, and engineers. Mr Ingram said deployment would begin in October and most of those called out could expect a 10-month period of mobilisation. He added in a written statement to MPs that not all of those called up would necessarily serve in Iraq and said the move was "routine management" of troops. Japan is not considering withdrawing its reconstruction forces from Iraq, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said today, a day after a roadside bomb targeted a convoy of Japanese military vehicles. Although the blast yesterday caused no casualties and little damage, it was the first time the Japanese mission had been hit outside its base at Samawa in southern Iraq. Japan has sent around 550 ground troops to Samawa for rebuilding and humanitarian assistance in its riskiest overseas military mission since World War Two.

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated Jun 24, states: A deadly attack on a convoy carrying female U.S. Marines was just the latest in car bombing in Iraq. Car bombers have struck Iraq 480 times in the past year - including yesterday night's attack on the convoy in Fallujah, killing 2,180 people and wounding 5,533. So far, a series of counterinsurgency sweeps by U.S. and Iraqi forces - both inside Baghdad and in turbulent Anbar province to the west - have not been able to slow the attackers' pace appreciably. Nevertheless, officials say they have recently gained valuable intelligence about how the car bombers operate. As Iraqi and U.S. military officials went over plans for a recent sweep in Baghdad, they made a startling discovery: Rather than assembling car bombs outside the capital, insurgents were fitting the cars with explosives at workshops inside the city itself. That discovery - from tips by residents - forced officials to scrap the idea of surrounding Baghdad with troops in an effort to

control all 23 entrances to the city. "This was based on the assumption that car bombs were loaded outside the city," the prime minister recently told a small group of reporters. Instead, al-Jaafari said, the planners of Operation Lightning, launched May 29, switched to an operation that also involved setting up checkpoints inside the city and carrying out street-by-street sweeps. The tips also led to the discovery of large car bomb factories inside Baghdad. Security forces were stunned to discover that insurgents could rig a car with explosives in one hour or less, al-Jaafari said. In addition to the Baghdad sweeps, U.S. and Iraqi forces last weekend launched two massive campaigns - code-named Spear and Dagger - in Anbar to target foreign fighters coming into Iraq from Syria. During Operation Spear, near the Syrian border, U.S. Marines found foreign passports and one round-trip air ticket from Tripoli, Libya, to Damascus, Syria. The travel documents included two passports from Sudan, two from Saudi Arabia, two from Libya, two from Algeria and one from Tunisia.

Ramadi, Jun 25 -- Gunmen attacked a police station near the city of Ramadi, west of Baghdad, yesterday, killing eight police officers, a police chief said. Around 20 insurgents attacked the police station on a highway outside Ramadi, which is the capital of Anbar province, Brigadier General Shakir Mohammed Salih, the chief of police in Anbar, said. -- Reuters.

Mosul, Iraq, Jun 26 -- A suicide bomber drove at a district police headquarters in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul today, bringing down part of the building and killing at least six people, most of them policemen, officials said. A section of the old, two-storey building collapsed in rubble in the powerful explosion. Five police and a civilian were killed and 14 people wounded, hospital staff said. The blast, claimed by al Qaeda, struck the Bab al-Toob station in central Mosul as people were beginning their working day about 0700, local time. The building sits in a busy market area that was left devastated. A police spokesman said the bomber drove his explosives-laden vehicle -- witnesses saw a pick-up truck -- through the market at the unfortified rear wall of the station. Iraqi police and troops have become prime targets for the rebels. The deputy head of one of Baghdad's main police departments, Colonel Riyadh Abdelkarim, was assassinated on his way to work today, police in the capital said. In Internet statements, al-Qaeda's Iraq wing led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed that killing as well as the Mosul bomb. It also said two suicide bombers attacked an army depot at Kusok, near Mosul. Defence officials had no information but hospital staff in Mosul said they had received casualties. In the former rebel bastion of Falluja, where six US troops were killed by a suicide car bomber on Thursday (Jun 23), a rocket attack on an Iraqi army

patrol caused several casualties, witnesses said. In Mosul yesterday, a suicide car bomb attack on the motorcade of the provincial police chief killed at least four policemen. The senior officer was not in the convoy. Further south in Samarra, police said at least five people died in a car bombing near the home of a senior police officer. Also yesterday 20 or so insurgents stormed a police station in the western city of Ramadi, killing eight officers, in the latest of a number of massed infantry-style attacks. More than 100 rebels, employing tactics familiar to regular troops, besieged a Baghdad police station last week before being driven off by US helicopters. Guerrillas also fought a three-hour battle yesterday against US tanks and helicopters in the northern town of Tal Afar, near Mosul, which has been a staging post for foreign Islamist fighters coming over the border from nearby Syria. -- Reuters.

Baghdad, Iraq, Jun 26 -- Four suicide bombs killed at least 19 people in 18 hours and wounded 27 more around the northern city of Mosul, Iraqi police and US military officials said today. The most recent blast took place at 0645 local time today at the security entrance of the emergency room of the Jamahoori Hospital, killing five police officers and wounding six, Iraqi police said. The officers involved were hospital security personnel, police said. Earlier a suicide bomber attacked the Kasak Iraqi military base parking lot, killing at least five people and wounding 13 more, police said. Police said casualties all were civilian laborers at the base which houses an Iraqi army division. Earlier, a bomb hidden in a pickup truck under a pile of watermelons exploded outside an Iraqi police station, killing four police officers who were inside along with an Iraqi civilian, said Iraqi police Gen. Sa'id al-Jubori. Eight people were wounded in the attack which occurred this morning at the main gate of al-Toob police station in western Mosul, al-Jubori said. The string of bombings began last night. A suicide car bomb targeting an Iraqi police convoy killed four Iraqi police officers, police said.

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Suicide bombers struck a police headquarters, an army base and a hospital around Mosul, killing 33 people in a setback to efforts to rebuild the north-western city's police force that was riven by intimidation from insurgents seven months ago. At least 14 people were killed in attacks elsewhere in Iraq yesterday, including a US soldier whose convoy was hit by a roadside bomb in Baghdad and six Iraqi soldiers who were gunned down outside their base north of the capital. Early today, a US military helicopter crashed in a field north of Baghdad, witnesses and the US military said. There were no immediate reports of casualties. The helicopter went down in Mishahda, 20 miles north of the capital, a witness at the scene said. The helicopter was in flames on the

ground. US Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, meanwhile, said it may take as long as 12 years to defeat the insurgents. He said Iraq's security forces will have to finish the job because American and foreign troops will have left the country by then. The attacks in Mosul, 225 miles north-west of Baghdad, started early yesterday when a suicide bomber with explosives hidden beneath watermelons in a pickup truck slammed into a downtown police station near a market. US Army Capt Mark Walter said 10 policemen and two civilians were killed. Less than two hours later, a suicide bomber blew himself up in the parking lot of an Iraqi army base on Mosul's outskirts, killing 16 people, Walter said. Most of the victims were civilian workers arriving at the site, he said. Of the seven injured, one lost a leg and another was paralysed from the waist down, the military said. A third attacker strapped with explosives walked into Mosul's Jumhuri Teaching Hospital in the afternoon and blew himself up in a room used by police guarding the facility, killing five policemen. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's al-Qaida in Iraq claimed responsibility for the attacks in Mosul. The American soldier was killed and two were wounded when a roadside bomb struck a US convoy yesterday in the capital, said Sgt 1st Class David Abrams, a spokesman for Task Force Baghdad. At least 1,735 members of the US military have died since the Iraq war started in March, 2003, according to an AP count. The US military yesterday confirmed the deaths of two more Marines in Thursday's (Jun 23) ambush on a convoy carrying female US troops in Fallujah, bringing the number killed to at least four Marines. A Marine and a sailor were still missing and presumed dead, the military said. At least two of the dead were women, and 11 of the 13 wounded troops were female. Also yesterday, six Iraqi soldiers were gunned down outside their base in Sadiyah, 60 miles north of Baghdad. In other developments, a mortar round exploded at a house in eastern Baghdad, killing a woman and two children. Gunmen killed police Col Riyad Abdul Karim, an assistant district police director of emergency services, in eastern Baghdad. Al-Qaida in Iraq claimed responsibility for the attack. A female journalist working for Iraqiyah TV was shot to death in Baghdad. Four mortar rounds hit a neighborhood in central Ramadi, killing one civilian. Gunmen killed the owner of a pharmacy in western Iraq, hospital officials said. The Iraqi tribunal investigating members of Saddam Hussein's regime released a videotape showing two of the ousted dictator's half brothers being questioned about their alleged role in displacing and killing Kurds. The US military announced that American soldiers detained 25 suspected insurgents and seized weapons caches on Friday in western Anbar province.

Baghdad, Jun 27 -- A U.S. Apache attack helicopter crashed in Iraq today and recovery teams were sent to find out the fate of its two-man crew, the U.S. military said. "We had a helicopter crash northwest of Taji," Lieutenant Colonel Cliff Kent, spokesman for the 3rd Infantry Division said, referring to a major airbase north of Baghdad. Local people said they saw two helicopters circling before one crashed out of the sky just north of Baghdad. "I saw a missile hit one of the helicopters and black smoke come from it before it went down," said one man, who gave his name as Abu Mustafa. The U.S. statement did not say what had caused the crash. -- Reuters.

Kerbala, Jun 28 -- A member of Iraq's parliament, three of his bodyguards and his son were killed by a suicide car bomb attack on their convoy in the northern outskirts of Baghdad today, police sources said. Dhari Ali al-Fayadh, a member of the ruling Shi'ite-dominated political alliance, was the second member of Iraq's newly elected parliament to be assassinated since the Shi'ite- and Kurdish-led government took office two months ago. Fayadh was the oldest member of parliament and had acted as speaker when the national assembly met for the first time after an election in January. -- Reuters.

IVORY COAST

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, dated Jun 23, states: U.N. Security Council members agreed on a plan today to send more peacekeepers and police to Ivory Coast in a bid to get the country's peace process back on track. France's U.N. Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sabliere, the current council president, said a council resolution authorizing 850 more troops and 375 police would be put to a vote tomorrow. It was virtually certain to be approved. France had wanted more troops to complement the 6,200-strong mission but faced opposition, including from the United States on the swelling costs of peacekeeping. Council members also agreed they could transfer troops from another U.N. mission in Sierra Leone if necessary. De La Sabliere said that could be some 1,200 troops for now. Rebels have controlled the northern half of Ivory Coast since a failed coup attempt in September 2002 sparked a civil war. A French-brokered peace deal in January 2003 has failed to hold. In a peace accord signed Apr 6, warring parties agreed to end hostilities and disarm. Two months after Ivory Coast's rebels and government signed the deal, the crisis in Ivory Coast has become worse with rising tension and new violence. The two sides have agreed to meet in Pretoria, South Africa next week to try to jump-start the process. Yesterday, the U.N. General Assembly passed a record-breaking \$3.2 billion peacekeeping budget for the next 12 months that may rise to \$5 billion. The \$3.2 billion was for 14 peacekeeping missions, with the largest operations in Africa,

to cover estimated costs from July 1, 2005, to June 30, 2006. But U.N. budget figures show the sum does not include an increase in troops for the Democratic Republic of Congo and other missions or a new operation in southern Sudan, authorised at some 10,000 soldiers, to monitor an agreement between the Khartoum government and southern rebels. Those missions could cost an additional \$1.8 billion. Other ongoing operations are in Liberia, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Cyprus, Lebanon, Georgia, the Golan Heights, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Kosovo, East Timor and Western Sahara. Peacekeeping costs are divided among the U.N. members, according to their national wealth and with the five permanent Security Council nations, who authorise the operations, charged an extra percentage. They are the United States, France, Britain, Russia and China. The United States is assessed for some 27 percent of the cost but as of April 30 was \$584 million in arrears in addition to payments due in 2005, according to U.N. figures.

NEPAL

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Communist rebels abducted about 90 high school students from their classrooms in a remote mountain village in Nepal, the army said today. The army said the students were abducted Wednesday (Jun 22) from the Nepal Rastriya High School in Paudiamrai village, about 190 miles west of the capital, Katmandu. The village is in a remote part of the Gumli district, a mountainous area where the rebel presence is strong. There are no army or police bases near the village. Local government officials said they were aware of the report, which came from army headquarters in Katmandu. "We have had many reports of students being taken by the Maoists this month," said Durga Pokhrel, the district's chief administrative officer. Pokhrel said the rebels often take students from schools to be indoctrinated in communist ideology. But the latest case has officials concerned because the rebels usually release their captives after two or three days. About 250 students were taken from a village near Paudiamrai on Jun 15 and sent back three days later.

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 12 security personnel were killed and 21 others injured in a clash with Maoist rebels in southwestern Nepal, local media reported. The fighting, which took place on Saturday (Jun 25) at Khandaha village in the district of Arghakhanchi, 335 kilometres south-west of the capital, lasted nearly three hours, the Kantipur newspaper said. Citing officials from the Royal Nepalese Army's western divisional headquarters, the Nepali-language daily said there were "heavy Maoist casualties". It also said that at least six soldiers and six policemen were

killed and 21 others were injured during the Maoist ambush on their patrol. The army said it was waiting for more details before making any official comment.

RUSSIA

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Four bombs exploded in the southern republic of Dagestan today. Two of the bombs wounded six police officers in the regional capital, and another derailed a cargo train, injuring two men. No one immediately claimed responsibility, and it was not clear who was behind the blasts. Dagestan, an autonomous Russian republic on the Caspian Sea, is on Chechnya's eastern border and has been both a source of fighters in the war there and an area where Chechens have sought refuge. It has had its own internal divisions and unrest as well, and bombings, arrests, skirmishes and the discovery of weapons caches or explosives have been regular occurrences there this year. The first two of the bombs showed signs of tactical sophistication, and greater harm was avoided in the third explosion because it was a cargo train, not a passenger train, that detonated a freshly laid explosive. The first bomb exploded at 0040 in Dagestan's capital, Makhachkala. The explosion disabled a police vehicle and wounded two police sergeants. It was reported that the men had been spared more serious injury because they had been driving with flak jackets draped over the vehicle's side windows a sign of just how dangerous police officers believe patrols in Dagestan to be. The first blast was apparently used as bait, which is a tactic often used by fighters in Chechnya. Fifteen minutes after the explosion, as investigators were examining the scene, a second hidden bomb detonated about 35 yards from the first, wounding four senior police officers. An hour later, at 0155, a powerful bomb placed on the tracks between Kurush and Suvak exploded. It was detonated by a pressure switch that was set off as the train passed over it. The bomb derailed the locomotive and four flatcars, injuring the engine driver and a crew member, the chief of staff of the local transportation police, Akhmed Magomayev. More than 100 yards of the rail was damaged, and train service in the republic was delayed throughout the day. The fourth blast occurred outside a school in Khasavyurt, damaging the school but it was reported that there were no injuries.

SOMALIA

Nairobi, Jun 23 -- Somalia's president and parliament speaker met today to heal a rift over the government's return home, while Washington urged a rapid completion of the relocation to end 14 years of anarchy. The Somali government, formed at peace talks in the relative security of neighbouring Kenya last year, has begun in earnest its long-

delayed return to the lawless Horn of Africa nation, but there still remains a major split over where its base should be: the dangerous capital Mogadishu or the provincial town of Jowhar. The US State Department said in a statement the current Somali reconciliation process, the 14th such attempt since warlords toppled military dictator Mohamed Siad Barre and ushered in a state of anarchy in 1991, was at a critical stage. "It is imperative that a viable national plan for relocation and security be formally agreed upon by a broad quorum," it said. President Abdullahi Yusuf, who plans to join Prime Minister Mohamed Ali Gedi and more than 70 legislators (MPs) in Jowhar, held a third day of talks with Parliament Speaker Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan today in Yemen's capital Sanaa. Around 100 MPs led by Sharif Hassan and several powerful warlords have already returned to Mogadishu, to prove their point that it is safe enough to be the government's home. Yusuf flew to Yemen last week for the reconciliation talks after his government bade a formal farewell to Kenya, where it had remained after its formation because of the lack of security at home. Presidential spokesman Yusuf Ismail Baribari said the talks were still ongoing "having in mind the utmost interests of the Somali people". Yemen's state news agency Saba quoted sources as saying efforts to heal the rift between the two sides "showed positive signs". Today, Kenya and Somalia agreed the legal status of Somali refugees in Kenya would not be decided until security was established at home, Kenya government spokesman Alfred Mutua told a press conference. Thousands of Somalis have fled to neighbouring countries, many into ethnically Somali regions lying beyond its borders. In Mogadishu, Religious Affairs Minister Omar Mahamud Mohamed, a warlord commonly known as Omar Finnish who is aligned with the speaker, said the talks were being watched keenly. An agreement "would have a positive impact on the rifts existing in the government", he told Reuters by telephone. Baribari said 225 MPs and cabinet members were back in Somalia as of today, leaving another 50 still to return. -- Reuters.

Sanaa, Jun 24 -- Somalia's president and parliament speaker failed to agree on where the fledgling government should be based during talks aimed at restoring central rule after 14 years, Yemeni sources said today. The Somali government, formed at peace talks in the relative security of neighbouring Kenya last year, has begun its long-delayed return to the lawless Horn of Africa nation. However, there remains a major split over where its base should be -- the dangerous capital Mogadishu or the provincial town of Jowhar. The talks in the Yemeni capital Sanaa were aimed at resolving the rift. A Yemeni government source said President Abdullahi Yusuf and Parliament Speaker Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan were due to leave Sanaa later today after failing to reach

agreement. "They will resume talks at a later date," said the source, who declined to be identified, without giving details. Diplomats in Yemen said Somalia's security problems continued to dog the two sides. They said the parliament speaker, who had already returned to Mogadishu with about 100 MPs and several powerful warlords to show that the capital was safe, insisted the government relocate there. However, the president said security must be ensured first. Yusuf flew to Yemen last week for the reconciliation talks after his government bade a formal farewell to Kenya, where it had remained after its formation because of the lack of security at home. He plans to join Prime Minister Mohamed Ali Gedi and more than 70 legislators in Jowhar. From Mogadishu, Deputy Prime Minister Mahamud Jama Sifir -- allied with the speaker -- confirmed the talks had failed. "No agreement has been reached on the sticky issues which are the presence of troops from the frontline states to Somalia, the issue of the capital city and some constitutional anomalies, for example who has the power to call and dismiss parliament." -- Reuters.

SPAIN

London, Jun 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: A bomb has exploded outside a sports stadium in Madrid after a warning was given in the name of the Basque separatist group ETA. No injuries were reported as a result of the car bomb, which went off at 1700, UTC, outside the Peineta sports stadium. The venue is under construction as part of the Spanish capital's bid to host the 2012 Olympic Games.

SUDAN

Aamara, Jun 24 -- Sudanese warplanes dropped bombs on rebels in the east of the country for a second day today, wounding several people, a rebel group said. Observers in the Horn of Africa said it was believed to be the first time in several years that planes had bombed eastern rebels demanding a fair share of Sudan's power and wealth. "Today they are bombing with aircraft. We are collecting information on the number of people injured," Salah Barqueen, spokesman of the Eastern Front rebel group, told Reuters in neighbouring Eritrea. "They started yesterday. They are using the same (method) as they used in Darfur," he added. Barqueen said the bombing took place in the Barka Valley west of Tokar, a town 75 miles south of Port Sudan on the Red Sea. "Most of the livestock in the valley has been killed, sheep and goats," Salah said. "Still the bombing is going on." Fighting broke out in the east at the weekend near Tokar, when Front fighters destroyed three government garrisons and captured 20 government troops. The eastern rebels have held a small piece of territory just next door to Eritrea in eastern Sudan since the late 1990s. The Front was formed in February from two

eastern rebel groups, the Beja Congress and Rashaida Free Lions. It has friendly ties with rebel groups in Darfur and former rebels in the south, whose complaints about marginalisation of their respective areas by Khartoum echo the Front's own. -- Reuters.

TURKEY

Diyarbakir, Jun 24 -- Five rebel fighters of the banned Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) were killed and one Turkish security guard was injured during an armed clash today, officials said. The clash took place in a heavily forested area near the town of Bingol in Turkey's mainly Kurdish southeast region. The officials said a military operation to flush out guerrillas in the area, launched yesterday, was continuing, backed by helicopters. -- Reuters.

UGANDA

Kampala, Jun 25 -- More than 100 Ugandan rebels attacked a refugee camp in the north of the country, but the number of casualties was not immediately clear, aid workers said today. The fighters from the cult-like Lords Resistance Army (LRA) raided the sprawling settlement late yesterday in Agoro sub-county, Kitgum district, which borders Sudan. "This was a major attack involving more than 100 LRA rebels who crossed the border," a senior aid worker said. "The number of dead is unknown at this stage," he said, adding that the rebels also looted food from the camp. Uganda's army spokesman in the north, Lieutenant Tabaro Kiconco, said he could not confirm the report. Both sides in one of Africa's longest-running conflicts have stepped up attacks in recent months after tentative peace talks stalled in February. Kitgum district, where the latest attack took place, is 450 kilometres north of the capital Kampala. -- Reuters.

ZIMBABWE

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated Jun 24, states: The African Union has rejected calls from the UK and the US to put pressure on Zimbabwe to stop its demolition of illegal houses and market stalls. An AU spokesman said that it had many more serious problems to consider than Zimbabwe. The UN says that 275,000 people have been made homeless. At least three children have been crushed to death. The opposition say the demolitions are meant to punish urban residents, who have rejected President Robert Mugabe in recent elections. He denies this, saying the crackdown is designed to "restore sanity" in urban areas, which he says have become overrun with criminals. Some 46,000 people have been arrested for trading without a licence, hoarding and illegal possession of foreign currency, Zimbabwe's police chief Augustine Chihuri said, according to state radio. Mr Chihuri said that burglary and car-theft had declined by 20% since

the operation began four weeks ago. The United Nations is due to send a special envoy to Zimbabwe to investigate the demolitions.

Kidnappings



NEPAL

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

Labour Disputes



AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Several thousand mainly mining and construction workers in the Pilbara in Western Australia are on strike in protest against the Federal Government's proposed industrial relations changes. Up to 3,000 workers attended a union rally at Windy Ridge oval in the north-west town of Dampier. Dave Robinson from Unions WA told the rally the Howard Government's plan to introduce a national industrial relations system would take away their basic rights and is the greatest threat to workers in more than 150 years. Union delegates then moved a motion for the workers to walk off the job for 24 hours to show their opposition to the changes. Their decision was unanimous and they will remain off the job until the first shift tomorrow. The workers involved are from industries including manufacturing, mining and construction.

London, Jun 28 -- A press report dated today, states: Workers in Western Australia's Pilbara region are returning to their jobs after striking for 24 hours in protest against the Commonwealth's industrial relations changes. Several thousand workers voted to walk off the job at a union rally in the town of Dampier yesterday. Unions claimed the action would "shut down" the region's billion-dollar industries but major employers such as Woodside say their operations were unaffected. However, several large construction projects were disrupted, including the redevelopment of the Dampier port where 850 contractors downed tools. Teachers and prison guards also withdrew their labour. The WA Chamber of Commerce and Industry has labelled the strike a 'political stunt' and dismissed its effectiveness. But Unions WA secretary Dave Robinson has dismissed the claim, saying union officials did not initiate the strike.

CANADA

London, Jun 26 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: About 1,000 container truck drivers have gone on strike, which could drastically reduce the movement of cargo at ports on the BC Lower Mainland. They decided today to walk off the job after the Vancouver Container Truck Association was unable to make a deal with the city's port authority. The truckers, who work for a number of different companies, say they need more money to cope with soaring fuel costs. An independent facilitator is to be brought in during the next two weeks to try to resolve the dispute. A Vancouver Port Authority spokeswoman, Anne McMullin, warned earlier that the port would be unable to move nearly half of its goods in the event of a strike. "This is of enormous concern," McMullin said. "Trucks are vitally important to trade, to the economy and to the movement of goods around the Lower Mainland." "About 40 per cent of all containerized cargo that moves through the Port of Vancouver moves by truck."

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: A strike by truckers serving the port of Vancouver that has halted about 40% of container freight moving through the port is a threat to the entire retail sector, warns the Retail Council of Canada. "This is a serious disruption to the Canadian supply chain and there's no question both retailers and consumers are getting hit," said Kevin Evans, the organization's western vice-president. The retail council, which represents merchants across Canada, yesterday called on federal Transport Minister Jean Lapierre to take "whatever steps necessary to resolve the dispute." About 1,000 drivers belonging to the Vancouver Container Truck Association walked off the job on Saturday (Jun 25) after failing to come to an agreement on compensation with the shipping companies that employ them. More than 40% of container traffic moving through Vancouver leaves on the back of a truck, so the job action is a major threat to trade. "There are no trucks going in or out," said Anne McMullin, a spokeswoman for the port, who added that rail traffic is still moving smoothly. Ms. McMullin said the truckers, who are mostly independent contractors, have established pickets at all of the port's container terminals as well as Fraser Port, another facility south of Vancouver. If the strike continues much longer, containers will start to pile up at the port, she said.

London, Jun 28 -- A press dispute, dated today, states: An estimated 1,000 striking truckers put the brakes on more than \$30 million worth of container business at Greater Vancouver ports yesterday. Terminal operators at the Port of Vancouver and Fraser Port said the strike is shutting off the flow of consumer and industrial goods to the Lower Mainland, although goods moving in and out of the port via rail to the rest of Canada are not affected, according to the

operators of Deltaport and Vanterm. Operators of Centerm warned the strike will hurt B.C.'s biggest industry, forestry, which is increasingly relying on containers to carry pulp, paper, lumber and fibreboard to international markets. The federal and provincial governments said they are willing to assist in resolving the dispute between truckers and the companies that employ them, including using a third party to facilitate discussions, but Vancouver Container Truckers Association spokesman Paul Uppal said the drivers are in no hurry to talk. "We're overwhelmed by the support we've received today," Uppal said. "I think at this point in time we don't want to speak with anybody for at least a week. We want our voices to be heard." In a typical day, truckers carry 2,700 containers through the gates of the region's ports, about half that traffic representing Asian consumer and industrial goods coming into the region, and an array of goods including forest industry products moving out. About 40% of all goods moving through the ports travels by truck. Monday, in the first day of job action, that traffic slowed to a trickle, with about 50 containers moving through Fraser Surrey Docks, less than 10% of normal activity, and the other terminals shut down tight. For the time being, vessels coming into the terminals are still being unloaded, although containers destined for local markets are now accumulating on the properties. All inland cargo is not affected, anything going by rail to Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Montreal, Chicago are all very active. B.C. Transportation Minister Kevin Falcon said the government is "obviously very concerned" about what a partial shutdown like this can have on the economy, not just of British Columbia, but of the other western provinces that rely on B.C.'s ports. Falcon said that because the dispute is between parties in the private sector, there is no defined role for the province. "Unless we can be convinced that there is some reasonable prospect that our involvement will help bring about a solution, we are not going to be getting involved." But Falcon added that ministry staff are in contact with several parties involved in the dispute to determine if involvement by the province would help bring about a solution. Vancouver Port Authority operations vice-president Chris Badger said: "We estimate that about \$30 million in goods are carried in and out of the port by truck on a daily basis." A federal spokesman said both the Labour Ministry and Transport Canada are monitoring the situation.

London, Jun 29 -- Strike action launched by hundreds of container truckers on Canada's west coast is disrupting traffic flows at Vancouver, the biggest Canadian port. The strike was launched last Friday (Jun 24) following more than a month of negotiations between 46 trucking firms and truck drivers belonging to the 1,000-member Vancouver

Container Truckers Association. Wages and fuel surcharges are outstanding issues. "The port's open, but not much is moving by truck," Chris Badger, vice-president of operations of Vancouver Port Authority, said on Monday. "It could have a significant impact in the future if the dispute is not resolved," he said. "For import containers from Asia especially, boxes will be stacking up until it's over," said Morley Strachan, Vice-President of Business Development for TSI Terminal Systems, operator of two of Vancouver's three container terminals. "Fortunately, we can move most of our containers by rail." A spokesman for the British Columbia division of the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters Association warned that a prolonged dispute could force shippers to route cargo to such US Pacific Northwest ports as Seattle. About two fifths of containerised goods arriving in Vancouver are moved by truck, and the remainder is shipped by rail.

FINLAND

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, dated Jun 23, states: Finland's paper lock-out looks set to continue into July after unions rejected proposals from the national mediator for a new deal with employers. The union rejected a third offer from mediator Juhani Salonius, arguing it would worsen working conditions. Mr Salonius will ask the government to appoint an arbitration board to end the dispute, which is largely about pay. Union leader Jouko Ahonen told Reuters the union's board was "unanimous" in its rejection of the arbitrator's proposals. Neither the union nor Mr Salonius have revealed what the proposals were. Employers have signalled they will keep paper workers locked out until Jul 6. The move could prove to be costly as the paper sector accounts for one-third of Finland's exports and 40-50% of manufacturing output. Finland's biggest bank, Sampo, has already cut its growth forecast for the country to 1.9% from 3.2% as a result of the lock out. UPM-Kymmene, the world's largest papermaker, says lost production is costing it \$4.9m (£2.6m) a day. The action has also prompted fears of a paper shortage in Europe. Finland produces about four percent of the world's total paper market but its share of the European magazine paper market is approximately 60%.

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Finnish paper sector employers and union representatives reached today a preliminary agreement to end their six-month-old conflict which has crippled production, the two sides said. Advisory boards for the Finnish Paper Workers' Union and the Forest Industries Federation (FIF) "have reached an agreement on the paper workers' collective agreement" governing wages and conditions, the Federation said in a statement. The two sides are expected to give their formal approval to the deal on Friday (Jul 1). Details of the three-year

agreement were not disclosed, but according to FIF spokeswoman Helena Aatinen "the proposed salary and wage increases are in line with a general income policy settlement" agreed in 2004. The paper sector -- which represents six percent of Finland's gross domestic product, 25 percent of exports and 15 percent of world paper production -- has registered export losses of some 1.5 billion euros since a lockout began on May 18, according to estimates. Finnish paper groups UPM-Kymmene and Stora Enso, two of the world's biggest paper producers, are the main victims of the conflict but a number of other sectors, such as the transport industry, have also been hit hard. Several strikes by the industry's estimated 24,000 workers over the past six months along with the lockout have decimated production. Paper production was expected to resume in the coming week.

FRENCH AIRLINE PERSONNEL

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Air France ground staff working on the tarmac and in terminal passageways at Charles de Gaulle airport are to hold wildcat strikes from tomorrow, causing brief disruptions to flights, unions and airport officials said. The CGT union has called on the workers to hold stoppages without warning from that day to protest at what it said is 'chronic understaffing' and to press for pay claims. Officials said the strike was likely to be widely followed with correlating delays of short duration. "Drivers of Air France shuttle buses between the airport and Paris are also to take part in the strike", the CGT said.

GREECE

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 24-hour general strike brought Athens to a standstill, disrupting air traffic and public transport as civil servants and workers took to the streets to protest against government labour and tax policies. Greek national carrier Olympic Airlines, which handles the bulk of flights to the islands, was limited to one flight per destination in the midst of Greece's tourist season. But foreign companies and Aegean Airlines, the second-largest Greek carrier, were not affected by the strike, a spokesperson at Athens International Airport told Agence France Presse. 'Seventy percent of our flights are proceeding as usual,' the press officer said. The strike did not affect passenger shipping to the Greek islands. Today's strike heightens social unrest that began in the banking sector two weeks ago, with the Federation of Banking Staff Unions (OTOE) striking against government plans for social insurance reform. Finance Minister George Alogoskoufis on Tuesday (Jun 21) reiterated the government's intention to push forward with the reform, which includes creating a single supplementary pension fund for bank employees.

London, Jun 25 -- A press report dated today, states: The Union of Dockworkers at the port of Piraeus have announced further 48-hour strikes starting from Monday (Jun 27), in their continuing dispute with the Merchant Navy Ministry. For the coming weekend, no work will be carried out as weekend shifts are considered to be overtime, and union members are refusing to work overtime as part of their protest.

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Port workers at Piraeus have postponed their planned strike for three working days. A 48-hour strike had been called to start today, Jun 27, however, it was postponed as the Minister of Merchant Marine has refused to enter negotiations with the union while they are on strike. Workers will continue to refuse to work overtime today, tomorrow and Wednesday.

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Greece's bank workers are set to end a strike over pension reforms on Friday (Jul 1), after protesting for more than three weeks. The protesting union, OTOE, began the strike on Jun 7 to demand that the government scrap plans to reform bank workers' pension funds. The strike, which mainly affected state-run banks and the privatized National Bank, disrupted payment of pensions and other benefits, forcing retirees to stand in lines for hours. Parliament is due to pass legislation tomorrow to reform banking pension funds - a move the government says is vital for the funds' financial survival and required by European Union competition rules. Today, municipal workers and construction workers also staged a 24-hour strike. Their unions organised protest rallies in central Athens, blocking downtown traffic for several hours.

INDIA

Mumbai, Jun 24 -- About 1500 permanent transport workers employed with several private transport contractors handling and transporting container and cargo in Mumbai Port have gone on an indefinite strike from the morning of Jun 23 to press their case for being absorbed by the successful bidder following Mumbai Port's intended takeover of transportation operations from the container yard (CY) to the container freight stations (CFSs). It may be recalled that the Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) had recently invited tenders from cargo/container transporters for transportation and handling of ISO freight containers between the CY and CFSs. This development, according to Mr.S.R.Kulkarni, President, Transport and Dock Workers Union, Mumbai is threatening the livelihood of the 1500 permanent transport workers, who will be thrown out of employment despite having rendered this service to Mumbai Port for over 25 years." Mr. Kulkarni has, therefore asked for the tender condition to be modified in such a manner that the successful bidder

could absorb the existing transport workers. He has appealed to Port users to "extend their co-operation and advise Mumbai Port Trust not to snatch the livelihood of 1,500 transport workers, and allow them a dignified source of livelihood." -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Normal life was affected in several parts of West Bengal today due to transporters' strike in protest of an oil price increase. Commuters had a tough time as private buses, taxis and auto-rickshaws remained off the roads in several parts of the State, though EMU trains were running. There only a few State transport buses running, during in the early hours of the 24-hour strike, called by the CITU-led Central Left Trade Unions, official sources said. The situation was peaceful with no report of any untoward incident from anywhere across the State, according to Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Mr Chayan Mukherjee.

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The indefinite strike by over 1,500 Mumbai port transport workers affected port operations for the fifth day today, with the port authorities moving the High Court praying for an early settlement of the issue. The workers, who are working with several private transport contractors handling container and other cargoes at the port, had begun their strike on Jun 23 morning to protest against a move by the port to invite tenders for handling freight containers from pre-stack to vessel and vice-versa. The union has demanded that the port modify the tender conditions, so that the existing transport workers would be absorbed by the successful bidder. The Mumbai port has, meanwhile, approached the Court. Sources said a meeting has been called between the port management and the transport workers union in the presence of the Advocate General for Wednesday (Jun 29) to seek an amicable solution to the issue.

IRAQ

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Baghdad Airport has been shut down after its security workers went on strike, leaving government officials and civilian travellers stranded today, an Iraqi Airways official said. "The airport is blocked and even our staff from the Iraqi Airways are not allowed to enter," an official in the airways only named himself as Saud said. Global Risk Strategies, a British security company, was negotiating with the government for money that have not been paid for their employees for several months, Saud said. "We expect the strike will be over within a day," he added. The company workers were working on the checkpoints outside the heavily fortified Baghdad Airport. They are also responsible for checking passengers, baggage screening at the airport.

ISRAEL

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, dated Jun 23, states: The technicians workers' union at Ben Gurion Airport this afternoon announced a general strike, with an indefinite timetable. Only repairs concerning flight and passenger safety would be attended to during the strike. According to Army Radio, several service stations, some security check stations and air conditioning systems were not functional. Hundreds of passengers waited for a long period of time as luggage sorting stations were also out of use. The workers' union eventually decided to allow one sorting station to become operational. On Tuesday (Jun 21), the head of the technicians union apologised to the public, and promised that the workers were doing the maximum to prevent inconveniences. The Israel Airports Authority responded by saying that the technicians union was small, acts like a gang, and was making passengers miserable at a peak time.

NETHERLANDS

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Dutch public transport was crippled in three major cities by a strike today, the FNV union said. Buses, subways, trams and ferries in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Utrecht were affected by the one day strike, announced a week ago. Public transport workers decided to take the strike action after the failure of negotiations over pay and working conditions, the union said.

SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg, Jun 23 -- Miners at South Africa's Samancor Chrome, one of the world's biggest producers of ferrochrome, yesterday ended a three-week strike after sealing a wage deal, union officials said. National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) general secretary Archie Palane said the strike by some 2,100 miners had been sparked by a dispute over job gradings that workers felt did not correspond with wages. Instead of adjusting the gradings, employers had agreed to a once-off payment of around 900 rand plus a 125 rand salary adjustment and 5.5 percent wage increase, he said. "The agreement was reached following members' acceptance of management's improved offer," Palane told Reuters. He said the deal would be signed later today and around 2,100 miners would return to work on Tuesday (Jun 28). Samancor, owned by the privately-held Kermas Group, produces around one million tonnes each year of ferrochrome, an alloy made from chrome used in stainless steel to deter corrosion. The firm usually produces around three million tonnes of ore per year. Samancor officials last week said the strike had not affected output. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 26 -- South African Port Operations (SAPO) has received notification of a National Strike by COSATU tomorrow. Service at Durban Container Terminal will be affected negatively by the strike. However,

contingency measures will be implemented to minimise its impact. SAPO is requesting that import containers be removed from the terminal by today, in order to minimise stack congestion.

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: South Africa's largest trade union group says it expects hundreds of thousands of people to strike tomorrow in protest at job losses. The Congress of South African Trade Unions, or Cosatu, has called the nationwide strike because it says unemployment is unacceptably high. It is set to be the most concerted union action for more than 15 years, involving up to 500,000 members. Unions say it is just the first in a series that will last until February. They say they do not want a strike, but the government has ignored them and left them no other option. Official figures suggest a quarter of all South Africans are unemployed. Some analysts put the figure at up to 40%. The unions blame that on the government's policy of reducing tariffs on foreign goods, particularly on clothes from China. The African National Congress (ANC) is still in a formal alliance with the unions and the Communist Party, but rifts have been appearing for several years.

London, Jun 28 -- Production received a serious blow in South Africa's key mining sector yesterday as trade unions staged a one-day nationwide strike to protest high unemployment and job losses. As many as 40,000 people marched through Johannesburg, many wearing red T-shirts emblazoned with the logo of COSATU, the Congress of South African Trade Unions. But employers said response was less than expected in other industries, with an estimated 10 per cent of the total labour force staying away from work, according to the South African Chamber of Business. Johan Zietsman, a SACOB policy executive, said the strike cost South African businesses about 500 million rands, the equivalent of about \$92 million. But employers said many businesses had already taken steps to recoup their losses. COSATU had predicted up to 500,000 people would take part in the one-day strike.

Awards & Settlements



DEATH BY ELECTROCUTION, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated Jun 24, states: The family of a 12-year-old boy who was electrocuted at a bus stop shelter was awarded \$65.1 million today in a civil trial against the outdoor advertising company that built and wired the structure. A Florida jury decided that Eller Media Co. must pay \$4.1 million in compensatory damages and \$61

million in punitive damages. Attorneys for the family of Jorge Luis Cabrera said he died after stepping on an electrical conduit at the bus stop in October 1998. "They created an electrical death trap that even a defence witness admitted was only safe when it was not on," attorney Ervin Gonzalez said, referring to the company. Eller Media and one of its workers were cleared in 2001 of criminal charges in the boy's death. The company has said the boy was likely struck by lightning the night of his death. Phoenix-based Eller Media's parent company is Clear Channel Communications, the nation's largest radio broadcaster. Neither company returned a phone call seeking company today.

INJURIES IN TRAIN COLLISION, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, dated Jun 23, states: A Douglas County, Colorado, jury today ordered Union Pacific Railroad to pay Missy Martin more than \$11 million for injuries she received in a train collision in 2002. The 19-year-old was left with irreversible brain damage when a UP train slammed into her car after it had stalled at a Castle Rock crossing in 2002. The jury of five women and one man awarded Martin and her family \$6 million for future medical expenses, \$350,000 for permanent impairment, \$150,000 for pain and suffering, and \$600,000 for past medical expenses. The railroad company also must pay \$4 million in punitive damages. Jurors found that Union Pacific knew the rail crossing at Front and Fifth streets was dangerous and that the train's crew should have stopped well before it reached the intersection. The train engineer had testified that the car appeared to be just off the tracks. Union Pacific attorney Steve Napper said there will be an appeal. Train engineer Dannie Dolan, named in the lawsuit, declined to comment. It was not clear what, if anything, he will be paying in the verdict. Since the accident, Martin has had to go through extensive therapy and rehabilitation. The former Douglas County High School cheerleader now walks with a cane, and her speech is slurred. The award for Missy Martin is one of the largest in Colorado history involving a railroad-crossing case, according to her attorney, Robert Schuetze of Boulder.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated Jun 28, states: A postal service employee from Lemont (Illinois) who became a paraplegic because of an undiagnosed spinal abscess will receive \$10.5 million in a medical malpractice lawsuit settlement announced today. The agreement, completed before Cook County Circuit Judge John Morrissey yesterday, was reached on behalf of Dennis McCaffrey and his wife, Lori, according to a news release issued by the Chicago law firm

of Corboy & Demetrio, which represented the couple. McCaffrey, 38, said he developed a spinal abscess accompanied by fever and severe back pain two weeks after undergoing successful spinal surgery at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood two years ago. As a result, his primary care physician, Dr. Cynthia Victor, ordered him hospitalized in La Grange Memorial Hospital on Feb 6, 2003, where he said he began experiencing neurological problems, the release noted. Neither the hospital's nursing staff nor the on-call physician, Dr. Daniel Chen, addressed the trouble for eight hours, the suit claims. Six more hours went by after Victor said she ordered McCaffrey to be transferred to Loyola for emergency surgery, according to the suit, which was filed in January 2004. By the time he arrived at Loyola the next day, McCaffrey said, he had lost all motor and sensory function in his legs. Surgery restored only "patchy sensation and minimal motor function" in his legs, according to the release. In addition to the La Grange hospital and Chen, Adventist Health Systems, the hospital's parent company and Dr. Victor were named as defendants, said Daniel Kotin, one of the couple's attorneys. In a prepared statement, Kotin noted that the settlement should provide the couple with enough money to take care of McCaffrey's living expenses and medical needs "for the rest of his life." "For more than two years now, Lori McCaffrey has been taking care of her disabled husband and their children by day and working at the post office at night to pay the bills," Kotin said.

OVERCHARGING FOR INSURANCE POLICIES, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated Jun 27, states: Allstate Insurance Co said today it would offer about \$30 million in credits and pay a \$4 million fine to settle allegations that it overcharged on about 250,000 auto and homeowner policies in California. The unit of Northbrook, Illinois-based Allstate Corp will pay the fine to California's insurance department, and offer credits on policy renewals, Allstate spokesman Rich Halberg said. The No. 2 US home and auto insurer did not admit wrongdoing. Allstate said the settlement would not affect second-quarter results because the company had previously set aside reserves. "This settlement closes the books on the administrative review and clears the way for an improved relationship between Allstate and the department," said Robert Barge, an Allstate vice president, in a statement. California accused Allstate of not always providing the best rates, failing to provide multi-policy discounts to some customers who insured both homes and cars with Allstate, and improperly using a credit score that it said could push some individuals into higher-cost plans. Norman Williams, a spokesman for California Insurance Commissioner

John Garamendi, said the \$30 million "will be returned to policyholders as credits on renewals, or in the form of returns of premiums." The practices at issue took place between 1999 and 2004. Williams said "we have other investigations that are in the pipeline. It does appear to be a significant problem, and we will continue our efforts to make consumers whole." The average credit per policy covered by the settlement will be about \$120, but individual credits will vary.

ROAD ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated Jun 21, states: A judge reduced punitive damages awarded by a jury against DaimlerChrysler AG from \$98 million to \$20 million. Circuit Court Judge Hamilton Gayden said in a ruling issued yesterday that the original award in a lawsuit over the death of an eight-month-old boy in a June, 2001, minivan accident was excessive when compared with the other damages, \$5 million for wrongful death and \$2.5 million for the emotional distress suffered by the child's mother. Joshua Flax died of head injuries after a pickup truck rear-ended his grandparents' 1998 Dodge Caravan. The baby was riding in the back seat, and his skull was fractured when the front passenger seat collapsed on impact and the person in it struck him. The lawsuit filed by his parents, Rachel Sparkman and Jeremy Flax, and grandparents, Jim and Sandra Sparkman, claimed that DaimlerChrysler knew the seats in its vans were prone to collapse during rear-impact accidents. The jury decided in November that the auto maker was 50% responsible for the infant's injuries. The judge ruled that DaimlerChrysler had acted recklessly by ignoring evidence that some collisions could cause its front seats to collapse into the back seat, where an infant might be riding in a car seat.

SEXUAL ABUSE, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated Jun 29, states: Two Northern California Catholic dioceses agreed to pay more than \$42 million to settle 41 clergy sex abuse claims today, resulting in the dismissal of all but one lawsuit against the two organizations. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento agreed to pay \$35 million to 33 victims just "two minutes" before a jury trial was set to begin in one of the cases this morning, attorney Larry Drivon of Stockton said at a news conference in front of the Sacramento Superior Courthouse. "I don't think it's a coincidence that the diocese has finally found its pastoral side the morning of the trial," Drivon said. Also today, the Diocese of Santa Rosa announced it will pay \$7.3 million to eight plaintiffs. The settlement is in addition to a \$3.15 million agreement reached last month with Roberta Saum, now 44, who claimed former priest Donald Kimball sexually abused her for several years starting when she was 15. The settlements are "an acknowledgment that what happened to us was really

horrible," Saum said at the news conference. The Sacramento plaintiffs will receive payments ranging from \$400,000 to \$4.2 million, Drivon said. The agreement settles all pending sex abuse lawsuits against the Sacramento diocese. There is one case unresolved in Santa Rosa but negotiations are ongoing, said Dan Galvin, an attorney for the diocese. Sacramento Bishop William Weigand said he would like to meet privately with the victims and their families to offer an apology on behalf of the diocese. "Anyone who suffered at the hands of a priest or church worker deserves our care and compassion," Weigand said. Plaintiff Francisco "Chico" Chavez said the agreement represents "a moment of clarity for the Sacramento Diocese and a wake-up call to the rest of the dioceses in the nation and across the world that they have to pay attention. They cannot turn a blind eye to child sexual abuse." Both dioceses said they had implemented changes aimed at preventing future sex abuse, such as fingerprinting all clergy, staff and volunteers, and adopting a zero-tolerance policy for abuse. Sacramento plaintiff Salvador Perez said the church resisted making those changes until it was forced to and he accused church officials of sheltering his abuser, Rev. Jose Luis Urbina. Urbina was convicted in 1989 of sexually molesting Perez, but fled the country before he was sentenced. He was recently discovered serving as a priest in Mexico. "Obviously, someone paid his bail and facilitated his escape," Perez said. "They're still facilitating his employment."



BAIR RANCH, COLORADO, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: About 200 Amtrak passengers were stranded overnight in Glenwood Springs yesterday after a Union Pacific coal train on the same track derailed at Bair Ranch. No one was injured when 18 cars on the eastbound coal train went off the track around 1400 hrs, and none of the coal spilled into the Colorado River, Union Pacific spokesman John Bromley said. Amtrak passengers heading east from California to Chicago on the California Zephyr train were being held on the tracks until 0500, today, said Tracy Connell, spokeswoman for Amtrak. The track, which is shared by both train companies, will be closed for an indefinite amount of time, Bromley said.

COPPABELLA, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: A major train crash in central Queensland's Bowen Basin is

expected to further delay coal loading operations. A train derailment is blocking all rail movements west of Coppabella. As a result, there will be no receipts at Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal for at least two days. Hail Creek and Coppabella, however, are unaffected. Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal has advised that no vessels will be scheduled on the line-up other than the two vessels alongside until the situation becomes clearer regarding repairs to the rail line. About 50 wagons have come off the tracks at Coppabella, south-west of Mackay. The wagons, many of which were loaded, derailed when the trains hit about 0200, today. All lines west of Coppabella are expected to be closed for several days, affecting coal movement from the Burton Downs, Moranbah North, Goonyella, Riverside and North Goonyella mines. The track is also linked to the main line that services other major mines. No-one was injured in the accident. Queensland Rail investigators have arrived at the site and are assessing the situation.

London, Jun 26 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Queensland Rail, which operates the rail network in Australia's northeastern state, said coal shipments from the Goonyella mining area resumed last night after an earlier derailment. Ten to 12 trains, about half the usual rate, will be running daily to Dalrymple Bay, Australia's second-largest coal port, Queensland Rail spokeswoman Kimberley Brady said today. "They're still working to get the line back to full capacity," she said. "That may be several days." The shutdown affected 10 of 13 mines in the Goonyella area, including projects owned by BHP Billiton, Anglo American Plc, Xstrata Plc, Macarthur Coal Ltd. and Peabody Energy Corp. The Dalrymple Bay terminal, owned by Prime Infrastructure Group, handles almost a quarter of the coal shipped from Australia. Shipments stopped early yesterday morning after a loaded coal train derailed at the Coppabella yard, hitting a stationary train.

Sydney, Jun 27 -- Queensland Rail is confident that coal train services to Dalrymple Bay will be running by Wednesday (Jun 29). A coal train with 45 fully-laden wagons and four locomotives came off the tracks in Queensland's Bowen Basin on Friday morning. A Queensland Rail spokesperson said today that trains were being re-routed on an alternative track according to plan. "On Saturday, 18 services went through and on Sunday, 20 services went through and there are usually 28," she said. "We are just working as hard as we can to clear the track." The debris from the accident should be cleared off the track by today and the track should be fixed by Wednesday morning. All lines west of Coppabella are still closed. A full internal report into the causes of the accident will be available to QR staff this afternoon. Dalrymple Bay terminal operations manager Greg Smith told Lloyd's List DCN that two underground mines in the region were failing to

produce coal so the supply was interrupted anyway. "The irony of it all is that the full impact of the rail accident is not going to be felt because the coal is unavailable anyway," he said. -- Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: The first shipping movements at Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal, after last week's derailment, commenced in the early hours of this morning, Jun 27. The terminal's management report that train receipts are now receiving trains at around 90% of normal capacity.

JASPER COUNTY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Eleven cars of a 74-car cargo train derailed near the Neches River causing one million dollars in damages. Officials reported no injuries or hazardous materials leaks. Watco Company officials say the train included four cars with hazardous materials, but they remained on the tracks. The Jasper County Sheriff's Department recommended evacuation of a half-mile radius as a precaution when the train derailed yesterday afternoon, but with few homes in the area, the evacuation was later called off. Of the derailed cars, contents included synthetic plastic, green railroad ties and particle board material. The Federal Railroad Administration is expected to investigate the derailment and inspect the tracks.

PETERBOROUGH AREA, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: Train company GNER is to launch an inquiry into how hundreds of passengers became stranded for hours in stifling heat due to a power failure. Some travellers broke carriage windows to escape temperatures of over 37C on its 1555, BST, Newcastle to London Kings Cross service yesterday evening. Several trains were halted in what GNER said was a major incident when cables came down near Peterborough, Cambs. Medical staff and supplies were flown in by helicopter. The fire service and police arrived at the track to give people on the GNER train emergency treatment. Rail services on the East Coast Mainline have now returned to normal following the problems. One passenger who was stranded said people began to panic and faint as water and drinks on the full train ran out. He estimated about 300 passengers were stranded on the track just outside Sawtry. Heather Moger, 38, of Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire, was travelling from Peterborough to Huntingdon on another train, when it stopped at Conington just before 1730, BST. She said they eventually got off the train after two-and-a-half hours. A Network Rail spokeswoman said passengers had been taken off four trains stranded after the power failure and

another four trains were turned back to Kings Cross. The stranded trains began to move southwards shortly before 2200, BST, after a relief train had driven from Peterborough to collect passengers waiting by the line and carry them to Peterborough station. GNER posted an urgent notice on its website saying there was no estimate to the extent of delays to trains and apologised for the inconvenience.

ROHRI, SINDH PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jun 24 -- Pakistan Railways have reported that electronic items and chemicals worth hundreds of thousands of rupees were reduced to ashes when fire broke out in two bogies of the Super Parcel Express at Rohri railway station in Sindh Province late on Thursday night (Jun 23). The fire engulfed the two bogies, while the train was standing at Rohri railway station. The fire brigade put out the fire after seven hours. One bogie was completely destroyed in the fire, while the other one was approximately 90% damaged. The cause of the fire was not ascertained immediately. Railway authorities will conduct an inquiry to find out the cause. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TAIGA AREA, SIBERIA, RUSSIA

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A coal train ran off the tracks between Taiga and Tomsk in Western Siberia at 0300 today, the regional department of the Emergency Situations' Ministry told Interfax. The train consisted of 45 carriages. The first 29 were undamaged, the following 11 overturned and the last five remains on the tracks. Nobody was killed or wounded in the accident. Traffic was suspended. Railway repair teams as well as rescuers of the Emergency Situations' Ministry are working at the scene. The five carriages at the end of the train were towed to Taiga and 29 carriages from the head to Basandaika. By 0900 two out of 11 derailed carriages were returned to the tracks.



BREAKDOWN OF FIBREOPTIC INTERNET LINK, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jun 28 -- Pakistan's leading Internet Service provider Fasco said this afternoon that its communication link with the rest of the world was cut off from 2100 yesterday due to a fault in the fibreoptic link. A company official said that due to the fault, all the country's Internet users were experiencing difficulty in internet browsing as well as receiving/sending emails. The fibreoptic link is owned by Sintel of Singapore. The Stock Exchange, airlines, banks and other companies are also experiencing

problems. The country's leading telecommunication utility, Pakistan Telecommunication Company Ltd, is providing 20 channels to different organisations via satellite as a backup. A spokesman for PTCL said the overland fibreoptic link, known as SEA-ME-WE-III in technical parlance, was not defective but he indicated that the undersea cable might have developed a fault. The spokesman said that PTCL engineers were trying to locate the fault. However, sources in PTCL's international gateway exchange said a breakdown in the local power supply system of a key device had caused the defect in the fibreoptic cable. They said a similar technical fault had dealt a blow to the fibreoptic link the previous day, but they added that downtime was comparatively low. The PTCL spokesman said that while there was congestion in the country's Internet system, overseas calls faced no such problem. He added that every time a breakdown in the fibreoptic link occurred, the country's telecommunications channels switched over to the satellite system. Members of the Internet Service Providers' Association of Pakistan said the satellite channel was not large enough to allow the Internet to work smoothly. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Pakistan's Internet and cellphone links with the rest of the world were severed today by a fault in a key submarine cable that engineers said could take two weeks to repair. Millions of people were affected by the breakdown in the main fibreoptic link beneath the Arabian Sea 35 km south of Karachi, which was detected late yesterday, officials and Internet service providers said. "This is a highly sophisticated operation and only specialised companies can undertake such a delicate task under the sea," Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited chief engineer Shahid Ahmed said. The cable is owned by a consortium of 92 countries with Singtel of Singapore acting as its operating agents. Singtel this month lost out on a bid for a key stake in the privatisation of state-run PTCL. "We are holding a multilateral conference to fix the problem and asked Singtel to arrange for the rectification of the fault," Ahmed said. He said Singtel has appointed E-Marine to fix the fault. They had dispatched a ship which may take 18 to 24 hours to reach the site, he added. "I fear it could take two weeks to repair because it will require the removal of the faulty portion of the cable," Abid said.

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Pakistan yesterday held talks with four states whose telecommunications networks will remain suspended for two hours this morning during which a key undersea cable that developed a fault on Monday night (Jun 27) will be repaired. The world's longest fibre optic link - known as SEA-ME-WE, developed the fault 52 nautical miles

off the coast of Karachi, a senior official of the Pakistan Telecommunication Company (PTCL) confirmed. The breakdown of telecommunications channels badly hit the 100-odd Internet service providers of the country who lost millions of rupees yesterday. Bankers complained they were greatly inconvenienced by the shutdown. Online traders suffered losses as the Karachi Stock Exchange and put up a terse notice on its website saying that it could not be updated on a regular basis. "India, Djibouti, Oman and the United Arab Emirates are the four countries whose telecommunication channels will be disturbed while the defective portion of the 39,000-kilometre-long cable is repaired," Mashkoor Hussain, senior executive vice-president (operations) of the PTCL, said from Islamabad. He said the 92-party consortium which ran SEA-ME-WE-III had not asked Singtel, the consortium's operating agent, to fix the faulty cable but had instead contacted a UAE-based company, E-Marine, for the task. The PTCL official said E-Marine had already dispatched a vessel to repair the fault, which could be rectified as early as this morning.

Karachi, Jun 29 -- Pakistan Telecommunication Company Ltd said today that a vessel carrying engineers and technicians to repair the SEA-ME-WE-III underwater cable is expected to sail from Dubai this afternoon. PTCL officials said the vessel should arrive within two or three days. As a result of the fault in the cable, about 11,000 circuits have been shut down, and the voice/data service is being provided through 8,500 circuits. PTCL has acquired some circuits/connections from an American company to ease the congestion in the communication system. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

BREAKDOWN OF FIBREOPTIC INTERNET LINK, PAKISTAN F/UP

Karachi, June 28 --A spokesman of Pakistan Telecommunications Company Ltd. (PTCL) said this afternoon that the efforts are being made to restore telecommunication link with the rest of the world from tomorrow morning. However, he said removing of fault in fiber optic link will take five to six days. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Miscellaneous



AUSTRALIAN WHEAT SHIPMENTS UNDER INVESTIGATION BY IRAQ

Sydney, Jun 28 -- The Australian Wheat Board will seek payment from grain growers for the demurrage bill incurred from the Iraq wheat incident if it is unable to claim from its Iraq customers. Demurrage totalled about \$100,000 a day for the three vessels sitting off the port of Umm Qasr for

over two months. Grain growers' organisations across Australia are incensed by the AWB forecast that exporters would have to cough up for the bill. Senior transport lawyer Derek Luxford said Australian wheat exporters should not have to pay the demurrage bill for events "which are entirely outside the control of the growers". "Recent developments in world trade in wheat and commodities suggest that the legal and commercial criteria which affect how our wheat exporters sell, needs to be reviewed urgently out of fairness to the grower," he said. "The existing process seems to give little protection to growers. They do not have equality or bargaining power." This comes as the AWB is due to present a report to the Federal Government on its pricing methods and supply chain arrangements as requested by the Wheat Marketing Review in October last year. As part of that review, the Government said the AWB needed to operate with more transparency in the supply chain. Mr Luxford said the Government's review needed to go further, and was calling for an investigation of the commercial and legal basis of how AWB did business with its growers. AWB spokesperson Peter McBride said that unfortunately the cost of the Iraq demurrage bill was outside its control. "If we can't claim from our Iraq customers, the growers will wear it," he said. This was usual practice for the AWB, he said. -- Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

BLOCKADE OF PORTS BY CANADIAN FISHERMEN

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Nova Scotia snow crab fishermen protesting recent quota changes shut down ferry service between Cape Breton and Newfoundland for much of the day today. And they say more blockades will follow if they don't get a meeting with the federal fisheries minister. The protest stranded hundreds of passengers on two ferries and prevented hundreds more from leaving for Newfoundland. About 20 fishing boats gathered around Marine Atlantic's North Sydney terminal at 0700 hrs, half an hour before a ferry was to arrive from Port aux Basques, Nfld. When passenger/ro ro Caribou arrived, it could not dock, leaving more than 500 passengers stuck on board as it remained anchored just off North Sydney. Another ferry, Joseph and Clara Smallwood, arrived just after noon. That vessel was allowed to dock less than an hour later so that a passenger suffering medical problems could be taken off. The rest of the passengers were allowed to leave at the same time. Meanwhile, Caribou was moored to a nearby dock. Walk-on passengers were able to leave but passengers in their cars had to wait until the blockade ended just after 1500 hrs. The fishermen have been demanding a meeting with federal Fisheries Minister Geoff Regan since their quotas were reallocated in May. They say they want to know why the

changes, which cut the total snow crab catch by 20 per cent, were made. The fishermen ended the blockade without a meeting with Regan, but gave him 48 hours to respond. If he doesn't, they said they would block the terminal again on the Canada Day weekend. Marine Atlantic estimated the blockade would have affected more than 2,000 people, as well as several commercial vessels that use the dock. A commercial vessel carrying cargo destined for Newfoundland and scheduled to leave this morning was delayed until the blockade ended. Hundreds of passengers travelling to Newfoundland waited in North Sydney while the protest halted ferry traffic.

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated Jun 28, states: Federal Fisheries Minister Geoff Regan has said he will not be meeting with protesting crab fishermen in Cape Breton. The fishermen from the Louisbourg area had set today as the deadline for a meeting to discuss quota cuts. The fishermen have threatened to resume disruption of ferry traffic between Newfoundland and Cape Breton without a meeting. However, Regan said today he did not plan to meet with the fishermen, adding it would be up to the RCMP to take action if the group interferes with marine traffic again. "The fact that they're upset doesn't give them the right to interfere with someone else's life," said Regan. The minister said the quota had to be reduced this year in order to protect stocks.

CIUDAD DE ENSENADA (Liberia)

Buenos Aires, Jun 23 -- Bulk Ciudad de Ensenada: There have been no developments regarding the vessel's situation. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CRACKS FOUND IN RUDDERS OF BP TANKERS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 30 -- Crude oil tanker Alaskan Frontier arrived Valdez Jun 28.

DIESEL SHORTAGE, MALAYSIA

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 140 fishermen in Teluk Bahang have not put out to sea for the past week because they have run out of subsidised diesel. The fishermen, who run more than 50 trawlers, said they had to wait seven or eight days for a fresh supply. They claimed their livelihood has been badly affected as they have been facing the fuel problem for two months now. Their spokesman, Nana Wanchik, 44, said the fishermen were facing financial problems because of the shortage. He said the fishermen had been having fuel problems since April when their monthly diesel quota was reduced to 180,000 litres from 400,000 litres. Government-subsidised diesel was sold at RM1.36 and RM1.60 at petrol stations. Nana said fishermen were not told why the supply was reduced by more than half and asked the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) to investigate the matter to ensure there was no malpractice. Nana said they would lodge a report with ACA soon.

FLOODING OF COAL MINE, INDIA

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers found all 14 bodies in a coal mine in central India's Jharkhand Pradesh after they were trapped for 15 days when 2.5 million gallons of water flooded into the mine, Indo-Asian News Service reported. The last two bodies from the inundated Central Coalfield Limited's (CCL) Saunda mine in Hazaribagh of Jharkhand were found yesterday evening. The families of each of the miners will get a compensation of 1.6 million rupees (37,000 US dollars), including provident fund. CCL officials said they would also get 100,000 rupees (2,325 US dollars) from the prime minister's fund. The accident occurred on Jun 15 with workers alleging that CCL authorities had overlooked their warnings that water had been seeping in from adjacent mines. According to safety rules, there must be a 40-meter wall between two mines as well as a coal pillar to avoid any accidents. However, in a bid to extract more coal no such pillar was built and the gap between two mines was also narrowed. For the first time the Hazaribagh administration lodged a police complaint against 12 CCL top officials, including its chief R.P. Ritolia. Four of the officials had surrendered to the court on Jun 20 and were released on personal bonds.

INFESTATION OF LOCUSTS, RUSSIA

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: A locust invasion is threatening farmland in southern Buryatia, with some 45 insects per one square metre registered in the area, which is three times above the level requiring spraying, staffers at the republic's plant protection station said today. In the Kyakhtinsky, Dzhidinsky, Seleginsky and Ivolginsky districts, some 30,000 hectares are due for locust spraying. Agribusinesses were recommended to urgently commence locust treatment works. Buryatia last suffered a locust invasion in the spring and summer of 2003. At that time, it sprayed 80,000 hectares of farmland infested with locust larva. Locust swarms flew across 500,000 hectares of Russian hayland and crop areas in Siberia in the past three to four years, and across vast swaths of the Chita region in 2001, causing an estimated damage of almost 300 million roubles in the province.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A suspected outbreak of bird flu has been found at a farm in eastern Japan, a local government official has said. An official with the Ibaraki prefecture government said local officials had asked the National Institute for Animal Health for detailed testing to confirm the outbreak. "We are still consulting with experts whether this is really a case of bird flu. We will announce more information when we find out," he said, without elaborating. A media report said some 430 chickens

died between March and May at a poultry farm in Ibaraki that keeps 25,000 birds. The farm asked a private institute to conduct tests and it detected the bird flu virus, Kyodo News said. The farm, however, is no longer reporting large numbers of deaths among chickens and recent inspections of the farm and neighbouring ones did not detect any abnormality, Kyodo said. The Ibaraki official declined to confirm or deny the report.

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: An outbreak of bird flu in northwest China is more lethal than previously thought, UN health experts have warned. They said 5,000 migratory birds had died in the outbreak, in Qinghai province, five times China's estimate. WHO China representative Henk Bekedam said the H5N1 outbreak at Lake Qinghai was particularly worrying because it affected migratory birds, including gulls, geese, shelducks and cormorants. The organisation said it was vital that China carry out more tests on the birds before they begin migrating to other parts of the region. Chinese authorities have cordoned off a 50km radius around Lake Qinghai and nature reserve. However, the WHO says only 12 birds and two people have been tested for the strain so far. China has not carried out a cull of the birds, a common practice with infected domesticated flocks, because they are rare and protected species, the WHO said. (See issue of Jun 28.)

London, Jun 29 -- Antibody tests showed yesterday that five other farms near a bird flu-hit farm in Ibaraki Prefecture may have been infected with the virus in the past, but no virus was detected in genetic tests, the agriculture ministry and the prefectural government said. The five farms near the Arebamento Kanto farm in Mitsukaido City were cleared in both antibody and genetic tests and may resume shipping eggs pending authorization by the local government, they said.

Hanoi, Jun 30 -- A 73-year-old Vietnamese has died from bird flu, taking the country's toll to 39, 19 of them since the virus returned in December, state-run media reported today. The Hanoi resident, one of four people infected by the H5N1 virus being treated in hospital, died on Tuesday (Jun 28) after being admitted on Jun 23, the Lao Dong newspaper quoted hospital officials as saying. -- Reuters.

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Some 94,000 more chickens at five farms in Mitsukaido, Ibaraki Prefecture will be culled after traces of previous exposure to avian influenza have been detected at the farms, the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Ministry said yesterday. The five farms are located near the Arebamento Kanto farm, where chickens were discovered to be infected with the H5N2 virus. The Ibaraki Prefectural government finished culling all 25,000 chickens at the farm yesterday.

OUTBREAK OF BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY, WORLDWIDE

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A second case of BSE or "mad cow disease" has been confirmed in the US, officials say. It was verified by tests conducted by a laboratory in Britain after a suspect test was announced earlier this month by the US Department of Agriculture. The department said there was no public health risk as no meat from the animal - which died last November - had entered the food chain. The first US case was found in the state of Washington in 2003. That discovery - in a cow imported from Canada - halted billions of dollars worth of American beef exports and raised questions about the safety of the US food supply. The Department of Agriculture says it is investigating where the latest infected animal originally came from. Speaking today at a news conference after the second case had been confirmed, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said the presence of the disease was extremely low in the US: "This animal was blocked from entering the food supply because of the firewalls we have in place. Americans have every reason to continue to be confident in the safety of our beef."

POWER OUTAGE, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: At a meeting on Jun 24, RAO UES's board of directors expressed a unanimous opinion that the May blackout in Moscow had not been connected with Russian energy reforms. The main reason for the incident was the depreciation of equipment, the holding's board chairman Alexander Voloshin has told today's meeting of shareholders. In addition, the company's management and operating staff are also bearing responsibility for the crisis. The holding is adjusting its strategic and tactical governance to prevent such incidents in the future, Voloshin underlined.

VIOLATION OF U.S. FEDERAL SAFETY LAWS

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, dated Jun 23, states: A Chicago company convicted of running a rat-infested warehouse where 22 million pounds of meat and poultry were condemned by federal investigators was ordered today to pay more than \$10 million in fines and restitution. U.S. District Judge Harry Leinenweber fined LaGrou Distribution Systems \$2 million and ordered it to pay \$8.2 million in restitution to companies whose food was destroyed because of fears it had been contaminated by rodents. At the trial in January, federal prosecutor Eric Sussman described the warehouse as "an amusement park for rats and a house of horrors for the city of Chicago." LaGrou and its president, Jack Stewart, were convicted of violating federal safety laws. Stewart

was also convicted of conspiring to cover up unsanitary conditions at the warehouse. He is awaiting sentencing. LaGrou attorney Tommy Brewer said the company is disappointed with the penalties and would appeal.

Fires & Explosions



AMMUNITION STORE, RUSTAQ, AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Jun 26 -- Two German soldiers from Afghanistan's NATO-led peacekeeping force are believed dead and another was wounded in a munitions explosion in northern Afghanistan yesterday afternoon. Several Afghan civilians were also hurt in the blast near an airfield in Takhar province while an ammunition store was being moved and prepared for destruction, a spokesman for the International Security Assistance Force said. "The soldiers are reported missing and presumed dead -- it was a huge explosion," said the spokesman, Major Joe Bowman. The missing and wounded soldiers were identified as Germans by a German army spokesman late yesterday. The incident happened in the town of Rustaq, a district capital about 300 km north of Kabul. "The ISAF soldiers were observing the operation when the explosion occurred," an ISAF statement said. Afghanistan is awash with weapons and munitions after more than a quarter of a century of warfare. Foreign peacekeeping troops have been assisting in disarming factional militias and destroying weapons stockpiles. -- Reuters.

COAL MINE, HANGZHOU, CHINA

Hangzhou, China, Jun 26 -- A coal mine blast killed four miners and injured two others earlier today in east China's Zhejiang Province, local police said. The fire damp explosion occurred at around 0240 today in a Zhafei coal mine, owned by Changguang Colliery Company, and buried a total of six miners who were working underground. So far four miners' bodies have been found while the two injured have been sent to hospital for medical treatment. Local government officials rushed to the spot to direct the rescue work. The Changguang Colliery was closed for rectification. Investigation into the cause of the explosion is underway.

COAL MINE, SILETS AREA, UKRAINE

Kiev, Jun 26 -- An explosion ripped through a coal mine in Ukraine's western Lviv region today, killing five miners and seriously injuring three others, the Ministry for Emergency Situations said in a statement. Three miners were killed instantly, and two others later died in a hospital.

Another three miners were badly injured, the statement said. The methane gas explosion at the Lesnaya mine near the town of Silets occurred when 56 miners were working 550 metres underground. Ukrainian prosecutors launched an investigation into the accident, the ministry's statement said. Last week, two miners died in another incident in Ukraine's east.

FACTORY, CAIRO AREA, EGYPT

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two workers were killed and 28 others injured in explosions and an ensuing fire which broke out yesterday in an edible oil factory in the 10th of Ramadan City in Sharqiya governorate, 55 km north-east of Cairo, the official MENA news agency reported. The injured sustained moderate to serious burns, said the report. Witnesses said the blasts in the Arima company for foodstuffs and edible oils broke out at about 1530 hrs, leading to a big fire. Some 34 fire engines rushed to the scene. Black thick smoke could be seen billowing into the air and walls of buildings some 20 metres away from the factory could be felt very hot due to the fire. A worker who escaped from the fire said the explosions started from a refinery workshop and caused fire which quickly spread across the factory. At about 1900 hrs, the fire was largely under control, but the factory was completely destroyed, said witnesses. Sales manager of the company al-Sayyed Bassuni was quoted by MENA as saying that the factory suffered from a huge loss. He rule out the possibility that the fire could be criminally motivated, saying "it is not deliberate." Fire fighting units were still trying to extinguish the fire, he added. Sharqiya Governor Yahya Abdel Hameed asked for help from the Oil Ministry, which has specialized units in fighting such a huge fire.

FACTORY, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Jun 30 -- A huge fire broke out in a privately owned export-oriented textile garment unit, Biswas Textile and Garments Factory at Savar in Dhaka, Bangladesh yesterday. The fire started around 0300 and soon engulfed the six-storey building. Fire fighters with 12 vehicles from Savar, EPZ, Mohammadpur, Mirpur and Fire Service and Civil Defence Headquarters reached the spot and brought the fire under control at around 1140. No casualty was reported. However, the fire gutted 3,000-tons of yarn and cloths, 100 knitting machines, three sharing machines, 40 brushing machines, 640 sewing machines and two standard machines, said Moinuddin Biswas, owner of the factory. Fire Service and Civil Defence will form a committee to probe the matter while a five-member team of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association will also conduct a survey to find out the loss. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

FACTORY, MERSEYSIDE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews are waiting for demolition experts before putting out a fire at a tea packing factory in Merseyside which started on Friday evening (Jun 24). Part of the Gold Crown Foods building, on Moorgate Road, in the Knowsley Industrial Estate, collapsed yesterday after being gutted by the blaze. Firefighters had been unable to put out the fire beforehand because the building was unstable. Rubble will have to be removed before the fire can be extinguished. Gold Crown Foods is one of the UK's largest suppliers of tea and coffee and investigators have launched an inquiry to find out the cause of the blaze. Hugh O'Neil, station commander at Kirkby Fire Station, said: "The building is so big and there's still quite a bit of fire but it's underneath the roof. "We're probably looking at maybe Wednesday (Jun 29) before we consider leaving the scene."

FACTORY, TORONTO, CANADA

London, Jun 27 -- A report from LaSalle, PQ, states: A press report, dated today, states: Toronto firefighters spent much of Saturday night (Jun 25) battling fierce flames that engulfed a furniture factory in the area of Finch Avenue and Weston Road. Just after 2230 hrs a resident called emergency services about a fire at 36-38 Milvan Drive. When fire crews arrived, the back of a large, one-storey building was choked by flames. There were several explosions in the welding area of the factory, causing part of the roof and a wall to collapse. In total, 22 fire trucks and 88 firefighters responded to the scene. The four-alarm blaze was brought under control shortly after 0230 hrs. One firefighter suffered an ankle injury, and was taken to Humber River Regional Hospital for treatment. "Toronto firefighters did an outstanding job in containing the fire during very dangerous explosions and structural collapse," said Deputy Chief Rick Simpson.

FIRE ON VESSEL, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fire has destroyed a \$1.5 million motor cruiser in Sydney. Flames engulfed the 51-foot cruiser about 2000, AEST, yesterday, but no one was on board the luxury vessel at the time. It was moored on the eastern side of the Spit Bridge at Ferguson's Marina, Mosman. Firefighters and Sydney Port Authority officers were called to the scene to contain the blaze. A crime scene has been established and police are still investigating the cause of the blaze.

GAS FIELD, DOARABAZAR, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Jun 25 -- A huge fire broke out in a relief well drilled by Niko Resources (Bangladesh) Ltd at the Tengratila gas field in Doarabazar

upazila of Sunamganj in north east Bangladesh early yesterday, only five months after a severe blowout had almost destroyed the gas field during January. The accident occurred at around 0100 hrs, while drilling a relief well to evacuate gas from the cracked reserves damaged by the first fire on Jan 7. The Canadian company in a press release attributed the cause of the disaster to "a sudden uncontrolled mud loss in the relief well" causing "gas with very high flow rate" coming up through the well to the surface. Meanwhile, advisor to the energy ministry Mahmudur Rahman told newsmen that the government will form a probe committee within a day or two to see whether there were any technical flaws on Niko's part. Police and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel from the nearby border outposts were deployed around the gas field location. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: A devastating fire yesterday engulfed the Tengratila gas field in northeastern Bangladesh again, only five months after a severe blowout almost destroyed the gas field on Jan 7. The accident occurred in the early hours of yesterday at the Tengratila gas field in Sunamganj in northeastern Bangladesh while drilling a relief well to evacuate gas from the cracked reserves damaged by the fire on Jan. 7, local newspapers reported today. Experts said that it might take at least three months to extinguish the fire. The cause of the fire could not be ascertained immediately, but experts have been asked by the higher authority to investigate the matter. Mahmudur Rahman, adviser to the Energy Ministry, said that the government would form a probe body comprising experts to investigate the incident that also generated agitation among people. The Canadian Niko Resources (Bangladesh) Ltd under joint venture with state-run Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production Company Ltd (BAPEX) is in the task of developing Tengratila gas field. The Tengratila blowout which took place on Jan 7 damaged at least 10 billion cubic feet (300 million cubic metres) of gas worth US\$2.5 million, apart from severely damaging the geological zone, according to newspaper reports.

London, Jun 26 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Thousands of frightened villagers evacuated their homes in northeastern Bangladesh today as firefighters struggled to control a two-day-old blaze at a nearby gas field, officials said. A hissing column of fire rose nearly 60 metres high and spewed mud and rocks despite driving rain at the Tengratila Gas Field in Sunamganj district, a remote area 175 kilometres north-east of the capital, Dhaka, said Kalim Uddin, a local lawmaker. The fire broke out yesterday when engineers of the state-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Co. Ltd., and Niko Resources Ltd., a Canadian exploration company,

resumed drilling at Tengratila. The intense heat from the fire charred soil and trees within one kilometre of the blowout point, said Abdul Batin, a local photographer. No human casualties were immediately reported. Over 2,000 residents of two nearby villages were forced to leave their homes for safety.

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated Jun 27, states: The Tengratila gas field in north-eastern Bangladesh is blazing for the fourth day today and the blaze is still spreading. The flames are soaring up to 225 feet and people nearby have fled their homes and taken shelter with relatives, a Bangladeshi official of the Petroleum Corporation said today. Experts said the blaze might destroy all the field's reserves, which is estimated at 115 BCF and worth \$220 million. An official said they are looking for a new rig to douse the blaze, but could not give a specific day that work will start.

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: The US-based international oil company Unocal, now working in three gas fields in the country, will make available a rig to Niko for drilling a fresh relief well at Tengratilla gas field where a fire has been raging since the blow out on Saturday morning (Jun 25). Unocal's decision to spare its rig came in response to a formal request by energy adviser Mahmudur Rahman yesterday. The adviser held a meeting with the president of Unocal Bangladesh Ltd, Andrew L Fawthrop in his office at the secretariat and made the request for lending a rig. The Unocal responded positively to the request. The rig belongs to Century, an Australian company working as subcontractor of Unocal at the Moulvibazar gas field. Niko, the operator of Chattak gas field, meanwhile signed a MoU with Century Ltd in this regard yesterday. The energy adviser told journalists that Niko would submit the design of the relief well by Thursday (Jun 30). The rig is expected to head for Tengratilla on Jul 2. The Niko President said his company would submit a work plan by Thursday to the Energy Ministry for approval to begin fresh drilling at its gas field. Upon its approval, "massive mobilisation of equipment" will start from Saturday next, he added. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday approved a five-member committee led by Professor Dr. Tamim, Head of the Petroleum Department of BUET to assess the amount of money lost in burnt gas and to ascertain the value of gas that still remains in reserve in that zone. The other members of the committee are Kazi Shahidur Rahman, General Manager, Petrobangla, Khondoker Nuruzzaman, Deputy Director, Planning, Energy Division, one drilling expert from BAPEX and one member from Niko. The committee will be given 30 days to complete its work and submit its report to the Energy Ministry. As the Tengratila gas field inferno is spewing out flames as high as 250 feet, burning

about 50 to 60 mmcf of gas daily and causing tremor in the neighbourhood and unprecedented environmental disaster by throwing up mud and stones, the local people who are still staying put are increasingly becoming fearful of the consequences of the blaze. Local experts say it would take time to start the work on relief well at Tengratilla. To assess the environmental damages by the blow out, energy ministry yesterday sent a letter to the Ministry for Environment and Forests to form a probe committee in this regard and submit its report within 90 days. Experts meanwhile are wondering whether substantial gas reserve would be left at Tengratilla if fire continued to rage as now, till the drilling of the proposed relief well. Professor Akhtarul Islam of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology said that if the relief well had caught fire, it would have extinguished by now, but it seemed that reserve gas of the well was burning. In such a situation it would not be possible to douse the fire till all the gas in the well burnt out, turning Tengratilla into another gas-less Haripur. The professor demanded that Niko be internationally black-listed in respect of gas drilling. Hundreds of people are visiting the gas field site every day to take a look from a distance at the licking flame of the inferno, which continued to spew out sand, mud and stones. The impact of it is causing tremor with frightening sound. The heat caused by the inferno has damaged or destroyed countless plants and burnt the nearby lands to such an extent that farmers fear they would not be able to grow any crop there in the next six months to a year. Drinking water has become scarce and the local residents have to collect water from nearby villages. Environmental disaster is incalculable, according to experts.

GAS PLANT, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, UNITED STATES

New York, Jun 24 -- A series of explosions and fires engulfed a Praxair Inc. welding gas plant in St. Louis today, but no one was injured, authorities said. All the workers at the plant escaped before the explosions and no one was reported missing, according to spokesmen for the company and the city. "The primary concern is chemicals. According to the fire chief, there are tanks of chlorine that would be dangerous if they leaked," city spokesman Jeff Rainford said. Authorities were monitoring the air at three sites for any dangerous gases, but so far none were detected, he said. The cause of the fire was not yet known. "We do not expect the fire to have a major financial impact on the company," Praxair spokeswoman Susan Szita Gore said, adding that it was too early to tell if the explosion would have any impact at all. The plant, which employs 70 people, is one of about 400 similar operations in North America, Szita Gore said.

Television showed fiery explosions and canisters flying out of the plant, where welding gas is bottled in cylinders. -- Reuters.

MUSEUM, DALLAS, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire broke out yesterday at a museum devoted to biblical art. There were no immediate reports of any injuries. Smoke poured from the roof of the Biblical Arts Centre, but the extent of the damage was not immediately known. About 120 firefighters battled the blaze while temperatures outside approached 100 degrees. Authorities said the flames were under control by late afternoon. They did not know what caused the fire, which was first noticed by people in a tour group who smelled smoke. The museum's signature piece, a 124-foot-by-20-foot painting depicting the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles, "looks like it's totally burned," museum Director Scott Peck said. Peck estimated that only about 10 percent of the artwork was salvaged. More than two dozen pictures were leaned against a wall outside the museum after being rescued by firefighters.

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire broke out just before noon, yesterday, on the 7500 block of Park Lane in North Dallas. It quickly escalated into a six-alarm fire and seriously damaged the Biblical Arts Center museum and theatre. Yesterday night, Scott Peck, the director of the museum, said 80 to 90 percent of the collection was destroyed. Virtually every piece of art in the museum had smoke damage and the loss was estimated to reach over \$10 million. The museum's centerpiece painting, "The Miracle of the Pentecost," was destroyed. At 124 feet wide and 20 feet tall, it was one of the largest paintings in the world. Firefighters fought to rescue museum statues and paintings. The fire spread quickly and there was no sprinkling system inside the building to help stop it. Over 100 firefighters battled the fire and they were rotated in and out of the heat zones to keep safe under the blistering sun. Firefighters fought to salvage what they could while the fire was still blazing. Investigators said the fire was suspicious and that they are looking for a person of interest. They are searching for a man who witnesses said was at the centre several times in recent days. "We heard stories of a suspicious person," said Joel Lavender, Dallas Fire-Rescue.

NIGHTCLUB, WEST WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated Jun 29, states: The federal agency investigating the 2003 blaze that killed 100 people in a Rhode Island nightclub has scaled back a recommendation that sprinklers be installed in every nightclub. The National Institute of Standards and Technology today issued its final

report on the Feb 20, 2003, fire at The Station nightclub in West Warwick. The flames were touched off when sparks from a rock band's pyrotechnics display ignited flammable soundproofing material. The final report recommends that sprinkler systems be installed in all new nightclubs and in existing clubs with a capacity of more than 100 people. A draft version issued in early March recommended the installation of sprinkler systems in all nightclubs, regardless of size. "It's important to get sprinklers installed in as many places as possible," said William Grosshandler, chief of the institute's fire research division. He said there would be "considerable" resistance if officials sought to install them everywhere. Grosshandler said the institute rolled back the recommendations to conform to national fire-safety standards. The final report added a new recommendation calling on states and communities to adopt fire safety codes based on national models. It also urged states to conduct aggressive safety inspections and to ensure enough fire inspectors are available. "Adopting the model codes is the first step, but unless you go beyond that and have the inspection and the enforcement, it really doesn't help much," Grosshandler said. Other recommendations call for increased restrictions on the use of flammable materials inside nightclubs, research on human behavior in emergency situations, and for a study to determine the minimum number of fire extinguishers needed in nightclubs. Rhode Island, which passed a sweeping fire safety law after the blaze, has already adopted many of the recommendations outlined in the report.

PIPELINE, PESCHANYE KOVALI, RUSSIA

See "Peschanye Kovaly, Russia" under "Pipeline Accidents."

POWER STATION, THETFORD, NORFOLK, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Sixty firefighters have been tackling a serious fire at a power station which broke out early this morning. The blaze was in the fuel hall at FibroWatt's plant in Thetford close to the Norfolk/Suffolk border. Last year more than 50 firefighters attended a blaze at the site and in 2002 7,000 tonnes of chicken litter were destroyed in another fire there. The eco-power plant is the largest of its kind in the world and burns poultry litter to generate electricity.

PREMISES, BOYDEN, IOWA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 26 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire in a north-west Iowa egg-laying operation killed 420,000 chickens and caused an estimated two million dollars in damage. Boyden Fire Chief Kim Ochsendorf says the fire destroyed two

barns and sent heavy smoke into a third. An Iowa State fire marshal investigator is expected to arrive Monday (Jun 27) to look into the cause. No people were injured. The fire was reported at 1930, Thursday at the farm located between Boyden and Sheldon.

PREMISES, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Karachi, Jun 25 -- A huge fire broke out in the Karama building in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), early this morning. According to Colonel Rashid Al Matroushi, Director of Civil Defence, there were no casualties and the building was evacuated before the fire was brought under control. The building contained 12 apartments and 21 shops. Eyewitnesses said the fire started on one of the signboards before engulfing the building. The entire area was covered in thick black smoke. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PREMISES, WINDERMERE, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated Jun 27, states: A fast-moving fire destroyed a \$4 million home in Orange County, Fla., today. Firefighters responded to reports of flames on Jennifer Lane in Windermere after noon today. Homeowner Cecilia Crain was leaving her home with her grandson when she suddenly heard a popping noise coming from the garage. Seconds later a smoke alarm sounded. Firefighters from Orange County, Ocoee and Winter Garden extinguished the fire but the home was completely destroyed.

PREMISES, WINSLOW, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, dated Jun 23, states: Embers from a fire at a trussing plant still smoldered today after a five-alarm blaze destroyed a structure officials valued at more than \$1 million. Only a 20-foot-tall cinder block wall remained on the North Grove site of US Components Inc., near Williamstown-New Freedom Road. The fire was brought under control at 0739 hrs, today, said Mike Scardino, township fire marshal. Scardino said about 125 emergency personnel from four counties - Camden, Burlington, Gloucester and Atlantic, fought the blaze. No one was injured. A company truck driver called in the fire shortly after 0500 hrs, when he arrived for work. "Had he not done that, it might have spread to other buildings," said Powell Stevenson, risk and safety manager for the company. Stevenson said the plant's 75 to 100 employees would be diverted to plants in Lakewood, Ocean County, and Morrisville, Pa. "Our overall plan is to rebuild and get back in production as quickly as possible," he said. Wooden trusses, which are used by such builders as Hovnanian and U.S. Homes, were stacked nearby. Stevenson said night-shift workers routinely removed them from the

building when the day's work was done. The building was about 250 feet by 60 feet, with an additional smaller attached structure, said Scardino. The cause of the fire was being investigated by the Winslow and Camden County fire marshals, the Winslow Police Department, the Camden County Prosecutor's office and officials with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

REFINERY, KILLINGHOLME, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated Jun 29, states: A global oil company has been ordered to pay more than £1m for breaching health and safety regulations after an explosion at its Humber refinery. Conoco-Phillips was fined £895,000 and told to pay full costs of £218,854 at a hearing at Grimsby Crown Court. The company had already pleaded guilty to seven breaches of health and safety. More than 100 firefighters were called to the Killingholme refinery in 2001 when 170 tonnes of liquid petroleum gas was released and caught fire. The resulting fire caused other pipework to fail and prompted a second explosion. The blaze took more than two hours to put out and although nobody was seriously injured, there was considerable damage to other processing plants and properties off the site. An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive found the leak was caused by the failure of an elbow pipe due to erosion and corrosion. And it said a gas-fired heater in an adjacent processing unit was the most likely cause of ignition of the gas. After the hearing Kevin Allers, head of HSE's chemical industries division, said the severity of the explosion at the Humber refinery had been reflected in the penalties imposed. The investigation revealed a systematic failure by the company to inspect the pipework in certain parts of the refinery. A detailed report into the HSE investigation will be published later in the year.

REFINERY, TEXAS CITY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

Houston, Jun 28 -- Alarms malfunctioned before an explosion killed 15 people and injured more than a hundred others at BP Plc's Texas City, Texas, oil refinery in March, according to the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board's lead investigator. "The high-level alarms did eventually sound, but only after the explosions had begun, likely as a result of the blast pressure," investigator Don Holmstrom said at a news conference today. "Had the alarms sounded properly as the blowdown drum was flooding, it could have alerted operators to the emergency situation." The CSB has said the explosion occurred after a "geyser-like" release of hydrocarbon liquid and vapour from an atmospheric vent stack of a blowdown drum of the refinery's octane-enhancing isomerization unit, which

was being restarted. Holmstrom refused to say if the alarm malfunctions were critical in the events leading to the explosion. Board investigators continue to examine all possible factors involved in the explosion. Investigators are doing comprehensive studies of 30 pieces of equipment and instrumentation at the refinery, taking four to six weeks, he said. "This is, compared to prior incidents a very significant amount of time spending on instrument examination, involving a big chunk of the energy of those of us remaining in Texas City," Holmstrom said. One alarm on the unit did sound early in the morning of the explosion, only to indicate the level of liquid was approaching the maximum operating level of 10 feet. Later in the morning, the gauge showed the level had dropped below 10 feet. "We believe the level was not decreasing," Holmstrom said. "We believe the level was actually increasing to at least 120 feet." Other alarms that should have indicated the unusually high levels of volatile hydrocarbon liquid accumulating in the unit did not sound throughout the day prior to the blast, which occurred at about 1320 hrs. A BP spokesman said the company was not surprised by the CSB's announcement today, nor does it change the company's mind about its interim report on its internal investigation. When it issued the interim report in May, BP said the explosion occurred because refinery employees failed to follow correct procedures in restarting the unit. "BP continues to have no doubt about" the findings released in May, said spokesman Ronnie Chappell. "If personnel responsible for the safe start up of the unit had followed correct procedures, the fiery explosion would not have occurred," Chappell said. An official of the union representing workers at the refinery said the CSB's announcement points to factors other than employees' actions played a role in the blast. "There is some vindication of the operators in what the CSB announced," said Gary Beavers, regional director of the United Steelworkers union. The union has said the unit that exploded was unsafely designed and the trailers, in which all those killed were working at the time of the blast, should not have been located so close to process units. Two employees fired from the refinery after the blast have filed a defamation suit against BP, claiming their dismissal and the explanation offered for the deadly explosion caused them to be blamed for the deaths and injuries. BP has negotiated "extremely big" settlements with families of workers killed in the Mar 23 explosion, lawyers for the families said last week. -- Reuters.

SUGAR REFINERY, SANTA IRIA DA AZOIA, PORTUGAL

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Firefighters

battled a major blaze which broke out at Portugal's largest sugar refinery, emergency services' workers said. The refinery, a unit of British sugar and sweeteners firm Tate & Lyle, employs 230 people and produces some 160,000 tonnes of sugar per year. The fire, which caused no injuries, began just after noon on a conveyor belt at the plant located just north of Lisbon at Santa Iria da Azoia and was brought under control some three hours later, local firefighter chief Luis Gouveia said.

WAREHOUSE, UCKFIELD AREA, EAST SUSSEX, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated Jun 25, states: Fire has swept through a warehouse containing about one million plastic bases for smoke detector units after it was struck by lightning. The fire at the warehouse at the Bluebell Business Park, at Sheffield Park, near Uckfield, East Sussex, was brought under control by firefighters. The bolt of lightning came during heavy storms yesterday night following the end of the heatwave. The fire was so fierce that it set light to cars and vans parked inside. Several staff were in the building at the time of the fire, but no-one suffered any injuries. It took firefighters in six engines two hours to bring the flames under control, with water being pumped from the River Ouse nearby. One of the owners of the distribution company operating out of the warehouse, Oak Transport, Gerry Macey, described the fire as devastating, and said he fears his business may never recover from the fire.

WAREHOUSE, VICKSBURG, MISSOURI, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, dated Jun 23, states: Firefighters are investigating the cause of a fire that broke out yesterday night in Vicksburg. A giant warehouse at Batesville Casket Company on Highway 61 was completely destroyed. The warehouse was piled from floor to ceiling with dried lumber, a tinder box for spreading flames. When police and firefighters responded around 2020, yesterday night, flames had already consumed the entire building. No one was inside of the warehouse when the building caught fire. Employees on duty when the fire began were evacuated from the nearby factory as a precaution. "This was just the storehouse. The main part of the factory is O.K." said employee Pearldene Williams. The warehouse and all its contents were a total loss. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

WILDFIRES, RUSSIA

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A 30-year-old tractor operator was killed in the firefighting efforts in the Khabarovsk territory yesterday. The engine of the tractor failed, and the driver could not get out of the fire. This is already the second case of the death of firefighters

in June in the Khabarovsk territory. An emergency is declared in the Sovetsko-Gavansky district over forest fires, a source in the regional emergencies centre said today. About 3300 hectares of the taiga are ablaze in the district, one fire spread onto 3200 hectares. The fire area increased by 1200 hectares for the past day. According to the dispatcher's office of the Far Eastern forest protection airbase, the most difficult fire situation in eastern Russia persists in the Khabarovsk territory. The fire area does not exceed 700 hectares in the Primorye territory, Yakutia and Sakhalin. About 400 people, more than 50 pieces of ground machinery and 14 forest protection aircraft are involved in the firefighting efforts in the Far East.

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The biggest forest fire in Russia's Far East, covering about 5,500 hectares, is registered in the Khabarovsk region, sources from the region's forestry agency said today. The fire has engulfed over 2,000 hectares of taiga alone over the past 24 hours, the sources said. An emergency situation has been introduced in the Sovetskaya Gavan district of the Khabarovsk region, where the fire is raging. Twelve forest centres are fixed in region's forests covering the area of 6,174 hectares. Taiga is in blaze in the Amur, Nanai and Khabarovsk regions. A total of 117 fires, covering 8,263 hectares, have broken out in the region this year. According to the regional centre of the Ministry for Emergency Situations, 36 fire centres are registered in Russia's Far East. Three major fires, each having the area of up to 300 hectares, continue in the Maritime region. Several more moderate woodland fires, covering several dozen hectares each, are fixed in Yakutia and on Sakhalin Island. About 400 specialists are combating forest fires in the region.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: The first major wildfire of the summer raced across more than 5,500 acres of desert brush, destroying at least six homes, threatening hundreds of others and forcing residents of this sparsely populated Mojave Desert community to flee. The California fire started when a single home burned and the flames spread to brush and tall grass. Another fire about 35 miles away had burned more than 2,000 acres but did not threaten any structures, authorities said. (See issue of Jun 24.)

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: A wildfire in Arizona swept across 30,000 acres of brush and grass by early today and prompted the evacuation of nearly 300 homes. At least 10 structures had been lost, but a firefighters' spokesman said it wasn't clear how many of those were homes. In Arizona, nearly 300 homes had been evacuated in the area about 20 miles north-east of Phoenix. About 300 firefighters fought the blaze today.

London, Jun 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Battling high winds and hot, dry conditions, fire crews made little headway yesterday trying to extinguish a string of blazes that covered southwestern Utah in a black fog and threatened hundreds of homes. Flames up to 10 feet high were visible from Interstate 15 just north of St. George before the fire eventually jumped the road and forced its closure. Residents of Gunlock, about 260 miles southwest of Salt Lake City, were told to leave yesterday after the largest fire in the area - which had consumed 59,000 acres - edged to within four miles. Firefighters were battling winds up to 25 miles per hour and several other smaller fires sparked by lightning that kept popping up nearby. Elsewhere, firefighters continued to battle blazes in California, Arizona and Nevada that have already consumed more than 200,000 acres in recent days. The region had an unusually wet spring and late snow melt, providing plenty of fuel as vegetation dried out in 90-degree June temperatures. About 400 firefighters were working on the ground in Utah, aided by four heavy air tankers, six small single engine airplanes and three helicopters. Emergency response officials said 64 of Gunlock's 112 residents had evacuated their homes. Also yesterday, firefighters near Kelso, Calif., struggled to surround a wildfire that had burned 52,000 acres in the rugged Mojave National Preserve, which includes historic mines and sites with ancient Indian pictographs. The blaze has destroyed five homes and two cabins built in the late 1800s, while several dozen other homes were threatened with strong winds expected yesterday. A brush and grass fire that has charred 60,000 acres in Arizona was about 20 percent contained yesterday after turning away from an upscale community northeast of Phoenix. In Nevada, a wildfire raging in the mountains south-west of the Las Vegas Strip grew to over 24,000 acres yesterday, prompting the closure of a state highway that leads to Death Valley National Park. The fire was one of at least 21 blazes that have scorched more than 91,000 acres in relatively remote areas of southern Nevada since Wednesday (Jun 22).

London, Jun 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters battled in hot, dry and windy weather today to contain a nearly 60,000 acre wildfire that prompted evacuations, closed a major highway for hours and covered much of southwest Utah with a dark, smoky haze. Evacuation orders remained in place today for the small town of Gunlock and the tiny reservation community of Shivwits, home of the Shivwits Band of Paiutes. Temperatures in the 90-degrees and high wind pushed the fire through grass and brush made thick by winter rainfall. "It limits our capabilities and makes it hard to get a handle on it," said Brian Cardoza, of the Boise-based Idaho City Hot Shots team, who was starting his fifth day on the fire. Elsewhere, firefighters confronted

blazes in California, Arizona and Nevada that had consumed more than 200,000 acres. Crews were able to contain about 15 percent of the 60,000-acre Utah fire yesterday, and fire management officials predicted full containment by late Thursday. Residents of Gunlock, about 260 miles southwest of Salt Lake City, were told to leave yesterday after the fire edged to within four miles of town. Flames up to 10 feet high were visible yesterday from Interstate 15 just north of St. George before a separate lightning-caused fire jumped the road and closed it for about seven hours during the night. At an early morning briefing today, Utah Fire Management Coordinator Dave Dalrymple cautioned fire crews to "be careful and pace yourselves." "This is just the beginning of a very, very long season," Dalrymple said. "The extreme conditions really are something to be heads-up about. Nothing's worth it, so feel very comfortable backing off if you need to." Depending on weather conditions today, it was possible that Interstate 15 could be closed again, said Bureau of Land Management Information Officer David Boyd.

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters battled in hot, dry and windy weather yesterday to contain wildfires that have prompted evacuations, closed a major highway and covered much of southwest Utah with a dark, smoky haze. Officials said the blaze about 20 miles north of St. George grew from 2,000 acres to 8,000 acres in less than 12 hours, and by late yesterday was within five miles of New Harmony. "That's going to be our nightmare," said fire commander Taiga Rohrer, watching plumes of smoke billowing off the Black Ridge Mountains, about 280 miles south of Salt Lake City. The fire was started Saturday (Jun 25) by lightning strikes and at one point jumped Interstate 15, forcing state officials to close the highway, the major route between Salt Lake City and Las Vegas. It re-opened yesterday morning but was later closed again while fire crews burned an 8- to 10-mile swath of land adjacent to the highway to prevent it from jumping the road again. The fire was fueled by temperatures in the high 90s, wind gusts of 25 mph and low humidity. About 20 miles to the southwest, firefighters were continuing to battle a blaze that has consumed nearly 70,000 acres. Ground crews worked to cut off the head of the fire and were using a bulldozer to cut a firebreak through the rough, hilly country. Four helicopters were picking up as much as 1,000 gallons of water from two nearby reservoirs to douse the flames. Elsewhere, firefighters struggled to extinguish blazes in California, Arizona, Nevada, Alaska and Washington state that have consumed more than 350,000 acres. In southern California, firefighters near Kelso made progress against a wildfire that has charred 67,000 acres in the rugged Mojave National Preserve, which includes historic mines and sites with

ancient Indian pictographs. The blaze has destroyed five homes and two cabins built in the late 1800s and threatened several dozen other homes. Firefighters had the blaze 65 percent contained yesterday night with the help of lighter-than-expected winds, said Capt. Greg Cleveland, a spokesman with the Southern California Incident Management Team. A brush and grass fire that had charred more than 92,000 acres in Arizona by Sunday was only about 20 percent contained. Arizona fire officials were also concerned about a threat of more thunderstorms generating wind and lightning. About 900 firefighters were working at the site northeast of Phoenix. Firefighters in Nevada reported progress Sunday containing a 31,600-acre wildfire in the mountains southwest of Las Vegas. More than a dozen other blazes were also burning in the southern part of the state. In Washington state, a wildfire had blackened up to 22,000 acres of grass and wheat fields by yesterday in Walla Walla County, with smoke from the fire reported as far as Spokane, about 100 miles north. Firefighters had a line around 75 percent of the fire by late yesterday afternoon, officials said. No property was threatened and there were no reports of injuries. And in Alaska, fire crews continued to battle a blaze that had claimed 80,000 acres near the Sheenjek River about 145 miles north of Fairbanks. The fire, which started Jun 12, was about eight miles from Fort Yukon, a town of about 600 people.

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Suddenly shifting winds pushed a menacing wildfire toward the small town of New Harmony in south-western Utah yesterday, forcing more than 1,000 people to evacuate their homes. By late yesterday, the winds had diminished and it was believed no homes were any longer in immediate danger, said Bureau of Land Management information officer David Boyd. The National Interagency Fire Centre said the blaze had burned 10,000 acres of grass, pinyon, pine and oak brush. It was 30 percent contained. An evacuation order was extended to the whole New Harmony area, about 1,200 residents. Earlier in the day, the winds had been pushing the fire away from New Harmony, providing a respite for people who had been in the fire's path. Some 400 firefighters battled the blaze, along with six single-engine aircraft and at least two helicopters that were dropping water and retardant. The fire stretched for about eight miles along Interstate 15, the main highway between Las Vegas and Salt Lake City. Intermittent closures of the highway have frustrated travellers since Saturday night (Jun 25). The national fire centre said yesterday that 20 large fires were burning on more than 735,000 acres in Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Washington. In Nevada, a 33,500-acre wildfire that

had blanketed Las Vegas with smoke and prompted the evacuation of a Boy Scout camp was nearing containment. Fire information officer Joe Colwell said the Goodsprings fire southwest of Las Vegas was 80 percent contained, with full containment possible by tonight. In Southern California, a brush fire swept across 500 acres in the western Antelope Valley, destroying one building and forcing some residents to evacuate. The fire broke out in the high desert 45 miles north of Los Angeles as firefighters in Mojave National Preserve near the Nevada border mopped up a 6-day-old blaze that scorched more than 70,600 acres. About 200 firefighters were dispatched to the new blaze west of Lancaster, said Inspector Ron Haralson of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Haralson said it was unclear how many people had been evacuated. In the Mojave National Preserve, meanwhile, demobilization of the firefighting effort was under way. Full containment was expected to be declared sometime yesterday evening. Five homes and a number of other structures were destroyed by the fire, which burned in the remote region about 150 miles north-east of Los Angeles.

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters aided by an air tanker worked through the night to successfully hold back a 10,000-acre fire licking at the edges of a southwestern Utah development. Winds that forced many residents in the New Harmony area to evacuate had diminished and no homes were believed still in immediate danger, said Bureau of Land Management information officer David Boyd. A heavy air tanker made some rare nighttime retardant drops. "The air tanker paid a key role in keeping the community protected and keeping flames away from homes," Boyd said yesterday. At a community meeting earlier in the day, officials announced the evacuation of Harmony Heights development, with 27 homes. But within the next hour, the evacuation was extended to the whole New Harmony area - about 1,200 residents. Boyd said only about 80 families evacuated, primarily those in and near Harmony Heights, south of New Harmony, which is 280 miles south of Salt Lake City.

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Westside Complex Fire near St. George, which began almost a week ago as five smaller blazes and then grew into one, was 90% contained by yesterday. The 68,264-acre fire was expected to be fully contained by tonight, said fire spokesman Dave Olson. The National Interagency Fire Centre said Monday that 20 large fires were burning on more than 735,000 acres in Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Washington. In Nevada, a 33,500-acre wildfire that had blanketed Las Vegas with smoke and prompted the evacuation of a Boy Scout camp was nearing containment. "We're basically in a mop-up mode

now," fire information officer Joe Colwell said of the blaze south-west of Las Vegas. Arizona's biggest blaze, about 30 miles north of Phoenix, grew to 116,550 acres yesterday, but it was burning away from populated areas that had initially been threatened by the lightning-sparked fire. In Southern California, a brush fire swept across 800 acres in the western Antelope Valley yesterday, destroying one building and forcing some residents to evacuate before firefighters managed to contain it. The fire broke out in the high desert 45 miles north of Los Angeles while firefighters in the Mojave National Preserve near the Nevada line mopped up a six-day-old blaze that scorched more than 70,736 acres.

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Relieved residents of a south-west Utah housing development that was nearly consumed by a 12,000-acre wildfire have returned to their homes, with some finding that the flames had stopped just short of their property. High wind pushed the blaze toward the Harmony Heights development just south of New Harmony late Monday (Jun 27), and officials ordered the evacuation of about 1,200 residents in the area. Officials believe that only about 80 families actually left, said Bureau of Land Management spokesman David Boyd. Hundreds of firefighters got unexpected help when the wind calmed, and the evacuation order was lifted yesterday. At New Harmony, about 30 miles north-west of St. George, the edge of the brush and grass fire came within a mile of some homes, but no buildings had been lost in the community about 280 miles south of Salt Lake City. Elsewhere in Utah's south-western corner, a lightning storm yesterday started two new wildfires that threatened the town of Motoqua, a cluster of 12 homes about 25 miles west of St. George. Officials said late yesterday that the community no longer faced immediate danger. The National Interagency Fire Centre said yesterday that 21 large fires had burned more than 769,000 acres in Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. Arizona's biggest fire, about 30 miles north of Phoenix, grew to 140,000 acres by last night and was expected to spread. The lightning-sparked blaze was about 20% contained early today, fire officials said. Evacuations had not been ordered, but if the fire crosses the Verde River, authorities said it could push into a canyon and potentially into two small towns. Another fire near Roosevelt Dam was expected to be fully contained by tomorrow. In Nevada, a 33,500-acre wildfire that had blanketed Las Vegas with smoke and prompted the evacuation of a Boy Scout camp was nearing containment. However, elsewhere in the southern part of the state, firefighters dug in as a buffer narrowed to 10 miles between a railroad town and two big fires in an uninhabited area that is home to

desert tortoises. Hundreds of firefighters worked to stem flames in mountains south of Caliente, while others protected a Union Pacific Railroad line through Meadow Valley, 50 miles north of Las Vegas. David Chevalier, a US Forest Service spokesman, could not provide acreage figures but said not all the area within the rugged and remote 628-square-mile fire zone was burned.

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated Jun 29, states: A blaze in rugged central Arizona grew to 167,000 acres tonight and concern shifted to three communities surrounded by pine forest that could wind up in harm's way. The fire was burning about 20 miles south-west of the mountain communities of Pine and Strawberry and 12 miles from the point when evacuations may be necessary. It was less than six miles from Black Canyon City, a community of 4,500 about 45 miles north of Phoenix, but was not considered an imminent threat to structures there. The lightning-sparked blaze was about 40% contained on its southern flank tonight. There was no immediate containment figure for the northern flank. No evacuations had been ordered, but authorities said if the fire crosses the Verde River, it could race into Pine and Strawberry, which have numerous holiday homes set in pine forest but somewhat less than 5,000 year-round residents. The fire's western flank was the concern in Black Canyon City. In her weekly briefing with reporters, Governor Janet Napolitano said the blaze "remains the most worrisome fire that we've got in the state right now." More than 200 residents packed a Black Canyon City park tonight to hear from fire officials about efforts to stop the blaze from reaching their community. Similar town hall meetings were scheduled in Pine and Strawberry to discuss the fire and necessary precautions. The blaze began Jun 21 as two lightning-started fires and destroyed 11 homes near Cave Creek, just north of Phoenix. The fire may have dealt a fatal blow to the world's largest saguaro cactus, which could be two centuries old. The 46-foot Grand One, recognized in the National Register of Big Trees for its height, mass of limbs and a base circumference of nearly eight feet, was scorched. The National Interagency Fire Centre said today that 22 active large fires had burned across more than 905,000 acres in Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. In southern Nevada, good weather and a large firefighting force helped slow two huge wildfires burning today near the railroad town of Caliente. "We have made progress," said Kathy Jo Pollock, a US Forest Service fire spokeswoman. "We've got 25% containment and we have really favourable weather conditions today." With the fire lines still about 10 miles from town, Pollock said there was "no threat" to Caliente. Firefighters were battling lightning-sparked blazes in a wide area north-east of Las Vegas.

Seven other blazes have been contained, and no structures have been destroyed. Some blazes burning through vast stretches of uninhabited desert and mountains merged, with the total fire zone covering about 500,000 acres. One blaze burned in the Delamar Mountains, home to a herd of bighorn sheep. Incident commanders were still mapping the burn area, which includes federally protected desert tortoise habitat on Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service land. Fires hopped across brittle desert grasses, mesquite, Joshua trees and mountain pines, officials said. Officials said today they were most concerned about a 4,300-acre wildfire burning in the Desert Red Cliff Preserve about 10 miles north of St. George, Utah. The fire is burning in the prime location for habitat and native grasses for the endangered desert tortoise.



ACCIDENT, GREENWOOD LAKE AIRPORT, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Two pilots flying a small plane reported a mechanical problem that caused them to veer off a Greenwood Lake Airport runway yesterday. The pilots, whose names were not yet known by police, rented a Cessna 182P earlier yesterday. As they were landing, the pilot told police, he experienced a problem with the aircraft's brakes. About midway down the runway, the plane jerked, forcing it to veer to the side and into a grass median, said Lt. Michael Coscia. The aircraft stopped in a greenway about 10 feet from the side of the runway, police said. One wheel struck a part of the runway and the landing gear collapsed, police said. That caused the aircraft's wing to strike the ground and caused a fuel leak, Coscia said. No one was injured, police said.

C-GPVU

London, Jun 23 -- Cessna 150, C-GPVU, was on take-off at approximately 400 feet when engine power decreased from 2400 RPM to 1500 RPM. The pilot made an immediate right turn back to the airfield with hopes of being able to reach runway 06L. The aircraft ended up landing hard within the confines of the airport, close to the threshold runway 28 at 2300, Jun 19. The aircraft was substantially damaged. The passenger sustained minor injuries and the pilot was uninjured.

CRASH, FLOYD COUNTY, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated Jun 27, states: A single-engine plane crashed into woods in northern

Floyd County on today, injuring its pilot, authorities said. A passenger reportedly called 911 to say that she was OK and that the pilot was injured, but not seriously, following the crash of the Cessna 177A. It was found in woods off a small dead-end road just north of Ga. 156. About 25 rescuers walked through the woods to the scene of the crash, which had been spotted from the air.

CRASH, HIGHGATE AREA, VERMONT, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated Jun 26, states: A helicopter crash this afternoon near the Franklin County Airport has left one person dead. Broadcast reports said people at a nearby air show called police after they saw a small helicopter fall out of the sky. After a two-hour search, rescue crews found the helicopter in a wooded area behind a house. It was unclear whether the helicopter was participating in the air show. The Federal Aviation Administration was called in to investigate the crash.

CRASH, JACKSON HOLE AREA, WYOMING, UNITED STATES

New York, Jun 27 --Billionaire John Walton, the second son of Wal-Mart Stores Inc. founder Sam Walton and a Wal-Mart board member, died today when a small plane he was piloting crashed shortly after take-off near his Wyoming home. Walton, an experienced pilot who was a resident of Jackson Hole, was flying a 400- to 500-pound home-made aircraft, with an aluminum body, cloth-covered wings and a small engine, Grand Teton National Park spokeswoman Joan Anzelmo said. It crashed onto a sagebrush-covered plain at 1220 hrs, she said. Park rangers were investigating the incident, she said, adding that the Federal Aviation Administration had declined to do so as it involved an unregistered aircraft. The cause of the crash has not yet been determined, Wal-Mart said in a statement. Walton, 58, is ranked 11th on Forbes magazine's most recent list of the world's richest people, with a net worth estimated at \$18.2 billion. -- Reuters.

CRASH, KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated Jun 28, states: The Federal Aviation Administration reported today that a plane carrying two Bay Area residents that had been missing since October was discovered Sunday (Jun 26) in Washington's Cascade Mountains. The remains of the two-seat L-39 jet were discovered on Sunday in Washington's Kittitas County, FAA spokesman Allen Kenitzer reported today. The plane and its passengers, Rocky Stewart and Scott Smith, had been missing since October, according to the Washington State Department of Transportation. The FAA would not confirm if their bodies were recovered. The plane departed Boeing Field in Washington on Oct 21 and was en route to

Lewiston, Idaho, according to the Washington State Department of Transportation. Stewart, the pilot, reported having problems controlling the plane shortly before it disappeared from radar. The National Transportation Safety Board and the FAA are investigating the crash.

CRASH, MARBLE AREA, COLORADO, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: One person was killed when a single-engine aircraft registered to a Michigan resident crashed in western Colorado today. Authorities said one person was aboard when the plane crashed near Marble, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The cause of the crash was under investigation, and a National Transportation Safety Board investigator was heading to the scene. The aircraft was registered to John P. Kramer of Washington in Macomb County, Michigan.

CRASH, NEW ROADS AREA, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated Jun 24, states: Authorities converged on a sugar cane field today in New Roads where a twin-engine airplane crashed about 200 yards from the False River Regional Airport, killing five people. Officials say the pilot was considered experienced and cautious. All five were from Jonesboro, Arkansas. Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff Paul Raymond Smith says witnesses told investigators that the Beechcraft KingAir touched down on the runway, banked, rose into the air again, then banked to the left and went straight down. It burst into flames upon impact. Smith says there was thunder and lighting in the sky at the time of the crash, but no rain at the airport. The group left Jonesboro between 1630 hrs and 1700 hrs and were destined to New Roads for a vacation at Landry's camp on False River. The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating.

CRASH, SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated Jun 24, states: The wreckage of a small airplane and the remains of its pilot, missing since Sunday (Jun 19), were found yesterday. Debris from the plane and the body of Roland Melanson, of Wantage, were found about 1700 hrs, said Jim Peters, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration. Volunteers from local and state agencies had searched the forest for five days before finding the 58-year-old Melanson and his yellow plane. The site where the plane came down, off Silver Lake Road, is near the Hamburg Mountain Wildlife Management Area in northeastern Sussex County. The discovery of the plane and body were also announced at an 2000 hrs, news conference held by Hardyston officials. Police Capt. Alan Henderson, the spokesman for the search operation, declined to provide any details about where

searchers found the airplane. Henderson said Melanson's body was taken to the Sussex County medical examiner's office for an autopsy. He also said the FAA and National Transportation Safety Board would now take over the investigation. Melanson, who worked at Stryker Orthopaedics in Mahwah, was an experienced pilot. His single-engine Cessna 182P had disappeared off radar screens about 0730 hrs, on Sunday, shortly after taking off from Sussex Airport in Wantage on a flight to Connecticut, the FAA said. Teams of emergency responders from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania had scanned the woods in Hardyston and Franklin by airplane, foot and all-terrain vehicle since midday Sunday, but the dense forest canopy and rocky, steep terrain stymied the search operation.

CRASH, YADKIN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, dated Jun 23, states: A student pilot died today when his aircraft clipped a power line and crashed in the front yard of a home in Yadkin County, authorities said. George Scarlett was flying alone in a yellow Piper Cub when its left wing clipped a power line over a field off U.S. 601 and the aircraft went down, witnesses said. Scarlett was pronounced dead at Hoots Memorial Hospital. Marc Brantley, a foreman of a grading crew working nearby, said he saw Scarlett's aircraft flying north at about 150 feet, then head south at a much lower altitude. The aircraft started to climb, but it was too late, Brantley said. The left wing clipped the power line, and pieces of the shattered wing fell into the field. After the wing hit the wire, the aircraft flipped over, and then it crashed nose first beside the driveway of Margaret Vestal, who lives on U.S. 601. An aviation-safety inspector from the Federal Aviation Administration's Flight Standards District Office in Greensboro was investigating the crash.

DAMAGE AT CAPE GIRARDEAU REGIONAL AIRPORT, MISSOURI, UNITED STATES

See "United States" under "Weather & Navigation."

EMERGENCY LANDING, ACAPULCO, MEXICO

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: An Aviacsa flight from Las Vegas to Mexico's capital was diverted to the Pacific Coast city of Acapulco where it made an emergency landing, authorities said today. No one was injured. One of the tyres on the landing gear of the Boeing 727 exploded while Flight 893 was heading to Mexico City late yesterday, according to a statement released by Aviacsa. The pilot continued into airspace over the capital's Benito Juarez International Airport, but, fearing that heavy rains in the area would leave runways too slick to use with a punctured tyre,

authorities sent the flight to Acapulco, 180 miles south. Under clear skies in Acapulco, officials covered a runway with foam and had emergency crews standing by, but the flight landed without incident.

EMERGENCY LANDING, CHICAGO O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated Jun 26, states: An American Airlines flight that had taken off on a flight to Rome returned to Chicago O'Hare International Airport because a passenger found a small knife on board, an airline spokeswoman said today. American Airlines Flight 110 had been in the air for more than an hour yesterday when the passenger found the knife inside an airline-provided package containing a pillow and blanket, American spokeswoman Mary Frances Fagan said. The aircraft was returned to O'Hare as a security precaution, Fagan said. The Boeing 767-300, which had 199 passengers, landed about 2.5 hours after taking off. Fagan said the airline did not know how the knife got into the plastic-wrapped package. Airline personnel found nothing suspicious on board following the landing. The federal Transportation Security Administration later cleared the aircraft for takeoff, TSA spokeswoman Jessie Nicholson said. However, passengers had to spend the night in Chicago because the flight crew had worked too many consecutive hours under federal regulations. The flight left this morning, Fagan said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, FRIEDRICHSHAFEN, GERMANY

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Boeing 737-700 with 141 people on board was forced to make an emergency landing today in the southern German town of Friedrichshafen after a tyre burst. None of the passengers suffered injuries in the landing, an airport police spokesman said. In preparation for the landing, airport officials had placed fire-brigade and emergency services on alert. The plane, operated by Hamburg Airlines, burst a tyre on take-off from Mallorca on its way to Germany this morning.

EMERGENCY LANDING, HYDERABAD, PAKISTAN

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Dubai-bound Emirates flight had to make an emergency landing at Hyderabad International Airport this morning. The Emirates EK-527 Airbus A330 aircraft, with 177 passengers and 13 crew members had to make an emergency landing immediately soon after it took off, at 1020 hrs, when a bird got sucked into its right hand engine. According to the Airlines officials, the accident damaged two blades of the airplane. The passengers, all safe, have been evacuated while efforts repairs are being effected. Airlines officials said

alternative arrangements were being made in case the repairs could not be done quickly enough. This is the third incident inside six days in India, where a bird getting sucked into an engine has forced an aircraft to make an emergency landing. On Jun 23, a Sharjah-bound Indian Airlines Airbus-320 that was forced to land at Hyderabad. Two days later, a similar incident was reported from Visakhapatnam airport, where an Indian Airlines aircraft carrying the State Commercial Taxes Minister, Konatala Ramakrishna, to return to the tarmac after take-off.

EMERGENCY LANDING, INDIRA GANDHI AIRPORT, NEW DELHI, INDIA

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Sri Lankan Airlines flight, carrying former Prime Minister I K Gujral among its 151 passengers and crew, tonight made an emergency but safe landing at the Indira Gandhi International Airport. The flight UL-191 from Colombo developed engine problems shortly before landing and an SOS was sent to the Air Traffic Control at 2127, IST, seeking emergency landing. Full emergency was declared and fire tenders and ambulances were rushed to the tarmac to meet any eventuality. The plane landed safely at 2134, IST.

EMERGENCY LANDING, KARACHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jun 29 -- Boeing 767 of the Royal Brunei Airline made an emergency landing at the Karachi International Airport after one of its two engines failed yesterday. Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) sources told local media that the flight (RBA-084), carrying 261 passengers on board, gave an emergency call with engine failure to Karachi Air Traffic Control. The aircraft was flying 200 nautical miles south of Karachi. They said the radar area controller, which gave the pilot a direct route and priority landing, efficiently guided the aircraft, which was flying from Sharjah to Brunei. The aircraft landed at the airport safely around 0745 hrs, the sources added. They said the flight left for its destination at 1235 hrs after the fault in the engine was removed. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

FLIGHT DELAYED, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Karachi, Jun 27 -- Due to a technical fault in the engine of Indian Airline Flight No. IC 598 which was scheduled to take off at 0200 Jun 25 it was delayed for several hours at Dubai Airport, according to a local media report. There was a technical problem in the cabin pressure controller. Nearly 70 to 80 passengers, who had valid residency visas, were accommodated in a hotel. The rest, on visit visas and cancelled visas, were accommodated in the airport lounge as they could not go out due to immigration rules. "The delay took place because the cabin pressure

controller needed to be replaced. We had to get the replacement from Delhi, an official of Indian Airlines told passengers. Passengers flew on an incoming flight that arrived at 1530". The incoming flight took off with the stranded passengers at 1700 the next day. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

HB-CLN

London, Jun 30 -- Cessna 172RG, HB-CLN, was destroyed during a go-around manoeuvre and subsequent crash near Dittingen, Switzerland, at 1300, UTC, Jun 19. The pilot and passenger were killed. The flight originated at Basel-Mulhouse.

INCIDENT AT DOMODEDOVO AIRPORT, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

Valletta, Jun 28 -- A local press report, dated today, states: An Air Malta Boeing 737 that was slightly damaged when a passenger jetty hit its door at Moscow's Domodedovo airport early on Sunday morning (Jun 26) is already in Malta and operational, an airline spokesman said. The passengers on the Air Malta flight KM561, which was cancelled due to the incident, returned yesterday morning on a replacement aircraft, he said. They were put up in hotel close to the airport on Sunday. Engineers left for Moscow immediately after the incident occurred, assessed the damage and repaired the aircraft, which arrived in Malta before the replacement aircraft. -- Lloyd's Agents.

INCIDENT AT LUKLA AIRPORT, NEPAL

Karachi, Jun 30 -- A Dornier 228 aircraft owned by private sector airline of Nepal-Gorkha Airlines skidded off the runway at Lukla in eastern Nepal this morning, according to state-run Radio Nepal. The aircraft had left Kathmandu at 0645 in the morning and skidded off while landing at 0735. All nine passengers and crewmembers aboard the aircraft were safe. The passengers included reporters with the state-run Radio Nepal and Nepal Television. The state-run Radio Nepal quoted its reporter as saying that the aircraft sustained some damage while skidding off. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

INCIDENT AT MANCHESTER AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rock star Meat Loaf is believed to have been on board a plane which skidded off the runway at Manchester Airport. The privately chartered Eastern Airways jet from Hamburg was landing on runway two when the incident happened yesterday. An investigation has now been launched into the cause. Airport officials said that there were 10 passengers and three crew on board the flight and they all escaped without injury. Meat Loaf had completed the German leg of a European tour on Tuesday (Jun 28) evening with a concert in Hamburg and he is understood to have been on the flight

to Manchester. The passengers on the plane were taken off via the aircraft steps and then bussed to the terminal before continuing their journeys. An airline spokesman confirmed that the emergency chutes on the plane were not activated. Both runways were shut for 10 minutes after the incident which happened around 1520 hrs and two planes which were due to land had to be diverted to Birmingham and Liverpool. Runway one was soon reopened but runway two remained closed while inquiries continued. A spokesman for Eastern Airways said: "The Jetstream 41 landed normally but left the runway when close to taxiing speed. No passengers were injured and an investigation has been launched."

INCIDENT AT PIEDMONT TRIAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 29 - A press report, dated yesterday, states: The front end of an aircraft parked at the gate with 34 passengers aboard collapsed shortly before noon, today at Piedmont Triad International Airport. No one was seriously injured, though one passenger was taken to Wesley Long Hospital with scrapes and bruises. Ted Johnson, executive director of the Airport Authority, said the nose gear of the aircraft collapsed, causing the nose to crash to the ground, but a cause for the malfunction is unknown. The Independence Air Bombardier jet, had 33 passengers on board and three crew members.

N1212N

London, Jun 26 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A helicopter crashed on an airport runway only a few hundred yards from thousands of auto racing fans attending the Grand Prix of Cleveland today. The pilot was not hurt and walked away, and there were no injuries on the ground. The helicopter crashed in the early afternoon about a quarter mile from the nearest spectators. The helicopter's back rotator blade was broken off and part of its body was sheared away. No one else was in the helicopter. Moments before it went down, the helicopter had flown over crowded grandstands. Airport officials said the pilot of the privately chartered helicopter reported an equipment problem while in the air, but it was too early to pinpoint the cause of the crash.

London, Jun 28 -- Bell 206B JetRanger, N1212N, crashed near Cleveland, Ohio, at 1652, Jun 25, while on a local flight from Cleveland. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The one person on board was not injured.

N235G

London, Jun 26 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A small aircraft carrying four people crashed today into a mobile home community in Fairview Township, York County, killing three passengers, authorities

said. The pilot of the aircraft was taken to Lehigh Valley Burn Centre. No one on the ground was injured, authorities said. A least one television station reported the passengers and pilot were from Tennessee on their way to Bridgeport, Conn. The aircraft crashed at about 1245 hrs after taking off from Capitol City Airport, hitting three mobile homes and catching fire, authorities said.

London, Jun 28 -- Piper PA-28-235 (Cherokee), N235G, crashed near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, at 1635, Jun 25, while on a flight from Harrisburg to Bridgeport, Connecticut. The aircraft was destroyed. Three of the four persons on board were killed and the fourth was seriously injured.

N3BZ

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Federal Aviation Administration was still investigating an aircraft crash yesterday in Mojave. Kern County firefighters were the first to arrive where a small Cessna dual-engine passenger aircraft crashed yesterday afternoon. The aircraft reportedly took off from the Mojave Airport a short time before and began to experience unknown difficulties. The plane crashed in the 16000 block of Sierra Highway and struck a Best Western Inn and then crashed into a brick wall. The aircraft was engulfed in flames that spread to the motel. Two passengers were taken to the hospital with moderate burns and two others had minor injuries.

London, Jun 28 -- Cessna 337G (Skymaster) N3BZ crashed onto the highway near Mojave, California, at 1511, Jun 26, while on a flight from Mojave. Three of the four persons on board suffered minor injuries.

N4227C

London, Jun 29 -- Cessna 414, N4227C, operated by Aircraft Charter and Leasing LLC, took off from runway 22 at the Tsuniah Lake Lodge, British Columbia, at 1402, PDT, Jun 27, on a flight to Seattle Boeing Field, with three persons on board. About half way down the 4,000 foot gravel strip, the aircraft became airborne at a low speed. The pilot reported that the port engine lost power and because he was below the VMC of 79 knots, he was unable to keep the aircraft straight. The aircraft veered to the left off the runway, striking trees. A post crash fire broke out. The three occupants managed to extricate themselves from the burning wreckage with minor injuries. The aircraft was destroyed.

N4368R

London, Jun 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft crashed near a fly-in ranch south-west of Portland, Oregon, killing two people and seriously injuring another, the authorities said. Lt. Ken Summers of the Yamhill County Sheriff's Office said an 18-year-old student pilot and his instructor were killed. Summers did not release the name of either

man. A woman was taken to Willamette Valley Medical Center in McMinnville with head injuries and multiple fractures, Summers said. The Cessna 172 crashed at about 2100, yesterday, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. Witnesses, one of whom was a pilot, said the aircraft seemed to be trying to land, but then powered up and went into a climb before crashing, Summers said. The aircraft crashed near an unoccupied barn about 50 yards from the runway at the Flying M Ranch, said Summers, who did not know from where the flight originated. The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating.

London, Jun 28 -- Cessna 172M (Skyhawk) N4368R crashed near Yamhill, Oregon, at 0315, Jun 24, while on a flight from Yamhill. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. Two of the three persons on board were killed and the third was seriously injured.

N5155N

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Four members of a Rotary Club flying fellowship were killed today when a small aircraft crashed in Long Island Sound on the way from Maine to Groton-New London Airport, officials said. The single-engine Cessna 182 was one of 22 aircrafts participating in the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians' annual "fly-about," club member Phil Yoder said. The crash happened just before 1400 hrs half mile from Pine Island off Avery Point, state Department of Transportation spokesman Chris Cooper said. The cause of the crash had not been determined today, but Coast guard officials said there was heavy fog in the area at the time the aircraft went down. A recreational boater told Coast Guard officials that he heard an engine cut out, followed by a loud bang. The bodies were recovered about 20 minutes after the crash and taken to the Coast Guard station in New London, said Coast Guard Capt. Peter Boynton. The aircraft was owned by Herbert K. Rollins III of Phoenix, the FAA said. The aircraft took off from the Portland International Jetport at 1056 hrs, said Gregory Hughes, airport spokesman. It was supposed to have arrived in Groton at about 1232 hrs, he said. The aircraft was built in 1980 and held a valid FAA certification, according to agency records.

London, Jun 29 -- Cessna 182Q (Skylane), N5155N, crashed into Long Island Sound near Groton, Connecticut, at 1723, Jun 27, while on a flight from Portland, Maine, to Groton. The aircraft was destroyed. The four persons on board were killed.

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated Jun 29, states: Salvage workers today recovered part of the wreckage of a small plane that crashed in Long Island Sound, killing four people. The salvage effort had been hindered by dense fog, which rescue crews said made visibility difficult as the Cessna

182 approached Groton-New London Airport on Monday (Jun 27) afternoon. The cause of the single-engine plane crash is under investigation. This afternoon, crews pulled the plane's tail, rear fuselage and main cabin from the water. The cabin included instruments and flight controls, but they were destroyed. State police, using side scan sonar, located the wreckage yesterday and marked the crash site for the federal investigation team. Dive team members were assisting in the recovery, police said. The plane was one of 22 planes participating in the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians' annual "fly-about," club member Phil Yoder said. The airplane was built in 1980 and held a valid FAA certification, according to agency records.

N5360F

London, Jun 29 -- A press report, dated Jun 28, states: The plane operated by former Maranatha Baptist Bible College student Jonathan Leber that went down in the choppy waters of Lake Michigan on April 25 was extracted from the lake yesterday. According to Jerry Guyer, owner of Pirate's Cove dive company in Milwaukee, members of his crew started the project at about 0700 hrs, yesterday and did not complete the job until 1800 hrs. Guyer explained the day started by diving to the bottom of the lake to attach air filled lifting bags to the plane, which caused it to slowly rise to the top of the waters. A rope tied to the company's boat was connected to the propeller and the plane was slowly dragged eight miles to the Milwaukee shoreline, he added. It was then removed from the lake by a crane. "The towing process took us about three hours to complete," Guyer said. When asked why he chose to remove the plane now, Guyer said he wanted to leave it as long as he could for a reference spot to look for Leber's body, but it needed to be removed because it was starting to deteriorate in the water. Since the middle of May, Guyer said he has only had one opportunity to look for Leber's body because of a lack of manpower and the weather has not co-operated. He added he hopes to make a couple more dives in the near future. Guyer found the plane in an area eight miles off the coast of the Hoan Bridge, just south of central Milwaukee, next to Lake Michigan on April 28 using side scanning sonar equipment from his boat. He dove to the bottom of the lake the next day to verify his finding. It was found nose-down on the bottom of the lake, 160 feet beneath the surface. While looking over the plane, Guyer also found the cell phone Leber used to make a final 911 call for help. Leber's single-engine plane went down in Lake Michigan April 25 on his way back to Madison after visiting some friends at Colgate College in Hamilton, N.Y. Jeff Baum, president of Wisconsin Aviation Inc. in Watertown, said Leber made one stop in Niagara Falls, N.Y., to refuel before leaving for his planned destination.

N601RE

London, Jun 27 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A twin-engine aircraft crashed into Lake Huron today after experiencing engine problems, police said. All six people onboard were rescued. The survivors were able to escape from the aircraft and were helped to shore by boaters, authorities said. The pilot was the only one injured. He was taken to a hospital for treatment of a possible broken nose, police said. It was not immediately known where the aircraft was heading when it crashed about 200 feet from land. The Federal Aviation Administration was investigating.

London, Jun 28 -- Piper PA-31-310 (Turbo Navao B) N601RE crashed into Lake Huron, Michigan, at 1800, Jun 26, while on a flight from Sarnia, Ontario, to Port Huron, MI. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. One of the six persons on board suffered minor injuries.

Space Vehicles

**COLUMBIA**

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated Jun 27, states: The US space agency (NASA) has failed to meet tough safety recommendations issued after the Columbia shuttle break-up in 2003, experts say. The independent Stafford-Covey Commission said risk remained that pieces of foam and ice could break off and hit the shuttle at lift-off. It also said the orbiter had not been sufficiently hardened and it lacked an in-flight repair system. The findings could affect Nasa's plans to resume shuttle flights in July. Nasa has been aiming to launch shuttle Discovery as early as Jul 13. The findings of the 26-member panel came after a deliberate and prolonged discussion. The experts said that overall Nasa had complied with 12 out of 15 recommendations considered essential for the resumption of shuttle flights. The panel's head, Richard Covey, said the three recommendations in question were the most technically challenging. As well as concerns about debris striking the shuttle, the committee said Nasa had not sufficiently "hardened" the shuttle to protect against damage, and had not designed an in-flight repair system to deal with serious incidents. When pressed by reporters to answer if it was safe to launch Discovery in July, Mr Covey, a former astronaut himself, declined to answer specifically. However, he said that if he were younger he would have no concern about flying on the shuttle. Top Nasa officials concluded last week that ice striking the shuttle's heat shield remained a possibility, but the risk is low enough to safely resume flights. "At the end of the day, the recommendation... was that we're in

an acceptable risk posture and that we proceed on with the launch," shuttle programme manager Bill Parsons said. Nasa's administrator Michael Griffin said today he expected a healthy debate on the issue, following the Stafford-Covey Commission's findings. The decision of how ready the shuttle is to return to space is expected in the coming days.

Product Recalls

**BABY STROLLERS, WORLDWIDE**

London, Jun 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Mountain Buggy is recalling thousands of New Zealand-made strollers sold in New Zealand and overseas over the past six months because of a safety concern. The company had received reports of a weakness in the adjustment mechanism of the extendable handle, Mountain Buggy director Charlie Fairbrother said today. Up to 7000 buggies were affected, about 500 of them in New Zealand, Mr Fairbrother told NZPA. The problem could result in the handle breaking under heavy loads during actions such as pulling the three and four-wheeled buggies backwards up stairs. The recall applied to the Mountain Buggy 2005 Urban model (1204-002) Single with serial numbers 000000 - 003342, and Mountain Buggy 2005 Urban model (2204-002) Double with serial numbers 000000 - 006957. Model and serial numbers were on a sticker under the strollers' footplate. There had been 28 reports of breakages, mainly from New York and Sweden, but there had been none reported in New Zealand, Mr Fairbrother said.

CANDLES, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Jun 24 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Target Corp., Minneapolis, Minn., today announced a voluntary recall of about 230,000 Birch and Bark Candles. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The birch and bark surrounding the candles can ignite, posing a fire and burn hazard. There have been 18 reports of the birch and bark candles catching fire and five reports of property damage. No injuries have been reported. The recalled candles were sold individually wrapped in a ribbon on a plate. The candles are cream in color and were sold in sizes 3-by-3 inches, 3-by-6 inches, 4-by-6 inches and 6-by-6 inches. Sold at Target stores nationwide from September 2004 through January 2005 between \$6 and \$15. Manufactured in China. Consumers should return the candles to the nearest Target store to receive a gift card from Target in the amount of \$15, plus applicable state taxes. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ENCLOSED BEDS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 29 -- A report, dated Jun 25, states: Vail Products, Inc. is recalling about 5,000 "enclosed" bed systems. The beds have been found to cause patient entrapments, resulting in severe neurological damage or death due to asphyxiation. Under the terms of the recall, the company has sent new instruction manuals and warning labels to every customer informing them of FDA's advice to stop using the bed system, move patients to alternative beds systems if possible and consult with their physician. If, after consulting with their physician, it is determined that no alternative bed systems are available for a particular patient, users are advised to follow the safety precautions contained in the new instruction manuals and warning labels to help minimize risk of injury. Vail enclosed bed systems are canopy-like padded beds covered with nylon netting that is zipped into place to enclose the patient. They are used for at-risk patients with cognitive impairment, unpredictable behavior, spasms, seizures and other disorders. The beds are an alternative to physical or drug restraint to reduce falls or other injury to patients. The bed systems pose a hazard in that patients can become entrapped between the side-rail and the mattress or between the canopy and mattress. Due to the presence of the canopy, if their head is entrapped, the patient may experience asphyxiation, which can result in permanent neurological injury or death. FDA is aware of approximately 30 entrapments, of which at least eight resulted in death. "FDA is making every effort to make sure that patients and healthcare providers are aware of this problem and are given the information needed to help minimize risk," said Dr. Daniel Schultz, Director of FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health. FDA first issued a Public Health Notification on Mar 25, 2005 about the potential risk posed by these bed systems. FDA has today further updated its Public Health Notification to reflect the latest information on this problem. On Jun 23 and 24, 2005, Vail Products mailed corrected instruction manuals and labeling, including warning labels to all users of its Vail 500, Vail 1000, and Vail 2000 enclosed bed systems. Vail Products publicly stated on Jun 16, 2005, that it is permanently ceasing the manufacture, sale and distribution of all Vail enclosed bed systems. Vail Products will no longer be available to provide accessories, replacement parts, or retrofit kits. The recall is being conducted in co-operation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

HOLDEN MOTOR VEHICLES, NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Holden is recalling 22,000 imported Rodeo light trucks in Australia and New Zealand after 19

incidents in which people have been burned when a mixture of petrol vapour and air was ignited by static electricity during refuelling. The static electricity is generated by petrol coming through the bowser filler hose, and if a spark occurs it can ignite the fuel vapour and air mixture flowing from the vehicle's fuel tank. According to Holden's executive director of engineering, Tony Hyde, the static electricity could cause a spark if a hose clamp on the outside of the fuel filler nozzle was pushed towards the vehicle's body during refuelling. He said Holden and Isuzu had been investigating "fuel flash" since late last year after initially receiving two incident reports in eight months. He was unable to say how many people had been injured, but said the burns suffered were minor. Mr Hyde said the fuel flash was outside the fuel filler hose and there was no chance of the flame finding its way back into the fuel tank. The problem was initially identified on 14 Rodeos on which the original rear bodywork had been removed and after-market tray tops installed that had the potential to shift or expose the fuel filler pipe. However, further investigations showed the problem could occur with standard vehicles. The recall affects petrol-engined RA series Rodeo light trucks built in the model years from 2003 to 2005, and rectification includes earthing the hose clamp to the vehicle body.

MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Jun 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Corp said today it is recalling a total of 39,916 trucks and buses for free repairs to faulty breaks and six other defects. One of the seven defects involves the installation by mistake of air-bag activators for passenger cars which could inflate air bags in response to vibrations caused by large vehicles, Mitsubishi Fuso said in a report to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

MITSUBISHI TRUCKS, AUSTRALIA

London, Jun 29 -- A report from Product Recalls Australia, dated today, states: Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Australia Pty Ltd is recalling about 228 Mitsubishi FP,FS and FV model heavy duty trucks due to mechanical defect. Recall coverage national. The rubber component of the rear engine mounts may crack during normal operation. Both front and rear engine mounts will be replaced. 47 vehicles will also require replacement of the engine wiring harness. Because of the mounting position of the harness the wire coating may have rubbed on the corrugated protective tubing and damaged the wires insulation. Letters to owners have been despatched.

POLARIS ATVS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 29 -- A report, dated May 3, states: Polaris Industries is recalling selected Sportsman and Scrambler model ATVs because of a problem with the electronic control modules in some units. Affected by the recall are the following models: Polaris 2004.5 Sportsman 500, 2005 Sportsman 400, Sportsman 500, Sportsman 600, Sportsman 700, and 2005 Scrambler 500. Some 2004.5 and 2005 Model Year Sportsman and 2005 Model Year Scrambler 500 ATVs were assembled with possibly defective Electronic Control Modules which may fail and overheat. If this were to occur, excessive heat could cause a fire, possibly resulting in serious injury or death. Not all 2004.5 and 2005 vehicles are affected. Polaris has received 26 reports of the ECM overheating. No injuries have been reported. Only select model year Polaris ATVs are part of this recall. The Sportsman ATV model and serial number identification decal is located on the right front side of the front radiator covering. The Scrambler 500 ATV model and serial number identification decal is located on top of the front cab cover. The VIN, or serial number is permanently stamped into the left frame rail behind the left front wheel of all Polaris ATVs. Polaris dealers sold these ATVs nation-wide from August 2004 through February 2005 for between \$5,999 and \$7,299. Remedy: Free repair. Contact your Polaris ATV dealer to schedule an appointment for ECM replacement. Polaris has notified registered affected consumers directly about this recall. The recall is being conducted in co-operation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

London, Jun 29 -- A report, dated Jun 25, states: Polaris is expanding an earlier recall, dated May 3, adding the following models: Polaris Model Year 2004.5 Sportsman 500, Model Year 2005 Sportsman 400, Sportsman 500, Sportsman 600, Sportsman 700, Sportsman 6x6, Scrambler 500, Trail Boss and Magnum 330 ATVs. Some 2004.5 and 2005 Model Year Sportsman, Scrambler 500 ATVs, Trail Boss and Magnum 330 ATVs were assembled with possibly defective Electronic Control Modules which may fail and overheat. If this were to occur, excessive heat could cause a fire, possibly resulting in serious injury or death. Polaris has received 68 reports of the ECM overheating. No injuries have been reported. Only select model year Polaris ATVs are part of this recall. The Sportsman ATV model and serial number identification decal is located on the front side of the front radiator covering. The Scrambler 500 ATV model and serial number identification decal is located on top of the front cab cover. The Vehicle Identification Number, or serial number is also permanently stamped into the left frame rail behind the left front wheel of all Polaris ATVs. Polaris dealers sold these ATVs nation-wide from August 2004 through February 2005 for between \$3,799 and

\$7,699. Consumers should contact your Polaris ATV dealer to schedule an appointment for ECM replacement. Polaris has notified registered affected consumers directly about this recall. The recall is being conducted in co-operation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

REFRIGERATORS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Jun 29 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with LG Electronics Inc., of Lincolnshire, Ill., today announced a voluntary retrofit of about 20,000 LG and Kenmore Elite Trio Three-Door Refrigerators. Consumers should contact the manufacturer or retailer for further instruction. Distributor: Sears, Roebuck and Co., of Hoffman Estates, Ill. A faulty component in the condenser fan motor can short circuit. This could cause the condenser fan motor to overheat, posing a potential fire hazard to consumers. LG Electronics has received 82 reports of incidents involving a condenser fan motor failure due to a failed capacitor arcing and smoking. There has been smoke damage in a few incidents. There have been no injuries. The recalled refrigerators are three-door, 21 to 25 cu ft units with a bottom freezer. The refrigerators come in titanium, stainless steel, bisque, white or black. Brand names are identified on the door at the top right of the units and the interior data plate. The units have the following model and serial numbers located on the data plate inside the fresh food section of the refrigerator door: Consumers should call LG or Sears to determine whether their refrigerator is included in the recall. Sears stores nation-wide sold the Kenmore brand exclusively and other major retailers nation-wide sold the LG brand refrigerators from May 2004 through May 2005 for between \$1,400 and \$2,400. Manufactured in South Korea. Consumers should contact Sears or LG to arrange for a free in-home repair. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

TOY CHESTS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Jun 29 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Pottery Barn Kids of San Francisco, Calif., today announced a voluntary recall of about 5,800 Cameron Toy Chests. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. A problem with the lid support on the toy chest could cause the lid not to stay open, posing the risk of an impact injury to a child's head, fingers or hands. No injuries or incidents have been reported. This recall includes the Cameron toy chest in model numbers 4825378, Honey, 6252852, Espresso, and 4825386, White. The product name and model number is located on a label affixed to the back of the toy chest. Inside the lid of the toy chest is a blackboard and an extra storage shelf. The toy chests are made of American

hardwood frame with veneer panels and measure 40 x 18 x 20" high. Sold at Pottery Barn Kids' Web site, catalog and retail stores nation-wide from December 2003 through April 2005 for \$349. Manufactured in China. Consumers should immediately stop young children from using these toy chests and contact Pottery Barn Kids to determine if their toy chest lid support needs replacement. Pottery Barn Kids will provide consumers with a free lid support replacement kit. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

TRIUMPH MOTORCYCLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 29 -- A report, dated Jun 15, states: The National Highway Traffic Administration has ordered Triumph Motorcycles of America to recall the popular Daytona motorcycle and several other models because a

cooling system failure could cause the engine to seize and lead to a crash. Also recalled are the Triumph Speed Triple, Sprint and Sprint with ABS. NHTSA reports that on some of the motorcycles the lower by-pass coolant hose can rupture. The loss of coolant from the engine could result in overheating and seizure. Dealers will replace the coolant hose in July.

VOLKSWAGEN TOURAN VANS, WORLD-WIDE

London, Jun 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Volkswagen said today it is recalling 44,000 of its Touran vans world-wide to fix a clutch problem. The six-speed gearbox on two-litre TDI models of the multipurpose vehicle can develop excessive wear, leading to noise, damage and eventual failure, the German carmaker said in a statement. It didn't indicate how much the recall, which affects vans manufactured in

2004 and 2005, would cost the company. The company is counting on new models such as the Touran, the Touareg sports-utility vehicle and a new version of its Golf compact to offset fierce price competition in the United States.



ITALY

Genoa, Jun 28 -- Port situation Jun 28: Genoa: Two general cargo vessels waiting for berth. Average delay in berthing 12 hours. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting normal berths. Savona: Two vessels awaiting normal berth. One vessel awaiting special berth. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	29-Jun-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed; 12 vessels due by 16/7; up to 1 day's berthing delay expected.
Brisbane	29-Jun-2005	Grain: 1 vessel due 30/6 to load wheat; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	29-Jun-2005	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 21 anchored; 34 vessels due by 24/7; 5-25 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; waiting times vary greatly due to different stem supply issue.
Dampier	29-Jun-2005	Iron ore: Shippers are experiencing some cargo grade shortages and stockpile problems; some vessels will berth out of turn and berthing may change at short notice. Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 5 vessels due by 9/7; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available; a 48 hour maintenance shutdown is scheduled from 13-15/7; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 11 vessels due by 12/7; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels is always a possibility; shippers cannot guarantee that vessel will be able to load up to max. sailing draft available.
Geraldton	29-Jun-2005	Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed; 1 vessel due 28/6; 3-4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Hay Point	29-Jun-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed, 2 anchored; 13 vessels due by 8/7; up to 4 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability.
Newcastle	29-Jun-2005	Grain: 3 vessels due by 7/7, all to load wheat; 1-6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Hedland	29-Jun-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 3 vessels due by 4/7; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; there will be a 60 hour maintenance shutdown starting ca. 4/7; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 5 vessels due by 27/7; up to 11 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 2 vessels due by 3/7; no delays expected; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 3 vessels due by 3/7; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	29-Jun-2005	Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 16 vessels due by 13/7; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Line-up expected to change at short notice. Cargo grade shortages and stockpile problems may result in vessels berthing out of turn.
Azerbaijan		
Apsheron	27-Jun-2005	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 1 vessel berthed, stopped discharge of crude oil.
Baku	27-Jun-2005	No vessels.

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Port Conditions

Brazil

Paranagua	28-Jun-2005	Fourteen vessels berthed of which 2 sugar loaders, 1 pellets loader, 2 soya loaders, 4 fertiliser dischargers, 3 reefer loaders, 2 other loaders/dischargers; 16 vessels waiting in roads, of which 11 to load (4 pellets, 1 soya, 4 sugar, 2 other vessels), 5 to discharge (4 fertiliser, 1 containers); 36 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio de Janeiro	28-Jun-2005	Porto do Rio: 4 steel products loaders, 2 wheat dischargers; Tecon: no vessels; Porto de Sepetiba: 2 iron ore loaders/dischargers, 1 coal loader/discharger, 2 steel products loaders/dischargers, 3 other loaders/dischargers; 9 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	28-Jun-2005	Four vessels berthed of which 1 phosphate discharger, 1 soya meal loader, 1 rice loader, 1 fertiliser discharger; 7 vessels waiting in roads; 12 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	28-Jun-2005	Sixteen vessels berthed of which 4 sugar loaders, 1 other loader/discharger, 1 bulk sulphur discharger, 1 reefer loader, 1 wheat discharger, 1 bulk oil loader, 3 chemical products loaders/dischargers, 2 soya loaders, 1 bulk LPG discharger, 1 full container loader/discharger; 30 vessels waiting in roads; 28 vessels due over the next 7 days; Private terminals: Terminal 37: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Tecondi: 1 full container loader/discharger; Termares: no vessels; Rodrimar: no vessels; Cosipa: 3 steel products loaders, 1 coal loader; Ultrafertil: no vessels; Cargill: 1 bulk sugar loader, 1 soya loader; Santos Brasil: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Cutrale: no vessels; Dow: no vessels.
Sao Sebastiao	28-Jun-2005	Three vessels berthed, none waiting in roads; 6 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitoria	28-Jun-2005	One granite/cellulose/steel products loader berthed; Terminal Vila Velha: 2 container loaders/dischargers; Tubarao: 1 soya meal loader, 1 fertiliser discharger, 3 iron ore loaders; Praia Mole: 2 steel products loaders, 2 coal dischargers, 1 locomotive discharger; Portocel: 1 cellulose loader; Ubu: no vessels; 42 vessels due over the next 7 days

Bulgaria

Bourgas	27-Jun-2005	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 transformers, 1 copper cathodes, 3 coils, 1 wheat, 1 barley, 1 empty vessel), 2 discharging (1 copper cathodes, 1 salt); 7 vessels waiting in roads, of which 6 to load (3 barley, 1 metals, 1 concrete/iron, 1 empty vessel), 1 to discharge magnetite; 6 vessels due, of which 4 to load (1 grain, 1 copper concentrate, 1 coils, 1 scrap), 2 to discharge (1 iron ore, 1 containers).
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Egypt

Adabiya	27-Jun-2005	Ten vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 5 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 1 containers.
Alexandria	27-Jun-2005	Thirty-five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 15 general cargo, 15 bulk carriers, 2 containers, 3 tankers; 17 vessels dry-docked; 30 vessels at inner anchorage, 13 at outer anchorage
Damietta	27-Jun-2005	Twenty-one vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 12 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 Ro/Ro, 4 containers; 1 vessel at inner anchorage, 8 at outer anchorage.
Dekheila	27-Jun-2005	Eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 6 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 containers; no vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	27-Jun-2005	Nine vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 6 containers; 1 tug.
Suez	27-Jun-2005	Eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 2 reefers, 3 passenger vessels; 4 tugs.
Suez Canal	27-Jun-2005	Eighteen vessels transiting Northbound, 29 Southbound.

Estonia

Tallinn	27-Jun-2005	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 coal vessel loading at berth, 1 soya bean vessel discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 2 vessels due, with 7 days berthing delay expected.
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Georgia

Batumi	27-Jun-2005	Oil products: 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil; 5 vessels due by 30/6, all to load, of which 3 crude oil, 2 gasoil.
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India

Kolkata	27-Jun-2005	3 vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading General Cargo, 1 discharging POL, 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel under repair; 1 vessel waiting to sail; 4 vessels due (Containers-3, Edible oil).
Haldia	27-Jun-2005	13 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Benzene, Iron Ore-2, Thermal Coal), 8 vessels discharging (POL, CPO, Rock Phosphate, Coke-3, Phosphoric Acid, Steel), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 3 to load); 6 vessels due (POL-2, Crude, Rock Phosphate, Coke, Thermal Coal).
Paradip	27-Jun-2005	8 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (Iron ore, Thermal Coal), 6 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, S.Coal, SKO, Rock Phosphate, Machinery); 2 vessels awaiting berth (1 to discharge, 1 to load); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage (3 to discharge, 1 to load).

Port Conditions

Visakhapatnam	27-Jun-2005	16 vessels operating at berth of which 7 loading (Iron ore-3, Granite, Soya, B.F.Slag, Feld Spar), 9 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-3, Rock Phosphate, Steam Coal-2, Crude, MOP, Naptha); 12 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (7 to discharge, 5 to load); 33 vessels due (Iron Ore-3, Steel-2, Soya Bean, C.P.Coke, Granite Blocks, B.F.Slag Alumina Powder, Naptha, Containers-3, Sulphur, Urea-2, Coking Coal-3, Styrene Monomer, Rock Phosphate-2, Coking Coal, Molten Sulphur, Liquid Ammonia, Timber-2, Ammonia Nitrate, POL-2, Coke-2).
Chennai	27-Jun-2005	13 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (S.Pipes, Bary-2, IOL), 5 vessels discharging (S.Scrap, S.Coal, Coal, Coking Coal, Crude Oil), 4 vessels loading and discharging (Granite Blocks/S.Coil, Granite Block Project/Flou, Granite Blocks/Urea, Containers); 2 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge; 4 vessels due (Coking Coal, Iron ore, Magnesium, Project/Granite Block).
Tuticorin	27-Jun-2005	9 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading General Cargo, 7 vessels discharging (Timber Logs-3, Thermal Coal-2, Sulphur, L Ammonia); 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load.
Cochin	27-Jun-2005	1 vessel operating at berth and discharging HSD; 2 vessels awaiting berth to discharge.
New Mangalore	27-Jun-2005	8 vessel operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Iron ore Fines-2, POL Product); 5 vessels discharging (Crude Palm oil, Coal, LPG, POL Crude, Benzene); 5 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 3 to load); 12 vessels due (Crude Palm Oil, Granite Stone-3, POL Product, POL crude, Container, Iron Ore Fines-3, LPG, Timber)
Mormugao	27-Jun-2005	1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessel under repair/dry docked; 7 vessels due (Met Coke, Coking Coal, Iron Ore-5).
Mumbai	27-Jun-2005	10 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (General Cargo, POL), 4 vessels discharging (POL, Fertiliser(RM), General Cargo-2), 4 vessels loading and discharging (Containers, General Cargo-3); 1 vessel working at midstream and discharge Base Oil; 1 vessel awaiting berth to discharge; 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 2 vessels awaiting order to load); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge); 18 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 14 vessels under arrest; 24 vessels under laid up(Berths not required for cargo operations); 17 vessels due (Container-3, Oil, General Cargo-13).
J.N.P.T.	27-Jun-2005	8 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel discharging Edible Oil, 7 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 3 vessels awaiting berth (to load and discharge); 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge; 3 Containers vessels due.
Ennore	27-Jun-2005	1 vessel working at inner anchorage at port basin and loading; 2 Thermal Coal vessel due
Kandla	27-Jun-2005	15 vessels operating at berth of which 7 discharging (Urea, Scrap, DAP, CPO, Chemical, Ammonia, Naptha), 5 vessels loading (Agriculture Product, Rice-3, St. Pipes); 3 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel working at midstream and discharging Coal; 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to discharge; 2 vessels under repairs; 7 vessels due (Met Coke, Dry docking/repair, Timber Logs, Scrape, Agriculture Product, Chemical, SBM Oil). Phosphoric Acid, Butane, Chemical, Neptha).
Israel		
Ashdod	28-Jun-2005	No labour problems. Three general cargo vessels loading at berth, 14 vessels discharging at berth (9 general cargo, 5 bulkers), 5 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge, 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 14 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	28-Jun-2005	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 2 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	28-Jun-2005	No labour problems. Seven vessels discharging at berth (4 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 8 vessels loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 3 tankers); 6 tankers waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 18 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	27-Jun-2005	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed loading crude oil; 4 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargoes; 2 vessels due by 28/6, both to load unknown cargoes.
Mozambique		
Maputo	27-Jun-2005	Four vessels are currently in port berthed, of which 3 loading (1 bagged sugar, 1 magnetite, 1 aluminium ingots), 1 discharging bulk wheat; 1 citrus on pallets vessel due to berth 27/6; 22 vessels due by 11/7 of which 9 to load (2 bulk coal, 1 containers, 2 ferro chrome, 2 citrus on pallets, 1 bulk sugar, 1 scrap), 5 to discharge (1 pitch, 2 bulk alumina, 1 vehicles in packing cases, 1 steel pipes/trucks), 8 to discharge/load (5 containers, 1 petroleum products, 1 containers/coils/steel plates, 1 general cargo)

Port Conditions

Pakistan

Karachi	27-Jun-2005	Three vessels loading at berth (2 cement, 1 rice), 9 vessels discharging at berth (1 palm oil, 1 chemicals, 1 coal, 1 urea, 1 DAP, 2 general cargo, 1 jute 1 phosphate), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 crude oil vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 8 vessels due (3 containers, 1 general cargo, 1 naphtha, 1 chemicals, 1 ethanol, 1 coal), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	27-Jun-2005	Two vessels discharging at berth (1 coal, 1 fertiliser), 1 container vessel discharging/loading at QICT berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 HSD).

Poland

Gdansk	27-Jun-2005	Eight vessels loading at berth (1 coal, 5 general cargo, 1 bulker, 1 tanker), 3 discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 coal, 1 bulker); 9 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, 1 general cargo vessel waiting in roads; vessels due.
Gdynia	27-Jun-2005	Four vessels loading at berth (2 general cargo, 1 grain, 1 wood), 2 discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 grain); 15 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 48 vessels due.

Russia

Novorossiysk	27-Jun-2005	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 scrap, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate/bulk urea, 1 steel sheets/coils, 1 aluminium, 1 wheat), 3 discharging bulk sugar; 7 vessels waiting in roads, of which 3 to discharge bulk sugar, 4 to load (1 barley, 1 wheat, 1 steel billets, 1 bulk cement); 49 vessels due, of which 47 to load (2 coils, 3 DRI, 5 aluminium, 6 pig-iron, 1 slabs/steel sheets/pipes, 1 tin plate/cars/steel sheets, 3 pipes, 2 scrap, 6 bulk NPK, 1 cement, 1 wheat, 1 steel sheets, 1 steel sheets/steel billets, 2 cellulose, 4 steel billets, 1 copper, 1 coils/steel billets/tin plate, 1 steel billets/steel sheet/coils, 1 NPK/bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 oil, 2 diesel oil, 1 HBI); 2 to discharge (1 bulk fertiliser, 1 bulk sugar); Oil terminal: 2 tankers berthed, both loading crude oil; 2 tankers in roads, both to load, of which 1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 7 tankers due, all to load, of which 5 crude oil, 1 fuel oil, 1 diesel oil.
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Slovenia

Koper	27-Jun-2005	Port working normally. Eleven vessels berthed of which 1 discharging/loading containers, 4 bulk carriers discharging coal/minerals/ore, 4 vessels loading sawn timber/agricultural products/general cargo, 1 Ro/Ro discharging/loading agricultural products/paper products, 1 reefer discharging refrigerated goods; 14 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 4 to discharge/load containers, 1 bulk carrier to discharge coal, 4 bulk carriers to load coal, 1 vessel to load timber products, 2 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 1 tanker to discharge mineral oils, 1 passenger vessel.
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Sri Lanka

Colombo	27-Jun-2005	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Seven container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 12 vessels discharging at berth (10 containers/feeders, 1 bulk fertiliser, 1 bulk LPG); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 4 vessels dry-docked, 1 under arrest, 1 at new tanker berth; 5 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.
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Turkmenistan

Okarem	27-Jun-2005	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, completed loading crude oil; 2 vessels in roads, both to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	27-Jun-2005	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, of which 1 completed discharging crude oil, 1 completed loading light gasoil, 1 to load gasoil; 12 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 gasoline, 1 light gasoil, 2 fuel oil, 3 gasoil, 1 heating oil, 1 crude oil, 3 unknown cargo

Ukraine

Mariupol	27-Jun-2005	Thirteen vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 7 steel, 3 fire-clay, 1 coke, 2 coal; 3 vessels undergoing survey of which 1 steel, 1 fire clay, 1 equipment; 12 vessels in roads, of which 10 to load (8 steel, 2 coal), 1 to discharge equipment, 1 to load/discharge containers; 38 vessels due, of which 37 to load (20 steel, 8 coal, 7 fire-clay, 1 coke, 1 pitch), 1 to discharge equipment
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Port Conditions

Odessa 27-Jun-2005

Eighteen vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading (7 metal, 1 scrap, 1 wheat, 1 barley), 5 discharging (1 luggage, 1 oil, 1 bananas, 1 citrus, 1 wheat), 1 discharging/loading containers, 2 passenger vessel; no vessels in roads; 51 vessels due, of which 19 to load (13 metal, 1 equipment, 1 oil, 1 wheat, 2 corn, 1 ore), 8 to discharge (4 sugar, 1 bananas, 1 citrus, 2 luggage), 24 to discharge/load containers.

United States

Galveston, TX 28-Jun-2005

PADM-Farmland terminal: 3-4 days delay.

Houston, TX 28-Jun-2005

Cargill terminal: 1 day's delay; LDC Dreyfus terminal: no delays.

Kalama, WA 28-Jun-2005

Kalama export terminal: 3 days delay; United Harvest terminal: 3 days delay.

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