

Congestion returns to Jawaharlal Nehru

Government disaster management plan at the ready as monsoon threatens to cripple port, writes Shirish Nadkarni in Mumbai- Thursday June 01 2006

SERIOUS congestion has hit operations at India's top container port and with monsoon season fast approaching, port users are already predicting that the situation could get worse.

Congestion built up during May at both the state-run Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal, operated by DP World, and the newly-commissioned Gateway Terminals, operated by AP Moller Holdings.

The crisis, which has coincided with the retirement of Ravi Budhiraja, chairman and managing director of Jawaharlal Nehru port, has left port officials working overtime to ease the situation before the monsoon arrives on the Maharashtra coast. Current forecasts suggest it will hit by June 10.

Box Movements

The port is well aware that unmoved containers, especially from NSICT, would affect box movements at all three main terminals during the rains that lash Mumbai in mid-June.

The Ministries of Commerce and Shipping have suggested that the port, together with the Railways and the Container Corporation of India (Concor), should come out with a contingency and disaster management plan, keeping in view the fast-approaching monsoon.

They have also directed Concor to formulate an action plan for movement of boxes to Mumbai and Pipavav ports. Port

authorities have pointed out that one of the reasons for the increasing problems during May was the strict implementation of the Supreme Court order, pertaining to the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

Due to weight restrictions on trucks in the aftermath of the order, the number of containers required to move the same quantum of cargo has increased.

"JNPT is conducting a dialogue with the Maharashtra state government and the Regional Transport Office for getting permission to carry extra load on the newly procured high-capacity tractor-trailers inside the terminal area," Mr Budhiraja said. Another reason for the congestion has been traced to the start of partial operations at the third terminal operated by the owners of Maersk. Port users fear that once the third terminal launches full-fledged operations by September this year, the congestion will become even worse. "The infrastructure for cargo evacuation needs to be strengthened," said a shipper.

Measures

Concor has also initiated measures to help bring down the congestion at the port. "We are providing empty rakes [container wagon trains], although it is not economical for us," said a Concor official. About 3,000 empty wagons were supplied during May, while efforts are on to reach an average of 14 rakes per day, from the normal level of 10 a day.

Only after the completion of doubling work

for railway lines — currently a single track runs out of JNPT — will there be some spare capacity available with Concor for placement and removal of rakes. "Permission has also been obtained from customs authorities to move cargo by barges to Mumbai and Pipavav ports, which could significantly decongest the container terminals," said Mr Budhiraja. "NSICT has told us that 700 teu should be moved to Pipavav to stem the congestion build-up."

NSICT, which is the worst-hit of the three terminals, has also suggested that two additional empty rakes per day should be provided to the terminal for faster evacuation of boxes.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>CAPE MOR</i>	bulker	VCT	NK	98,968	194,468	1985	In collision with bulker <i>Sanko Spark</i> at the anchorage of Port Drummond, Santa Marta, May 18. Damages unknown.
<i>DETTMER TANK 81</i>	tanker	DEU	—	1,318	—	—	Sprang a leak through propeller shaft in the Dortmund-Ems-Kanal, close to Bergeshovede, May 21. Vessel down by stern but pumps kept vessel afloat.
<i>DINISH</i>	fishing	IRE	LR	266	206	1973	Capsized/sinking in lat 48 26N, long 10 23W, off the Scilly Isles, May 25. Seven crew rescued, two missing, one dead. Search under way.
<i>ETERNAL GRACE</i>	bulker	PAN	NK	39,738	76,585	2006	Grounded in lat 51 24.53N, long 02 02.58E, May 25. Refloated under own power one hour later and anchored awaiting berth at Ghent.
<i>HAWAIIAN LEADER</i>	crude oil tanker	BHS	NV	52,518	99,335	1986	Reported 24 May to have spilled oil over 280 square metres of water near Bourgas. Investigation under way.
<i>HESTIA</i>	general	ATG	BV	1,599	2,500	1999	Ran aground on Tysnes Island near Stord May 19. Vessel holed & taking some water. No pollution. Refloated with assistance from supply <i>BB Lifter</i> & local tugs same day. Arrived Stavanger for repairs, under own power, May 21.
<i>JOHN B. AIRD</i>	bulker	CAN	LR	22,881	30,958	1983	Caught by wind & struck a wall at Port Colborne May 21. Docked at Wharf 16. Extensive damage to starboard bow, some damage to Seaway Bridge bullnose.
<i>ORANGE SEAWAY</i>	general	PAN	NK	4,767	5,501	1994	In collision with <i>Yunlai 9</i> in the Huangpu river channel, Shanghai, May 22. Sailed to Dalian after signing a guarantee.
<i>POLARBORG I</i>	trawler	URY	BV	351	—	1975	Reported May 17 in to of tug <i>Magrite</i> in lat 41 59S, long 62 17W, course 300 deg, speed five knots, bound San Antonio Este.
<i>SANKO SPARK</i>	bulker	HKG	—	77,211	150,961	1996	In collision with bulker <i>Cape Mor</i> at the anchorage of Port Drummond, Santa Marta, May 18. Damage to forepart, flooding to tank. Port side anchor lost, to be recovered May 23, the small hole in hull being patched.
<i>STENA VISION</i>	crude oil tanker	BMU	ABS	163,761	312,679	2001	Pinion in starboard reduction gear reported damaged May 18 during routine drydocking in Dubai . Will be out of operation for several months, then to trade at 11 knots. Temporary repaired pinion to be refitted for 50% power in starboard engine.
<i>YUNLAI 9</i>	bulker	PAN	—	9,082	14,520	—	In collision with <i>Orange Seaway</i> in the Huangpu river channel, Shanghai, May 22. Sustained damage to starboard side. Sailed May 23 for Taizhou.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ADELE (Greece)

London, May 24 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0840, UTC: Combined chemical and oil tank *Adele* (4242 gt, built 1981), cargo 6,200 tonnes of gasoil, grounded at Thessaloniki, in lat 40 29.7N, long 22 48.2E, around noon yesterday. Vessel remains aground after initial refloating attempts were unsuccessful.

London, May 24 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Adele*: Underwater survey revealed no damage and therefore it will be safe to refloat the vessel. It may be necessary to offload some cargo to bunkering barges or another tanker to facilitate refloating.

AL SALAM BOCCACCIO 98 (Panama)

London, May 25 — A press report, dated May 24, states: Egypt's top prosecutor said today that a Red Sea ferry disaster that killed more than 1,000 people was caused by the negligence of its four top officers, who also perished. Prosecutor-General Masher Abel Washed charged six others, including the ferry owner and his son, in connection with February's sinking. Passenger ro/ro *Al Salam Boccaccio 98* was carrying 1,400 passengers and crew when it capsized and sank after a fire broke out while en route to Egypt from Saudi Arabia. The captain and his three top officers "acted negligently and frivolously when the fire broke out and did not take appropriate measures to extinguish it," Abdel Wahed said. The officers should have ordered the ferry back to the Saudi port of Dubah when the fire erupted, he said. Instead, it continued its course to the Red Sea port of Safaga, Egypt. They also failed to send a distress signal or radio for help, he added. The trial of the six will begin on June 5 in Safaga. The identities of the four other defendants weren't immediately available. Mamdouh Ismail, the ferry owner, his son Amr, and a third defendant fled Egypt shortly after the disaster. Abdel Wahed said they would be tried in absentia, but his office has asked Interpol to arrest and return them to Egypt. Abdel Wahed accused the six of negligence, saying they failed to act swiftly when they first learned of the sinking, delaying rescue operations.

ALFASHIP (Bahamas)

Chittagong, May 23 — Crude oil tanker *Alfaship* remains at Chittagong outer anchorage, awaiting a decision from the Bangladeshi Government inspection team regarding demolition. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALGOLAKE (Canada)

Troy, Michigan, May 23 — Bulker *Algolake* (22851 gt, built 1977) had a pitch control problem and tied up at the Carbide dock in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, May 21, with the assistance of GL tugs *Missouri* and *Florida*. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping.

ALGOVILLE (Canada)

Troy, Michigan, May 22 — Bulker *Algoville's* recent engine failure on Lake Huron left the vessel with only five cylinders running on its main engine. Cylinder No.3 is now out of commission which gives the vessel the speed of nine knots at best. Sources report that the vessel is heading for lay up in Hamilton following discharge in Quebec City. It is reported that the company would then decide on the remedy for the vessel either to repair the old engine or to re-power the vessel. Depending on the alternative chosen, the lay up could be as short as two months or as long as two years. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

London, May 24 — Bulker *Algoville* was reported arriving at Hamilton(CAN) at 1125 hrs, May 23, from Quebec.

ANGEL EMIEL (U.K.)

Dover, May 22 — Trawler *Angel Emiel* was towed by *Amelie* to Brixham to continue repairs. She sailed from Dover at 0006 hrs, today. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANTONIS A. (Panama)

London, May 21 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Antonis A.* arrived at Rosario on May 8.

ASTRA (Lithuania)

London, May 22 — Refrigerated general cargo *Astra* arrived at Apapa-Lagos on May 4 and sailed on May 10, bound for Warri.

ASTRID (Switzerland)

London, May 19 — This afternoon, the empty Swiss inland tanker *Astrid*, owned by Leen Ag at Basel, was blown by storm winds against the "lee-shore" in the Buitenhaven of Flushing. The 85 metre long and 8.25 metre wide ship, built in 1963 in Belgium, could not sail from the "lee-shore" under its own power and was towed off/refloated by tug *Schouwenbank*. Tug *Multratug 9* assisted *Astrid*, while mooring in the Buitenhaven.

BOW FORTUNE (NIS)

See *Stolt Zulu*.

BUMI JAYA (Indonesia)

Chittagong, May 23 — General cargo *Bumi Jaya* remains at Chittagong Outer Anchorage. Owners are still deciding on the fate of the vessel and it may be towed to Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Mar 28.)

CAPE MOR (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See *Sanko Spark*.

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DA YUAN YU 309 (China)

Mapurto, May 25 — Fishing *Da Yuan Yu 309* is still under arrest and there is no indication of when it will be released. — Lloyd's Agents.

DANIELLA NATIVIDAD (Philippines)

Manila, May 23 — Product tanker *Daniella Natividad* is still undergoing repairs at Pier No. 3 of the Navotas Fishport in Manila, Shogun Ships, Inc. reported. Shogun Ships owns and operates the vessel. Repairs include replating the damaged portions of the deck and void tank No. 5 as well as replacement of the damaged railing. The repairs are expected to be completed by Saturday (May 27) after which it will be surveyed and undergo sea trials. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

DANUBEGAS (Germany)

Zeebrugge, May 18 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Danubegas* (4201 gt, built 1998), inbound, anchored off the pilot station at Steenbank, to wait for a berth to become available, at 1204 today. At 1542 hrs, vessel upped anchor, and passed the pilot station at 1629 hrs. At 1717 hrs, vessel stopped due to an engine problem and is currently anchored between the pilot station and Flushing Roads, between buoys SBZ and MBNK. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Zeebrugge, May 18 — At 1824 today Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Danubegas* upped anchor and resumed inward passage to Flushing. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

DB MONTREAL (Canada)

London, May 18 — At 2200 hrs, May 17, the unmanned work barges *DB Montreal* (393 gt, built 1963) and *DB Vancouver* (393 gt, built 1963), anchored off St. Jean Ile d'Orleans, in lat 46 54 57N, long 70 53.47W, dragged anchor and grounded.

London, May 18 — Following received from VTS, Quebec, timed 1845, UTC: The barges were refloated at 0935 hrs. No damage nor any pollution was noted.

DB VANCOUVER (Canada)

See *DB Montreal*.

DETTMAR TANK 81 (Germany)

London, May 22 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: At 1750, local time, on May 21, non specific tanker *Dettmar Tank 81* sprang a leak in the Dortmund-Ems-Kanal close to Bergeshovede. The ship was already down by the stern, but pumps were able to keep the vessel afloat. Water had ingressed through the propeller shaft.

DINISH (Republic of Ireland)

London, May 25 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0147, UTC: Fishing (general) *Dinish* (266 gt, built 1973), 10 crew members, in distress, sinking in lat 48 26N, long 10 23W at 2030, UTC, May 24. Two metre swell,

visibility two miles. Helicopters and one Nimrod tasked. Six persons recovered from one lifeboat to product tanker *Stena Contest*. Liferrafts and beacon remain unrecovered in search area. One crew member rescued by resue 193, one person recovered by *Stolt Capability*. Air search continuing for two remains crew.

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: One man has died and two men are missing after the trawler capsized 170 miles south west of the Isles of Scilly, off Cornwall. Ten people were on board the 130ft vessel *Dinish*. Seven of the all-Spanish crew were rescued and one body was recovered. Falmouth Coastguards are co-ordinating search efforts involving Royal Navy and RAF aircraft for the missing men. Five merchant vessels are also still searching for the two missing people. The trawler was believed to be have been heading towards an Irish port. Coastguards received a mayday call at about 2130 BST, yesterday from the vessel, which was taking in water and in severe difficulties. There are fears that the two missing men are in the sea after a life-raft was found empty. Steve Huxley, Duty Area Officer for Falmouth Coastguard, said the rescue helicopters would continue their search for the missing men, but said: "Those helicopters will have a limited time on scene due to the distances involved and fuel limitations. We want to be able to maximise their ability to search in the areas where we believe the missing men will have possibly drifted to on the tide."

London, May 25 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1056, UTC: Fishing (general) *Dinish*: Two persons are still missing, one liferaft and EPIRB not recovered. Search and Rescue operations were terminated at 0615, UTC.

EIFFEL PLANET (Belize)

St. Vincent, CV, May 25 — General cargo *Eiffel Planet* remains in the port under repair. — Lloyd's Agents.

EMLLY (Sierra Leone)

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control."

ENDURANCE (U.S.A.)

London, May 22 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1345, UTC: Fishing *Endurance* (197 gt, built 1983) broke down in lat 40 44.8N, long 68 04.9W, at 1445, local time, May 21. A commercial tug is due on scene tomorrow morning and will take in tow.

London, May 24 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1330, UTC: Fishing *Endurance* was safely towed in to port, believed to be its home port of New Bedford.

ERROL M. (Trinidad & Tobago)

Port of Spain, May 19 — Tug *Errol M.*: Understood that a full investigation is underway. Unofficially, it is reported that there was some confusion between "the

shore man" and the captain of the tug during berthing operations resulting in the barge *Marabella* coming into contact with the quay and causing some damage. Understood that the cost of repairs to the quay is in the vicinity of TT\$10,000 - 40,000. (£850 - £3400) — Lloyd's Agents.

ESMERALDA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 22 — General cargo *Esmeralda* was reported sailing from Gdynia on May 11.

ETERNAL GRACE (Panama)

London, May 25 — Following received from Ostend MRCC, timed 0950, UTC: Bulker *Eternal Grace* (39738 gt, built 2006), bound Ghent, grounded in about lat 51 25N, long 02 03E, around 0830, local time, today. Vessel refloated itself in around one hour and no damage has been reported. It is now at anchor waiting for a berth to become available at Ghent.

FAR GRIP (NIS)

Sydney, May 24 — A seaman on board the seagoing tug/supply *Far Grip* (2766 gt, built 1993) was rushed to the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne on Sunday night (May 21) after being seriously injured when a fire occurred in the accommodation space. The vessel was transiting Port Phillip Bay outbound when the accident occurred. It returned to port and berthed at South Wharf. An investigation is underway. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

FEDERAL SAGUENAY (Barbados)

London, May 20 — Bulker *Federal Saguenay* left Oshawa about May 5, for Toledo.

FILIPINA PRINCESS (Philippines)

Manila, May 19 — Passenger ro/ro *Filipina Princess* entered Keppel Cebu's graving dock yesterday evening. The vessel is due to be inspected by a marine surveyor tomorrow to determine the extent of damage sustained when it ran aground last Saturday (May 13). The most obvious damage is a broken starboard propeller blade. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, May 25 — Passenger ro/ro *Filipina Princess* is still undergoing repairs at Keppel Cebu's graving dock. Sulpicio Lines, owner and operator of the vessel, reported that a survey conducted at the shipyard revealed more damage than earlier reported. Sulpicio Lines initially indicated that damage was confined to one of the twin propellers. Surveyors, however, found deep indentations on the vessel's bottom particularly on the starboard, midship and aft sides. This would require eight tonnes of steel replating covering an area of up to six bottom plates. The starboard propeller also sustained extensive damage consisting of one detached and two dented blades. One of the blades was found to be repairable

while the other two would be replaced with reconditioned blades. The tailshaft, on the other hand, showed no sign of damage. Repairs are expected to be finished by May 27. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

FORTUNY (Canary Islands)

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

FRONT SUNDA (Marshall Islands)

See "Minor Oil Spill, Barbers Point, Hawaii" under "Pollution."

GAZ HORIZON (Panama)

Piraeus, May 22 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Gaz Horizon* (39932 gt, built 1982) had a fire break out at the fore part of the vessel, specifically at the rope storage space, while berthed at Perama port, Piraeus, undergoing repairs, on May 19. Fire was extinguished by crew members. No injuries were reported. Minor material damages ascertained. Preliminary examination is effected by the local port authorities. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Gaz Horizon* arrived Piraeus May 18.)

GIPSY MOTH IV (U.K.)

London, May 21 — A press report, dated May 19, states: Yacht *Gipsy Moth IV* that carried the late Sir Francis Chichester on the first solo one-stop round-the-world voyage is bound for Auckland — and a million dollar repair job — on the deck of a cargo vessel. The vessel ran aground on a coral reef north of Tahiti last month leading to the sacking of two crew members by the yacht's owners, the UK Sailing Academy. On Wednesday (May 17), the damaged yacht was lifted on to a cargo ship at Tahiti heading for Auckland, where the owner has estimated that the cost of the rescue and of repairs could run to £300,000.

GUADALUPE (Marshall Islands)

See "Illegal Dumping of Waste Oil at Sea" under "Miscellaneous."

GUAN (Netherlands)

London, May 25 — Inland general cargo *Guan*, which sank after being in contact with pusher tug *Phoenix* May 9, was raised May 24. Divers from the salvage companies GPS Marine Services BV of Sliedrecht and Bergings- en Transportbedrijf BTS of Schiedam have recovered the cargo of 575 tons of copper in the past weeks. Floating sheerleg cranes *GPS Atlas* and *Amsterdam* lifted the sunken vessel yesterday without any problems. The technical research department of the police will continue with their investigation on the cause of the accident.

HANSA VISBY (Liberia)

See "Seizure of Drugs on Liberian Vessel in Gulf of Uraba, Colombia" under "Miscellaneous."

HARVEST GAVINA (South Africa)

Cape Town, May 24 — Repairs to trawler *Harvest Gavina* are not yet

completed. Sea trials are expected to take place in a week's time. — Lloyd's Agents.

HAWAIIAN LEADER (Bahamas)

See "Bourgas, Bulgaria" under "Pollution."

HESTIA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 19 — Following received from Sandnes, dated today: At 0700 hrs, today, general cargo *Hestia* (1599 gt, built 1999) Odde for Rotterdam, ran hard aground on Tysnes Island near Stord. The master is suspected of "using" alcohol. There were no injuries to the seven Polish crew. The vessel was holed and was taking some water, but there was no danger of sinking and no pollution. It was refloated on next high tide, assisted by supply vessel *BB Lifter* and local tugs. At 1930 hrs, today, the vessel is outside Stord, under escort of *BB Lifter*, southbound.

London, May 23 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: General cargo *Hestia* proceeded early on May 21 to Stavanger by own means. Vessel arrived at abt 1030, local time, and was drydocked at GMC Shipyard. ETC unknown.

HUAL TRADER (Bahamas)

London, May 24 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The gate of the Northern inner lock in Bremerhaven was repaired and installed on May 23. It had been hit by vehicle carrier *Hual Trader* on Dec 30, and was severely damaged. Now the repair works, which had cost 2 million Euro, are completed. During these months an exchange lock was activated.

INGER (Netherlands)

London, May 25 — General cargo *Inger* sailed St. Petersburg May 19 for Beverwijk.

IRVING JOHNSON (U.S.A.)

London, May 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Training *Irving Johnson* is to be recommissioned in a ceremony tomorrow nearly a year after it hit a sandbar and sustained damage requiring \$2.5 million in restoration work. Gambol Industries Inc in Long Beach has been working on the vessel for the past 11 months. While a few minor things still need to be done, the *Irving Johnson* should be back in full service within a couple weeks as part of the TopSail youth sailing programme run out of the Los Angeles Maritime Institute.

ISLAND SKY (Bahamas)

London, May 20 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 0526, UTC: Passenger (cruise) *Island Sky* (4200 gt, built 1992) dragged anchor and touched bottom in lat 56 37.3N, long 06 03.3W at 0420, May 18. Vessel refloated with assistance of Tobermory lifeboat and remains in the Sound of Mull.

London, May 21 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde

MRCC, timed 0730, UTC: At 0815, May 18, passenger (cruise) *Island Sky* was anchored off Oban. The vessel was surveyed, by divers, with classification surveyor in attendance, off Oban. *Island Sky* left Oban at 0930, May 19. (Note - According to LMIU AIS, *Island Sky* was anchored 1.3 nautical miles off Aberdeen, in position lat 57 08 46.04N, long 02 5 18.35W, at 0834, UTC, May 21.)

London, May 22 — Passenger (cruise) *Island Sky* arrived Aberdeen 0729, May 21.

Aberdeen, May 22 — Passenger *Island Sky* sailed from Aberdeen at 1924 hrs, May 21.

JOHN B.AIRD (Canada)

Troy, Michigan, May 21 — Understand bulker *John B.Aird* (22881 gt, built 1983) caught by the wind, spun around and sustained damage to the hull when it hit a wall at Port Colborne. Vessel is presently docked at Wharf 16 with no estimated departure time. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

London, May 23 — Bulker *John B.Aird*, cargo iron ore concentrate, struck NW bullnose of Bridge 21, lat 42 53 11N, long 79 15 00W, at 1210, EDST, May 21. Extensive damage to starboard bow, some damage to Seaway Bridge bullnose. No traffic disruption.

KOCADERE (Turkey)

London, May 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Passenger ro/ro *Kocadere* (1047 gt, built 1982), owned by T.D.I., with 20 vehicles and 410 passengers on board ran aground at about 0935, May 4, while making its regular manoeuvre for coming alongside the Ecebat Dock, Canakkale. In order to ensure safety of lives, properties, navigation and environment patrol ship *Kiyi Emniyeti 9* located in Lapseki and *Kurtarma 1* tug boat located in Canakkale were sent to the vicinity of accident. As a result of operation same day at 1040 hrs, vessel was towed and docked safely alongside the Ecebat Dock.

KOTUKU (New Zealand)

Wellington, May 22 — A decision about raising the wreck of the Bluff fishing (general) *Kotuku* is likely to be made this week by investigators looking into the tragedy, Maritime New Zealand said. Maritime New Zealand spokesman Steve Corbett said the investigation into what caused the *Kotuku* to sink in Foveaux Strait on May 13 with the loss of six lives would continue this week after beginning in earnest last week. "We've held back a bit until after the funerals for moral reasons and to give them (the families of the victims and the survivors) some privacy." While investigators had spoken informally with the survivors, the decision over whether to raise the wreck was a priority for investigators from the agencies looking into the tragedy, Maritime New Zealand and the Transport Accident Investigation Commission, Mr Corbett said. "Our

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first decision next week will be whether to raise the boat or not," he said. If investigators chose not to raise it, the *Kotuku* became the responsibility of its owner. He said while the investigation would look at who was at the helm of the vessel when disaster struck, speculation Peter Topi was in control of the vessel rather than Mr Edminstin was not of concern. "The skipper is in charge of everyone on the boat; anyone with experience can take the helm." — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Accident investigators hope to find out whether fishing *Kotuku* that sank in Foveaux Strait, killing six people, can be salvaged within the next few days. The Transport Accident Investigation Commission says divers are hoping to inspect the wreckage this afternoon. Chief investigator John Mockett says they want to assess how the boat is lying and whether lifting equipment can be attached to it. He says reasonable weather is forecast tomorrow and they are considering putting a barge over the wreckage to lift it then.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Divers entered the water in the Foveaux Strait at about 1100 hrs, today, in another attempt to salvage fishing *Kotuku*, which sank 11 days ago with the loss of six lives. They were forced to abandon their first attempt to raise the vessel yesterday because of strong currents and the threat of sharks. Transport Accident Investigation Commission (TAIC) chief investigator John Mockett said that the divers hoped to lift the vessel this morning but only had a window of about an hour when the tidal currents were at their weakest. If the salvage was successful, the trawler would be taken to Stewart Island, lifted out the water and inspected, Mr Mockett said.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing *Kotuku* has finally been salvaged from Foveaux Strait where it sank 11 days ago, killing six of the nine people on board. Transport Accident Investigation Commission (TAIC) chief investigator John Mockett told NZPA the boat was lifted by airbags early this afternoon. The boat, still submerged beneath the balloons, is being towed to Stewart Island. It has taken three days for the boat to be salvaged, with delays caused by bad weather, strong currents and the threat of sharks. Captain Mockett said the vessel was being towed slowly to Stewart Island and was expected to arrive early this evening. "When they get to Stewart Island, because it is suspended underneath the bags, they (divers and barge team) will have to put it on the bottom tonight and then in the morning will refloat it for it to be inspected." The TAIC investigation team and Maritime New Zealand are in charge of the inspection, Capt Mockett said. The 15m vessel with nine people on board sank on May 13 after capsizing

near Stewart Island as it was returning from a muttonbirding trip. Three people on board managed to swim to Women's Island and survived, but six others died, including three generations of one family, making it New Zealand's worst maritime disaster in more than 20 years.

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing *Kotuku* is floating again after being raised from the bottom of Foveaux Strait. After three days work salvagers have successfully raised the Bluff trawler to the surface, using a crane and air bags. It is now tied alongside a support barge and has been pumped out. The Transport Accident Investigation Commission says they are hoping to get *Kotuku* to nearby Half Moon Bay to have their first look inside on Friday. A lengthy investigation is underway into the capsizing of the boat almost two weeks ago, which resulted in the deaths of six people, including two children. Once the inquiry is over the vessel will be returned to its owner, but the results of the inquiry will not be made public for at least six months.

LEGEND (U.S.A.)

London, May 25 — Thirty-one passengers and three crew members aboard a sport fishing passenger (cruise) *Legend* (98 gt, built 1966) were rescued by the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard when it started taking on water off the coast of Mexico Tuesday (May 23) evening. There were no reports of injuries. The vessel split a seam while it was sailing 80 miles south of San Diego and 30 miles offshore at 1918 hrs, said Mark Mutchler, a search and rescue controller for the U.S. Coast Guard. The vessel is a 75-foot sport boat that runs out of Seaforth Sportfishing in Mission Bay. It was on a 10-day fishing trip when the accident happened. The vessel was taking on 30 to 50 gallons of water per minute. The Navy and U.S. Coast Guard each sent two helicopters and lifted five people from the vessel, which was in 8- to 10-foot seas. The two Coast Guard helicopter crews had been conducting training exercises and were diverted to help the vessel, said U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Dan Youngberg. The first helicopter took 10 minutes to lower a water pump to the vessel and hoist two passengers into the helicopter. The crew then returned to San Diego because the craft it was low on fuel, Youngberg said. The second Coast Guard helicopter delivered two more water pumps. Two other passengers were airlifted to safety by a Navy helicopter. The remaining 27 passengers and three crew members were returned to San Diego aboard the guided missile destroyer *Preble*, while the casualty was escorted into Punta Colonet in Baja California for repairs, Mutchler said.

LIN I (Panama)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

LNG EDO (Bahamas)

Ferrol, May 25 — Liquid Natural Gas Carrier *LNG Edo*: The new gearbox has now arrived. The vessel is expected to enter dry dock in July or August and is not expected to leave port until around September.

LONGOBARDA (Italy)

Rijeka, May 25 — The investigation into the cause of the accident to chemical tanker *Longobarda* is still underway. — Lloyd's Agents.

LUCKY STAR (Bolivia)

Taipei, May 19 — According to the Web news of the Kaohsiung Harbour Bureau, Taiwan, non specific tanker *Lucky Star* is still aground at the coast of Kaohsiung port and listing to about 40 deg. Due to 25 tons of fuel oil and 1500kgs of lube oil remaining on board, the ship's owner/agents were requested by the Kaohsiung Harbour Bureau to dispose as below: 1) The rescue towboat must be on standby and try to proceed the towing/rescuing operation once the weather has improved. 2) The pumping equipment must be ready to try to proceed the pumping out operation once the weather has improved. 3) The ship's officer must be ready at all times to assist the oil pump out/towing operation. 4) Taiwan Coast Guard and fire brigade must keep a watch at the scene. 5) The ship's company was requested to lay oil booms around the vessel to prevent oil pollution before 2200 hrs, May 18. 6) The oil disposal company shall proceed immediately to pump out the fuel/lube oil operation once available. — Lloyd's Agents.

Kaohsiung, May 26 — According to information from the Kaohsiung Harbour Bureau: Salvage company "Seagreen Enterprise Co. Ltd" was appointed by owner's of non specific tanker *Lucky Star* to conduct the tow/salvage operation. An oil disposal company will be clean up the leaked oil and re-lay booms around the vessel to prevent further oil pollution. On May 24 the shore generator and ventilator were on standby at the scene and the repairing work was underway by a diver. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAERSK HOLYHEAD (Venezuela)

Curacao, May 18 — Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Maersk Holyhead*: Work is presently under way putting stress on the plates and vessel may be ready to depart next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

MALITAM (Philippines)

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

MALTE B. (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 19 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1415, UTC: General cargo *Malte B.* is expected to sail Galveston today.

London, May 22 — According to LMIU AIS, general cargo *Malte B.* was in lat 28 39 23.98N, long 93 37.77W, at 1601, UTC, May 20, course 129.5 deg, speed 12.8 knots.

MARE ISLAND (U.S.A.)

San Francisco, May 24 — Permanent repairs to ferry *Mare Island* completed and she is running on her normal schedule. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARINE ODYSSEY (Canada)

London, May 25 — Fishing (general) *Marine Odyssey* (146 gt, built 2001) reported an inoperative rudder and requested a tow in lat 47 56.00N, long 48 04W at 1947, UTC, May 22.

MIGHTY DELIVERER (Panama)

See PXXI P21.

MULTRATUG 2 (Netherlands)

London, May 22 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: On May 21 tug *Multratug 2* encountered machine problems on the way from the Dutch port of Vlissingen, close to the Sloehaven. Tug *Barracuda* subsequently towed it to Terneuzen, where it was picked up by tug *Multratug 12*. *Barracuda* returned to its station in Vlissingen.

NEDLLOYD DE LIEFDE (Liberia)

Balboa, May 19 — Container Carrier *Nedlloyd De Liefde* is still at the yard, but understand may depart later today. — Lloyd's Agents.

Balboa, May 19 — C.c. *Nedlloyd De Liefde* sailed Cristobal at 1345 hrs, today, bound for Manzanillo International Terminal for cargo operations. — Lloyd's Agents.

NEW CARISSA (Panama)

London, May 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A proposed settlement to end an appeal of a \$25 million jury award against the owners of wood-chip carrier *New Carissa* will be considered next week by the Oregon State Land Board. *New Carissa* ran aground just offshore from Coos Bay in February 1999. Efforts to free the vessel failed and attempts to burn off its engine fuel broke it in half, spilling oil into the bay and its oyster beds. The bow was eventually towed to sea and scuttled with a torpedo from a Navy submarine. However, the stripped-down remains of the stern are still stuck in the sand at a state beach on the North Spit of Coos Bay. In November 2004, a Coos County jury found the vessel's owners guilty of negligent trespass and awarded the state \$25 million to pay for removal. The \$25 million award is, however, in an escrow account awaiting an appeal to the Oregon Court of Appeals by the owners. The land board will meet in executive session Tuesday (May 23) to discuss the settlement proposal, followed by a public session. If a settlement is reached, it will be offered as a motion followed by a vote, said Julie Curtis, board spokeswoman.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated May 23, states: Seven years after wood-chip carrier *New Carissa* ran aground on an Oregon beach, the legal battle over removal of the shipwreck has ended with a \$22.1 million settlement. The Oregon State

Land Board, headed by Gov. Ted Kulongoski, voted unanimously today to accept a proposal from the owners, Green Atlas Shipping Co., to end their appeal of a \$25 million jury award in 2002. Now it will be up to the Legislative Emergency Board in September to approve removal of the rusting stern of the wood chip freighter, the last remaining chunk of a 660-foot vessel that broke apart in a nearly comical effort to drag it free in 1999. The *New Carissa* snapped in half during efforts to burn off its engine fuel, sending the fuel into Coos Bay and contaminating its oyster beds. Salvage crews battled fierce winter weather to tow the bow section to sea, but lost it when a cable snapped, sending it back to shore to cause more pollution. It was eventually towed back to sea and scuttled by a Navy torpedo. The stern, cut down to a skeleton, has sunk deep into the sand and rides the surf every day, posing a potential hazard at low tide when beachcombers can go right up to the hull. Kulongoski said he will urge the Emergency Board to approve \$19 million earmarked under the settlement for removal of the stern. The remaining \$3.1 million will pay for legal costs. Louise Solliday, director of the Department of State Lands, said the state will seek a contract contingent on Emergency Board approval so that salvage crews can plan to remove the vessel next year during the narrow window available in summer when weather and sea conditions will allow the dangerous work. There have been suggestions that the shipwreck be left alone as a potential tourist attraction. But the governor said he was concerned both about the potential liability for leaving the shipwreck in place much longer, and with sending a message to shipping companies that the state would not tolerate similar wrecks in the future.

NORD SPIRIT (Marshall Islands)

London, May 23 — Bulker *Nord Spirit* sailed from Nagoya on May 22, bound for China.

ODD LUNDBERG (Norway)

London, May 23 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 0905, UTC: Fishing *Odd Lundberg* (768 gt, built 2000) reported propeller problems in lat 60 48N, long 03 18E, at 2144, local time, May 22. At 0500, local time, today, vessel was in tow of rescue vessel *Platou* and vessels are currently to the north of Bergen, where we believe they are proceeding.

London, May 24 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1130, UTC: Fishing *Odd Lundberg* was reported safely moored at Bergen at 1807, local time, May 23.

OOCL FRANCE (Liberia)

London, May 20 — Container Carrier *OOCL France* left Singapore May 15.

ORANGE SEAWAY (Panama)

Antwerp, May 25 — At about 2320 hrs, May 22, bulker *Yunlai 9* (9082 gt,

built 2005) was in collision with general cargo *Orange Seaway* (4767 gt, built 1994), which was moving from terminal to buoy, in the Huangpu river channel, Shanghai. *Yunlai 9* anchored at Wusong anchorage for investigation which revealed damages to the starboard side. On May 23 *Yunlai 9* sailed for Taizhou. *Orange Seaway*, after anchoring for discharge, sailed to Dalian after lodging a guarantee. — DPS-Teamhead Surveyors.

ORNA (Greece)

London, May 23 — Bulker *Orna* was reported passing Cape Finisterre on May 22, on a reported passage of Huelva for Klaipeda, where ETA May 27.

PACIFIC RELIANCE (U.S.A.)

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office reports that a fire ignited yesterday on a tugboat pulling a barge loaded with ethanol on the Hudson River, but was contained to the tug's engine room and put out. Firefighters from New Hamburg responded to a call for a fire on tug *Pacific Reliance* (950 gt, built 2006), owned by Crowley Towing of San Francisco. Authorities believe a ruptured engine fuel line caused the fire. The ship was on its way from Cibro Petroleum in Albany to Baltimore. New Hamburg Chief Jeff Renihan said that the fire was extinguished in about 20 minutes. He says the boat lost power for about 30 seconds before a backup generator came on. Coast Guard officials say the tug was to be towed to New York City for an inspection today.

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighting and police personnel from several agencies yesterday assisted when tug *Pacific Reliance* that was pushing barge *Pacific Reliant* with a load of 51,000 barrels of ethanol on the Hudson River had an engine compartment fire. The fire was reported shortly after 1100 hrs with the vessels in the middle of the Hudson just south of White's Marina in New Hamburg. Firefighters remained on scene for several hours while they awaited representatives from the Coast Guard. New Hamburg was assisted at the ship by City of Newburgh and City of Kingston firefighters; they were also assisted by boats from White's Marina and a small tug from New York Trap Rock, the New York State Department of environmental Conservation, Dutchess County Sheriff and US Coast Guard.

PACIFIC RELIANT

See *Pacific Reliance*.

PERSENK (Bulgaria)

London, May 19 — Bulker *Persenk* sailed Duluth May 11 and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 46 3.8N, long 73 7.33W, 0.6 nautical miles from Sorel.

PHOENIX (Netherlands)

See *Guan*.

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

PINOS 1

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

POLARBORG I (Uruguay)

London, May 18 — Following navigation warning issued by Argentine Hydrographic Department, dated May 17: Trawler *Polarborg I* (351 gt, built 1975), in tow of tug *Magrite*, in lat 41 59S, long 62 17W, course 300 deg, speed five knots, bound San Antonio Este.

POLARIS (Lithuania)

Trondheim, May 22 — According to Norwegian newspaper and Tromso Port Authority the Lithuanian fishing *Polaris* (756 gt, built 1967) grounded at Simavika, North West of the entrance to Tromso, abt 1500, May 18. The vessel was afloat the same afternoon, assisted by two tugs and one rescue vessel. *Polaris* sailed for Tromso by own power, where arrived 0710, May 19. Obviously no severe damage as the vessel was allowed to leave Tromso after bunkering and sailed for the fishing fields at 1640, May 19. The newspaper reports the Norwegian police suspected that the vessel's Master was drunk and that the blood test taken revealed 1.3 per thousand. It is also said that this is the second occurrence in a short time as they inform that the vessel's Master under influence of alcohol on Mar 30 navigated the vessel into a rock wall. The newspaper reports the Master's certificate, however, will not be considered withdrawn until these two occurrences have been handled by the Norwegian Court of Law. — Lloyd's Agents.

POMPEI (Belgium)

London, May 22 — Following received from the managers of general cargo *Pompei*, dated today: *Pompei* arrived Hong Kong May 20 and has already commenced repairs. It is hoped vessel will be ready to depart by Jun 1.

PONT-AVEN (France)

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Pont-Aven* (41748 gt, built 2004) was diverted to France after running into trouble in bad weather while sailing from Plymouth to Santander today. Coastguards said windows smashed on one deck and cabins flooded when a 40-ft wave and winds of force nine hit the vessel in the English Channel. Passengers were moved to upper decks. Six of the 1,200 people on board sustained minor injuries, Brittany Ferries said. The vessel was diverted to Roscoff where passengers disembarked. Coastguards were alerted to the problems in the early hours of today. Stephen Tuckwell, from Brittany Ferries, said: "The master sounded the alarm and there was no panic. Most of the passengers were in restaurant or bar at the time the waves hit, so there were only about 10 or 20 people directly affected." He added that the passengers who had sustained minor

injuries were treated by the vessel's doctor. The vessel will be inspected and repaired by engineers in Roscoff. It is expected to be ready to go back into service by Friday (May 26).

Brest, May 24 — Passenger ro/ro *Pont-Aven* arrived Brest May 23 for repairs, ETC not known. — Lloyd's Agents.

POPULAR VOYAGER (U.K.)

London, May 21 — Coastguards and a lifeboat crew have rescued 12 passengers from passenger (cruise) *Popular Voyager*, 90 foot, after it ran aground on Loch Beag. The incident took place at Glencoul, near Kylesku, north of Lochinver. The alarm was raised at about 0200, BST, Thursday (May 18). Two crew members stayed on board to refloat the vessel. The 12 passengers were taken ashore by Lochinver lifeboat and were put up in a local hotel. Stornoway Coastguard watch manager Angus Murray said: "The skipper acted promptly and evacuation from the vessel was undertaken in an orderly and professional manner by all units concerned. "All passengers are fortunately reported to be safe and well with no injuries."

London, May 23 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1005, UTC: Passenger *Popular Voyager* is currently en route to Oban for repairs, ETA 1400, local time, today.

London, May 24 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 1200, UTC: Passenger *Popular Voyager* arrived Oban yesterday.

PRINCE MOUDI (Lebanon)

Beirut, May 16 — General cargo *Prince Moudi*, which arrived at Beirut on Sep 2, 2004 from Kavala, is currently laid up in the port. — Lloyd's Agents.

PXXI P21 (oil platform)

London, May 23 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1025, UTC: Tug *Mighty Deliverer*, towing oil platform *PXXI P21* from Brazil to Cape Town, encountered heavy weather and was forced to release platform in lat 35 48S, long 13 35W, at 0900, Apr 30. Tug was unable to reconnect tow due to bad weather. Up until May 10 platform was still visible but in continuing bad weather visual contact was lost and the platform has not been observed since that date. Tug/supply vessel *Ruby Deliverer* is assisting the *Mighty Deliverer* in the search operation.

London, May 24 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0835, UTC: There is no news on oil platform *PXXI P21*. The search is continuing.

QUEEN MARY 2 (U.K.)

London, May 19 — Passenger (cruise) *Queen Mary 2* sailed Hamburg May 10, arrived Southampton May 11 and sailed same day for Bergen. Vessel arrived back at

Southampton May 17 from Aalesund and sailed same day for New York, where ETA May 23.

QUEEN OF NANAIMO (Canada)

London, May 23 — Roll On Roll Off *Queen of Nanaimo* (4939 gt, built 1964) had a blackout, caused by electrical overload, in the vicinity of Active Pass, Georgia Point, BC, lat 48 54N, long 123 18W, at 2059, EDST, May 12. Power was quickly restored and she continued on passage.

ROMI

London, May 23 — Yesterday afternoon (May 22) the body of one of the two missing persons has been found from overturned inland cargo vessel *Romi*. It is the brother in law of the skipper, whose body was seen along the side of the River Scheldt off Umicore by the crew of a passing tanker. The river police went there straight away and recovered the body of the 40 year old victim. The family of the victim has recognised and identified the man. The body of his 42 year old sister is still missing. An investigation is still going on on the cause of the capsizing of this vessel.

SALZGITTER (Panama)

London, May 19 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1330, UTC: Vehicle carrier *Salzgitter* (34960 gt, built 1987) had small fire caused by welding sparks at Miami yesterday afternoon. Fire was extinguished by crew in around half an hour, with only minor damage caused.

SANKO SPARK (Hong Kong)

Bogota, May 18 — Bulkers *Sanko Spark* (77211 gt, built 1996) and *Cape Mor* (98968 gt, built 1985) were in collision at the anchorage of Port Drummond, Santa Marta, early this morning. Reportedly the *Sanko Spark*, which was proceeding to the anchorage with a pilot on board, sustained damage to its forepart and experienced flooding into tank. Vessel also lost its port side anchor. The *Cape Mor* was leaving port in fully loaded condition at the time of the incident. Its damages are presently unknown. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Sanko Spark* was last reported passing Dover Strait May 5 on voyage from Dunkirk to Santa Marta. *Cape Mor* had arrived Santa Marta Apr 30 from Haldera.)

London, May 23 — Bulker *Sanko Spark*, collision with bulker *Cape Mor*: The anchor from the *Sanko Spark* should be retrieved today. Understand the hole in vessel's hull is minute and is being patched.

SANKO TITAN (Liberia)

London, May 23 — Bulker *Sanko Titan* (30051 gt, built 2006) grounded on the open roadstead, port of Becancour, lat 46 24N, long 72 25W, at 0008, EDST, May 20.

London, May 24 — Following received from Quebec MRSC, timed 0900, UTC: Bulker *Sanko Titan*

refloated at 1955, UTC, May 20. Vessel was undamaged and subsequently sailed Becancour 0400, UTC, May 23, for Halifax.

SC BALTIC (DIS)

Trondheim, May 19 — Agents of general cargo *SC Baltic* report today that the vessel is still alongside at Aalesund. It has not been decided what will be done re cargo discharge / vessel repair. — Lloyd's Agents.

Trondheim, May 22 — General cargo *SC Baltic*: Vessel's agent at Aalesund inform they have now commenced discharging of some of the cargo, but do not know yet when they may complete. No decision taken yet as to repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA DIAMOND (Panama)

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

SEACOR ENERGY (U.S.A.)

London, May 19 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1420, UTC: Anchor handling tug/supply *Seacor Energy* was placed in an A-Frame and moved to Port Fourchon, where it was drydocked yesterday for temporary repairs. On completion of same, it will be moved to Bollinger Shipyard, Amelia, La, for permanent repairs.

London, May 22 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1430, UTC: Anchor handling tug/supply *Seacor Energy* is still in dry dock at Port Fourchon for repairs.

SHARK (Lebanon)

Beirut, May 16 — General cargo *Shark* is still lying sunk at Beirut. — Lloyd's Agents.

SHKOTOVO (Russia)

See "Guinea" under "Piracy".

SINOKOR SEOUL (South Korea)

London, May 22 — C.c. *Sinokor Seoul* was reported arriving at and sailing from Onsan on Apr 27. The vessel arrived at Busan later the same day, departing on Apr 28, for Hong Kong, where it arrived at 0230 hrs, May 1.

SPAR ORION (NIS)

London, May 19 — Following received from the owners of bulker *Spar Orion*, dated today: *Spar Orion* is still anchored off Port Everglades. Diver inspection revealed only minor damage/denting and repairs will be effected during vessel's scheduled drydocking in the far east in July. Vessel is expected to enter Port Everglades for cargo discharge in the next few days. Investigations are still under way to ascertain damage, if any, to the coral reef where the vessel was aground.

London, May 19 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1340, UTC: Bulker *Spar Orion* is expected in port at Port Everglades May 22, when soundings and structural checks will be carried out.

London, May 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Spar Orion* was set free by a high tide about 1330 hrs, yesterday. Without the help of tugboats, it steamed under its own power off the reef upon which it had been stranded for about 16 hours. But the vessel, bearing 48,000 tons of powdered cement, left a shattered bottom in its wake. Its owner, Spar Shipholding of Norway, will likely foot the repair bill, officials said. Lou Fisher, a natural resource specialist for Broward County, was among four dive teams that inspected the damage yesterday morning. The vessel, which draws 37 feet of water, left a scar as long as its hull on the reef, he said. "The impacts are over 600 feet long," Fisher said. "Areas where the hull contacted the bottom are flattened out. There is a gouge where the bow went aground." The vessel wasn't damaged, Coast Guard spokeswoman Gretchen Chapman said, but safety and hull inspections will delay its entry into port until Monday (May 22). Its navigational procedures also will be reviewed. "The Coast Guard is still investigating the cause for it to run aground," Chapman said. "There could be a possibility of fines; however, we won't know until the investigation is complete." Fisher and dive crews from the Broward Sheriff's Office and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission documented damage left by this week's grounding. "We saw a cracked reef framework, crushed coral, soft corals crushed, hard corals crushed, and sponges that were severed at the base," Fisher said. "All the types of impact we've seen with other ship groundings." Also surveying the scene were divers from Continental Shelf Associates of Jupiter, a consulting firm working for the ship owner and its insurer. Bruce Graham of CSA said the firm will co-operate with the county and state in drafting a plan to restore the bruised reef. Ken Banks, manager of the marine resources program for Broward County's Environmental Protection Department, said the ship owner and its insurer will be responsible for repairing the harm done by the *Spar Orion*. Fisher said in his experience, the damage falls into the "middle range" of severity. But it's too soon to tell how much work — or money — the repair will require. Richard Dodge, director of the National Coral Reef Institute at Nova Southeastern University in Davie, said reef repair, involving boats, insurance and experienced divers, can be a pricey endeavor. And besides lots of money, lots of time is needed to restore a reef. "It took a long time to create it, so it would take a long time to grow it back," he said.

London, May 22 — Following received from the owners of bulker *Spar Orion*, dated today: *Spar Orion* has commenced unloading its cargo of cement at discharge berth in Port Everglades; however, discharge is suspended at present due to a General Average claim and will not continue until the situation is clarified.

ST.NICHOLAS (U.S.A.)

London, May 20 — The Coast Guard is monitoring the grounding of the passenger (cruise) *St. Nicholas* (89 gt, built 1989) in Berner's Bay about 40 miles from Juneau. No injuries or pollution have been reported. Allen Marine Tours officials notified the Coast Guard at about 1215 hrs that their charter vessel had become grounded on a sand bar in Berner's Bay at about 1135, yesterday. The vessel has 93 passengers and six crew on board. They were conducting a five hour charter for the Juneau Douglas High School Oceanographic Class. The company launched the motor vessel *St. Herman*, and a small utility vessel from Auke Bay. Both vessels are on scene with the *St. Nicholas*. The vessel is firmly aground. It went aground near a low tide of .4 feet. The next high tide is at 1923 hrs and is estimated to be 13.6 feet. Allen Marine officials expect to refloat the vessel shortly. Once the vessel is refloated the passengers will be transferred to the *St. Herman* for their return to Juneau. Personnel from the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office in Juneau will be investigating the incident. The cause of the grounding is not known at this time.

London, May 22 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1955, UTC, today: Passenger (cruise) *St. Nicholas* refloated same day and returned to Juneau.

STENA EXPLORER (U.K.)

London, May 22 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Stena Line passenger ro/ro *Stena Explorer* (19638 gt, built 1996), which had been stranded in Dublin bay all afternoon, has docked safely in Dun Laoghaire. Hundreds of ferry passengers, including many returning Munster fans, were on board. It left Holyhead this morning just after 0900 hrs and was due to arrive just after 1300 hrs. The vessel was unable to land due to of a combination of bad weather and technical problems but was finally able to dock after the wind changed direction.

STENA VISION (Bermuda)

London, May 18 — Crude oil tanker *Stena Vision* (163761 gt, built 2001), currently at Dubai, has main engine problems which are expected to prevent it from operating for several months.

London, May 19 — Crude oil tanker *Stena Vision* is out of service for "a number of months" to repair its main Man B&W engines. Stena tanker operator Concordia Maritime said the unspecified problem in one of the vessel's twin main engines was spotted during routine drydocking. Concordia Maritime time-charters the 2001-built tanker from Arlington Tankers, a Stena spin-off, on a contract running until November, 2009. Bermuda-based Arlington Tankers was notified yesterday by vessel manager Northern Marine Management that engine problems

had been identified during drydocking. Arlington added that Northern Marine had informed it that the vessel required "a prolonged period of repair" in order to carry out the engine maintenance. "The vessel was undergoing a scheduled dry-dock period when it was determined that the repair was necessary," Arlington Tankers stated. "The vessel will be out of service for several months."

Gothenburg, May 19 — Concordia Maritime, charterers of crude oil tanker *Stena Vision*, today updated the situation regarding the vessel. It had been reported that problems to one of the main engines had been discovered during routine dry docking in Dubai and that the vessel would be out of service for a number of months. In fact, it is the pinion in the starboard reduction gear that is damaged and will need to be replaced. In the meantime, the manufacturers, Schelde Gears in Holland, will take the part to their factory for machining and temporary repair and it will be re-installed after about three to four months. During this period of repair, the vessel will be able to sail on one engine at about 11 knots, fully laden. When the temporarily repaired pinion is re-fitted to the reduction gear, she will be able to increase her power to 50% on the starboard engine and will make about 15 knots. It is expected that the manufacturers will require about eight to nine months to make and install a new complete reduction gear, but, in the meantime, *Stena Vision* will still be able to trade worldwide.

STOLT ZULU (Singapore)

London, May 19 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1350, UTC: Chemical tanker *Stolt Zulu* (16442 gt, built 2006) and combined chemical and oil tank *Bow Fortune* (23206 gt, built 1999) were in collision while passing each other at Mile 178, lower River Mississippi, at 0450, local time, today. *Stolt Zulu* went hard to starboard and ran aground briefly, before refloating itself at 0530 hrs. It reported no damage and has anchored at Burnside anchorage, at Mile 167, where it is restricted pending inspections. *Bow Fortune* reportedly sustained minimal bow damage and is restricted in its current anchored position, at White Castle Anchorage, Mile 190.4, also awaiting inspections.

London, May 22 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1415, UTC: Chemical tanker *Stolt Zulu* and combined chemical and oil tank *Bow Fortune* are still anchored in the same locations on the lower River Mississippi, awaiting results of surveys.

London, May 22 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1425, UTC: Chemical tanker *Stolt Zulu* and combined chemical and oil tank *Bow Fortune*, in collision on lower River Mississippi: Both vessels have been boarded by classification society inspectors and *Bow Fortune* has been permitted to

proceed to Mile 114.7 for repairs. The tankers are both still restricted from sailing.

London, May 24 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1335, UTC: Chemical tanker *Stolt Zulu* and combined chemical and oil tank *Bow Fortune* have both had their restrictions rescinded and will be leaving the River Mississippi today to proceed overseas for permanent repairs. Both vessels have carried out some temporary repairs to enable them to sail.

SUPERFERRY 1 (Philippines)

Manila, May 23 — Roll On Roll Off *Superferry 1* has resumed normal operations after repairs were carried out on the damaged sections of the ground deck tourist accommodations last week. The vessel left Manila at 0935, today for its regular voyage to Cebu Port. Estimated time of arrival at Cebu is 0900, tomorrow. From Cebu it will proceed to Nasipit and Tagbilaran ports, after which it will return to Cebu then Manila, Aboitiz Transport Systems, reported. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SUVA (Panama)

London, May 19 — Crude oil tanker *Suva* arrived Fujairah Anchorage May 10.

TIGER SPIRIT (Cyprus)

Kolkata, May 19 — General cargo *Tiger Spirit* arrived Kolkata on May 17 and will depart on completion of cargo discharge. — Lloyd's Agents.

Kolkata, May 20 — General cargo *Tiger Spirit*, on completion of discharge at Kolkata port, left for Singapore on May 19. — Lloyd's Agents.

TODCO 256 (drilling platform)

London, May 19 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1400, UTC: Drilling platform *Todco 256*: At present owners are deciding whether salvage of platform is feasible. If salvage operations are carried out it is estimated the cost will be \$12 million, while if it is a total loss the cost will be \$20 million. A meeting took place yesterday to discuss the future plans.

London, May 22 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1440, UTC: Drilling platform *Todco 256*: Decision on salvage not yet taken.

TONG XIN (China)

Antwerp May 25 — While departing from Shihu Terminal, Quanzhou, on May 19, container Carrier *Tong Xin*, fully loaded, sustained water ingress to No.1 cargo hold and subsequently grounded. The vessel refloated next day and reberthed. On May 21 *Tong Xin* anchored for investigation. DPS-Teamhead Surveyors.

TRANSFER (Antigua & Barbuda)

Belize City, May 18 — Part containerised general car *Transfer* remains aground on the reef. — Lloyd's Agents.

USS TRUXTON (U.S.A.)

See "Fire on Naval Vessel under Construction, Pascagoula, United States" under "Fires & Explosions".

VISTAMAR (Malta)

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

VOLA 1 (Malta)

London, May 23 — According to LMIU AIS, bulker *Vola 1* was in lat 24 20 20.68N, long 81 02 37.18W, at 0641, UTC, today, course 248 deg, speed 13.2 knots, nearest port Key West, 47 nautical miles away.

YUNLAI 9 (China)

See *Orange Seaway*.

ZAMORANO (Spain)

Ferrol, May 25 — Fishing *Zamorano* is now at Burela. The vessel sustained fire damage and owners intend to carry out repairs. Local shipyard Varaderos Vibu already have some budgets in hand. — Lloyd's Agents.



GUINEA

London, May 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Russian product tanker *Shkotovo* (2956 gt, built 1990) has been attacked by pirates off the African port of Conakry, Guinea, Itar-Tass said today. The tanker provides fuel for African vessels in the Atlantic Ocean. A team of six pirates armed with guns pursued the tanker on a motor boat and then boarded the tanker, demanding all the gain from sales. The master sent off an SOS signal, but to prevent casualties gave the money to the attackers. On receiving the money the pirates left the tanker and sailed away.

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The Primorye Sea Shipping Company's product tanker *Shkotovo* has been raided off the African coast but the vessel is intact and is continuing to make deliveries to fishermen in the Atlantic Ocean, a company source told Interfax today. Two high-speed cutters approached the *Shkotovo*, which was drifting 60 miles off the Guinean port of Conakry, yesterday afternoon and six armed men boarded the tanker. The master allowed them to take the vessel's money in order to avoid casualties. None of the crew were hurt in the incident. Captain Alexei Kharitonov complied with the recommendations which state that no resistance should be offered to armed men in order to avoid casualties, the source said.

SOMALIA

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Product tanker *Lin I* (2279 gt, built 2001) and its 19 crew members, hijacked by Somalian

pirates on Mar 29, may be released soon. The Khaleej Times has learnt negotiations between the pirates representatives and representatives of the ship owners are taking place in Gann, a Somalian village 400km north of the capital, Mogadishu. According to reports from Somalia, the *Lin I* was sailing towards North East part of Somalian territorial waters from an unknown village between El Maan port and Obyo, yesterday morning. Speaking by telephone from Nairobi, Andrew Mwangura, of the Seafarers Assistance Programme, said: "We received information that the vessel is sailing towards North East of Somalian territorial waters yesterday morning. We do not know whether the vessel has been released already. All we know is the negotiation was going on and possibly the vessel will be released soon." "The local shipping agents and Somali businessman have been negotiating with the pirates representatives. The 19 member Filipino crew of the vessel are still safe and on board," he disclosed. Akron Trade and Transport of Fujairah, managers of the *Lin I*, refused to comment on the report. Somali pirates hijacked the Panamanian flagged fuel tanker on Mar 29. Gunmen stormed the vessel carrying AK 47 machine guns as the vessel left El Ade port after off-loading a cargo of fuel. The pirates demanded a ransom thought to be in the region of \$400,000. On Apr 15, the pirates killed one of the Somali negotiating with them for the release of the oil tanker, stalling mediation efforts. The negotiator was gunned down in broad day light in Gann, a coastal town of Gann some 18 km north of Haradhera district.

Port State Control



CYPRUS

Limassol, May 22 — General cargo *Emilly*, flag Sierra Leone, call sign 9LYA27, not *Emily* as before reported, sailed Limassol May 22 for Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 18 — Following received from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated today: Passenger ro/ro *Fortuny* (26916 gt, built 2001) was prevented from leaving port today after an inspection by four MCA Surveyors. The service on board the vessel was due to run twice a week off-peak and three times a week during the high season to Bilbao from the UK. It is an EC requirement that before any passenger ro/ro ferry enters service for the first time from any EC port that it be inspected by the host state and issued with the appropriate clearance. The ferry company is

responsible to arrange this inspection with the host state, in this case the UK, which it has not done. MCA Surveyors who boarded the vessel this morning found various deficiencies including: Poorly presented fire and boat drill; emergency fire-fighting equipment not for immediate use; search and rescue plan had not been lodged by the Company with Her Majesty's Coastguard as they are required to do; stability to be confirmed as in compliance with SOLAS and the Stockholm Agreement. The vessel's classification society Bureau Veritas have been informed.

London, May 22 — Passenger ro/ro *Fortuny* sailed Portsmouth 2027, May 18, for Bilbao.

London, May 23 — Passenger (cruise) *Vistamar* is still at Tilbury.



Seizures & Arrests

ALBATROS (Cambodia)

Trieste, May 17 — Ro/ro *Albatros* remains under permanent detention at Trieste. — Lloyd's Agents.

BAKUR (Canada)

London, May 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: RCMP have arrested five men and seized fishing (general) *Bakur* (354 gt, built 1961) in a drug raid in the middle of the night in the tiny coastal village of Ucluelet. Insp. Paul Nadeau of the Greater Vancouver drug section said an enforcement team boarded and searched the vessel at 0230, PDT yesterday after tracking it from Halifax since December. Ucluelet harbour manager Stephen Bird said today that residents saw two and possibly four RCMP inflatable boats "swarm" the 50-metre freighter after its crew tied up to a wharf shortly after 0200 hrs. "They bailed off the SWAT teams and the canine unit and they seized the vessel," Bird said, adding that the freighter was towed away from Ucluelet on the west coast of Vancouver Island by a tugboat hired by the police early today. Nadeau, identified as the officer in charge, said an undisclosed quantity of drugs was found aboard the vessel. Authorities apparently tracked the freighter down the East Coast to the Panama Canal, then up the West Coast to Canada. "The four-member crew was taken off in handcuffs and then the skipper, later was (also) taken off in handcuffs," said the harbour manager.

FARLEY MOWAT (Canada)

Cape Town, May 24 — Research *Farley Mowat* is still under arrest at Cape Town, with no known prospects of the dispute being resolved in the near future. — Lloyd's Agents.

GABRIELLE (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 20 — Part containerised general cargo *Gabrielle* left Port of Spain May 7.

GOLDEN TAURUS (Bolivia)

London, May 22 — Fishing *Golden Taurus*, now at Yau Ma Tei Anchorage, Hong Kong, remains under arrest.

LAMA (Belize)

Beirut, May 16 — General cargo *Lama* is still lying sunk and under arrest at Beirut. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARIANO LAURO (Italy)

London, May 20 — General cargo *Mariano Lauro* left Plymouth on May 18, for Alexandria.

MARIGO (Greece)

Piraeus, May 19 — Product tanker *Leona* ex *Marigo* sailed from Piraeus on May 17 bound for Port Said. — Lloyd's Agents.

NISSOS KALAMOS (Greece)

London, May 19 — A report in today's issue of "Newsfront" states: Seized once again, this time mid-May, tug *Nissos Kalamos* has been seized by a private creditor in pursuit of a Euros 22,961.70 claim against the registered owners, Portolos Salvage & Towage.

RAND 1 (Russia)

London, May 20 — Fish factory *Rand 1* left Kaliningrad May 10, for Liepaja.

SEABULK TOOTA (Marshall Islands)

London, May 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Mumbai Customs this morning seized two vessels, including supply *Seabulk Toota* (775 gt, built 1975), for alleged involvement in smuggling diesel from foreign-going vessels anchored off the Mumbai harbour. A. K. Prasad, Commissioner, Mumbai Customs told DNA that following a tip-off, a team of the Special Intelligence Investigations Branch of the Import Commissionerate swung into action, around five kilometres in the high seas last night. Following an overnight operation, the customs sleuths seized two vessels - *SeaBulk Toota* and an Indian vessel, *Anchor*. The sleuths also recovered foreign currency worth US\$40,000, said to be the proceeds of a similar smuggling operation in the recent past and 1.55 lakh litres of diesel. Prasad explained that the diesel used by foreign vessels was duty-free and the accused were siphoning off huge quantities from these vessels and selling it in black in the open market in India at massive profits. The captain of the *Seabulk Toota*, a Philippine national, Vivencio Bertolini its chief engineer, a Honduran national, Errol Tennyson, and the captain of the Indian vessel, Biplav Kumar Rai, have been detained for interrogation. Prasad said they are likely to be arrested later in the day.

SPIROS LEKKAS (Greece)

London, May 19 — A report in today's issue of "Newsfront" states: Seized once again, this time mid-May, tug *Spiros Lekkas* has been seized by a private creditor in pursuit of a Euros 72,568.80 claim against the registered owners, Portolos Salvage & Towage.

VOLGA 44 (Malta)

London, May 24 — Following received from the Admiralty Marshal: General cargo *Volga 44* (4953 gt, built 2001) was arrested at Birkenhead on May 23 on behalf of owners of cargo ex *Volga 44* and Corronorth Limited.

London, May 24 — Following received from the Admiralty Marshal: General cargo *Volga 44* was released from arrest at Birkenhead today.

Pipeline Accidents

**AGRI PROVINCE, TURKEY**

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

NORTE DE SANTANDER AREA, COLOMBIA

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

ORENBURG REGION, RUSSIA

London, May 25 — — A breach in a pipeline in Russia's Orenburg Region has led to an oil spill in the southern Urals. Twenty-five tons of oil have spilled onto the ground following Tuesday's (May 23) breach near Sovetskoye, south-west of Buzuluk, Russia's Emergencies Ministry announced. "Part of a pipe on the 24th kilometre (13th mile) of the oil pipeline Gashino-Rostoshi, which belongs to Orenburgneftegaz, burst because a hole was cut in it without permission. "The unsafe section was immediately blocked. However, about 25 tons of oil spilled out onto the ground, and an area of 1,200 square miles was polluted," a ministry statement read. Despite the spillage, the ministry said, "there is no threat of oil products getting into rivers and water reservoirs, and the nearest of them is 8 km away from the scene of the accident." The clean-up operation is currently under way.

SAKHALIN AREA, RUSSIA

London, May 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An oil pipeline rupture has resulted in five metric tons of oil spewing into the island of Sakhalin in Russia's Far East, a Natural Resources Ministry statement said today. "An oil spill was reported May 18 at a section of Katangli-Dagi pipeline," the statement said. The pipeline crosses about 800 rivers and streams on the island. The ministry added that monitoring had not established any pollution of nearby water basins on

Sakhalin, where several industrial energy projects are under way. Local emergencies services shut off the section and localised the spill, and measures are being taken to collect the oil from the ground, the ministry said.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An oil spill at a stretch of the Katangli-Dagi industrial oil pipeline in the Nogliki district of the Sakhalin region has been localised, says the press release of the Ministry of Natural Resources faxed to Itar-Tass today. The effort to clear the after-effects of the spillage of oil at the stretch of the pipeline in the area of Venskoye settlement of the Nogliki district goes on, says a report of the Amur department of the Federal Agency for Water Resources. The spill on an area of 150 square metres has been localised. As much as 11 cubic metres of oil-containing liquid and 75 tonnes of polluted snow and soil has been collected and removed. Twelve persons work on the site. Two excavators, three tank trucks and dump trucks are used. Officials at the Amur department said contamination of water had not been registered. The spillage occurred on May 18 when the oil pipe split up.

Pollution

**BARBERS POINT, HAWAII, UNITED STATES**

London, May 21 — A press report, dated May 20, states: Crude oil tanker *Front Sunda* (77931 gt, built 1992) spilled up to 2,000 gallons of crude oil into the Pacific Ocean early this morning, about 1.5 miles off Barbers Point, when a hose line pumping oil from the tanker to a floating buoy disconnected, said company spokesman. The Coast Guard and the state Health Department categorized it as a minimal spill, he said. No wildlife could be seen during helicopter flyovers and there was no sheen on the ocean by late this afternoon. The light crude oil may have dissipated quickly because of strong sunshine and choppy waters, he said. One of the couplings in the hose separated, which is what it is supposed to do whenever there is a strain on the hose, the spokesman said. Why it separated has to be looked at during the investigation. Crews from the Clean Islands Council and the Marine Spill Response Corporation responded to the accident and helped with cleanup. Any potential fines would be assessed based on the results of an investigation into the spill, the spokesman said.

London, May 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Crew from two oil spill response vessels, along with five support vessels, worked throughout the day yesterday to clean up a 4.5-

mile slick caused when up to 2,000 gallons of Tesoro light crude oil spilled 1.5 miles off Barbers Point. The oil recovery efforts were halted yesterday afternoon because of high wind and surf conditions. However, by then the slick was no longer visible to helicopters —because of clean-up efforts, solar evaporation, and wind and sea currents, company officials said. The cause of the spill is being investigated by a unified command composed of the U.S. Coast Guard, Tesoro, and the state Department of Health. Tesoro spokesman Nathan Hokama said the spill happened around midnight when the crude oil tanker *Front Sunda* was delivering 42 million gallons of light crude to the Tesoro single point buoy that pipes the oil to the refinery. About 20 minutes into the operation one of the tanker's hose lines uncoupled. "When that happened they stopped the unloading operation right away and there was no further release," said Hokama. By that time, however, an estimated 1,000 to 2,000 gallons of light crude had spilled into the ocean, he said. The oil headed south-west, away from O'ahu. Hokama said the Coast Guard and the Hawaii Department of Health were immediately notified, and the specialised vessels from the Clean Islands Council and the Marine Spill Response Corporation were brought in. Curtis Martin, emergency response co-ordinator for the state Health Department, said the state was looking for seabirds, turtles or any other sea life that may have been affected by the spill. "Thus far we have not seen anything," Martin said. "The oil that was released was a very thin, light crude oil, so (evaporation by) the sun has been our best ally in this regard. It has actually done a very good job of getting it off the surface of the water." As far as possible fines or penalties against Tesoro, Martin said those things would be considered separately. Frank Clouse, vice president of refining for Tesoro Hawaii, said the clean-up efforts were concentrated on the leading southwest edge of the film sheen, which was where most of the oil was located. Clouse said the tanker could be ready to resume delivering the oil as soon as today.

Honolulu, May 23 — Approximately 2,000 gallons of light crude oil was spilled when a hose became uncoupled aboard the crude oil tanker *Front Sunda*, approximately 1.5 miles off Barber's Point, Hawaii, May 20. It was further reported that the tanker had been transferring about 20 minutes to the Tesoro single point morring when the spill occurred. Clean up was done by Clean Island Council and Marine Spill Response Corporation. On May 22, US Coast Guard reported no oil sheen on the ocean and no further clean-up is needed. Monitoring of the spill found it was headed south-west, away from Oahu, and dissipating. The cause is being investigated. — Lloyd's Agents.

New York, May 23 — Tesoro Corp. has resumed discharging crude from oil tanker *Front Sunda* late yesterday after a three-day delay, a U.S. Coast Guard official said today. The cargo discharge from the vessel was halted late Friday (May 19) due to an oil spill. "The cargo discharge has resumed, but the investigation by the Coast Guard is ongoing," the official said. The initial findings pointed to a loose hose and cuffing during the oil discharge, another official said earlier. The oil spill was cleaned up by late Sunday. The slight delay was not expected to disrupt Tesoro's refining and logistics operations. — Reuters.

London, May 24 — Frontline's crude oil tanker *Front Sunda* has been named in several media reports related to a spill at the Tesoro terminal at Barber's Point, Hawaii, May 19. Some of the media reports have not been accurate in describing what transpired at Barber's Point terminal and the amount of oil on the water. The Tesoro terminal is a standard offshore terminal with a mooring buoy and an attached flexible floating cargo hose which is lifted and connected to vessel manifolds for cargo transfer operations. The *Front Sunda* commenced discharging a cargo of Arab Light crude at 2224, Hawaiian time, May 19 after completion of ship/shore safety meetings and cargo hose displacement procedures. About 2320 hrs a breakaway coupling fitted on the terminal floating hose disconnected, resulting in a restricted oil spill. Cargo operation was immediately ceased by vessel using the emergency stop. Some oil trapped between the non-return valves on the terminal floating hose breakaway couplings leaked into the water. The breakaway coupling is a terminal safety device for quick disconnection. The quantity of oil is estimated to about 1,000 gallons. The master of the *Front Sunda* immediately initiated the Vessel Response Plan and notified US and local authorities, vessels' qualified individual, owners, P&I and other relevant parties. Tesoro terminal called in their emergency clean-up contractors, MSRC, and specialised clean up vessels from Clean Island Council arrived on the scene shortly after the spill. The oil sheen was cleaned up after a short time as most of the light crude evaporated. Due to the significant pressure surge a few expansion couplings and flange packing were distorted and damaged on board the *Front Sunda*. This caused a minor oil spill on deck and in the pump-room. All crude oil spilled on board the vessel was all contained by the save-all coaming and cleaned up by the crew. No oil from the vessel escaped into the water. The cause of the incident is still being investigated by US Coast Guard, Hawaiian Department of Health, Tesoro and Frontline. Contingency procedures on board *Front Sunda* proved to be efficient as no oil was spilled into the water. Preliminary investigation and

minor repairs of the terminal hose/coupling and vessel equipment was completed during the weekend (May 20-21). Discharging of cargo resumed at 1518, local time, May 22 after the US Coast Guard issued a permit to commence operations. Frontline will assist Tesoro, US Coast Guard and local Hawaiian authorities in the investigation to establish the root cause to the incident.

BOURGAS, BULGARIA

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Crude oil tanker *Hawaiian Leader* (52518 gt, built 1986) caused an oil spill near the Bulgarian Black Sea port of Bourgas, state BTA agency reported today. According to state rescue service officials cited by BTA, the spill came from the tanker, which was transporting crude oil to the Bourgas refinery Lukoil Neftochim, and covered 280 square metres of the water surface. Rescue services had already started pumping out the oil and there was no danger of a further spread of the spill or of pollution in Bourgas bay, deputy governor Georgy Nikolchev was quoted as saying. The accident was probably due to an error by the tanker's master, he added. The vessel was being held in the port of Bourgas for further investigation. (Note — *Hawaiian Leader* arrived Bourgas May 14 from Novorossiysk.)

PORT ANGELES, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, May 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A major break in a pressurised sewer main yesterday is forcing the city of Port Angeles to release up to 4 million gallons of sewage per day into its harbour until repairs are made. Public Works and Utilities Director Glenn Cutler said the city is unable to transport the sewage from the break to the city's wastewater treatment plant. Cutler says the city occasionally has to release sewage into the harbour during heavy rainfall, but nothing of the magnitude caused by the current break. City officials are urging residents to stop washing clothes and running the dishwasher, and to shorten up on showers and to flush the toilet only when necessary. No estimate yet of when repairs will be complete.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Repair crews are making progress on a broken sewer pipe in Port Angeles. The Public Works deputy director, Mike Puntteney, says they expect to stop raw sewage from spilling into Port Angeles Harbour by tonight. He says the pipe ruptured Monday (May 22) at a 38-year-old coupling joint. The whole section of pipe is scheduled to be replaced within five years. Until an all-clear is sounded tonight, Port Angeles residents are asked to limit the amount of water they use on baths, showers, toilet flushing and clothes and dish washing. Health officials have closed Port Angeles beaches because of the pollution. If

the leak is fixed as expected, the total amount of the spill will be seven or eight (m) million gallons of sewage.

Weather & Navigation



CANADA

London, May 21 — A press report, dated today, states: The Red Cross has set up emergency shelters for evacuees in Quebec as the flooding Yamaska River threatens to force more residents of the Easter Townships from their homes. The river flooded its banks early yesterday morning, forcing about 100 residents of Cowansville to evacuate 30 homes. Some residents of the town, located about 100 kilometres south-east of Montreal, were carried through flooded streets to higher ground. By early today, officials were warning that more homes were at risk and had asked residents of at-risk homes to clear out their basements as a precaution against flooding. The Red Cross established shelters to care for the evacuees, and officials set up several pumps to try and contain the flooding. In the nearby communities of Bromont, Granby, St. Hilaire and Brigham, between 50 and 100 people were evacuated from their homes. The flooding follows nine straight days of rain that has resulted in 140 mm of accumulation in May. "In the last 24 hours there has been 75 millimetres of rain," said Environment Canada's Rene Heroux yesterday. A stationary weather pattern over the Great Lakes is responsible for the unusually high precipitation, Heroux said. Meanwhile, an evacuation order in British Columbia was expanded today in the town of Passmore to include 150 homes at risk of flooding along the west side of the Slokan River from Passmore to Winlaw. The town is located in the province's West Kootenay region. The evacuation order was initially issued to 24 homes yesterday after the river rose above its banks. Residents of another 232 homes in the area have also been put on notice that an evacuation order could be pending. The flooding was caused by unseasonably warm temperatures that began on Monday (May 15). Melting snow caps caused waterways to swell, prompting officials in the region to declare a state of emergency yesterday.

COLOMBIA

London, May 20 — Torrential rain has led to a landslide in Colombia which has damaged a gas pipeline. Continual rain in the city of Cundinamarca triggered the slide on May 17. It has left over 750,000 people without gas as the damage to the line is extensive. Technicians are said to be working around the clock to restore the pipeline and get gas piped back to the residents.

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

CUBA

Havana, May 24 — Torrential rains caused flash floods that wrecked dwellings and killed at least three people in Havana, officials said today. Nearly 8 inches of rain fell in just two hours last night, flooding tunnels and paralyzing traffic in the city of 2.5 million residents. President Fidel Castro said the storm took authorities by surprise. "There have been some deaths due to this sudden phenomenon that gave us no time to react," he said on television. — Reuters.

PAKISTAN

London, May 24 — A fierce storm has struck parts of Pakistan leaving sixteen people dead and dozens injured. Strong winds and heavy rain caused a great deal of damage throughout many cities in central Punjab, May 22. Eight people lost their lives when a building collapsed in Gujranwala as the storm pummelled the city. Five others were also killed when another building collapsed in Shaheenabad and a girl died in Ballaywala when her house collapsed on top of her. A teacher lost his life in Rahwali as he marked exam papers after a powerful blast of wind smashed windows in the building he was in, leading to shards of glass causing fatal damage. Officials say one other life was lost in Lahore and 13 people received injuries.

SOMALIA

London, May 21 — Parts of Somalia are under water as floods affect a number of regions. After a sustained period of rain, which promised to give Somalians a decent harvest, the river Juba burst its banks on May 18, reports the Shabelle Media Network. The resulting flood has left acres of farmland submerged in water in villages such as Cari Adde, Maganeey, Halbo and Haanooy. Officials say around 90 areas of farmland have been affected with many destroyed.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, May 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Hailstones the size of golf balls battered KwaZulu-Natal from Pietermaritzburg to Durban and up to Empangeni in Zululand late yesterday afternoon, causing major damage and flooding. The press received reports of hail from Pietermaritzburg, Cato Ridge, Kloof, Pinetown, Durban North, Stanger and Empangeni. Torrential rain, with hail and strong winds, struck the greater Empangeni area causing localised flooding during a violent thunderstorm that moved rapidly up the North Coast. The unseasonal storm and hail was accompanied by severe lightning. Pietermaritzburg locals said the hailstones that hit the city were the biggest they had seen in two decades. Some of the hailstones were larger than golf balls. Car and house windows were smashed as the massive stones pelted down for around 15 minutes. Many people were

stranded at work for several hours as the streets were too flooded for them to drive home. Rajen Chinaboo, spokesperson for the Road Traffic Inspectorate, said that aside from extensive hail damage to cars caught in the hailstorm, no major accidents had been reported. Weather staff at the Durban International Airport said they had recorded 24.8 mm of rain between 1500 hrs and 1830 hrs.

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Several hundred people have been evacuated from flooded homes in Port Elizabeth and accommodated in community halls and police stations where emergency personnel have given them food and blankets following heavy rains. Nelson Mandela metro spokesperson Kupido Baron said he expected the final count of people assisted by a joint operations centre that had been established would be a couple of thousand. Most of those who were evacuated came from low-cost areas of the city including Ramaphosa Village, KwaNoxolo, Malabar, KwaZakhele, Khayalitsha, Missionville, Motherwell, Fitchet's Corner, Booyesen's Park and Veeplaas. Yesterday morning heavy rain flooded shops and houses and turned roads into streams. "The three main dams that supply Port Elizabeth are now up to 42% full." Several motorists experienced electrical problems while driving through deep water. Shortly after noon, 120 mm had fallen since around 0300 hrs. Severe water restrictions were imposed in the metro when the average level of the three supply dams hit 40% over a month ago. The combined water levels then dropped even further to 36.5%.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Disaster management teams have had a busy night in the Nelson Mandela Metro after heavy rain and flooding led to the evacuation of hundreds of people in and around Port Elizabeth. Metro staff worked into the night to find accommodation, blankets and food for the homeless. Disaster teams were still evacuating people from low-lying areas late last night. The area was in the grips of a drought before the rain and heavy water restrictions were in place. Dams have meanwhile begun to fill up and the city's four storage dams are now about 50% full.

THAILAND

London, May 22 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Phuket's disaster prevention and mitigation office has announced this southern province is the disaster area after it was hit by a heavy storm last night, damaging many homes in several districts. The official number of structures destroyed has not yet been announced. Phuket provincial authorities warned local residents in 27 disaster prone areas to brace for possible flash floods and landslides. A number of guest houses, restaurants and businesses in Phuket town were damaged by the storm. Homes in Thalang and Kratu districts were

destroyed and large trees fell by high winds. The Andaman seacoast province of Ranong in the upper south issued warnings to at-risk areas in 75 villages alerting residents to possible flash flooding and mudslides after the province was hit by heavy rains.

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Flash floods left thousands of people stranded on rooftops and trapped inside trains in northern Thailand today. At least nine people have died and another 47 were missing in the floods, the result of three straight days of heavy rain, the interior minister said, adding that the number of dead was expected to rise. He said 220 people have been injured. 'The flooding is severe and the death toll is expected to be high,' Interior Minister Kongsak Wantana said. Tens of thousands of people were without power in the provinces of Nan, Phrae, Lampang, Sukhothai and Uttaradit. Kongsak said most of the missing were believed buried by a landslide that engulfed dozens of houses in the Lablae district of Uttaradit province. Rescue teams had not yet reached the scene. More than 2,000 people in the same district were trapped on their roofs or in trees, said Nitipat Pimpiriyakul, chief of the provincial Disaster Prevention and Rescue Centre. More than 1,000 passengers were also trapped inside four trains stranded in Uttaradit stations with food running out, said Montakan Sriwipas, a spokeswoman for the state railways. Railway service to northern Thailand has been suspended, Montakan said. Uttaradit is about 280 miles north of Bangkok.

London, May 23 — A press report from Phrae, dated today, states: Heavy flooding submerged a one-kilometre section of the Bangkok-to-Chiang Mai railway in this northern province today, while flooding has led to three reported deaths, several persons reported missing and closed schools in different parts of the North. Flooding in Phrae intensified today, causing damage to an unknown number of homes and a portion of the State Railway of Thailand, the closure of which disrupted rail services to the former northern capital of Chiang Mai. At least 15 schools in the northern provinces of Phrae, Sukhothai and Uttaradit were forced to close due to heavy floods, Basic Education Commission (BEC) secretary-general Pornipa Limpaphayom said today. In Phrae, a pupil at a primary school in the provincial town was reported to have died in the floods, while eight schools in three submerged districts, four schools in Soongmen, three schools in Denchai and one school in Wangchin were temporarily closed. Schools in the municipality were also closed. In the ancient capital city Sukhothai, seven of 12 schools in Sri Samrong, Sri Satchanalai and Tung Saliam districts were severely damaged by flash floods and were ordered to close until the waters subsided. Some homes in Phrae were destroyed by flash floods and two more villagers

went missing. Local authorities used boats to evacuate residents in flood-hit villages. Phrae provincial authorities asked the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives for helicopters to assist in rescue operations in areas inaccessible by land-based relief operations. Meanwhile, the governor of Phichit warned residents living near a mountain of possible flash floods, while in Uttaradit, flash floods hit both the town proper and Lablae district, forcing evacuation of some areas. Officials were unable to access flooded areas in the two districts of worst-hit Uttaradit province to examine and assess the damage caused to schools, Mrs. Pornipa said. She said the BEC would rapidly allocate budget to all damaged schools for use of urgent relief operations.

TYPHOON "CHANCHU"

Shanghai, May 18 — A typhoon slammed into south China today, killing 11 people and forcing the evacuation of more than one million, Xinhua news agency said, while Vietnam was still searching for 35 fishermen missing at sea. Typhoon "Chanchu", which brought heavy rain and winds up to 170 kph, made landfall between the cities of Shantou and Xiamen in the early morning, the Hong Kong Observatory said. China's coastal provinces of Guangdong and Fujian took the full brunt of the storm. Eleven Chinese had died by this afternoon and another four had gone missing, Xinhua said, quoting the Ministry of Civil Affairs. It had said earlier that eight people, including two children, were killed in Guangdong's Shantou city, where the typhoon triggered house collapses and landslides. Almost all roads in Shantou were flooded and there were several blackouts, Xinhua said, adding that downpours in Fujian had led to flooding in a number of rivers. Air links, closed yesterday, were resumed and life was returning to normal in Shantou later today as the government officials started to tote up economic losses, it said. State television news said "Chanchu" had been downgraded to a tropical depression and was heading north-east at a speed of 35 kph, but it would still bring strong rainfall to China's eastern provinces, including its financial hub, Shanghai. In Vietnam, authorities re-established radio contact with six of 11 vessels carrying more than 90 people that went missing yesterday some 160 nautical miles south of China's Hainan island, then in the storm's path. "Two more ships have sunk but the crews were safe, so we only have 35 people missing now," Huynh Chin, deputy head of the Red Cross Association in the central Vietnam province of Quang Ngai, said. — Reuters.

London, May 19 — A press report, dated May 18, states: As of 1600 today, 77 Vietnamese fishermen missing since Wednesday (May 17) were safely rescued while 17 others

have yet to be found, Vietnam's coastguard reported. The 94 fishermen were on 11 fishing vessels swept away by "Chanchu" some 160 nautical miles south of Hainan island in the path of the typhoon. According to the coastguard of central Quang Ngai province, four of the 11-vessel fleet were sunk by the storm, five others are safely sheltering near a Chinese island and the remaining two vessels with 17 fishermen are still missing. All 77 fishermen from the four vessels that sunk were rescued by other vessels in the fleet, with the National Search and Rescue Centre continuing the search. Vietnam's authorities are contacting Chinese counterparts to ask for their help to return the victims. All 11 fishing vessels are owned by people in Nghia An commune of Tu Nghia district in Quang Ngai province. Typhoon "Chanchu" swept through the Philippines and left at least 37 people dead last weekend, affecting 53,300 residents in wide areas of Luzon and the Visayas, authorities said.

London, May 19 — A press report, dated today, states: The Central Weather Bureau in Taiwan lifted its land and sea warning for Typhoon "Chanchu" after the storm weakened into a temperate cyclone at 1700 on Thursday (May 18), noting that the weather in Taiwan will stabilize today. According to a report issued by the Council of Agriculture, as of 1700 yesterday, losses in the agricultural industry were estimated at NT\$107 million, with heavy damage to farms that grow mangoes, bananas, papayas, and watermelons. Some NT\$21 million was lost in the island's fishery sector, mainly on oyster farms in Jiayi County, the report stated. In addition, the typhoon caused damage totaling NT\$16 million and NT\$12 million to farming and fishery facilities, respectively. Nevertheless, because Typhoon "Chanchu" did not make landfall in Taiwan, the adverse impact on local vegetable farms has been limited, therefore vegetable supplies will remain normal and any price hike will fall within a reasonable margin, COA officials said.

London, May 19 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from typhoon "Chanchu", that made landfall in China yesterday, has climbed to 21 as authorities mop up damage worth hundreds of million of dollars. As rains and winds ease, southern China's death toll and damage bill is slowly being tallied. Officials in Fujian province are reporting half a billion dollars in economic losses. The typhoon destroyed homes, damaged crops and caused landslides and flooding. More than 1 million people were moved from their homes as the typhoon approached. Air, sea and land traffic are beginning to return to normal.

Taipei, May 19 — Tug *Sea Diamond* was towing barge *Pinos 1*, length 140 metres, breadth 20 metres, five nautical miles from Loochoo Island, off the coast near Kaohsiung when the

towline broke due to the effects of typhoon "Chanchu" around 1020, May 17. The barge began drifting towards Loochoo Island. The salvage operation in respect of the barge is now under discussion by the tug/salvage company. — Lloyd's Agents.

Taiwan, May 20 — Kaohsiung Harbor Bureau reported barge *Pinos 1*, non-power barge, length 140 metres, breadth 20 metres, was grounded at the sandy beach nearby south of the entrance of the river Kao-Ping. The salvage operation was conducted by anchor-handling tug *Salvage King* owned by the salvage company, M/S Asian Marine Co., Ltd., who appointed by the ship/barge owner. The Taiwan Coast Guard vessel is still now on patrol. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Asia's death toll from typhoon "Chanchu" has reached 87, with nearly 200 Vietnamese fishermen still missing at sea, officials said yesterday. The missing fishermen were involved in two separate incidents in the South China Sea. Ten boats were known to have sunk and five were missing. Twenty-four fishermen have been found dead and 61 have been rescued, Vietnamese officials said. The storm has battered several areas around the South China Sea since it rose to typhoon strength and killed 37 in the Philippines a week ago. "Chanchu" was downgraded from a typhoon on Thursday (May 18), but it still caused landslides and flooding in China and forced the evacuation of more than one million people. Landslides and collapsing buildings killed 15 people in China's Fujian province and left four missing, the provincial Water Resources Department reported. Eight more died in Guangdong province, it said. Flooding in Taiwan swept two women to their deaths. A swimmer was killed in southern Japan. Early today, Chanchu appeared to be headed toward northern Japan.

London, May 21 — A press report, dated May 20, states: A Chinese rescue vessel saved 97 Vietnamese fishermen, today, in the South China Sea, and continued to search for other Vietnamese missing in the wake of typhoon "Chanchu". The Asia-wide death toll from "Chanchu" stood at nearly 90. The rescue vessel also recovered 18 bodies. It was unclear if the 97 rescued were among almost 200 whose vessels sank and who were reported missing and presumed dead by authorities in Danang. Officials earlier said nearly 250 were lost. The rescue vessels provided fuel and provisions to three fishing vessels.

Manila, May 22 — Product tanker *Malitam* was refloated at 1535, local time, Sunday (May 21), Batangas Bay Carriers, Inc. reported. The vessel was refloated after 800,000 litres of its cargo of 1.5 million litres of bunker fuel were transferred to petrol barge *Bagungon* in offloading operations which took place from Saturday to Sunday morning. With *Malitam* considerably lighter, Malayan Towage and Salvage Co. salvage tug *Tabangao*

pulled it free from its trapped position in shallow waters off Pinamalayan, Mindoro Oriental in central Philippines. A survey undertaken on the tanker revealed a damaged rudder and propeller as well as a flooded engine. The vessel's hull was intact, however. The *Malitam* is scheduled to be towed out of the area this evening. The shipowner is still undecided where to bring the vessel, however. One option is bring it to Manila where it can undergo repairs immediately. Also being considered is Cebu port, its original port of destination, so it can unload its remaining cargo of bunker fuel. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, May 23 — Product tanker *Malitam* was towed out of Pinamalayan, Mindoro Oriental, in central Philippines, at 0500 hrs, today. The tanker is being towed by the Malayan Towing and Salvage Co. salvage tug *Tabangao* and is headed for Manila. Malayan Towing officials said that the vessel will be brought up to the mouth of the Pasig River. Expected time of arrival is noon, tomorrow. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Danang, Vietnam, May 23 — Vessels carrying scores of survivors and victims of Typhoon "Chanchu" were expected to arrive in Vietnam today, where thousands of anguished relatives waited for news of their loved ones. One vessel carrying more than 80 sailors and at least eight corpses was due to arrive home in the central port of Danang, and three more storm-battered boats escorted by naval vessels were also close to shore, said officials. "The bodies have started decaying," said Vuong Ngoc Chau, director of the Central Vietnam Search and Rescue Centre. "This had badly affected the surviving fishermen, who are very tired. "We have used a lot of salt to preserve the corpses." Relatives in and around Danang have waited for almost a week to hear which of the seafarers survived and who perished in the fierce storm that officials say sank more than 10 boats in the South China Sea. The National Committee for Flood Prevention said 11 vessels were sunk and six remained missing. Officials say Vietnam has recovered at least 28 bodies. But, with no confirmed numbers on how many Vietnamese fishing boats were in the affected area off China's Hainan island and Taiwan when the storm hit, officials have failed to agree even on estimates. Nguyen Ba Luong, of the Danang Border Guard Central Command said the fishing boats hit by the storm had been hundreds of kilometres beyond the reach of the Vietnamese coast guard, but he added that the defence ministry planned to deploy more rescue vessels. China over the weekend found and assisted 22 boats carrying 330 survivors and 21 bodies, near the remote Dongsha island, southeast of Hong Kong. Beijing has since called off the search, state media reported. — Reuters.

Manila, May 24 — Product tanker *Malitam* arrived at Manila at 0912

hrs, today, Batangas Bay Carriers, Inc. have reported. The tanker is now moored alongside the repair barge *Talaba* at the Pasig River awaiting instruction from Petron Corporation on when it can unload its cargo. From the *Talaba*, *Malitam* will be pulled by a river tug to the Petron Oil Depot in Pandacan District, which is alongside the Pasig River, to discharge its remaining cargo of 300,00 liters of bunker fuel. The tanker will then be brought back to the *Talaba* for cleaning and degassing of its storage tanks. The tanker will then be drydocked. Batangas Bay Carrier officials said that they are still looking for a suitable shipyard to repair the *Malitam*. — Lloyd's List Correspondent. (See issue of May 24.)

Kaohsiung, May 26 — According to information from the Kaohsiung Harbour Bureau, tug *Sea Diamond*, with the barge, has been towed/salvaged by tug *Salvage King* on May 21. The vessel is now moored at No.21 mooring buoy in Kaohsiung. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, May 25 — Batangas Bay Carriers, Inc., owner and operator of product tanker *Malitam* has changed plans and has now sent a petrol barge to offload the remaining cargo from the vessel. Self-propelled petrol barge *Kuhol* has been dispatched from Batangas to the Pasig river in Manila where *Malitam* is moored. It is expected to arrive Friday morning to offload the cargo of bunker fuel. After the transfer *Kuhol* will deliver the cargo to the Petron oil depot in Pandacan district, alongside the Pasig river. Originally, it was planned for *Malitam* to be pulled by tug up the Pasig river to the Petron depot, where it would unload its cargo. Because of safety considerations, Batangas Bay Carrier officials said it would be safer to keep the vessel moored and have another vessel deliver it's cargo. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 21 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A number of ferry services to and from the Channel Islands have been disrupted because of bad weather. The Jersey Met Office said gusts of up to 70mph have been recorded. Many fast ferry services have been delayed or cancelled and passengers planning to travel are being advised to contact their operator. A Met Office spokesman said the winds are expected to moderate later today, but will pick up strength again tomorrow.

London, May 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Bad weather is causing major disruption for ferry passengers travelling to and from the Channel Islands. All of Condor's scheduled fast ferries for Guernsey today have been cancelled. The company hopes to run additional services tonight. In Guernsey, passengers who are due to travel today are being advised to contact the Port Office for the latest sailing information. Condor runs services between Guernsey, Jersey, France and the UK.

UNITED STATES

London, May 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Towns in York County (in Maine) have reported public infrastructure damages of about \$7 million from the recent flooding and incessant rains. Twenty-two York County municipalities had turned in forms by this morning reporting damages to public infrastructure such as roads, bridges and sewers as well as extra money used to respond to flooding, Maine Emergency Management officials said. The hardest-hit town was Wells, which reported \$2.4 million in damages. York and Ogunquit each reported damages of about \$1.3 million. The totals do not include damages to private property. The damage estimate far surpasses the federal threshold of about \$1.4 million to receive a disaster declaration to make the affected areas eligible for federal assistance. A disaster declaration request was in the works and the governor was expected to sign it this week, a spokesman said. When the federal government declares a disaster, it provides 75 percent of the funding for repairs. The state and local governments pay for the remaining 25 percent. The damage evaluations will continue tomorrow when four Federal Emergency Management Agency teams canvass York County for a formal preliminary damage assessment. A number of roads and at least four bridges remain closed from damages caused by the storm, which dumped more than a foot of rain on parts of York County during a multiple-day stretch that ended last week. The Cape Neddick area of York got more than 15 inches, according to the National Weather Service. Yesterday and today, it was western and northern Maine's turn to get heavy rains. A flood watch is in effect through to tomorrow for much of northern Maine County, where record rains had dropped two to three inches during the storm. Presque Isle had 3.1 inches as of this morning. Early yesterday morning, intense rain dropped an estimated three to five inches around Mount Katahdin in Baxter State park. The precipitation resulted in flooding of smaller streams in the southern section of the park and washed out a portion of Tote Road near Abol Campground, according to the weather service.

London, May 19 — A press report, dated May 18, states: As the rivers receded in the Merrimack Valley, many residents returned to their waterlogged homes, and business owners began the laborious task of cleaning up from recent flooding. Local officials predicted that damage to public and private properties will reach into the tens of millions of dollars. Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney said he was seeking major federal disaster relief to speed help to those affected. "While the rains have ended for now, the hardship continues," Romney said. Meanwhile, the town of Lawrence announced that a curfew would come into effect

beginning at 2100 tonight in a portion of the city hardest hit by the flooding and susceptible to looting. City police will be assisted by state police and members of the National Guard in enforcing the curfew. There was some good news as Lawrence and surrounding towns reopened some streets flooded since Sunday (May 14). The entrance and exit ramps from Interstate 495 to Route 114 were reopened last night. Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan said he believed the damage in his city would total tens of millions of dollars. In Haverhill, where more than 60 business and home owners reported property damage from the flood by yesterday afternoon, initial estimates top \$4 million. Methuen Mayor William Manzi pegged initial damages at \$1-2 million. In Andover, officials said their tally had reached \$350,000 yesterday, but that only took into account damage to a couple of public buildings, and did not include the widespread damage to private homes, roads and businesses. North Andover is preparing a preliminary damage assessment to meet a deadline set by the state for estimates.

London, May 19 — A press report, dated today, states: North Andover officials yesterday said there was a minimum of \$35 million in damage inflicted upon homes and businesses by flooding earlier in the week. North Andover Emergency Director Jeff Coco said most of the damage was on more than 1,900 homes, which sustained various levels of flooding. At an average of about \$16,000 of damage per home, the cost to homeowners could reach \$30.8 million. The toll on North Andover businesses is currently estimated at \$4.2 million, though Coco said that number could grow quickly in the next few weeks. He said town inspectors have not yet appraised damage done to the old Davis and Furber mill buildings, currently home of the corporate offices of sportswear manufacturer Converse. The estimates from North Andover were foreboding, as other Merrimack Valley communities set out to tally the damages caused by the region's worst flooding in seven decades. Officials in Haverhill and Methuen said their damages will likely be at least \$5 million in each town, and Lawrence officials said more than 1,200 homes and 300 businesses sustained at least some damage. Local cities and towns have been asked to submit preliminary damage reports to state and federal relief officials. Gov. Mitt Romney has asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency to declare the state a federal disaster area, which could open the door for millions in federal grants and low-interest loans for affected home and business owners. The assessment efforts are being coordinated by a variety of public officials in each town. Typically building inspectors, health inspectors and firefighters have been asked to make best-guess judgments on the extent of damages. Lawrence

Community Development Director Ezra Glenn said he was unable to put a dollar figure on the total damages to the 1,200 homes affected by the flood, but said damages could "easily be \$5,000 for each one" based on the cost of replacing a furnace alone. If the average damage was \$5,000, the cost could exceed \$6 million. Haverhill officials said they've received claims ranging from \$1,000 to \$30,000 from homeowners, and claims from businesses reaching \$250,000. Emergency Management Director James Michitson said the total damage to private property could top \$2 million, while damage to city-owned property such as sewer pipes and culverts could top \$4 million.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated May 23, states: Flooding damage in Lowell, Massachusetts, has been estimated at \$20 million in. The Federal Emergency Management Agency hopes to help homeowners in flood-damaged neighborhoods but they will have to wait until President Bush declares the flood scene a disaster area. Gov. Mitt Romney is also awaiting the declaration in order to provide state assistance. The official declaration should come this week, said Marty Bahamonde, regional FEMA public-affairs officer. FEMA officers were in Lowell to review the homes Friday (May 19) and sent their assessment to Washington yesterday. Although residents could receive up to \$27,000, most residents won't receive anywhere near that amount, Bahamonde said. FEMA will provide up to \$5,000 to repair structural damage to a home. Additional money would pay for housing for homeowners who can't return home. The flood caused about \$20 million in damages to structures in the city of Lowell alone. FEMA workers will be in Greater Lowell today to assess the damage to structures.



INDONESIA

London, May 20 — A powerful undersea earthquake struck off eastern Indonesia late yesterday, a meteorological agency said. There were no immediate reports of injuries, damage or a possible tsunami. The magnitude 6.1 quake struck at 2344, local time, and was centred 66 kilometres beneath the Molucca Sea, the U.S. Geological Survey said on its Web site. It struck 190 kilometres south of Manado, the provincial capital of North Sulawesi.

London, May 23 — A magnitude-6.1 earthquake rattled parts of eastern Indonesia early today, the Hong Kong Observatory said today. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The epicentre was in the Banda Sea about 120 miles south-west

of Ambon, the capital of Maluku province, the observatory said. The quake was recorded at 0400, local time.

RUSSIA

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A magnitude-6.6 earthquake near the east coast of Koryakia, Russia, occurred in lat 60.75N, long 165.88E, depth 11 km at 1111, UTC, today.

TONGA

London, May 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A second earthquake has struck the South Pacific nation of Tonga within 24 hours. There are no reports of any injuries or property damages. According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), a magnitude 5.9 earthquake hit at 1057 hrs, today (2157 UTC, Wednesday). The epicentre was about 10 kilometres below the ocean at a point about 145 kilometres east-northeast of Nuku'alofa, the capital of the South Pacific nation. At the almost the same location a magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck about 19 hours earlier at a depth of 35 kilometres, during a simulated tsunami warning drill yesterday.



MOUNT MERAPI, INDONESIA

London, May 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Indonesia's rumbling Mount Merapi was relatively quiet today, despite an official warning that an eruption may be imminent remaining in place. In the first six hours of today, three heat clouds shot down the slopes from the crater for two kilometres, not reaching inhabited areas, the vulcanology office in the nearby major city of Yogyakarta said. Seventy-one tremors related to lava outflows were recorded but none of the trails blazing down the mountain earlier in the week were visible, officials said. On Thursday (May 18), smoke streaming from the peak reached only 100 metres into the air, 12 heat clouds belched from the volcano's depths reaching a maximum of three kilometres and 26 lava outflows were seen, they said. Scientists have warned that the volcano - whose name means "Mountain of Fire" remains potentially dangerous despite the apparent slowdown in activity. They say a dome which has formed rapidly at its peak may still collapse, forcing millions of cubic metres of volcanic rock, lava and debris down the slopes along with the deadly heat clouds. Locals however have been drifting back to their homes to look after their crops and animals, unconvinced they remain at risk.

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

Jakarta, May 23 — Some regions near Indonesia's rumbling Mount Merapi volcano are now considered safe although the alert level for the entire area is still at its highest, an official said today. Merapi, located in the centre of the country's main Java island, has been rumbling for weeks and scientists say a major eruption could come anytime. The area around it was placed on red alert on May 14, and villagers in the immediate vicinity told to evacuate to shelters. The subsequent declarations of safety have prompted local governments of areas near the eastern slope to allow evacuees to return to their homes. "The danger zones have been localized in the western and southern foothills of Merapi. Other zones are safe," said Triyani, an official at the state-run Center of Volcanological Research and Technology Development in Yogyakarta, the closest city to the volcano. However, she said any place less than four miles from the mountain's crater is still hazardous. Around 7,000 Boyolali residents had been evacuated due to Merapi's red alert. — Reuters.

MOUNT TUNGURAHUA, ECUADOR

London, May 19 — A press report, dated May 18, states: An Ecuadoran volcano spewed columns of gas and ash-laden vapour two miles into the sky yesterday, but authorities said there was no need yet for inhabitants to evacuate. "At this time we have determined that the situation does not merit a change in the level of alert," Jose Grijalva, director of Ecuador's Civil Defence, said. He said a decision had been made by government agencies to "mobilise personnel, but not to evacuate." President Alfredo Palacio late Tuesday (May 16) declared a state of emergency for several communities on the slopes of the 16,550-foot-high Tungurahua volcano, located about 85 miles south of Quito. The decree followed a week of the loudest and most frequent explosions from Tungurahua since it rumbled back to life nearly seven years ago following eight decades of inactivity.

SOUFRIERE HILLS, MONTSERAT

London, May 22 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A huge cloud of ash billowing from a Montserrat volcano forced the suspension of some international flights over the Caribbean today, airline and airport officials said. Flights between Venezuela and Miami were grounded, as well those to and from the Dutch island of Aruba, after a dome atop a volcano on Montserrat island collapsed Saturday, sending volcanic debris cascading down the mountain and shooting ashes 10 miles into the sky. The decreased visibility over the Caribbean forced Venezuelan carrier Aeropostal to suspend its flights today between Caracas and Miami, Aeropostal Vice President Juan Carlos

Blanco said. Aeropostal flights to Aruba, Cuba, Curacao and the Dominican Republic were also grounded. A spokesman for the Simon Bolivar International Airport that serves Caracas said American Airlines had also suspended its flights between Miami and Caracas. American Airlines officials there were not immediately available for comment. On Aruba, all flights were cancelled today, including those to Miami, New York, San Juan, Puerto Rico and Toronto.



AFGHANISTAN

Kandahar, Afghanistan, May 19 — Afghan police hunted for Taliban insurgents today after two of the country's bloodiest days since the 2001 overthrow of the hardline Islamists. About 100 people were killed in violence that began on Wednesday (May 17). It included a large-scale attack on a town in the southern province of Helmand and two suicide blasts in different parts of the country. "We are hunting for them all over Mosa Qala district, to capture them or kill them," said Helmand's deputy governor, Amir Mohammad Akhundzada. Hundreds of Taliban stormed Mosa Qala town on Wednesday evening and fighting raged for hours. Thirteen policemen and about 50 insurgents were killed, Akhundzada said. Akhundzada said three policemen had been wounded in a clash with Taliban near Mosa Qala town late yesterday and the Taliban were also believed to have suffered casualties. However, there were no other major incidents, he said. Among the dead found after clashes yesterday in Ghazni Province, south-west of Kabul, was a provincial-level Taliban commander, said police chief Abdul Rahman Sarjang. He identified the commander as Qari Naeem. Sixteen Taliban, three policeman and an intelligence official were killed in Ghazni yesterday, officials said. A passer-by was killed in a suicide car-bomb attack on a US military convoy. One American was wounded. In another suicide bomb attack yesterday, an American civilian contractor was killed and five people, including two other Americans, were wounded in the generally peaceful western city of Herat. US troops at the site of the car-bomb blast, fearing another attack, shot dead a driver who failed to stop at a road-block. At least 25 Taliban were killed and 26 captured in two days of fighting in the southern province of Kandahar. The US military said up to 20 other insurgents might have been killed in an air strike. — Reuters.

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: US-led aircraft may have killed up to 50 insurgents in an attack on Taliban strongholds in southern Afghanistan, a military spokesman says. Residents of the area say up to 35 civilians have been killed. The attack was launched in the Panjwai district of Kandahar province, where heavy fighting erupted between Taliban and Afghan and foreign troops last week. Spokesman for the multi-national force, Major Scott Lundy, says unconfirmed reports of civilian casualties are being investigated. Panjwai residents say the air strikes have destroyed several homes. Nine wounded civilians from the district, three children, two women and four men, were brought to Kandahar main hospital. An elderly man who accompanied them, Atta Mohammad, estimates more than 40 civilians have been wounded. A wounded boy says all seven members of his family have been killed.

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Fresh insurgent attacks across Afghanistan claimed seven more lives, officials said, adding to the death toll of around 300 people from some of the heaviest fighting since the Taliban fell. Three health workers and their driver died in a roadside bombing near the capital Kabul, while three policemen were killed when a convoy carrying the police chief of restive Helmand province came under attack. In total more than 20 insurgency-linked attacks were reported in at least 12 provinces over the past two days. Many were outside the insurgency-hit south and southeast, the traditional hotspots for Taliban-linked violence. Villagers and human rights groups meanwhile insisted that the civilian death toll from an hours-long coalition air and ground assault in southern Kandahar province early yesterday was higher than the 16 claimed by Afghan officials. A teacher from the area said he had seen 40 bodies and helped to bury 28. A human rights official said the toll confirmed to him by officials was 20 but he believed it could rise as more information became available. In one of the latest incidents a doctor, two nurses and their driver were killed Monday when a remotely controlled bomb exploded under their vehicle 37 miles from Kabul, officials said. The team worked for the Afghan Health Development Service, a non-government health group that lost five other members of staff in an attack in Kandahar in October. The three police were also killed yesterday and six were wounded when suspected insurgents attacked their a convoy in Helmand, where thousands of British troops are stationed, provincial spokesman Haji Muhaidin Khan told AFP. Police in the Helmand capital Lashkar Gah exchanged fire with gunmen yesterday but there were no casualties, said interior ministry spokesman Yousuf Stanizai. In other incidents reported today, suspected Taliban torched a

school in northern Badghis province at the weekend while there were two remote-controlled bomb attacks involving NATO-led forces, one in Kunduz province and the other in neighbouring Badakshan. They only damaged military vehicles. Several roadside bombs and landmines were defused or exploded without causing casualties in the north yesterday with other devices detonated in southeastern Paktia and Khost provinces, Stanizai said. Police detected and defused rockets primed to be fired in Khost and Kandahar provinces yesterday, he said.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The recent death toll in Afghanistan continued to rise as 60 Taliban rebels were killed while the US defended the airstrike that a human rights group says killed more than 30 civilians. Four Afghan soldiers and a policeman were also killed along with the 60 suspected Taliban in a major clash near Tirin Kot, the capital of the southern Uruzgan province today. General Rahmatullah Raufi, who commands Afghan forces in the south, said: "We launched a massive search and clean-up operation after the attack in which our troops spotted and killed 60 Taliban." The continuing violence comes as the US military defended an airstrike that began on Sunday (May 21). The US-led coalition said it used "precision fire" from aircraft cannon and not bombs during an operation directed at Taliban fighters that Afghan officials said killed at least 16 civilians. A US spokesman, Tom Collins, said the troops had the right to return fire during the raid, after insurgents occupied the homes of villagers. "We didn't know there were civilians in the houses," he said. On Monday, villagers from the Panjwayi district of Kandahar province said that their homes had been bombed and that the number of civilian dead was more than 16. This claim was backed up by the country's main human rights group, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission. A spokeswoman said the group were unable to send representatives to the site due to security concerns, but the group's investigations and witness accounts confirmed that at least 20 had died. The attack prompted the Afghan president, Hamid Karzai, to summon Lieutenant General Karl Eikenberry, commander of the 20,000-strong coalition force, to demand an explanation for the death of civilians. Elsewhere today, a British military aircraft carrying the country's ambassador caught fire when landing. Flames engulfed the wheels of the British C-130 Hercules just after it touched down in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province, but all the passengers escaped safely.

BANGLADESH

Dhaka, May 23 — Several people were injured when security forces

fired live rounds to disperse tens of thousands of textile workers protesting for higher wages near the Bangladesh capital, police said. The protest started around noon at the Export Processing Zone, and its adjoining areas at Ashulia, 25 miles north of Dhaka, when an estimated 100,000 workers came onto the streets demanding higher wages, area police chief Jamiruddin Ahmed said. The protesters wielding bamboo sticks set fire to two factories and six buses after the owners prevented their workers from joining the rally, Ahmed said. A senior police official said the protesters ransacked at least 30 factories and smashed dozens of buses and cars. "The unruly workers of the factory then agitated on the streets, blockading the highway and smashing vehicles. They forced workers at other factories to join them," Ahmed said, adding that police rescued a factory owner from the mob. Police and paramilitary forces in the zone shot at the workers to disperse the crowd, said the security officer for the export zone, Rezaul Karim. Shahedur Rahman, a senior police officer at the scene, said at least seven people were injured including one with bullet wounds. But witnesses, among them Tuhin Khan, the president of local press club, told AFP that over 100 people were injured during the clashes. The protesters were demanding at least 11 taka (16 cents) for every sweater they sew, a mandatory day off on Friday, regular payments and increased pay for overtime. The workers currently make about seven taka (11 cents) per sweater. The protests continued until early evening with several thousand members of the police, the Rapid Action Battalion and the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles guarding many factories in the area. Textile manufacturers described the incident as "sabotage" and part of a plan to destroy the country's booming textile sector. "It's nothing but sabotage. I don't know why they vandalised 200 factories for a silly reason," Abdus Salam Murshedi, acting vice president of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said. "The real workers did not set fire to the factories and commit vandalism. We think some people want to destroy our booming textile sector," Murshedi said. The manufacturers later marched to the prime minister's office and handed her a written request to provide security for their factories. The protests occurred just days after a police shooting left one textile worker dead and 50 others injured at Sripur, 60 kilometres north of Dhaka. The workers had been demanding higher wages. Bangladesh is home to more than 4,200 garment factories. The industry last year accounted for more than three-quarters of export earnings of 9.3 billion dollar and employs 40% of all industrial workers.

BURUNDI

Bujumbura, May 24 — Burundi's army has killed 10 members of the

country's sole remaining rebel group in an operation to flush the fighters from a remote hideout, an army spokesman said today. Maj. Adolphe Manirakiza said army helicopters yesterday bombarded the bases of the Hutu Forces for National Liberation (FNL) in Kibira Forest, in an inaccessible part of the northwestern province of Bubanza. "That is why we used helicopters to destroy their bases, but also to chase them away, as they have intensified in the past few days their attacks in households around Kibira Forest," he said. Manirakiza said two soldiers were injured by landmines while hunting the rebels in the forest. The FNL could not be reached for comment. Some estimates say the FNL has about 3,000 fighters, but the strength of the rebel group has waned in recent years and it is difficult to count its fighters. South Africa, the mediator in Burundi's peace process, has agreed to try to broker talks with the FNL and Burundi's government. Earlier rounds have fallen apart over the past two years, and this latest one has been postponed several times. — Reuters.

COLOMBIA

London, May 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Pumping at Colombia's second-largest oil pipeline has been suspended following a series of attacks by suspected guerrillas, authorities said today. Presumed rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, bombed the Cano Limon pipeline three times this week, once Monday (May 15) and twice Tuesday, said the governor of Norte de Santander, Luis Miguel Morelli. Pumping on the pipeline has been halted since Tuesday. The Cano Limon pipeline carries an average of 90,000 barrels of oil a day and runs from Colombia's oil-rich eastern plains, which include the Cano Limon oil field run by Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum Corp., to the country's Caribbean coast. Morelli said repair teams hoped to have the pipeline, operated by state-owned oil company Ecopetrol, running again Monday (May 22).

London, May 21 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Colombia's main port city has been left without electricity after left-wing Farc rebels attacked its power installation, police say. Friday (May 19) night's incident in Buenaventura came after at least two days of grenade attacks, which have left at least 24 people injured. Police said they had arrested children who were used in the grenade attacks. The unrest comes a week before Colombia holds a presidential poll, in which Alvaro Uribe is seeking a second term.

Bogota, May 24 — Marxist rebels shot and killed three police officers today, four days before Colombian President Alvaro Uribe appears set to win re-election for helping reduce violence, authorities said. The three officers died and four were wounded when members of the Revolutionary

Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, ambushed a police patrol guarding a rural highway in southern Narino department, police said. Rebels also fired home-made mortars fashioned from gas cylinders at a police station in Meta district, but there were no injuries in the attack which slightly damaged the building. Colombians go to the ballot box on Sunday and polls show that at least 5 — Reuters.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Congolese army troops backed by UN peacekeepers killed 32 rebels in heavy weekend fighting for an eastern town against a militia force with child soldiers in its ranks, officials said. Four government troops were killed out of 3,000 who with 1,000 Bangladeshi, Pakistani and South African peacekeepers are on an offensive to try to pacify the violent north-east of Democratic Republic of Congo ahead of elections on July 30. Congolese government troops, supported by UN helicopters, pushed the rebel fighters back from Tchei on Saturday (May 20). But the militia counter-attacked yesterday, triggering several hours of fighting during which heavy machine gun and mortar fire could be heard from hills overlooking the town. The UN military spokesman in eastern Congo, Hans-Jakob Reichen, said UN helicopters flew in fresh ammunition to the Congolese soldiers and evacuated 12 of their wounded.

INDIA-PAKISTAN

New Delhi, May 23 — Nuclear rivals India and Pakistan started a fresh round of talks today over the Siachen glacier in Kashmir, where thousands of troops are holed up in freezing temperatures in a costly standoff. The two-day talks in New Delhi over the world's highest battlefield follow local media reports in the past few months that the two sides were inching towards a blueprint for a troop pullout, though officials are tightlipped. Both sides fielded large teams of bureaucrats and military officers, headed by their respective defense secretaries. The Siachen dialogue, part of a wide-ranging peace process, comes a day ahead of a peace conference involving Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and some Kashmiri separatist groups in Srinagar, the main city in India's Jammu and Kashmir state. Thousands of soldiers have died in Siachen, high in the Himalayas, with more fatalities due to freezing temperatures, high altitude sickness and avalanches than to enemy fire. Though diplomatic, commercial, sporting and transport links between India and Pakistan have improved since their peace process started in January 2004, they have made little headway over Kashmir, the cause of two of their three wars. — Reuters.

INDONESIA

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Gun battles erupted between disgruntled ex-soldiers and the military on the outskirts of East Timor's capital for a second day today, wounding a marine officer and prompting the US Embassy to order nonessential personnel to leave. President Xanana Gusmao vowed to capture those responsible for the violence, which has so far killed two people and wounded nine, as the government weighed offers from neighbouring Australia and New Zealand to help to restore order. In an updated travel warning, the US Embassy ordered non-emergency employees and family members of employees to leave East Timor. It also urged other American citizens in the country to leave.

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Australia is rushing troops to tackle unrest in East Timor, where troops have been in gun battles with disgruntled ex-soldiers for a third day. Fighting has erupted in various parts of the capital Dili, and at least one soldier has been killed. Australian Prime Minister John Howard said 150 commandos would arrive today to help secure the airport, ahead of a main deployment of up to 1,300 troops. The troops, part of an international team, are responding to a call from the East Timorese government. Foreign Minister Jose Ramos Horta admitted yesterday that his government "could not control the situation". The unrest began in March, when nearly 600 of the army's original force of 1,400 went on strike for better working conditions. They were subsequently sacked. The violence rose and five people were killed in clashes in April, and tens of thousands fled Dili fearing further unrest. This week, the tension has again escalated. At least three people have been killed since Tuesday (May 23), and gunfights around Dili are continuing for a third day, with shoot-outs reported close to the presidential palace and on the sea-front. In Portugal - the former colonial ruler of East Timor - Prime Minister Jose Socrates said Lisbon would send a contingent of paramilitary police in "a gesture of solidarity". New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark said a detachment of troops was ready to deploy, but she first wanted more details of the mission.

IRAQ

Baghdad, May 18 — A roadside bomb near Baghdad killed four U.S. soldiers today and Iraq's leaders fought last-minute battles for jobs in a much delayed national unity government before a parliament vote scheduled for Saturday (May 20). An Iraqi interpreter also died in the blast northwest of the capital in the type of violence Washington hopes a grand coalition of Shi'ites, Sunnis and Kurds will start to tackle after five months of stalemate. Prime Minister-designate Nuri al-Maliki is juggling

with a host of names put forward by the various political parties for the posts already broadly allocated to them, negotiators said. Factional fighting within Maliki's own Shi'ite Alliance bloc and others was complicating the task of appointing ministers to be confirmed in Saturday's expected parliamentary vote. "He's got too many names in front of him and he's trying to please everyone," one senior negotiator said. Washington hopes a government backed by all Iraq's ethnic and sectarian communities which turned out peacefully and in large numbers to vote in December, can turn the tide of violence, though officials concede that it will take time. The four soldiers killed today, as well as a sailor attached to Marine forces who died in western Iraq yesterday, took the U.S. death toll this month to 51, making the first part of May one of the bloodiest periods of the past year. Roadside bombs are the biggest killers of U.S. troops in Iraq and commanders say insurgents have developed bigger and more powerful devices to combat advances in American armour. At least 2,454 Americans have died in Iraq since 2003 in a war in which Washington has had few allies willing to risk their own citizens' lives. Italy's newly elected centre-left prime minister, Romano Prodi, told parliament the invasion had been a "grave error" and he proposed bringing Rome's 3,000 troops home. In other incidents today, gunmen killed six Baghdad labourers going to work in a minibus and a bomb in the capital killed seven people, including four policemen. Officials were also trying to secure the release of 15 members of the national taekwondo martial arts squad, abducted on a desert road yesterday. — Reuters.

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 22 people were killed today in attacks including a car bombing on a busy Baghdad street, marring the first week of Iraq's new cabinet which has set restoring security as top priority. The car bomb in the southeastern district of Baghdad al-Jadeeda targeting a police patrol killed five people and wounded seven, an interior ministry official said. The neighbourhood has been hit repeatedly over the past three days. In the main northern city of Mosul, a family of blacksmiths was targeted when gunmen drove up next to their car and opened fire, killing four and wounding one, police said. Also in Mosul, a former official of the Baath party which ruled Iraq under Saddam Hussein was killed in a drive-by shooting outside his home. Three day labourers on their way to work were also killed when gunmen in a car raked their mini-bus with bullets on the road from Baquba to Khalis, northeast of the capital, police said. East of Baquba, in Balad Ruz, a bomb near the courthouse killed a 10-year-old boy and wounded two others. In the northern oil centre of Kirkuk, a member of President Jalal Talabani's

Patriotic Union of Kurdistan party working for the city education department was gunned down as he drove away from his home in the northern, oil-rich city. In west Baghdad, gunmen opened fire on three elderly men, one of whom was blind and another disabled, killing them all. In the city centre, a mortar round struck near the heavily fortified Green Zone administrative compound, killing one person and wounding four. In the restive Palestine Street district, technology professor Ali Hussein Ali and an industry ministry employee were killed in separate drive-by shootings. In Amiriyah on the capital's western outskirts, one person was killed and four wounded when a minibus hit a roadside bomb. Three corpses were found in Baghdad, one of them a 10-year-old boy, police said. The boy, who was kidnapped from the southern neighbourhood of Dura on Monday, had been tortured before being shot in the head. The US military, meanwhile, announced that the Central Criminal Court of Iraq last week convicted 12 insurgents, sentencing one to death and four others to life in prison. Mahdi Ahmed al-Juburi was found guilty of leading an insurgent cell in Mosul after admitting to conducting operations against Iraqi security forces, it said.

London, May 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: U.S.-Backed Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said today that Iraqi forces are capable of taking control of security in all of Iraq within 18 months, but still need more recruits, training and equipment. Drive-by shootings killed 17 people today, including a provincial official in northern Iraq and two of his bodyguards, and authorities found the bodies of nine people who apparently had been kidnapped and tortured by death squads. Meanwhile, U.S. forces killed seven alleged members of the Iraqi resistance in two operations outside the capital, and a bomb set fire to an oil pipeline south of Baghdad, officials said. Today's worst drive-by shooting killed Adel Issa, a member of Diyala provincial council, and two of his bodyguards in their convoy in northern Iraq, said Dr. Mansour Ali at Muqadadiya General Hospital. Issa, a Kurd, was a member of the region's main Kurdish coalition. In Baghdad, 10 drive-by shootings killed 14 people. In other attacks today, two roadside bombs wounded nine Iraqis, including two soldiers, in Baghdad, and gunmen killed one Iraqi soldier and wounded two at an Iraqi military highway checkpoint near the a U.S. military base north of Baghdad, officials said. Baghdad police found the bodies of two Iraqis who had been shot in the head, Hussein said. In Dayera, a rural area about 35 miles south of Baghdad, police found seven bodies of Iraqis who had been shot through the head, said police Capt. Muthana Khalid. Meanwhile, a bomb explosion set fire to an oil pipeline in Latifiya, 20 miles south of Baghdad, said police Capt. Rashid al-Samarie.

The pipeline carries oil from a storage area to the Dora refinery in Baghdad, which often is bombed by insurgents.

ISRAEL

Gaza, May 19 — Palestinian police and a rival Hamas-led force in Gaza clashed today for the first time since the Islamist government set up the group in defiance of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. At least four people were hurt — two police, one member of the Hamas force and a gunman from Abbas's Fatah movement, security sources and medics said. Intense gunbattles sent residents fleeing from the night-time streets of Gaza City, where tension has soared amid fears that confrontation between the forces could lead to major bloodshed and even civil war. Witnesses said members of the Hamas force surrounded the main police station in Gaza City and traded fire with those inside. "It began with the two sides shouting at each other and it developed into a gunfight," said one policeman who had brought a wounded comrade to hospital. The 3,000-strong Hamas-backed force, formed under the authority of Interior Minister Saeed Seyam, was deployed in a challenge to the authority of Abbas, whose Fatah movement was defeated by Hamas in elections in January. In response, Abbas ordered the deployment of a Fatah-loyal police unit. The decision marked the latest step in a deepening power struggle between Abbas and Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, whose Hamas Islamic militant movement took power in March. The rival deployments followed growing insecurity in Gaza, with at least five rival gunmen killed this month. — Reuters.

Gaza, May 21 — An Israeli air strike in Gaza has killed four Palestinians, including a top Islamic Jihad militant, prompting calls of revenge by the armed group to continue targeting Israel in rocket attacks. The missile strike occurred hours after Palestinian General Intelligence chief Tareq Abu Rajab was brought to Israel to treat wounds sustained in an explosion in an elevator at his Gaza Strip headquarters. His ally President Mahmoud Abbas called the blast, which killed one of Abu Rajab's aides and wounded 10 people, an assassination bid. If confirmed as a targeted attack, it would mark the highest-profile internal assassination attempt in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and could worsen enflamed tensions between loyalists of Abbas's Fatah group and Hamas supporters. Yesterday's missile strike, which medics said also killed a boy and his mother and grandmother, was the latest such attack since April, when an Israeli air strike killed an Islamic Jihad militant after a deadly suicide bombing by the group in Israel. The militant, Mohammad al-Dahdouh, was a senior Islamic Jihad commander responsible for recent firings of advanced Russian-made rockets into Israel, a spokesman for the group and the Israeli army said. — Reuters.

IVORY COAST

London, May 25 — A press report, dated May 24, states: The Ivory Coast's rebel group began to regroup its militants yesterday in southern and northern Ivory Coast, a move which was seen as the first step in the disarmament plan, the UN mission in the country said. El Khadir, a military spokesman for the UN mission in the Ivory Coast said this was a good start and he hoped the two sides could carry out the full disarmament plan, to help finally ensure a just, transparent and open presidential election and ultimately achieve peace in the country. The Ivorian government began primary census taking in several cities and towns across the country on May 18. Elections are scheduled to be held in October this year.

PAKISTAN

Quetta, May 19 — Suspected tribal militants blew up two natural gas pipelines in Pakistan's troubled southwest province of Baluchistan overnight, officials said today. One pipeline was blown up at Goh, around 6 miles from Sui, the town where the main production plant for Pakistan's largest gas field is located. The second was attacked an hour later on the Loti gas field supplying the Sui plant. Baluchistan, Pakistan's largest but poorest of four provinces, is home to the country's largest gas and oil reserves. Nobody has claimed responsibility for the attacks on the pipelines, but officials said they believed Baluch militants were responsible. On Wednesday (May 17), another pipeline was blown up at Dera Bugti, the home town of tribal chieftain Nawab Akbar Bugti, who is leading the movement for greater autonomy for Baluch tribals. — Reuters.

SOMALIA

Nairobi, May 24 — Two militia groups responsible for Mogadishu's worst gun battles in over a decade killed at least five people late on Tuesday (May 23) after a week-long break in fighting, residents said today. Twelve others were wounded in the run-down Siisii area of Mogadishu where militia linked with the Islamic courts clashed with fighters backed by a self-styled "anti-terror" coalition of warlords. All the casualties were civilians. The two rival militias last fought on May 17 outside the battle-scarred city when the Islamic courts militia ambushed a village controlled by Mohamed Dheere, a member of the coalition, and killed five of his men "The fighting started at around 1100 in Siisii and ended two hours later," Ali Nur, a coalition militia member told Reuters by phone from the battle scene. "Five people were killed and 12 wounded by stray bullets." The same two militias have been locked in fierce battles that have killed more than 250 people since February. — Reuters.

SRI LANKA

Colombo, May 22 — Tamil Tiger rebels accused Sri Lanka's army today

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of assassinating one of their senior commanders, and said the military was pushing the island towards a “high intensity war”. Col. Ramanan, one of the top Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) commanders in the eastern district of Batticaloa, was killed by sniper fire late on Sunday (May 21) in what the rebels said was among the most serious violations of a 2002 truce. The military denies any involvement, instead pointing the finger at a group of former Tigers led by a renegade commander called Col. Karuna, who split with the mainstream rebels in 2004. The Tigers accuse the army of helping the renegade faction. “The Sri Lankan Army are waging war against the LTTE,” S. Puleedevan, head of the Tigers’ Peace Secretariat, told Reuters in a telephone interview from the northern rebel stronghold of Kilinochchi. “He was killed by the Sri Lankan army using sniper guns.” The Tigers and Nordic truce monitors both now say Sri Lanka is locked in a “low intensity war”, although the government disagrees and says it is only retaliating in limited bursts. “The Sri Lankan army, by killing (our) senior members, are discarding the ceasefire agreement,” Puleedevan added. “It is actually pushing a low intensity war towards high intensity war.” Sunday’s attack came a month after the Sri Lankan military chief narrowly escaped assassination after a suspected Tiger suicide bomb attack on army headquarters in Colombo. — Reuters.

SUDAN

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Recent fighting in Darfur has killed more than 60 people as armed factions battle over territory ahead of a planned disarmament, African and U.N. officials said. Sudan’s army yesterday denied breaching the peace agreement. Fighting in Darfur has not abated since the May 5 deal to end the conflict, which has left more than 180,000 dead and 2.5 million displaced in the arid western region since 2003. Scattered fights have erupted in recent days in southern Darfur, where Sudan’s army and police have said they would disarm bandits, according to U.N. and African Union officials. Nomadic Arab tribal militia, known as Janjaweed, launched two separate attacks Friday (May 19) that killed a total of 35 ethnic African villagers. In a separate incident Friday, villagers attacked a Janjaweed militia in the southern Darfur area of Kalaka. The fighting killed 11 farmers and eight Janjaweed, the United Nations said. (See issue of May 10.)

TURKEY

Diyarbakir, Turkey, May 22 — A Turkish soldier was killed and two were injured today by mines in the mainly Kurdish south-east, where security forces are fighting separatist rebels, security officials said. A sergeant was killed and another

soldier was injured when they drove over a mine in the province of Diyarbakir. Nearby in Bingol Province, a mine laid at a gendarmerie paramilitary police post wounded another soldier, the officials said. Attacks blamed on the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) have increased in recent months, while Ankara has sent thousands more troops to the mountainous area to fight the rebels. — Reuters.

Diyarbakir, May 23 — Kurdish separatist rebels blew up part of a natural gas pipeline today in eastern Turkey, disrupting the flow of gas, officials said. The explosion occurred in the early hours of today in a remote mountainous district of Agri province near the Iranian border, a senior official in the nearby town of Dogubeyazit, Rauf Ulusoy, told Reuters. The blast caused about 500,000 lira worth of damage, Ulusoy said. The gas flow has been halted while a team from the state natural gas company Botas works to repair the damage, he added. Police have stepped up security measures in the area, Ulusoy said. Turkey imports natural gas from neighbouring Iran. — Reuters.



Labour Disputes

ALGERIA

London, May 24 — Algerian ports were largely shut down on Sunday (May 21) as port workers staged a 24 hour strike to protest over government plans to privatise certain port activities. Port workers’ leaders claimed that the government had failed to honour a promise to consult them over its plans before issuing a decree authorising the privatisations. They said that the strike call had been followed at all the country’s ports apart from Anaba, where, according to union leaders, union representation has only recently been established. They claimed 97 ships had been immobilised throughout the country. The ports of Algiers, Bejaia, Skikda and Oran were all reported to be at a standstill, although in Algiers the strikers said they had allowed a minimum service to be provided in the ferry and gas sectors.

AUSTRALIA

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The first strike action resulting from a successful secret ballot under the new Work Choices legislation has begun in the NSW Hunter Valley. About 100 miners working for United Collieries will strike as part of negotiations for a new enterprise agreement. Workers today downed tools for a 24-hour stoppage, and will again stop work for much of Wednesday (May 24) and Friday after 90 per cent of ballot voters agreed to the action.

GERMANY

London, May 21 — State officials and union negotiators have reached a wage deal that ends the country’s biggest public sector strike in more than a decade, officials from both camps said Friday (May 19). Walkouts began in February after state and local employers tried to raise weekly working hours to 40 from 38.5 without additional pay and pushed for cuts in holidays and Christmas bonuses. At the height of the strike, tens of thousands of public sector employees stayed away from work, leaving garbage piling up in the streets, delaying nonurgent hospital operations and shutting kindergartens. The strike also affected theaters, day care centers and some schools, although the number of strikers had dropped off in recent weeks. Negotiators said the deal would allow the length of the workweek for about 780,000 public sector employees to vary between 38.5 and 40 hours depending on their income and which state they lived in.

INDIA

Ahmedabad, India, May 22 — Medical services were crippled in India’s Gujarat state today as thousands of doctors went on strike to protest the federal government’s decision to increase college quotas for lower castes. The ancient caste system still stirs passions and the decision to increase the percentage of seats for lower castes and tribes to almost 50 percent in higher education institutes has incensed upper caste students and professionals such as doctors. As junior doctors and interns stopped work at state hospitals in Gujarat in the west of the country, hundreds of patients desperately sought treatment, many waiting in searing heat. Fistfights broke out at hospitals as senior doctors found it difficult to cope with angry patients and their relatives. In New Delhi, the centre of nationwide protests, medical students continued their hunger strike into a second week. Upper caste students say if the quota for lower castes is increased, the number of places at medical, engineering and management schools for those competing on merit would fall, making it tougher for them to win admission. But lower caste groups say they are at a disadvantage as they have had traditionally fewer chances for quality education and need state help to enter top professional institutions and federal universities. In the capital, more than 300 quota protesters marched near parliament, shouting “Reservation is our right!” and holding banners reading: “Give us an opportunity to prove ourselves.” Although the government has said it would not back down from reserving 27 percent more seats in higher educational institutions for lower castes, it has tried to douse upper caste anger by proposing an increase in the number of places for students competing on merit. — Reuters.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Life was crippled in the Kashmir valley due to general strike on the first day of the two-day call given by the breakaway Hurriyat Conference (HC) and supported by a number of other organisations. Shops and business establishments remained closed and streets wore a deserted look with security forces and police personnel deployed in strength. Work in government offices was also affected as employees stayed away in response to the strike call given by the HC and supported by the Kashmir Bar Association and a number of other separatist organisations against the roundtable conference being chaired by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Besides, management of educational institutions declared a two-day holiday because of strike. A report from Baramulla in north Kashmir and Anantnag in south said total shutdown was observed in response to the call. Shops and other commercial establishments were closed and traffic was also off the roads. Work in government offices and educational institutions was also affected.

London, May 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Crude oil output in Assam state was hit for a second day today after violent protests by contract workers who set ablaze three drilling rigs overnight, officials said. 'Our operations are affected at various installations due to the workers agitation since yesterday evening although we are not in a position to immediately quantify the volume of production loss,' Nripen Bharali, a senior official at state-owned Oil India Ltd (OIL) told Agence France-Presse. Hundreds of contract workers launched the strike demanding higher wages and full-time posts for nearly 1,400 unskilled workers.

ITALY

London, May 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: There has been great participation in Rome in the national bus and rail strike, according to figures from the transport companies showing that 89 pct of surface transport has remained in the stations, while the two metro lines are closed along with the train lines, Rome-Pantano, Rome-Lido and Rome-Viterbo. Taking part in the 24 hour action are Cgil, Cisl, Uil, Faisa-Cisal and Ugl. In Rome the strike has involved personnel from Atac, Trambus, MetRo and Tevere Tpl. Buses, trams, trams, the metro and railways will be closed or running a limited service from 0830, this morning to 1700 hrs and then from 2000 hrs to the end of service. The night service workers, white collar and workers are off for the whole shift. However there will be guardians, telephone operators, engineers, security staff and the operational centres.

MEXICO

London, May 23 — A press report, dated May 22, states: Mexican

steelmaker Grupo Villacero said today it has temporarily suspended without pay non-union staff at its steel mills in Lazaro Cardenas, where union members have been on strike since Apr 3. Chief Financial Officer Ignacio Trevino said in a telephone interview that the strike by members of the National Mining and Metal Workers Union has caused the company lost production of 250,000 metric tons of liquid steel, worth about US\$150 million. Trevino said the measure, implemented May 16, affects between 1,000 and 1,500 workers at Villacero's mills in the Pacific coast port of Lazaro Cardenas. He said the action, which doesn't include emergency staff, is temporary until operations can resume. Local members of the miners union are demanding that the company and the government recognise Napoleon Gomez Urrutia as the union's national leader. The Labor Department recognises union dissident Elias Morales as the leader, and has refused to accept notifications by the union in support of Gomez Urrutia's continued leadership. The government is investigating Gomez Urrutia for alleged misappropriation of US\$55 million in funds paid into a trust by copper mining company Grupo Mexico in relation to the 1990 privatization of the La Caridad and Cananea copper mines. A number of current and former La Caridad and Cananea workers have charged they didn't receive payments that they were entitled to. Trevino said Villacero, based in the northern city of Monterrey, has offered its workers at Lazaro Cardenas the same settlement terms as those at the neighboring steel plant owned by Mittal Steel Co. Members of the same union chapter ended their strike at Mittal last month after the company reportedly recognized Gomez Urrutia as the union leader. Trevino said recognition of the union leader was up to the government, not the company. Labour authorities have declared the strike in Lazaro Cardenas illegal. Two workers were killed last month when state and federal police tried unsuccessfully to remove the picketers from the facilities.

NEW CALEDONIA

Noumea, May 19 — From today, Noumea terminal has been blocked by walls of containers and dockers union pickets. This union is protesting against the new arrival of Shipping Company MSC with its new vessel *Noumea Express*. — Lloyd's Agents.

NIGERIA

London, May 23 — Oil workers at ExxonMobil Corp's Nigerian unit, the second-biggest Western oil producer in the country, have extended a deadline two days to Thursday (May 25) for management to raise wages, or risk strike action, a union official said yesterday. "After Thursday, we will know whether to continue with the action or call it off," an official with the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria, or Pengassan, told Dow Jones. The

previous deadline set by the union was to expire today. Mobil workers have been staging daily, one hour walk-outs in pursuit of their pay claim. So far oil production hasn't been affected, but a union official warned last week that the protests could widen and disrupt output. Mobil is the second largest oil producer in Nigeria, after Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria, a unit of Royal Dutch Shell.

NORWAY

London, May 20 — The strike by the Naval Officers Union, which has already affected 30 of Norway's key ferry services, will be expanded from today, to also include three vessels of the popular coastal cruise liners. The three vessels are *MS Nordkapp*, *MS Lofoten* and *MS Trollfjord*, and the vessels will sail to the closest harbour when the strike expansion becomes effective at midnight today. Several other local ferry services, which up to now have been sailing with reduced capacity, will now be further reduced or completely shut down. In Oslo, on the service between Nesodden and Oslo Harbour, where three ferries have been hit by the strike since the weekend, two more ferries will remain in harbour from midnight.

London, May 22 — The strike by the Naval Officers Union, which had already affected 37 of Norway's key ferry services, was expanded from yesterday morning, to 22 new ferries. The strike also included *MS Nordkapp*, *MS Lofoten* and *MS Trollfjord*, and the vessels sailed to the closest harbour when the strike expansion became effective at midnight Saturday (May 20). Several other local ferry services, which up to now have been sailing with reduced capacity, will now be further reduced or completely shut down. In Oslo, on the service between the Nesodden community and Oslo Harbour, where three ferries have been hit by the strike since last weekend, two more ferries will remain in harbour from midnight Saturday.

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Oslo, Norway, commuters struggled to get to work in heavy traffic yesterday after a nationwide strike suspended ferry service. Oslo was among the hardest hit when all ferry service from the suburban Nesodden peninsula was suspended over the weekend, Aftenposten reported. An estimated 10,000 commuters use the Nesodden ferries every day, and many were forced to make the long drive south along the peninsula and then north again to Oslo. Three of the popular Coastal Voyage vessels were also forced to tie up and offload their passengers and cargo, leaving hundreds of tourists disappointed and confused, the newspaper said. The Norway Post said the main issue in the strike is pay.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Criminal suspects in custody may be set free after a large union representing tens of

thousands of public sector workers went on strike today. Public prosecutors are among those walking off the job, along with food safety inspectors. The Federation of Norwegian Professional Associations (Akademikerne) called a strike Wednesday morning after an all-night bargaining session failed to yield a settlement. The union wants average annual raises for its members of around NOK 25,000 (around USD 4,000) while the state is offering half that. Union officials claim their main aim is to reduce pay differences between the public and private sectors, which now average as much as NOK 100,000-200,000. "We see that private-sector employers are now sweeping the (public-sector) market for workers," said union leader Knut Aarbakke. "That will lead to steadily worsening social welfare services. We can't accept that." The first phase of the strike involves police lawyers and public prosecutors in the Oslo, Salten and Sogn og Fjordane police districts, along with Food Safety Authority (Mattilsynet) workers in Aalesund. That will mean that court proceedings and preparations in criminal cases will be halted, that custody cases will be dropped and that there will be no legal attempts to keep criminal suspects in police custody. Meat producer Gilde will need to close a plant near Aalesund, because no inspectors will be available to monitor it, and other food safety inspections in the Aalesund area will be cancelled or reduced. Aarbakke claimed the strike initially affects relatively few workers but should be effective. All operations among those "taken off" the job by their unions were to cease immediately. The Federation of Norwegian Professional Associations (Akademikerne) bills itself as the primary Norwegian organization dedicated to improving salary and working conditions for professionals with a higher education. It represents lawyers, engineers, psychologists, researchers, doctors, veterinary surgeons, clergy, social scientists, architects, business school graduates, economists, dentists, agronomists and officers in the armed forces. Akademikerne has 13 member organizations, with a total of some 126,000 members, and its strike can spread to other sectors if no settlement is reached. "I'm prepared for a long strike," Aarbakke said. "I'm really angry."

SOUTH AFRICA

London, May 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A strike by South Africa's biggest union alliance had a mixed response today, with some mines deserted but many businesses running normally. The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) is seeking the creation of decent, well-paid and secure jobs. Buses were set alight and stoned before dawn in Cape Town, but no violent incidents were reported elsewhere. Some rail services in Cape Town were suspended after arson yesterday, but other trains ran

normally. Some mines reported up to 100% stayaways, Chamber of Mines spokeswoman Elize Strydom told the South African Press Association. The Volkswagen vehicle assembly plant in Uitenhage in the Eastern Cape also reported high absentee rates, and some stores of the large Pick 'n Pay supermarket chain were affected by the strike. Hospitals and the electricity utility Eskom were reported to be operating normally. Cosatu wants employers to stop using casual labour and outsourcing jobs, and is calling on retailers to develop local production rather than relying on imports. Protest marches are planned for South Africa's main cities. However, Cape Town's city council banned a march planned there, after Tuesday's (May 16) protest by striking security guards turned violent. Official figures suggest a quarter of all South Africans are unemployed, but some analysts put the figure at up to 40%.

London, May 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A protest against job losses and poor pay scales, reports received indicate a mixed impact on industry in general. Of interest to the maritime industry, the effect of the strike on the ports and railway was certainly mixed. According to Graham Braby of South African Port Operations (SAPO), there were limited disruptions to operations at Durban and Port Elizabeth only. Braby maintained that normal work activity took place at the ports of Richards Bay, East London, Saldanha and Cape Town. He said the gates of the two Durban container terminals remained shut during the day with landside operations largely cancelled, while on the marine side there were no vessels scheduled for Pier One Container Terminal. However a number of container ships scheduled for the Durban Container Terminal (Pier Two) remained idle outside the port and according to reliable sources only five container gantry cranes were at work during the day, meaning that more than half the container terminal was effectively down for the day. Braby said that operations at the multi purpose terminal were able to continue with the assistance of casual labour, with three vessels on berth. At Port Elizabeth he said one vessel was working at the container terminal and SAPO had enough labour to provide about 75 percent capacity to allow landside and quayside operations to continue, albeit at a slower pace. Elsewhere in the country the mining industry was badly affected by the COSATU strike with a number of mines reporting 100 percent stayaways. Other industries affected included the motor manufacturers, retailers and the textile industry.

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Johannesburg (and) The South African Transport and Allied Worker's Union will continue with the security guard strike after talks with employers

reached yet another deadlock. The union held a meeting with security employers but could not reach an agreement. The employers proposed that the union suspend its strike before the resumption of talks. "We are using the strike as a tool and if we call it off we will not be able to negotiate," said Simon Jackson, SATAWU's national labour co-ordinator. Jackson said there would not be any more marches by the guards as a safety measure for the guards. "We have stopped the marches because the guards get shot at and brutalised by police," said Jackson.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers in Burkina Faso launched a two-day strike on Tuesday in protest at high living costs and fuel price rises of up to 39%. Several thousand people marched in the capital Ouagadougou to denounce price rises ranging from 5 to 39% for different fuels, which were announced by the government in early May in response to record high crude oil prices. "Our main demand is the respect of workers and their unions, which starts with cancelling the decree of May 4 raising fuel prices," said Laurent Ouedraogo, secretary general of the Burkina National Workers Confederation (CNTB) and spokesperson for the group of unions that called the strike. Many workers stayed home in Ouagadougou, where few taxis plied the streets and the activities of banks, schools and other sectors were disrupted.

Awards & Settlements



CLASS-ACTION SETTLEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Music fans who bought CDs with Sony BMG Music Entertainment's controversial XCP copy control software are going to get refunds. A federal judge yesterday gave final approval to a class-action lawsuit that was brought against the entertainment company after Sony included a pair of invasive and potentially dangerous copy protection programs on an estimated 15 million music CDs. The agreement ends one chapter in a public relations disaster for the entertainment company, which must still contend with a lawsuit brought against it by the state of Texas for violation of state antispyware laws. Sony was sued in three separate class-action lawsuits, which were consolidated into yesterday's settlement. The suits were launched in November 2005, soon after computer science researchers disclosed that Sony's XCP software used dangerous "rootkit" techniques to cloak itself after installation. Sony licensed the XCP software from First 4 Internet, based in Banbury, United Kingdom. Rootkit software is

normally used by hackers to hide their malware from system tools and antivirus products, and Sony was widely criticized for using this potentially dangerous software. With its approval of the deal yesterday, the court finalized a tentative agreement reached between Sony and the plaintiffs in December. Under terms of the settlement, people who purchased XCP-protected CDs can apply for either a cash payment of US\$7.50 plus a free album download, or three album downloads, whichever they prefer. "This settlement gets music fans what they thought they were buying in the first place: music that will play on all their electronic devices without installing sneaky software," said Cindy Cohn, legal director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), in a statement yesterday. The EFF represented plaintiffs in the case. Sony issued a statement yesterday saying it was pleased with the settlement. Computer science researchers also found problems with another type of software Sony put on some CDs, called MediaMax. That software, written by SunnComm International, installs software without the user's permission, is difficult to uninstall, and surreptitiously transmits information about users' activities to SunnComm's servers. Customers who bought MediaMax CDs can now get free downloads.

POLLUTION, NIGERIA

Lagos, May 20 — A Nigerian court has given Royal Dutch Shell a Monday (May 22) deadline to pay \$1.5 billion in damages for pollution in the oil-producing state of Bayelsa, the energy giant said today. Shell said it had appealed against the order by Justice Okechukwu Okeke, who in February upheld a resolution by parliament that the firm should pay the money to ethnic Ijaw communities in Bayelsa in the Niger Delta, which produces all of Nigeria's output of 2.4 million barrels of oil per day. "The court ordered that we pay the money into an escrow account by Monday, while the case continues. We have filed an appeal against the judgement," said a spokesman for Shell, Nigeria's biggest producer. The order on Friday by the Federal High Court in the oil city of Port Harcourt was the latest instalment in a long-running case. — Reuters.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

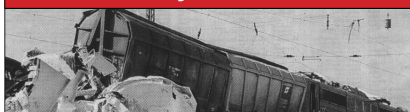
London, May 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Avondale Mills Incorporated says it has reached a \$215 million settlement with its insurance company for damages at its Graniteville, S.C. plants caused by a train derailment and toxic chemical spill. The company says it already has been paid \$115 million by Factory Mutual Insurance Company in connection with the January 2005 accident. Nine people were killed and hundreds hospitalised when a Norfolk

Southern train derailed after it ran into parked rail cars and spilled a toxic cloud of chlorine gas. The settlement comes a day after the company said it would close or sell all its plants in three states.

WRONGFUL DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, May 19 — A press report, dated May 18, states: A jury has awarded \$18 million in punitive damages to relatives of an 86-year-old man who sued the nursing home where he died in 1995, claiming he had been abused and overly medicated. The Benewah County panel's 11-1 verdict yesterday followed a three-week trial stemming from the death of Delbert Hayward in February, 1995, nearly a year after he was placed at Valley Vista Care Centre in St. Maries. The dead man's son, Alfred Hayward, had sought \$20 million. The staff committed more than 700 violations of federal nursing home regulations and eventually caused Hayward's death with repeated dosages of Haldol, a powerful anti-psychotic medication they used to control him after he tried to leave Valley Vista, said Richard C. Eymann, a lawyer for the son. After the lawsuit was filed, a judge dismissed the son's claims of wrongful death and breach of contract, but the state Supreme Court reinstated the wrongful death claim in 2001.

Railway Accidents



GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES

London, May 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Fifteen cars and two engines of a freight train derailed early this morning prompting the closure of a highway bridge. Authorities were called to the scene around 0400 hrs, said Thomas Rutledge, spokesman for the Gwinnett County Fire Department. A clean-up crew was called in because diesel fuel was leaking from one of the engines, which had overturned, Rutledge said. The spill was contained to a gravel area along the tracks, he said. There were no injuries and no evacuations were called for, Rutledge said. The train cars were vehicle haulers and were all empty. However, the derailment did cause damage to two pylons of a state Highway 20 bridge. That section of the highway was closed while state and county Department of Transportation workers checked the condition of the bridge, Rutledge said.

MONTPIILIER, IDAHO, UNITED STATES

London, May 22 — A press report, dated May 21, states: Crews work to clean up a train derailment after 40

cars run off the tracks near Montpilier. It all started yesterday around 1300 hrs when a freight train was travelling from Illinois to Seattle. A spokesman for the Union Pacific Railroad says the train was passing through the town of Dingle, just 5 miles from Montpilier when 40 of the cars derailed. No hazardous materials were reported to be on board. The carts were said to be carrying consumer goods at the time of the accident. Today, over 800 feet of the damaged track is being replaced by crew members. The track is scheduled to reopen by 2200, tonight.

Miscellaneous



BLOCKADE OF NOUMEA PORT BY UNION

Sydney, May 23 — Radio New Zealand today reported that New Caledonia's Union of Kanak and Exploited Workers says it will not allow two vessels, operated by Maersk and the Mediterranean Shipping Company, access to the main port of Noumea. According to the report, the union has been blockading the port, saying the lines' operations there would jeopardise regional companies - Pacific Direct Line and Sofrana - and the jobs of local port workers. Union spokesman Pierre Chauvat told Radio NZ that the local companies would be unable to compete with the international lines, and local people would lose jobs. He said the Maersk vessel had already pulled away from Noumea, and they were waiting for the MSC ship to also leave before opening the port again. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

FLOODED COAL MINE, DATONG, SHANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The chances of survival for 57 miners trapped in a flooded north China coal mine for five days were narrowing, state media quoted rescue officials saying. "The mine owner covered up the incident, causing rescuers to miss the best opportunity for rescue and bringing great difficulties to the rescue," the Shanxi Youth Daily quoted officials saying on its website today. The mine owners did not immediately report the accident and tried to cover it up by initially reporting only four men were trapped in the Xinjing mine in China's coal producing center of Datong city, earlier reports said. State television said the number of trapped miners could be higher because several managers, including the mine owner, had fled after destroying crucial documents. "This has brought serious difficulties to determining how many people were working at the time," Bai Yulong, a spokesman for the rescue effort, told China Central Television

(CCTV). Early estimates of the number of men trapped started at 44 but quickly rose to 57. State media said that seven managers had been detained. The mine flooded late Thursday (May 18) when water from an adjacent abandoned mine rushed in after miners used explosives to clear rock. Media reports said the mine had been illegally subcontracted out numerous times as subcontractors eager to increase profits overlooked safety. The State Administration of Work Safety earlier said the mine had been dug deeper than permitted and produced 10 times its licensed output, producing in one month the amount of coal it was licensed to produce in a year.

FLOODING IN COAL MINE, SHANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, May 21 — It is believed 44 miners have been trapped by floodwaters in a coal mine in northern China. Rescuers told the official Xinhua news agency that 101 of 145 miners working underground when the Xinjing mine in Shanxi province flooded on Thursday (May 18) night managed to escape.

London, May 21 — A press report, dated today, states: An underground flood trapped 44 miners in a coal mine in northern China and nine mine managers were detained after apparently trying to conceal the scale of the disaster, the government said today. The flood, on May 18, in the Xinjing Coal Mine in Shanxi province, was the biggest accident so far this year in China's disaster-plagued mining industry. A 200-member rescue team was searching for the missing miners, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. It did not say how many were believed to be alive. Mine managers failed to report the true size of the disaster, saying only five miners were missing, Xinhua said. "In this sense, the actual situation of the accident was covered up," Xinhua said, citing Gong Anku, head of the Shanxi provincial industrial safety bureau. Nine managers have been detained, and their boss is in hiding, Xinhua said. Mine managers drove relatives of missing miners by taxi out of Shanxi to the neighboring Inner Mongolia region "to prevent them from rioting and speaking to the press," Xinhua said. Chinese mine managers have used similar tactics after previous accidents, effectively detaining miners' families to compel them to accept financial settlements and promise not to talk to reporters. The midday national TV news showed rescue workers setting up a crane outside the mine and the director of China's national safety agency, Li Yizhong, talking to officials at the scene. Rescue workers were using nine pumps to drain the mine and were bringing in three more, state television said. A total of 145 miners were working in the Xinjing Coal Mine at the time of the accident, and 101 escaped, Xinhua said. State television said the number of missing

might be even higher, because disorderly mine management left it unclear how many were working underground. The mine was operating at more than 10 times its licensed output level, digging as much coal in one month as it was supposed to produce in a year, state TV said.

ILLEGAL DUMPING OF WASTE OIL AT SEA

London, May 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Ashkok Kumar, former master of combined chemical and oil tank *Guadalupe*, who pleaded guilty to falsifying oil-dumping records, has been sentenced to two years probation and a \$1,000 fine. Kumar's case was heard in a New Jersey federal courtroom and means he can return home to India. The oil-dumping incident in August 2004 resulted in a \$4.2 million for the vessel's owners.

INDIAN FISHING VESSELS CONFISCATED BY PAKISTAN

Karachi, May 23 — Understand from Pakistan's Maritimes Security Agency (MSA) that about 380 Indian fishing boats are so far confiscated by government for violation and illegal fishing in Pakistan's economic zones in Arabian sea for last many years. All boats are lying at Karachi Fish Harbour. Condition of some of them is very bad and not fit for operations. About 499 fishermen were also arrested. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

Copenhagen, May 18 — Denmark today halted exports of poultry from the island of Funen after birds on a farm tested positive for the deadly H5N1 strain of avian flu. It was the first case of H5N1 in domestic birds in Denmark. "We have established a new outbreak of bird flu in Denmark," Consumer Affairs Minister Lars Barfoed told a news conference. The deadly strain of the virus had been found previously only in wild birds. It was confirmed in domestic birds by the Danish national laboratory today. Birds at the Funen farm were culled after 47 of about 100 died over a two-day period. A peacock and two guinea fowl had tested positive. Officials said the birds had not been kept under cover in accordance with recommendations after the first Danish cases of bird flu earlier this year. The measures had since been lifted. The outbreak may force Denmark to halt all poultry exports to some countries, not just exports from Funen. But for now exports to other European Union countries could continue, the minister said. Denmark found its first case of H5N1 in a wild buzzard south of Copenhagen in March. Since then it has tested more than 1,000 birds, with at least 40 testing positive for H5N1. Denmark produces about 136 million chickens annually, worth about 3 billion Danish crowns (\$514.7 million). About two-thirds go to export. — Reuters.

Jakarta, May 19 — The World Health Organisation has confirmed two more bird flu deaths in Indonesia, a senior health ministry official said today. One of those confirmed was a boy from a North Sumatran family in which five other members have been confirmed as infected cases. The second person was a 12-year-old boy from East Jakarta, who died last week. His case was unrelated to the Sumatra cluster. The WHO had already included the sixth North Sumatra confirmation on their site but Indonesian officials say they received that report separately. — Reuters.

Jakarta, May 22 — Local tests have confirmed two more people have died of bird flu in Indonesia, a senior health ministry official said today. One of the victims belonged to a Sumatran family at the centre of fears of human-to-human transmission after six members of the family died this month of bird flu. "One man from the same Sumatra cluster died this morning. He is the father of the child who died on May 13. He ran away after he received Tamiflu," said I. Nyoman Kandun, director-general of communicable disease control at the health ministry. "He was found in the village later but refused treatment," Kandun said. Local results on bird flu cases are not considered definitive and need confirmation from the World Health Organisation. The WHO confirmed last week that six family members from Kubu Simbelang village in North Sumatra province were infected with the H5N1 avian influenza virus. Kandun said there was no evidence the H5N1 virus had mutated in the Kubu Simbelang cluster case, which has drawn global concern because officials have found no definitive source of the outbreak. Most cases of human infection worldwide have been through contact with sick poultry or their droppings. Tests on poultry in the village were positive for the H5 subtype virus but more tests are need to confirm it they were infected with H5N1. — Reuters.

London, May 23 — A press report, dated May 22, states: Some 13,000 people were quarantined in a quarter of the Romanian capital Bucharest as troops and police sealed off streets in response to the city's second bird flu outbreak, officials said. The mayor of the southern fourth district, Adrian Inimarioiu, said residents would be cut off and all businesses in the area would be closed during the quarantine period of up to three weeks. The move came after the agriculture ministry earlier Monday confirmed the presence of the H5 bird flu virus in dead chickens found in the neighbourhood, the latest of dozens of outbreaks of avian flu in Romania this spring. "About 40 streets have been blocked" in the Luica quarter, Inimarioiu said, urging residents to stay calm. He said the quarantine would last for a "period of a week to 21 days and all the institutions in this quarter will be closed". "About 2,500 birds from this area will be

slaughtered as rapidly as possible," the mayor said. Police and troops were seen on the streets of the district this afternoon. A neighbourhood on the northern outskirts of the capital was put under quarantine Sunday (May 21) evening with fences blocking a dozen streets and police preventing anyone from going in or out, except for medical emergencies. A total of 38 outbreaks of bird flu have been recorded in Romania in the past 10 days, with 26 unconfirmed cases, according to the agriculture ministry. Tests conducted at the European reference laboratory in Weybridge, England, have confirmed the presence of the potentially deadly H5N1 strain of the virus in seven samples taken from central Brasov county, including one from an industrial farm that was the source of the latest spread of the disease. Authorities say it is still unclear whether the virus found in Bucharest originated from this location.

London, May 25 — A press report, dated May 24, states: The Norfolk poultry producer at the centre of a bird flu outbreak has had restrictions lifted on farms not directly affected by the virus. Restraints were imposed on movements between Banham Poultry's 24 broiler farms and hatcheries in order to keep the virus in check. However, the exclusion zone surrounding its Witford Lodge farm is still in place. The 0.6 miles exclusion zones also apply to the Norfolk Road Farm and Mowles Manor Farm - not owned by Banhams - where the virus was also detected and two free range flocks were slaughtered. A Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) spokesperson said that the exclusion zone would be lifted 21 days after cleansing and disinfection of the premises had taken place. "This is subject to no further cases being detected and subject to satisfactory veterinary checks," she said. Defra also introduced a 1.9 miles surveillance area around the farms which also remains in place.

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The Japanese farm ministry said yesterday it has issued the go-ahead for the partial resumption of poultry imports from Britain because the most recent outbreak of avian influenza in the country involved the low pathogenic H7N3 strain rather than the deadly H5N1 bird flu. Shipments from the eastern county of Norfolk, where local farms were struck by the virus, however, will remain suspended, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said. Of some one million chickens imported into Japan last year, about 370,000 came from Britain.

OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA, SUDAN

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 500 people have died in a cholera outbreak in southern Sudan where two-thirds of the population drink unclean water, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Tuesday (May 23). Southern

Sudan's towns are overflowing as hundreds of thousands of people return home after a peace deal signed last year to end more than two decades of civil war. Living in crowded, unsanitary conditions, diseases like cholera and meningitis are spreading fast. An outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea began in late January and the first cases of cholera were confirmed in February. Since then, it has spread to six of the 10 southern states. Until May 5 there were 516 deaths and 13,852 cases of acute watery diarrhoea, WHO said in a statement on Tuesday. It was unclear how many of those cases tested positive for cholera. United Nations agencies are distributing jerry cans, chlorine and soap to try to prevent the spread of the outbreak.

SEIZURE OF DRUGS ON LIBERIAN VESSEL IN GULF OF URABA, COLOMBIA

London, May 24 — The Colombian Coast Guard seized 277 kilograms of cocaine hydrochlorate from on board refrigerated general cargo *Hansa Visby* (10842 gt, built 1989) in the Gulf of Uraba. While on board, the Coast Guard personnel detected the contraband camouflaged in four containers in the refrigeration unit ventilators. The seized alkaloid was transferred to the Coast Guard vessel and taken to port, where it was made available to the authorities. The cocaine had a value of more than \$7 million in the international market. In the last week, the Navy has seized more than seven tons of cocaine in operations.

SHUTDOWN OF NUCLEAR REACTOR, FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE, JAPAN

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Tokyo Electric Power Co said Tuesday (May 23) it is manually shutting down one of six reactors at a Fukushima Prefecture nuclear power station for inspection after finding a radioactive steam leak. The halt came only half a day after Tokyo Electric restarted the reactor, which had been shut down for regular checks. The radioactive steam leaked at the No. 6 reactor of the company's Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power station that straddles the towns of Okuma and Futaba in Fukushima Prefecture, some 250 kilometres north of Tokyo. An engineer spotted steam leaking from a valve in the reactor's piping system at around 1100, local time, Tuesday.

Fires & Explosions



AIRPORT BUILDING, ATATURK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A huge fire has

engulfed the cargo section of Istanbul's Ataturk international airport today, blocking air traffic, television reports said. The fire caused panic at the airport and hundreds of people were trying to escape.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A huge fire engulfed the cargo section of Istanbul's Ataturk International Airport today, temporarily disrupting air traffic and causing thousands to flee nearby terminals. Three people were treated for smoke inhalation, said Deputy Gov. Fikret Kasapoglu. Authorities gave various explanations for what caused the blaze before it was brought under control. Kasapoglu said a short-circuit was to blame, while another deputy governor, Vedat Muftuoglu, told CNN-Turk television at the scene that a spark from a welder's torch caused the fire. Muftuoglu said there was no sign the blaze was terrorism-related. Private NTV television said the fire began in a section where fuel depots were located. Aircraft dropped water onto the flames, and airport authorities said the fire was being tamed. A firefighter atop a tall ladder poured a stream of water on the blaze. "The fire is under control and we're taking precautions to prevent it from spreading to passenger terminals," said Baris Tozar, the undersecretary of the Transportation Ministry. Airport director Irfan Balta said aircraft had been successfully moved away from the fire. The two-storey cargo building, located near a hangar housing military aircraft, is used to store international freight arriving in Istanbul. Gov. Muammer Guler of Istanbul said parts of the building collapsed after the fire. He said the fire caused "great financial damage." Hundreds of uniformed cargo workers who escaped the building in a panic anxiously watched the blaze.

London, May 25 — A radical Kurdish group said it was responsible for a fire at the cargo section of Istanbul's Ataturk airport, the hub of international air travel in Turkey, which slightly injured three people and caused delays in air traffic. The claim, which could not be confirmed, was made by a group calling itself the Kurdistan Freedom Falcons (TAK) in a message to Firat, a pro-Kurdish news agency based in Europe. The Turkish authorities have identified an electrical short circuit as the probable cause of the blaze. "The sabotage is a response to the policies of massacre followed by the Turkish state towards the Kurds," the message said. It added that its actions would continue "as long as the extermination policies of the Turkish state against the Kurds are in force". The Turkish government says the TAK is an offshoot of the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), regarded as a terrorist organisation by the United States and the European Union. The PKK denies any links with the TAK, which has targeted the tourist industry and in one attack in July last year planted a bomb that killed a British woman and

an Irishwoman. The blaze started in Terminal C where outgoing and incoming freight is stored, and the flames were brought under control about an hour later. Istanbul deputy governor Fikret Kasapoglu said it was not immediately clear what had caused the blaze, but said officials suspected it was triggered by either a short-circuit or goods catching fire from sparks of a welding machine. Three people were hospitalised with smoke inhalation, and there was extensive damage in the cargo building, he added. He also added that flights were continuing normally.

COAL MINE, KENTUCKY, UNITED STATES

London, May 21 — Five people have been killed in an explosion at a coal mine in the US state of Kentucky, its governor says. Rescuers recovered the bodies from the Darby No 1 mine in the east of the state, Ernie Fletcher said. One miner was able to leave the scene on foot and was being treated in hospital, the governor added. The cause of yesterday morning's blast is not known. Authorities have yet to release the name of the latest victims at the mine near Holmes Mill in Harlan County, in a mountainous area near the Virginia state border.

FIRE ON NAVAL VESSEL UNDER CONSTRUCTION, PASCAGOULA, UNITED STATES

London, May 22 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire on board *USS Truxtun* (DDG-103) (9,200 tonnes) under construction at Northrop Grumman Ship Systems forced the evacuation of workers and caused extensive damage to the vessel yesterday morning. The fire began at 0915 hrs on the second level of the vessel, an Arleigh Burke class destroyer, said Northrop Grumman spokesman Bill Glenn. The Northrop Grumman Ship Systems fire and rescue department responded immediately to the scene and called for an evacuation of all personnel on the vessel, Glenn said. Glenn, who was unsure how many workers were evacuated, said no one was injured. The fire began in an area where electronics are stored, and was fully involved when the Pascagoula Fire Department arrived on the scene to help, said acting battalion chief Terry Eiland. Eiland said it took about 1 1/2 hours to control the fire, which engulfed two levels of the ship. "Metal conducts heat really well, and that was the big problem we had getting it under control," Eiland said. He estimated damage to be in the millions of dollars.

OIL REFINERY, KAWASAKI, JAPAN

Tokyo, May 21 — An oil tank exploded at a Toa Oil refinery in the Japanese city of Kawasaki today, but just over two hours later the fire was nearly out, police and fire officials said. There were no injuries. A police spokesman in Kawasaki, which borders Tokyo, said the explosion blew

the top off the tank, sending clouds of black smoke billowing into the air. "The fire is nearly out, however, and there is no danger of it spreading to other tanks," he said, adding that fire trucks would be spraying the tank with water for an hour or two more to cool it down still further. A Kawasaki fire official said there currently was no smoke visible over the refinery. An official at Toa Oil said that it was not immediately clear what, if any, impact the fire would have on the plant's operations and that an assessment could not be made until all firefighting activities had ceased. He added that the plant had been operating normally at the time of the explosion. The Keihin refinery at which the fire took place has a capacity of 185,000-barrels-per-day. — Reuters.

PREMISES, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, May 18 — A press report, dated May 17, states: A four-alarm fire that destroyed four businesses in Mountain View early this morning is estimated to have caused at least \$1 million in damage, the Mountain View Fire Department reported today. Fire department spokesman Lynn Brown said investigators are still trying to figure out what started the blaze, which originated from under the roof of a dry-cleaning business and is one of the largest the city has seen in recent years. The structural damage alone is likely to be around \$780,000, he said, with at least another \$220,000 lost in belongings. Four stores were completely destroyed, including Super Fluff Cleaners and Laundry, DBT Mini Market, a Postal Express and a beauty salon. Fire investigators are proceeding cautiously today because the badly burned walls threaten to cave in and the already collapsed roof puts them at risk of being trapped underneath falling rubble. Ron Geary, deputy community development director for building and safety in Mountain View, said today the mini market had opened recently while the other businesses had operated at the location for quite some time. He added that the structure was built in the 1950s and consisted of steel framing with wooden walls and roof. Inspectors are looking into the business owners' building permits, Geary said, adding that no new installations or modifications had taken place within at least the past six months. The fire was first called in at around 1221 hrs, as a two-alarm fire. It was raised to a three-alarm fire around 0100 hrs, and at about 0140 hrs, a fourth alarm was raised as the fire spread to neighbouring businesses. Flames were clearly visible from the street, as units from at least four different fire departments worked from ladder stations to spray water on the roof, Brown said. By 0205 hrs, the fire had stopped spreading, but it was not until after 0430 hrs, when the fire was under control enough for crews to

enter briefly to put out hotspots and lingering flames. A dollar store within the mall was spared any major fire damage because a firewall in the attic prevented the blaze from spreading. The businesses were empty at the time of the fire, Brown said, and no firefighters were injured.

PREMISES, SHENANDOAH, UNITED STATES

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A massive fire, what some call the worst in the town in the last 75 years, destroyed half of a newly renovated town block in Shenandoah yesterday, injuring one and causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage. The fire began sometime after 0200 yesterday morning and quickly spread to three buildings at the corner of First Street and Virginia Avenue, including two stores and a small apartment complex, said Lester Hensley, the town's fire chief. Officials arrived at the scene at about 0230 hrs, he said. The two businesses, Comer's Hardware and the printing company Letter Perfect, were destroyed. Inhabitants of nearby buildings were evacuated from their homes as firefighters worked to prevent the blaze from spreading. Ten fire companies and about 75 firefighters from as far away as Harrisonburg and Weyers Cave assisted in controlling and putting out the fire, Hensley said. Fire crews got control of the blaze sometime around 0500 hrs, the chief said. The fire was so intense it destroyed two vehicles parked on the street. The intensity of the blaze also caused the fire department to stop train traffic on the nearby rail lines for a brief period, although traffic resumed later in the morning, Hensley said. Little, if anything, Hensley said, can be salvaged from the buildings. The source of the fire has not yet been determined; however, state police have begun an investigation, Shenandoah Police Chief Pete Monteleone said.

PREMISES, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

London, May 22 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A raging fire tore through two business places in El Socorro yesterday, leaving one family displaced and causing millions of dollars in damages within the space of two hours. The fire began at the back of S & J Auto Parts Ltd on the Main Road and quickly spread to Shah's premises, which borders S & J on the north. Two other homes were threatened, but were spared. Sashtri Jamunar, owner of S & J Auto, who lives in El Socorro, also could do nothing more than look on as the fire grew. He said he first noticed the fire around 0730 hrs. While Shah could not quantify the damage he suffered, Jamunar said his losses ran into millions of dollars. In addition to the damage to his house, Shah operated a multimedia graphics company, in addition to computer and mobile phone sales. Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer Carl Scipio visited the scene

and told the media that no casualties were reported and two properties were affected. He said the fire became difficult to control at one point as barrels of diesel stored at the back of S & J Auto exploded, sending the flames more than 20 feet into the air.

REFINERY, NORCO, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES

London, May 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire and explosion at the Valero St. Charles Refinery in Norco late yesterday shut down a portion of the refinery, but caused no injuries, a refinery spokesman said. The explosion, which rattled the windows of homes for miles around, occurred about 2345 hrs in the refinery's hydro-diesel unit, spokesman Ron Guillory said. The cause of the explosion has not yet been determined, he said. The unit uses hydrogen to remove sulphur from diesel fuel to meet federal emissions standards, refinery spokesman Ron Guillory said. Portions of River Road and Prospect Avenue were blocked after the incident, which sent flames shooting more than 100 feet in the air, as the fire was put out. Guillory said only about 80 workers are on duty at night at the refinery, compared to 800 during the day. The plant, refines some 260,000 barrels of oil per day into gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and other products.

REFINERY, SAKAI, JAPAN

Tokyo, May 23 — ExxonMobil's Japan unit can restart the fire-hit 156,000 barrel-per-day Sakai refinery in western Japan as soon as early next week, the local fire department said today. The fire department will inspect the completion of repair works at fire-hit units at TonenGeneral Sekiyu's Sakai plant tomorrow, a department official said. "If we can confirm the safety tomorrow, we will lift the suspension order issued to affected units and the company can restart refining oil and all systems at the Sakai plant early next week," he said. The company shut the crude distillation units and related systems after fire in early April. The plant was shut later to complete repair works and scheduled maintenance at the same time. An ExxonMobil Japan spokesman said earlier this month that the plant would be shut until early June for repair work. — Reuters.

TEXTILE FACTORY, SHANTOU, CHINA

London, May 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Three people have been detained today following a textile company fire that killed 13 and seriously injured another one in the southern city of Shantou last night, local authorities said today. A man surnamed Liu and his son, the legal representative, the boss of the company, and the factory director surnamed Hong were captured by local police. The 13 dead, all female, were confirmed to be workers for the company, including 10 locals and three from outside of the town, police said. The fire broke out at 1243

yesterday at the four-storey building of the Chuanghui Textile Co., Ltd. located at the Xinpo Village, Gurao Town in Guangdong Province, according to the Shantou municipal public security bureau. The injured worker has been rushed to a local hospital, police said, and an investigation into the cause of the fire is underway.

WILDFIRES, RUSSIA

London, May 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Thousands of hectares of taiga are burning in Russia's Far East and Siberia, according to the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations. A total of 109 woodland fires covering the area of 10,700 hectares have been registered in the Maritime region this year. A total of 24 fire centres are fixed in the region at the present moment, the regional department of the emergencies ministry reported today. Hot and dry weather in the Amur region, with day temperatures reaching 27 degrees above zero, aggravates the situation. Thirty-six out of 74 forest fires in the Far East are in the Amur region. Over 570,000 hectares of taiga and non-woodland areas have been destroyed there by blaze this year. The area of fires in the Far East this year exceeds 17 times the figure of the same period last year. According to the forest protection service, 210,200 hectares of woodland and 385,500 hectares of non-forest areas have been already destroyed in the Far East this year. An emergency situation has been announced in 11 districts of the Amur region, as well as in the cities of Raichikhinsk and Blagoveshchensk. Forest fires persist in the Baikal region. Over 6,000 hectares of taiga are on fire in the Chita region. Over 330 forest fires have been registered in the Chita region this year. They have destroyed more than 21,000 hectares of woodland. Almost 1,800 hectares of woodland are burning in Buryatia. A stormy weather impedes fight against forest fires in the Baikal region. Strong winds take the fire to tree heads, and sometimes it is impossible to stop such fires.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Pushed by stiff winds, the lightning-sparked Romero Fire spread to about 700 acres yesterday, burning through brush in rugged, steep Pusch Ridge Wilderness canyons as flames threatened to climb toward heavy timber. The fire, which started on Sunday (May 21) in Montrose Canyon, is 10% contained, and though no structures are threatened, the high winds firefighters faced early yesterday were worrisome. A day of slurry and water attacks and crews digging fire lines brought significant progress, said Jim Ets Hokin, yesterday's incident commander. Little fire activity was expected overnight. Four elite hotshot crews and three Arizona Department of Corrections crews, backed by two

helicopters dropping water, struggled to contain the blaze in lower elevations. A Type 1 Incident Command team led by Dan Oltrogge took control of the fire by the evening. "Today was a day to hold it, and even though there was the spread in acreage, with such winds it was a successful day," said Heidi Schewel, a Coronado National Forest spokeswoman. The fire, which was reported about 1630 Sunday, nearly quadrupled in acreage from Sunday night to yesterday morning, burning 150 acres by about 0900 hrs and growing throughout the day. Much of the day, sustained winds were near 30 mph, with stronger gusts. All the firefighters were pulled off the line overnight, as relative humidity was expected to return to about 30% and calm the fire. The top priority today remains defending Romero Canyon, with the fire still threatening to progress uphill, where it could begin burning through heavier fuels. The Romero Trail was untouched, across the canyon from the fire, Ets Hokin said. The fire burned into Romero Canyon and over a ridge into Alamo Canyon. At its highest yesterday, the fire burned up to the top of Buster Mountain. Firefighters worked to keep the blaze from moving on the north flank, where it was about two miles from homes in the Catalina area, Ets Hokin said.

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The North Taylor Fire, about 19 miles south-west of Safford, is 35% contained at 117 acres. Also lightning-caused, the fire is burning timber and brush. It was reported early Saturday (May 20). Firefighters completed a line around the blaze late Sunday, aided by a light rain that cut the fire's intensity. Crews worked to secure the line yesterday in anticipation of the winds. Five hotshot crews and four helicopters are assigned to the North Taylor Fire, and suppression costs so far are about \$233,000.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters scrambled along steep slopes on the western side of the Santa Catalina Mountains yesterday and with some help from air tankers nearly corralled the 740-acre Romero Fire. Officials declared the blaze 85% contained last night and began sending crews and equipment home. "Crews made excellent progress today," said Chris Wilcox, an official with the management team overseeing the fire. "Barring unforeseen events, we're predicting full containment by Friday (May 26)."



ACCIDENT, SAVUSAVU AIRPORT, VANUA LEVU, FIJI

London, May 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Passengers on

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

board an Air Fiji flight had to be treated for minor injuries and trauma after their plane veered off the runway, crashed through a perimeter fence and stopped with its belly in a drain. The accident happened at Savusavu airport in Vanua Levu late yesterday afternoon. A spokesman at Savusavu Hospital confirmed 10 passengers were treated for minor injuries and shock while a pregnant woman was admitted for observation. Air Fiji says it has begun an internal investigation and reported the accident to the Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji. Police who arrived at the scene had to clear a large crowd from the runway before they could get close to the damaged aircraft.

C-FMDW

London, May 19 — At 1350 hrs, May 16, DeHavilland DHC8/311, (C-FMDW), was in cruise flight to Vancouver when the flight crew shut down the number one engine due to torque fluctuations and partial feathering of the propeller. They had the Kelowna airport in sight, declared an emergency, and diverted there. C-FMDW landed without further event.

C-GJYZ

London, May 19 — On May 18, M18A Dromader, C-GJYZ operated by Tarrickfic Aerial Applicator, was applying herbicide to a field three nautical miles south-west of Cabri, Saskatchewan. The aircraft struck the terrain while manoeuvring to position for a spray run. The aircraft sustained substantial damage and the pilot suffered minor injuries. There was no post-impact fire.

C-GSKJ

London, May 20 — Convair CV-580, C-GSKJ, operated by Province of Saskatchewan, departed La Ronge base for a training mission and crashed in a swamp about a mile from La Ronge Airport, at 1230, May 14. One person was killed.

CRASH, BATTLE GROUND AREA, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, May 19 — A press report, dated May 18, states: An 81-year-old Battle Ground man was injured yesterday after the airplane he was piloting overshot a runway at a private airfield near Northeast Cramer Road and crashed into a stand of trees. Anthony Diamond suffered first- and second-degree burns in the crash, according to George Lingle, spokesman for Clark County Fire District 11. Two other passengers in the airplane, including his wife, Jo, suffered minor injuries but declined treatment. The crash happened about 2000 hrs, yesterday as Diamond and his two passengers were returning from dinner in Bremerton in his six-seat Cessna 210. Jo Diamond, 46, said the aircraft "took a hop" upon landing and overshot the runway. The fire burned trees and most of the aircraft.

CRASH, CASE INLET AREA, PUGET SOUND, UNITED STATES

See N2426H.

CRASH, EAST SUSSEX, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 21 — Two men had an escape with minor injuries after a helicopter crashed in flames at Northiam on Friday (May 19). The helicopter caught fire moments after taking off at Hastings Road, Northiam, just before 1800 hrs. The pilot saw flames coming from the engine and carried out a crash landing in a field at Commons Wood Farm, south of the village. He, and his passenger, were able to get clear of the wreckage before it was engulfed in flames. Amazingly the pilot, a man in his 40s from Battle, escaped with minor burns on his arms while the passenger, from Hastings and in his 20s, suffered only a grazed shin. The burning aircraft was carrying 17 gallons of aviation fuel and its fibreglass body melted in seconds. An East Sussex Fire and Rescue spokeswoman confirmed that the pilot and his passenger escaped the wreckage without suffering life threatening injuries.

CRASH, LA RONGE, SASKATOON AREA, CANADA

See C-GSKJ.

EK-32009

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency teams have recovered one of the two flight recorders from an Armavia Airbus A320-211 (EK-32009) that crashed in the Black Sea May 3 with the loss of 113 people, Russia's transportation minister said today. Igor Levitin said the black box recorded the conversation between the pilot and crew and had been buried under 20-50 cm of silt. Levitin said the search for the other box, which recorded flight data and was thought to be lying 3-5 m away from the first one, would continue into the night. Rescuers' data showed that the A-320's black boxes were at a depth of 496 m and 5 m apart from each other.

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The search for the flight recorder from the crashed Armavia Airbus A-320-211 (EK-32009) has been suspended in the Black Sea because of bad weather conditions. Strong wind and high waves stopped deep-water operations using a search robot, a member of operational headquarters told ITAR-TASS today. The aircraft's voice recorder was recovered from the sea floor yesterday. Specialists believe that the flight data recorder is not far from the first and is buried in a layer of silt. The RT-1000 robot used in the search for it has been equipped with an additional silt-clearing pump.

London, May 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Russian searchers today recovered the second flight recorder from an Armavia Airbus A-320-211 (EK-32009) aircraft that crashed into the Black Sea three

weeks ago, killing all 113 people aboard, local media reported. The flight data recorder was lifted by a diving apparatus from a depth of about 1,640 ft after it was separated from a thick layer of silt, said Transport Ministry spokeswoman Svetlana Kryshtanovskaya, according to the RIA-Novosti news agency. The blackbox was discovered within 16 m from the spot where workers on Monday (May 22) found the aircraft's cockpit voice recorder. Russian television channels showed footage of a yellow, remote-controlled apparatus lifting the red recorder from the sea surface. Prosecutors almost immediately dismissed the possibility that terrorists had brought the plane down, and officials point to rough weather or pilot error as the likely cause. Armavia officials have suggested, however, that air traffic controllers were at least partly to blame.

EMERGENCY LANDING AT GATWICK AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 25 — A press report, dated May 22, states: A holiday jet carrying 180 passengers had to make an emergency landing after the captain made a distress call at 31,000ft. He sent a "Mayday" signal shortly after the Thomas Cook Airbus A320 took off from Manchester for Mahon, in Menorca. The crew donned oxygen masks as a precaution after a cockpit alert warned of a possible loss of cabin pressure if the jet reached its cruising height of 35,000ft. A spokesman for the airline said the captain reassured passengers before landing at Gatwick. The passengers continued on a replacement aircraft after a delay of 40 minutes. National Air Traffic Services said: "The aircraft was given a priority approach into Gatwick, where it landed safely without incident."

EMERGENCY LANDING, COLORADO SPRINGS, UNITED STATES

London, May 21 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: American Airlines' flight 1157 made an unscheduled landing this morning. The pilot declared an emergency after he noticed an engine problem during the flight. The problem affected one engine but American Airlines will not say the cause until the investigation is complete. The aircraft landed safely in Colorado Springs with no injuries. Another aircraft is being flown from Chicago to take the passengers on to Seattle. A total of 136 passengers were on board along with two pilots and three crew members.

EMERGENCY LANDING, FORT LAUDERDALE-HOLLYWOOD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, May 22 — A press report, dated today, states: All 23 people aboard a Continental Connection flight from the Bahamas escaped injury Sunday (May 21) afternoon

after the aircraft's landing gear collapsed as it touched down at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, officials said. Flight 9137 from Andros Town, Bahamas, alerted the control tower about a possible mechanical problem shortly before its scheduled 1705 landing, airport spokesman Steve Belleme said. Fire rescue units responded and were already in place when the Beech 1900 aircraft landed and skidded briefly along runway 9L, Belleme said. The runway was closed for several hours as airport officials tried determining whether the aircraft could be repaired or would have to be towed from the scene. Air traffic was diverted to an alternate runway. "A call came in that there was an indication in the cockpit of unsafe landing gear, so everybody scrambled into place at the airport and waited to see what would happen," Belleme said. "There were 23 souls on board, including two pilots and a flight attendant, and everybody was fine." A spokeswoman for Continental Airlines in Houston would not comment and said the flight was operated by its partner, Gulfstream International Airlines of Fort Lauderdale. According to the Continental Airlines Web site, flight 9137 left the Bahamas at 1600 for the 65-minute flight. After the landing, passengers and their bags were loaded onto a bus and taken to terminal 4 for a routine US Customs check. Laura Brown of the Federal Aviation Administration said an inspector will begin investigating the incident this morning. She said eight flights were delayed, and the delays averaged about 17 minutes.

EMERGENCY LANDING, HENRI COANDRA AIRPORT, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

London, May 22 — DC-8 aircraft belonging to the Romanian company MIA Airlines made an emergency landing on Saturday (May 20) at Henri Coanda Airport due to technical problems. The aircraft took off from Baneasa Airport at about 1100 hrs and was flying to Reykjavik, Iceland. A director in charge of communication inside the Ministry of Transportation, Adrian Ionescu, said the aircraft had no passengers on board as it was scheduled to take passengers in Reykjavik and continue its flight to Canada. "Shortly after taking off, the pilots noticed that the plane had lost pressure in the hydraulic system and decided to make an emergency landing at Otopeni (Henri Coanda)," Ionescu said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MOBIL AIRSTRIP, NIGERIA

London, May 22 — Nineteen persons yesterday escaped unhurt when a Beechcraft 1900D aircraft conveying them to Eket, Akwa Ibon State, made an abrupt landing at Mobil Airstrip following the explosion that rocked one of the twin engines. The turbo-prop aircraft, reportedly owned and operated by Mobil Producing Nigeria,

was said to have taken off from Lagos with 17 executive branch committee members of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN), including a former deputy president of the association, Comrade Babatunde Oguns. Although the cause of the incident was not immediately known, an eyewitness account said trouble started when the aircraft was attempting to land. According to the account, one of the engines made a big bang which was followed by fire that caught some structures at the facility. It is not immediately clear if the aircraft sustained any bodily damage, but it was said to have been recovered from the runway thereafter.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SOUTHEND AIRPORT, ESSEX, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An aircraft carrying 20 passengers was forced to make an emergency landing after the pilot reported a technical problem and a smell in the cockpit. The VLM Fokker propeller aircraft was flying from Brussels to London City Airport in the morning when it was forced to land at Southend Airport. Emergency services were called to the scene and the aircraft landed safely. Passengers were offered medical advice but no-one was injured. The aircraft is being examined at the airport. Essex Ambulance Service operations manager Brendan Saich said: "The plane landed safely and was immediately assessed by airport fire service staff after it came to a halt. "Passengers and crew then disembarked normally and were taken to the terminal building where everybody was offered medical advice."

EMERGENCY LANDING, TAMPA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, May 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Delta Airlines aircraft with 134 persons aboard made an emergency landing at Tampa International Airport tonight. Flight 526 was enroute from Sarasota to Atlanta when the pilot reported smoke in the cockpit of the MD-80 jet, a spokesperson for TIA said. There were 129 passengers aboard, and a crew of five, the spokesperson said. Fire rescue crews staged in advance of the landing, and returned to their quarters after the aircraft landed safely on runway 18-R.

G-BWDA

Guernsey, May 23 — ATR 72-202 G-BWDA, operated by Aurigny Air Services, on flight from London (Gatwick) Airport to Guernsey with 44 persons on board, had tail scrape ground on landing at Guernsey Airport at 0829, UTC, today. There were no serious injuries reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

N2426H

London, May 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft

went down in the Case Inlet area of Puget Sound late yesterday afternoon, but the two people who were on board made it to shore and appeared to be unharmed. A regional supervisor for the Federal Aviation Administration said the pilot was trying to land on a small airstrip near the crash site when he radioed that he'd lost power. Firefighters marked the position of the 1946 Ercoupe 415-C with a buoy.

London, May 24 — Ercoupe 415, N2426H, lost power and crashed into water, Case Inlet, Allyn at 0000, May 20. Damage substantial. Both occupants sustained minor injuries.

N6242R

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Federal Aviation investigators are on their way to the scene of a deadly aircraft crash in Levelland. The aircraft, registration number N6242R, (Cessna 150F) went down just after 1830, local time, yesterday near the Levelland airport. 63-year-old Dennis Michaels of Lubbock and 24-year-old Anad Paul Quadros of India were killed upon impact. Michaels was a flight instructor and Quadros was a flight student. Witnesses tell NewsChannel 11 Michaels flew out of the Levelland airport frequently but added the winds were strong when the aircraft went down. FAA investigators are taking over the investigation and will try and determine a cause.

Product Recalls



CONTACT LENS CLEANING PRODUCTS, WORLDWIDE

London, May 23 — Bausch & Lomb faces a compensation bill of up to US\$1 billion after the worldwide recall of one of its contact lens cleaning products that has been linked to a dangerous eye fungus. Lawsuits are piling up against the embattled eyecare company as the number of cases of keratitis in users of Bausch & Lomb's ReNu with MoistureLoc lens cleaning solution grows. David Maris, an analyst who covers Bausch & Lomb for Banc of America Securities, believes the cases are becoming so widespread that they could cost the company between US\$500million and US\$1billion. Such a large payout would dwarf the sales of the ReNu product, which amounted to only about US\$100 million last year. Mr Maris believes that each Bausch & Lomb customer affected could claim as much as US\$10million in damages. The cases of rare fungus associated with Bausch & Lomb's lens cleaner are growing in number and severity. One elderly woman from Florida claims to have lost an eye when she was infected with the rare fungus shortly after beginning to use the product. Zoe Wade, 69, from Lake Placid, Florida, claims that symptoms

of the fungus arose a few weeks after she began using the product in January last year. Seven months later her doctor recommended removing her left eye to stop the condition from spreading. At least 122 people have been infected with the disease in the United States. The company halted production of the suspect lens cleaner worldwide on Monday (May 15) and admitted for the first time that the spread of the rare fungus could be in some way linked to the ReNu product.

PEUGOT MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, May 24 — Peugeot Japon Co told the transport ministry yesterday it will recall 361 cars in six models imported from its French parent Peugeot SA due to an inappropriate program for controlling fuel injection into the engine, the ministry said. The ministry said that in the cars, imported between April 2001 and May 2004, the engine may fail to start as the fuel injection control system allows a fuel pump to continue injecting fuel into engine cylinders even after the engine is switched off.



BANGLADESH

London, May 20 — The congestion of containers is still persisting at the

country's main sea-port at Chittagong. It reached all-time high record yesterday at the port yard. The main maritime seaport at Chittagong experienced yesterday congestion to the extent of 17,200 Twenty Equivalent Units (TEUs). The normal capacity of the port is 12,800 TEUs. The port stored 15,700 TEUs last Thursday and delivered 1500 TEUs on the day. In the meantime, port sources said a cyclonic storm was flowing in late afternoon yesterday in the Bay of Bengal and the fate of the waiting vessels at the outer anchorage remained uncertain. As many as 10 container loaded feeder vessels were berthed yesterday and seven more are waiting to berth at the jetties. The number of vessels at the outer anchorage remained at 35 including container laden vessels.

Chittagong, May 23 — Berthing delays for container vessels at Chittagong port is currently two to six days. The situation is unlikely to improve in the next two weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 24 — Container handling at Bangladesh's biggest port, Chittagong, is at a virtual standstill as cargo awaits clearance and onward transport from the port area. The port has the capacity to store 12,000-13,000 boxes, but close to 18,000 have been unloaded and are awaiting clearance. As a result, a large number of ships are awaiting berths and operators have slapped on a congestion surcharge.

ITALY

Genoa, May 22 — Port situation May 22: Genoa: One ro/ro vessel awaiting berth. Average delay in berthing 12 hours. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berth. Savona: No vessels awaiting normal berth, one vessel awaiting special berth. Delay in berthing one day. — Lloyd's Agents.

PANAMA CANAL

London, May 19 — Panamax vessels wishing to transit the Panama Canal currently face delays of three-four days. Regular/unrestricted vessels can expect delays of two-three days. The projected queue for 2400 hrs, tomorrow (May 20) is 62 vessels. The auction booking for May 20 was awarded to a southbound bulker at a premium of \$46,100.00.

London, May 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Expected arrivals at the Panama Canal over the next two days are on the low side. Weather permitting, the transit queue should go down to under 50 vessels by tomorrow. Non-booked vessels can still expect delays of two-three days, but if the present arrival trend continues beyond tomorrow, additional improvement can be expected by the end of the week.

SYRIA

Aleppo, May 20— Waiting time is presently 24 hours at Lattakia and three days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	29-May -2006	Coal: One vessel loading at berth; 7 vessels due by 15/6; no delays expected.
Brisbane	29-May -2006	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Five vessels due by 16/6; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	29-May -2006	Coal: Two vessels loading at berth; 22 vessels arrived; 25 vessels due by 26/6.
Dampier	29-May -2006	Iron ore: Delays expected: 5-8 days; Parker Point A berth: One vessel loading at berth; 2 vessels arrived; 7 vessels due by 29/6; Parker Point B berth: 1 vessel loading at berth; 2 vessels arrived; 5 vessels due by 10/6; Parker Point C berth: 1 vessel arrived; East Intercourse Island; One vessel loading at berth; 6 vessels arrived; 6 vessels due by 7/6.
Esperance	29-May -2006	Iron ore: Two vessels due by 9/6.
Geraldton	29-May -2006	Iron ore: One vessel at anchor; 1 vessel due 5/6.
Gladstone	29-May -2006	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Three vessels loading at berth; 18 vessels arrived; 27 vessels due by 28/6; 12-14 days delay expected; Barney Point: 1 vessel loading at berth; 6 vessels arrived; 12 vessels due by 15/7; Plant shutdown notice: no shiploading operations 10-15/7 for maintenance and upgrading of terminal facilities.
Hay Point	29-May -2006	Coal: One vessel loading at berth; 14 vessels due by 12/6.
Newcastle	29-May -2006	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: Two vessels loading at berth; 54 vessels due by 28/6; up to 3 days delay expected; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel loading at berth; 20 vessels due by 20/6; up to 2 days delay expected.
Port Hedland	29-May -2006	Iron ore: Delays expected: up to 7 days; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: One vessel loading at berth; 2 vessels arrived; 8 vessels due by 6/6; "B" berth: 1 vessel loading at berth; 2 vessels arrived; 8 vessels due by 7/6; 5 other vessels due by 18/6 at A or B berth 2/4; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island "C" berth): 3 vessels due by 3/6; (Finucane Island "D" berth): 5 vessels arrived; 3 vessels due by 7/6; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel loading at berth; 1 vessel due 8/6.
Port Kembla	29-May -2006	Coal: Nine vessels due by 30/6; no delays expected. 24 May: Grain: 1 vessel anchored to load wheat; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	29-May -2006	Iron ore: One vessel loading at berth; 12 vessels arrived; 9 vessels due by 17/6; 8-10 days delay expected.
Whyalla	29-May -2006	Iron ore: One vessel loading at berth; 1 vessel at anchor; 7 vessels due by 29/6.
Azerbaijan		
Apsheron	26-May-2006	Oil products: Three vessels discharging at berth (2 crude oil, 1 gasoil); 2 vessels at anchor to discharge crude oil; 2 vessels due by 26/5 to discharge (1 gasoil, 1 kerosene).
Baku		Oil products: Bay of Baku: No information; Azerneftnyag terminal: no information; Azertrans terminal: Nobel Avenue: port open; no vessels; Sangachal District: port open; no vessels.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	29-May -2006	Eleven vessels in port of which 7 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 sulphur, 1 zinc, 1 coils, 1 lead, 1 concrete, iron, 1 wheat), 4 discharging (2 coal, 1 fuel, 1 iron ore); 2 vessels in roads of which both to load (1 chemicals, 1 gasoil); 10 vessels due of which 4 to load (2 coils, 1 barite concentrate, 1 container), 6 to discharge (2 billets, 1 equipment, 1 container, 1 iron ore, 1 coal).
Varna	29-May -2006	Varna East, Varna West, Balchik: Thirty-three vessels in port operating of which 19 loading (3 scrap, 1 bulk maize, 1 bulk wheat, 1 hardboard, 2 equipment, 2 bulk clinker, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 4 soda, 2 chamote/kaolin, 1 fertiliser/TSP, 1 sunflower seed meal), 9 discharging (2 containers, 2 bulk sugar, 2 coal, 1 misc. cargo, 1 raw phosphate, 1 bulk copper concentrate), 5 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.
Chile		
Antofagasta	24-May-2006	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 18 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Arica	24-May-2006	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 21 vessels due this week.
Iquique	24-May-2006	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 21 vessels due this week.
Puerto Montt	24-May-2006	Two vessels at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 7 vessels due this week.
Punta Arenas	24-May-2006	Four vessels at terminal, 3 berths vacant; 11 vessels due this week.
San Antonio	24-May-2006	Six vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 23 vessels due this week.

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Port Conditions

San Vicente	24-May-2006	Three vessels berthed, 2 berths vacant; 22 vessels due during the week; Steel pier: 1 vessel at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 1 vessel due this week; Coronel pier: 3 vessels at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 3 vessels due this week; Oil terminal: 1 tanker at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 1 tanker due this week.
Valparaiso	24-May-2006	Four vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 2 vessels anchored; 18 vessels due this week.
Cyprus		
Larnaca	30-May-2006	No vessels at berth; 2 conventional vessels due 31/5; no delays expected.
Limassol	30-May-2006	Six container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 3 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 7 vessels due 31/5 of which 3 containers, 1 conventional vessel, 3 passenger vessels; no delays expected.
Egypt		
Adabiya	29-May-2006	Six vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 6 general cargo.
Alexandria	29-May-2006	Thirty-one vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 27 general cargo, 1 tanker, 3 container vessels; 15 vessels at inner anchorage, 9 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	29-May-2006	Fifteen vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 9 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 1 livestock, 3 container vessels; no vessels at inner anchorage, 2 at outer anchorage.
Dekheila	29-May-2006	Six vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 2 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 2 container vessels; 2 vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	29-May-2006	Seven vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 2 general cargo, 5 container vessels.
Suez	29-May-2006	Seven vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 4 general cargo, 3 passenger vessels; 3 tug boats; 2 vessels dry-docked.
Suez Canal	29-May-2006	Twenty-nine vessels transiting Northbound, 32 Southbound.
Estonia		
Tallin	29-May-2006	No labour problems. City port: No vessels at berth, none at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected; Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 vessel loading coal at berth, 1 vessel due, with 10 days delay expected; Muuga: no vessels at berth, none at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected.
India		
Kolkata	29-05-2006	8 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Containers, Iron Ore), 5 vessels discharging (Containers-2, Edible Oil, Liquid, General Cargo), 1 vessel waiting to load General Cargo; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 load & discharge, 1 for bunkering); 1 vessel under dry docked; 4 vessels under repair; 2 vessels due (Containers, Edible Oil).
Haldia	29-05-2006	12 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Iron Ore-4, POL), 5 vessels discharging (POL-2, Coke, Sulphur, Fertilizer), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers ; 3 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 2 vessels due (POL, Thermal Coal).
Paradip	29-05-2006	10 vessels operating at berth of which 8 vessels loading (Iron Ore-3, Chrome Ore, Ch. Con-2, Thermal Coal-2), 2 vessels discharging Coking Coal; 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to load; 27 vessels due.
Vizag	29-05-2006	14 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Iron Ore-2, B. P. Slag), 9 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, Crude Oil, Urea, Sulphur, MAP, Met Coke, Petroleum Coke, L. Ammonia, Steam Coal), 2 vessel loading and discharging (L. Stone & Scrap, Containers); 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 2 to load); 34 vessels due (Iron Ore-7, Steel Cargo-2, Illiminate Sand, C.P. Coke, Thermal Coal, Granite, Product Tankers-2 , DAP, Methanol, Urea, Coking Coal-7, Steam Coal2, Containers-2, Alumina-2, Gypsum, Passengers, Crude Tankers).
Chennai	29-05-2006	16 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (Granite Block-2, Sugar-2, Iron Ore, Furnace Oil, S. Slab), 7 vessels discharging (S. Slab, Rock Phosphate-2, Met Coke-2, Steel Coal-2), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers); 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 6 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 5 to load); 4 vessels due (Containers-r, Project, General Cargo/Granite Block).
Tuticorin	29-05-2006	10 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading (Granite-2, Sugar, Stone-2, General Cargo), 4 vessels discharging (Coal, Lime Stone, Thermal Coal, Logs); 3 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge, 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load.
Cochin	29-05-2006	5 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (High Speed Diesel, Naphtha,), 2 vessels discharging (Methanol, Crude), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load).
New Mangalore	29-05-2006	8 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading (Granite Stones, Iron Ore (F)-4, POL Products), 2 vessels discharging (LPG, POL Crude); 7 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 5 to load); 18 vessels due (Coke, POL Product, POL crude-3, Iron Ore (P), Ammonia, DAP, Iron Ore (F)- 7, Crude Soya, LPG, Cr. Palm Oil).

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Port Conditions

Mormugao	29-05-2006	4 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Iron Ore, 3 vessels discharging (PFDA & CFS, P. Coke, S. Coal) , 3 vessels working at midstream and loading Iron Ore; 4 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (2 to discharge, 2 to load), 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 7 vessels due (Container, Coking Coal, Coal, Iron Ore-4).
Mumbai	29-05-2006	19 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Mach/Steel/Project, Bagged Sugar, steel coils, Steel Cargo, POL), 10 vessels discharging (Steel Cargo-2, Bagged Pulses/Logs-2, Salt, DAP, Steel Plates/ Coils, Steel Slabs/Plates, Rock Phosphate, Gypsum), 4 vessels loading and discharging (Container/Steel/General, Wood Pulp/Steel /Mach, Steel/General, Mach/Project); 3 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load), 2 vessels not ready to work at anchorage to discharge; 8 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 5 vessels under arrest; 15 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 31 vessels due (Contaners-7, Oil-2, General Cargo-22).
J.N.P.T.	29-05-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel discharging Naphtha, 6 vessels loading and discharging Containers ; 6 vessels (*) awaiting berth at anchorage (2 to discharge, 4 to load and discharge) ; 6 vessels due Containers.
Kandla	29-05-2006	15 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (St. Coil, Cement-2, Agri. Product-2, Bentonite, Sorghum/ Bajra), 7 vessels discharging (Other Liquid-3, Timber Logs-4), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers ; 1 vessel awaiting berth to load, 5 vessels not ready to work at anchorage (4 to load, 1 to discharge) ; 2 vessels under repair (1 Maintenance, Dredger).
Ennore	29-05-2006	1 vessel operating at berth discharging to Thermal Coal; 4 vessels due (MV Rani Padmini (Thermal Coal) , MV Apj Sri Devi (Thermal Coal), MT Jag Padma (POL Product), MV Gem of Ennore (Thermal Coal) .
Israel		
Ashdod	30-May-2006	No labour problems; Eight vessels loading at berth (3 general cargo, 5 bulk cargo), 11 discharging at berth (7 general cargo, 4 bulk cargo), 2 loading/discharging at berth (1 container, 1 tanker); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load containers, 3 waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 2 containers); 1 vessel awaiting orders; 18 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	30-May-2006	No labour problems; One car carrier loading/discharging at berth; 3 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	30-May-2006	No labour problems; Nine vessels loading at berth (5 general cargo, 4 bulk cargo), 12 discharging at berth (8 general cargo, 4 bulk cargo), 10 loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 3 car carriers, 1 tanker, 1 passenger vessel); 11 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (6 bulkers, 1 container, 4 tankers), 11 waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 4 bulk cargo, 6 tankers); 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	26-May-2006	Oil products: Four vessels loading crude oil at berth; 2 vessels in roads, both to load; 4 vessels due by 27/5, all to load.
Pakistan		
Karachi	29-May-2006	Three vessels loading rice at berth, 9 discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 chemicals 1 cement, 1 coal, 1 DAP, 2 sugar, 2 urea), 3 loading/discharging containers at berth; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load MOL, 1 waiting at anchorage to discharge sugar; 5 vessels due (3 containers, 1 fertiliser, 1 crude oil), with no delays expected.
Port Qasim	29-May-2006	One vessel loading rice at berth, 3 discharging at berth (2 sugar, 1 crude oil); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load containers, 3 waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 container, 1 palm oil, 1 HSD oil); QICT berth: no vessels.
Poland		
Gdansk	29-May-2006	Seven vessels in port operating of which 3 loading at berth (1 coal, 1 bulk cargo, 1 tanker), 4 discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 2 tankers, 1 grain); 11 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 19 vessels due.
Gdynia	29-May-2006	Seven vessels in port operating of which 3 loading at berth (1 coal, 2 general cargo), 4 discharging at berth (2 grain, 2 general cargo); 25 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 53 vessels due.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	29-May-2006	Seventeen vessels in port operating of which 10 loading (1 DRI, 1 cement, 1 pipes, 1 steel billets, 1 lead/pipes, 2 coils, 1 aluminium, 1 wheat 1 D/O), 5 discharging (1 coils, 2 bulk sugar, 1 citrus, 1 vegetable oil), 2 discharging/loading containers; 2 vessels in roads of which both to load (1 copper, 1 steel sheets/coils); 55 vessels due of which 50 to load, 3 to discharge (1 vegetable oil, 1 non-ferrous, metal, 1 coils), 2 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 3 tanker in berth loading crude; 3 tankers in roads, all to load crude; 6 tankers due, all to load (4 crude oil, 1 diesel oil, 1 fuel oil).

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Port Conditions

Spain

Bilbao	29-May-2006	Thirty-three vessels in port operating (9 tankers, 24 others), of which 8 loading, 16 discharging, 9 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	29-May-2006	Sixteen vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 steel coils, 2 bulk fertiliser), 13 discharging (11 steel products, 1 gas, 1 machinery); no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

Sri Lanka

Colombo	29-May-2006	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority berthing at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion; conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 & 2 are facing delays in navigation after commissioning of SAGT 1 & 2 berths (former QEQ 1 & 2). 7 container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 15 vessels discharging at berth (12 containers/feeders, 1 bagged fertiliser, 1 bagged maize, 1 bulk cement); 1 container/feeder vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 container/feeders, 2 bulk cement); 5 vessels dry-docked; 8 vessels due (7 containers/feeders, 1 bagged fertiliser), with no delays for general cargo, bagged cargo, containers/feeders expected.
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Turkmenistan

Okarem	26-May-2006	Oil products: Port open; 1 vessel due 26/5 to load crude oil.
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Ukraine

Illichevsk	29-May-2006	Ten vessels in port operating of which 7 loading (2 steel products, 1 wheat, 1 sunflower oil, 2 ore, 1 coal), 1 discharging ore, 2 discharging/loading containers; 2 vessels in roads, both to load sunflower oil; 14 vessels due of which 6 to load (5 steel products, 1 vegetable oil), 1 to discharge palm oil, 7 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	29-May-2006	Twelve vessels in port operating of which 10 loading (5 steel, 3 fire-clay, 1 wheat, 1 coal), 1 discharging equipment/containers, 1 discharging/loading feldspar/fire-clay; 14 vessels in roads of which 12 to load (6 steel, 2 coal, 2 fire-clay, 1 ammonium nitrate, 1 fertiliser), 1 to discharge equipment, 1 to discharge/load bauxite/steel billets; 38 vessels due of which 35 to load (18 steel, 11 coal, 5 fire-clay, 1 sunflower beans/husk), 2 to discharge (1 container, 1 equipment), 1 to discharge/load containers/fire-clay.
Odessa	29-May-2006	Seventeen vessels in port operating of which 5 loading (1 scrap, 1 metal, 1 coal, 1 pig iron, 1 timber), 9 discharging (2 baggage, 1 passenger vessel, 1 sugar, 1 bananas, 2 general cargo, 2 sand), 3 discharging/loading (2 containers, 1 scrap/general cargo); 6 vessels in roads of which 5 to load (2 metal, 1 oil, 1 ore, 1 wheat), 1 to discharge general cargo; 64 vessels due of which 30 to load (19 metal, 7 pig iron, 1 scrap, 1 general cargo, 1 car technics, 1 oil), 8 to discharge (3 metal, 1 bananas, 3 oil, 1 citrus), 26 to load/discharge containers.

USA

Beaumont	30-May-2006	No new restriction in draft (40 ft. 0 ins. FW max. channel draft reported); Louis Dreyfus terminal: 2-3 days delay expected.
Galveston	30-May-2006	Channel open under normal traffic. No new restriction in draft (normal 39 ft. 6 ins. BW max. channel draft reported - 40 ft. 0 ins. with ideal conditions). ADM-Farmland terminal: 2-3 days delay expected.
Houston	30-May-2006	Channel open under normal traffic. (Normal Max channel draft is 45 ft 0 ins. to Shell, 40 ft. 0 ins. above Shell to 610 Bridge area) LDC Dreyfus terminal: no delays expected; Cargill terminal: 2-3 days delay expected.
Kalama New Orleans	30-May-2006	Kalama export terminal: 3 days delay expected; United Harvest terminal: no delays expected. Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1-2 days delay expected. Cargill-Westwego: 1-2 days delay expected. ADM/Ama: 2-3 days delay expected. Bunge/Destrehan: 2 days delay expected. ADM/ Destrehan: 2-3 days delay expected. ADM/Reserve: 2-3 days delay expected. Cargill/Reserve: 1-2 days delay expected. ADM/Paulina: 2-3 days delay expected. Zen-Noh/Convent: 1-2 days delay expected. Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays expected. Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: no delays expected; Mile 158.0 Myrtle Grove Midstream terminal: 2 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: no delays expected. Five-day forecast for Carrollton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to increase to 4.5 ft. by 4/6/06

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Port Conditions

Portland	Columbia Grain terminal: 3 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: 2 days delay expected.
Seattle	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 1 day's delay expected.
Tacoma	Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Vancouver	Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected.

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