

Debate still rages over coastal state vessel monitoring

By Hugh O'Mahony- Friday May 12 2006

PROPOSALS driven by the US to grant coastal states jurisdiction over monitoring ships that do not call have moved forward at the International Maritime Organization, but the permitted range remains a matter for heated debate.

Despite resistance, a clear majority at the IMO's maritime safety committee has agreed that discussions on long range identification and tracking capability should include coastal as well as flag and port states.

The US said the LRIT paper it had submitted to last year's MSC, on which no progress was made, remained on the table.

Its representative said that subsequent papers, from Britain and as a draft performance standard from the sub-committee on radio communication and search and rescue, had covered many of its proposals by other means.

However, he reminded the committee that the US still desired a firm commitment on the rights of coastal states to monitor vessels.

The US proposed LRIT being applied to vessels 2,000 miles from shore. While it still preferred this distance, the US delegate said the administration was willing to accept a 1,200 mile range, as proposed by Norway.

Brazil, meanwhile, proposed that LRIT jurisdiction should include coastal states but not be applied beyond 200 miles, arguing that the distance accorded with the limit on international jurisdiction laid down in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The Greek delegation initially objected to the inclusion of coastal state jurisdiction in the LRIT outright on the same grounds, but its delegate later said the administration was willing to "examine" the concept.

Sovereignty

Venezuela took a harder line, with its representative arguing that the sovereignty of nations, which coastal state jurisdiction would compromise, was "non-negotiable".

China, meanwhile, said that any agreement on LRIT had to conform with international law, particularly UNCLOS, and should respect the jurisdiction of flag states over their own fleets.

China's desire that a consensus on LRIT was reached in the present session led it to advise that the coastal states discussion should be set aside for the moment.

However, more delegations backed the idea that the coming working group on security should include coastal state jurisdiction.

Notably, Denmark argued that LRIT could play a profound role as a search and rescue tool over and above its security function.

Norway argued that, if the rights of coastal states were not recognised explicitly, the purpose of LRIT could not be fulfilled.

Its delegate also asserted that there was no violation of international law in extending the range beyond 200 miles because the tracking of ships was hitherto unregulated altogether.

Envisaged

He pointed out that, if the minimum LRIT reporting period envisaged was every six hours, a high speed vessel could travel 150 nautical miles in that time — a fact that must be taken into account when range was discussed.

Committee chairman Igor Ponomarev concluded that the committee had at least agreed to include the rights of coastal states in the discussion of the working group, noting that, despite the "variety of philosophies", there was a willingness to resolve the issue at the present meeting.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>ALEXANDROS T.</i>	bulker	VCT	LR	91,164	171,875	1989	Flooded, listed, broke in two and sank in lat 37 36.96S, long 29 55.62E, May 3. Six crew rescued by <i>CSE Fortune Express</i> . Twenty-seven crew missing.
<i>BALMUNG</i>	general	ATG	BV	2,326	2,752	1991	Reported May 4 in lat 52 50.5N, long 01 39.3E, drifting 157 deg at 1.4 knots due total engine failure. Awaiting tug.
<i>BRO TRANSPORTER</i>	chem tanker	SWE	LR	7,973	14,316	1989	Lost all power and anchored off Rosyth Apr 30. Reported May 4 under tow of four tugs to anchorage A4, off Aberlady. Repairs ETC eight weeks.
<i>ERROL M.</i>	tug	TTO	—	172	154	1982	Struck the jetty at Pointe a Pierre refinery May 3. Wharf sustained infrastructure damage.
<i>HARDINGEN</i>	ro-ro	NOR	NV	2,631	100	1993	Grounded near the quay at Utne Apr 27. Minor damage sustained and proceeded to Kvanndal after inspection.
<i>HISTRIA SUN</i>	bulker	PAN	RM	33,541	55,111	1979	Grounded at Km 290, Parana River May 3. Obstructing channel. Trying to refloat by own means. Tugs not requested so far.
<i>HYBUR STAR</i>	refrig	PAN	BV	1,126	1,577	1962	Contacted the sea wall at Miami May 2. Part of bow ripped off and taking water. Salvage assessment underway. Moved to a river terminal for investigation.
<i>JIAN HUA</i>	bulker	HKG	CS	11,280	18,754	1976	Ran aground off Okinawa Prefecture Apr 29. Refloated by a towing vessel. No injuries or leakage.
<i>JOHN N.</i>	fishing	USA	—	157	—	1989	Had fire while in drydock at Dorchester Shipyard, New Jersey, May 3. Eleven fire crews fighting the blaze.
<i>MARIAM EXPRESS</i>	ro-ro	PAN	BV	3,348	1,600	1978	Sank in heavy winds off the coast of Dubai May 2. Reported to have been overloaded. Wreck located in lat 25 28.87N, long 55 07.54E.
<i>OYANGHO-2</i>	trawler	KOR	KR	3,210	3,742	1972	Fire in fish hold and sank in lat 35 45N, long 171 32E, Apr 28. Crew rescued.
<i>POTENGI</i>	product	BRA	LR	35,845	55,067	1991	Grounded at Km 340, River Parana, Apr 27. Refloated by own means Apr 28. Anchored at San Nicolas roads for inspection. Proceeded with no damages reported.
<i>SHALA</i>	general	RUS	RS	2,829	3,220	1986	Hull torn open by ice floe in Baltic Apr 27. Leakage of water. Towed back to St. Petersburg.
<i>SUVA</i>	crude oil tanker	PAN	LR	153,322	279,984	1993	Explosion in cargo tank in lat 06 00.8N, long 96 42.9E, Apr 30. Proceeded to Penang, arriving May 1. Sailed May 2. Inspection revealed no damage to cargo tank structure or fittings.
<i>VENTSPILS</i>	product tanker	RUS	RS	5,154	6,297	1983	Ran aground in lat 58 07.96N, long 150 41.25E, May 1. Refloated at high water May 2 and to be towed to Vladivostok after temporary repairs.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AGELESS (Panama)

London, May 2 — Understand bulk *Ageless* (40494 gt, built 2004) sustained main engine air cooler damage in Suez Canal. Vessel anchored and was subsequently towed to Port Said for repairs. (Note — *Ageless* entered Suez Canal, northbound, Apr 29.)

Port Said, May 4 — While bulk *Ageless* was transiting the Suez Canal on Apr 29 she sustained main engine trouble at km 160 in the Canal. S.C.A tugs towed the vessel back to Suez inner harbour to effect the necessary repairs. The vessel is still at Suez. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALEXANDROS T. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Cape Town, May 3 — Understand bulk *Alexandros T.* (91164 gt, built 1989), South America for China, laden with iron ore, has had ingress of water into one or two cargo compartments and is now heading for Cape Town in order to conduct further inspections. Further understand the vessel is expected at Cape Town in about two days. As is normal practice in these matters, the SA Maritime Safety Authority will probably wish to conduct an inspection of the vessel while a considerable distance off-shore in order to evaluate whether it will be permitted closer to the coastline. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Alexandros T.* sailed Ponta da Madeira Apr 14.)

London, May 4 — A press report, dated May 3, states: Bulk *Alexandros T.* was breaking up off the Eastern Cape coast on Wednesday night (May 3) and the crew had abandoned ship, the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) said. "It has been confirmed that all 33 crew on board the *Alexandros T.* have abandoned ship using life rafts, and bulk *CSE Fortune Express* is preparing to pick up the crew. *Alexandros T.*, reported to be sailing from Brazil to China, has broken up and is sinking. Sea conditions are 4-to-5-metre swells with 45 knot winds," said Mark Hellenberg, a search and rescue co-ordinator at the NSRI. Late on Wednesday afternoon the *Alexandros T.* sent out a distress call, reporting that it was and taking in water "from unconfirmed reasons" over 300 nautical miles off Port Alfred on the Eastern Cape coast. The Maritime Rescue Co-Ordination Centre and the National Ports Authority were co-ordinating a joint rescue operation and the Salvage vessel *Smit Amandla* was dispatched. The nearest vessels to the scene responded to the distress call. A helicopter rescue team and an air force C-130 fixed wing aircraft were on alert, Lambinon said.

London, May 4 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0345, UTC: Bulk *Alexandros T.*, Brazil for China, loaded with minerals, 33 crew on board, flooded, listed, broke in two and sank in lat 37 36.96S, long 29 55.62E at about 1930, UTC, yesterday. Six of the crew rescued by bulk *CSE Fortune Express*. Search underway for remaining crew members.

Cape Town, May 4 — Smit Marine confirmed last night that they had been awarded LOF and salvage tug *Smit Amandla* proceeded to bulk *Alexandros T.* At that time it was reported that three or four holds had taken water and that she was starting to list heavily. Media reports this morning state that she has now sunk some 300 nautical miles off Port Alfred on the Eastern Cape coast. Although some crew have been rescued, a search and rescue operation is still ongoing for the missing crew members stated to be 33 in total. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 4 — Following received from Overseas Marine Enterprises Inc, managers of bulk *Alexandros T.*: Yesterday, while on laden passage from Brazil to China, capesize *Alexandros T.*, sustained water ingress and critical flooding in a number of cargo holds. The managers contracted salvors but the vessel's situation deteriorated rapidly. Lying 300 miles off Port Elizabeth, South Africa, well beyond the range of rescue helicopters, the master ordered the evacuation of the vessel. Shipping in the area having been alerted, a nearby vessel, bulk *CSE Fortune Express*, made contact with *Alexandros T.* and reported her sinking at 1752, GMT, May 3. It is understood that *CSE Fortune Express* has rescued six crew, five Filipino and one Romanian and continues to search for the remaining twenty-seven crew under the co-ordination of MRCC Cape Town. South African aircraft are also searching the area for survivors. The managers are either in close contact with or are trying to contact all the families of the crew. The nationalities of the crew are Greek (four), Filipino (24), Romanian (four) and Ukrainian (one).

London, May 4 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1026, UTC: Bulk *Alexandros T.*: Seven of the crew rescued. Search still under way for remaining crew members.

ALFASHIP (Bahamas)

London, May 4 — A press report, dated May 3, states: Crude oil tanker *Alfaship* that environmentalists say is "toxic" and was due to be dismantled in Bangladesh has been banned from entering its territorial waters by the Dhaka High Court, lawyers said. *Alfaship*, which arrived Chittagong outer anchorage, is one of 50 ships on a "watchlist" of vessels being monitored by Greenpeace. The High Court issued the ruling today after the Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (BELA) challenged the legality of the vessel's entry into the

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country's waters. "The bench banned the ship from making any further move into Bangladeshi territorial waters for two months," BELA Executive director Rizwana Hassan said. . Greek-managed LSP Tanker Corporation which owns the ship said today that standard industry "decontamination" procedures had been carried out before the vessel left port in Greece. "Prior to commencing her final voyage, the *Alfaship* was made gas free and emptied of oil cargo residues," company spokesman Nicholas Brown said in a statement. The company said it would continue to cooperate fully with the Bangladeshi authorities to ensure it met all its requirements. The High Court ban follows a temporary order last week by the Bangladesh government's Mercantile Marine department refusing permission for the oil tanker to be scrapped. "The entry of *Alfaship* is illegal because it's a toxic ship," Hassan said earlier, without elaborating. The Bangladesh government has not given any detailed reasons for refusing permission for the vessel to be scrapped.

ALGOISLE (Canada)

London, Apr 28 — Bulk *Algoisle* arrived Sorel Apr 12 and sailed Apr 13.

ALGOVILLE (Canada)

London, May 1 — Bulk *Algoville* (18700 gt, built 1967) sustained main engine failure while downbound on Lake Huron in lat 44 41N, long 82 45.22W, 0400, Apr 30. Vessel went to anchor for repairs.

London, May 1 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1900, UTC: *Algoville* is proceeding to Goderich under tow.

Troy, Michigan, May 2 — Bulk *Algoville* entered Goderich harbour at approximately 1500 hrs, yesterday, but not under its own power. After developing engine problems in the mid Lake Huron area, it sent out a call for Malcolm Marines tug *Manitou* out of Port Huron. With *Manitou* riding its shoulder coming into port, MacDonald Marine tugs *Dover*, *Debbie Lynn* and *Donald Bert* provided additional assistance. *Algoville* is expected to be laying on the elevator dock for seven to 10 days undergoing repairs. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News.

AQUAMARIN (Netherlands)

London, May 4 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: Inland waterways tanker *Aquamarin* (2338 dwt, built 1990) caught fire at the Triton Yard, Duisburg, at 1755, yesterday. The fire spread from the cabin in the foreship to the bow thruster room. The fire fighters from Duisburg successfully tackled the flames within a short time. The police of Duisburg started investigations on the accident.

ASIAN VENUS (South Korea)

London, Apr 28 — General cargo *Asian Venus* arrived Wakamatsu Apr 26.

London, May 2 — General cargo *Asian Venus* sailed Wakamatsu Apr 27.

ASTRA (Lithuania)

See c.c. *Macarena B*.

BALMUNG (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 4 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 1030, UTC, today: General cargo *Balmung* (2326 gt, built 1991), Goole for Rotterdam, in ballast, in lat 52 50.5N, long 01 39.3E, at 1016, UTC, drifting 157 deg at 1.4 knots due total engine failure. Can not effect repairs from ship's stores; awaiting tug ordered by agent. Hourly checks with vessel. (Note — According to LMIU AIS, *Balmung* was reported in lat 53 36 16.5N, long 00 04 22.92W, at 0210, UTC.)

London, May 4 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 1243, UTC, today: General cargo *Balmung* is currently anchored in lat 52 46.2N, long 01 41.9E. Local agent has confirmed that vessels owners have ordered a tug and tug *Gray Test* is due on scene at 2000 hrs. Coastguard is maintaining communications check with the vessel every two hours.

BATUR V (Turkey)

Honolulu, May 3 — Bulk *Batur V* departed Honolulu, Apr 26, for Houston. — Lloyd's Agents.

BERMUDA ISLANDER (Netherlands)

See "Delaware Bay, United States" under "Pollution."

BITLAND (Sweden)

Dover, May 2 — Repairs to asphalt tanker *Bitland* were completed Apr 30 and the vessel sailed at 1639 same day for Brunsbittel. — Lloyd's Agents.

BRO TRANSPORTER (Sweden)

London, May 4 — Following received from Forth Navigation Service, timed 0735, UTC: Chem.tank *Bro Transporter* (7973 gt, built 1989) reported having lost all power at 1916, UTC, Apr 30. Vessel dropped anchor off Rosyth and reported in no danger. One tug was in attendance and another reported en route to assist. At 0430, UTC today the vessel was being towed from Rosyth to anchorage A4, off Aberlady, by four tugs where due to arrive shortly and where a ship-to-ship transfer of cargo will take place. Understand repairs could take up to eight weeks. (Note — *Bro Transporter* sailed Grangemouth at 1705 hrs, Apr 30 for London.)

BRP-SA-58 (Bulgaria)

Belgrade, May 4 — Barge *BRP-SA-58*: Situation remains unchanged. — Lloyd's Agents.

CANDY STORE (U.S.A.)

London, Apr 28 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1400, UTC: Crewboat *Candy Store* has been refloated and is now in dry dock at Corpus Christi.

CAROL M (U.S.A.)

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Firefighters had their hands full in fighting a fire on fishing *Carol M* (43 gt, built 1926) this morning off Richmond Beach, just south of Edmonds. The Coast Guard says the 56-foot commercial fishing vessel, based out of Fisherman's Terminal in Seattle, had its wooden hull catch fire around 0900 hrs. Six people were on the vessel when the fire broke out. The Coast Guard and Seattle fire vessel *Chief Sealth* responded, as did a vessel from King County and put the fire out about three hours later. There were no injuries. The *Carol M* apparently can be salvaged and was being towed back to Fishermen's Terminal in Seattle.

CASSIOPE (Cambodia)

Mariupol, Apr 27 — According to information from the port of Eyisk, Russia, general cargo *Cassiope* refloated at the end of February and, after a small repair at the port of Eyisk, has sailed for Istanbul. — Lloyd's Agents.

CHEMICAL SPRINTER (Malta)

London, May 2 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 0430, UTC: Chem.tank *Chemical Sprinter* (3533 gt, built 1988), Rotterdam for Gebze, 4519 tonnes chemical liquid in bulk, IMO 3/IFO 180, reported engine failure in lat 49 42.1N, long 03 47.4W, 32 nautical miles from Start Point, course 290 deg at 1 knot. (Note — *Chemical Sprinter* sailed Rotterdam 2130, Apr 30, for Gebze.)

London, May 2 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 0812, UTC: Chem.tank *Chemical Sprinter* was in lat 49 45.4N, long 03 46.9W, at 0730, UTC, 30 miles SSE from Start Point, drifting at 1.3 knots with engine failure which being investigated. Coast Guard tug *Anglia Princess* tasked at 0800, UTC.

London, May 2 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 0947, UTC: Chem.tank *Chemical Sprinter* has been instructed by its owners to proceed to Plymouth under its own power for further technical investigation. QHM Plymouth to confirm whether the vessel will be allowed entry into port.

London, May 2 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 2126, UTC: Chem.tank *Chemical Sprinter* alongside at Falmouth at 2101, UTC, for repairs.

Falmouth, May 3 — Chem.tank *Chemical Sprinter*, Rotterdam for Gebze, with engine problems, arrived at Queens Wharf, Falmouth on May 2, escorted by tug *Anglian Princess*, to effect repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

CLASINA (Netherlands)

London, Apr 29 — At about 1430, local time, Apr 28, the 20 metre long passenger *Clasina* (built 1914), owned by Piet Hetinga Saloncharters at Heeg in the province of Friesland, with 30 passengers, sustained damage

when the bridge at Osingahuizen, near the town of Sneek, came down when she was passing under it. The bridge keeper saw that the bridge had started to lower and pushed the emergency button to stop it, but without results. The skipper of *Clasina* reversed the engine to full astern, but could not avoid the bridge which hit her on the foredeck. The teakwood deck was damaged and broken, the railing was damaged and some damage to the galley was sustained. No passengers were hurt. On Monday the damage will be inspected by the insurers.

CRIMSON MARS (Singapore)

London, May 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Wood-chip *Crimson Mars* (40360 gt, built 2002), which ran aground in Tasmania's Tamar River yesterday, is being inspected by divers for any damage. However, Tasports says no pollution resulted from the incident, which happened as the vessel was leaving Bell Bay for Taiwan. Two tugs were sent to help *Crimson Mars* turn around and it returned to port under its own steam. The incident about mid-afternoon is being investigated. (Note — *Crimson Mars* sailed Kaohsiung Apr 12 and arrived Launceston Apr 27.)

Sydney, May 3 — Divers have inspected a woodchip carrier that ran aground in the Tamar River in northern Tasmania on Monday (May 1). Tasports said no pollution had resulted from the incident, involving the Singapore-registered wood-chip *Crimson Mars*, which was leaving Bell Bay, bound for Taiwan. Two tugs were sent to help the vessel turn around and it returned to port under its own steam. Maritime authorities are investigating the incident. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

EIDER (Hong Kong)

London, Apr 28 — Bulk *Eider* (22792 gt, built 2004) experienced steering gear trouble off Pointe au Pic, in lat 47 37 58N, long 70 09 00W, at 1450, EDST, Apr 27.

Montreal, Apr 29 — Bulk *Eider* was only delayed for a few hours and is in Quebec City, as of Apr 28. — Lloyd's Agents.

ELLIS S

London, May 1 — A press report, dated Apr 30, states: A fishing trawler which was sinking with 21 crew on board was safely towed to Port Elizabeth, National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) said today. At 0500, local time, on Sunday it was reported to the NSRI in Port Elizabeth that the 19 metre fishing *Ellis S* (74 gt) was sinking about 18 nautical miles from the port of Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape. Paul Killeen, the NSRI Port Elizabeth deputy station commander, said the boat was successfully towed by rescue craft *Spirit of Toft* at noon today. "With heavy weather closing in, the towing proved successful and the vessel and all her crew are safely in port with no damage reported," said

Killeen. NSRI Port Elizabeth volunteers were activated at 0500 hrs following the report from the 74 ton trawler, registered to the Port of St Francis, that it was taking water. "We launched our 10 metre deep-sea rescue craft *Spirit of Toft* and our seven metre rigid inflatable *Rescue 6 Alpha* immediately. "Sea conditions were 1.5 to 2 metre swells with a 10 knot easterly wind and showers," said Killeen. On arrival the NSRI crew were transferred to the "casualty vessel" to assess the damage and an extra water pump was put on-board to assist pumping water from the vessel. "The captain and crew had managed to stem the flow of water entering the vessel, he said. A National Port Authority tug boat was placed on alert to take over the tow if necessary. "The trawler was not damaged and the crew not injured," said Killeen.

EMPRESS OF THE NORTH (U.S.A.)

Portland OR, Apr 21 — Passenger ro/ro *Empress of the North* completed repairs and returned to regular service on Apr 13. — Lloyd's Agents.

ERROL M. (Trinidad & Tobago)

London, May 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A Petrotrin barge, half filled with bunker fuel, which was being berthed by tug *Errol M.* (172 gt, built 1982), struck a jetty at Petrotrin's Pointe a Pierre refinery around 0530 yesterday. Shaffick Hyatali, branch secretary of the Oilfield Workers Trade Union, said the accident caused infrastructure damage to the berth, including uprooted pipeworks, concrete pillars and tow lines. A company official however described the crash as a "non-incident". "The barge was about to be berthed at Berth 8 when it brushed the jetty. It was a non-incident. There were no damages," he said. Four Petrotrin employees and three contract workers were on duty when the incident happened. Hyatali said although there were no physical injuries, the workers were traumatised and were taken to the nearby Augustus Long Hospital where they were examined and allowed to leave. The incident caused a shutdown of the company's marine department and vessels remained on the port for several hours waiting to be loaded.

GIOVANNA (Russia)

London, May 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Chem.tank *Giovanna*, burnt on Apr 5 in Kaliningrad, has careened by 20 deg, thus, is in danger of turnover, a Regnum correspondent was informed today by a source at the regional directorate of the Emergency Ministry. According to the EM spokesman, appropriate services are struggling for tanker floatation. Considerable amount of diesel oil is still on board of the vessel, the source explained.

GIPSY MOTH IV (U.K.)

London, May 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Yacht *Gipsy Moth IV*, 54 foot, built 1966, the yacht

sailed around the world by Sir Francis Chichester, ran aground in the Pacific yesterday. Last night the six crew were rescued and safe after the 54ft yacht, which cost £300,000 to refurbish, was stranded on a tiny island near Tahiti. Antonia Nicholson, the skipper, her 24-year-old first mate and a 48-year-old female crew hand stayed with the boat and were waiting for a salvage team to arrive to determine the damage. Three teenagers who had been on board in a two-year charity mission to sail around the world in Sir Francis's boat were flown to Tahiti. The three were named only as Emmanuel, 16, and Kim, 18, both from Manchester and Charles, 16, from Cowes, on the Isle of Wight. They had been on board the yacht since April 14 and were part of dozens of youngsters taking part in the voyage, four decades after Sir Francis's single-handed sailing triumph, through the charity UK Sailing Academy. It was not known why the yacht ran aground - visibility was good and the sea was calm at the time. David Green, of the Isle of Wight-based charity, said Miss Nicholson, a 32-year-old professional sailor, had "considerable experience". He said: "The latest is that we have a local repair yard which is very confident that the boat can be brought to a safe place and repairs effected. Unfortunately, it's half a world away and I cannot tell the damage at this stage."

London, May 4 — A press report, dated May 3, states: Yacht *Gipsy Moth IV*: The situation, has recommended the vessel be lifted while repairs to make it watertight are conducted. A substantial 'skid' would also be constructed beneath the hull to prevent further damage while the yacht is moved to deep water. Captain Kleijwegt of SMIT Salvage will soon be on site to add the weight of his expertise to the safe recovery of *Gipsy Moth IV*. The French Navy has offered assistance by providing a relief tug to authorities in Tahiti, allowing a tug with 40 tonnes of pulling power to be dispatched from the Island. The tug is 15 hours steaming time away from Rangiroa Atoll and its arrival at the scene will be carefully coordinated to coincide with the completion of the preparatory works to the boat. When the time is right the vessel will be moved into deep water and a tow will be effected hopefully to take the boat to Tahiti for further repairs. Time continues to be a critical element in this rescue operation in preventing further damage to the hull. It is anticipated that attempts to move the vessel will begin in the next couple of days.

HANSA LUBECK (Netherlands)

London, May 2 — General cargo *Hansa Lubeck* sailed from Brest on Apr 30 and arrived Rotterdam, where she remains as of 1411, UTC, today, according to LMIU AIS.

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HARDINGEN (Norway)

London, Apr 27 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Hardingen* (2631 gt, built 1993) grounded near the quay at Utne at 0630, local time, today, while entering port. The vessel only sustained minor damage, and there were no injuries to the seven crew. Following an inspection, the vessel proceeded to Kvanndal.

HELSINKI (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 4 — General cargo *Helsinki*, Antwerp for Huelva, passed Cape Finisterre on May 2.

HISTRIA SUN (Panama)

Buenos Aires, May 3 — Bulk *Histria Sun* (33541 gt, built 1979) ran aground at km 290, Parana River, jurisdiction of San Pedro Coast Guard, at 0055 today. Vessel is obstructing navigation on principal canal, after having loaded 37,990 tonnes of by-products at Vicentin and terminal 6 berths, and having departed from San Lorenzo with a maximum draught of 10.30 metres. As result of the above, local coast guard presently allows vessels which draught does not exceed 23 ft to cross the secondary canal. Vessel is trying to refloat by its own means and so far no tug assistance required. — Lloyd's Agents.

HORIZON PRODUCER (U.S.A.)

San Juan, PR, May 3 — C.c. *Horizon Producer* (25644 gt, built 1974) sailed 1000, May 2, with cargo to Elizabethport and was forced to return to port at 0200, May 3, as a container loaded on board had a spillage of chemical material. The container was removed from the vessel and she is scheduled to sail at noon today. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 4 — A Coast Guard San Juan, PR, press release, dated May 3, states: The Coast Guard began investigating today a hazardous leak that took place on board c.c. *Horizon Producer* yesterday while it was en route to New Jersey from Puerto Rico. At approximately 1515 yesterday the Coast Guard received a report from the National Response Centre that approximately 30 gallons of an unknown liquid substance had leaked from a container on board *Horizon Producer*. Upon investigating the leak, 15 of the 30 crew members were exposed to the substance and reported suffering from respiratory and mucous membrane irritation. The vessel's master changed course to return to San Juan to off load the leaking container at the Puerto Nuevo pier, and have the affected crew members receive medical assistance. Coast Guard Response Teams from Sector San Juan deployed to the scene to investigate the source of the leak and monitor the completion of the clean-up process today. Upon visual inspection the Coast Guard will confirm the nature of the leaking substance. Emergency medical services at the scene transported five of the crew members to local hospitals

to receive medical care and provided first aid treatment to eight other crew members at the Puerto Nuevo pier. Four other crewmembers remained onboard the ship after receiving first aid on board. ENSCO Caribe Inc., an Environmental Response Company in Puerto Rico, was the contractor hired by Horizon Lines to conduct the clean-up of the hazardous liquid.

HYBUR STAR (Panama)

London, May 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Ref *Hybur Star* (1126 gt, built 1962) is taking on water at the Port of Miami after slamming into a sea wall this afternoon. A large chunk of the vessel's bow was ripped off in the accident as it exited the Miami River. Petty Officer Ryan Doss with the US Coast Guard said it hit the south side of Dodge Island, which is close to the Port of Miami. They are assessing how much water the vessel has taken on. "We are sending an investigation team out to determine the stability of the vessel and to determine what action is going to be taken next," Doss said. Port authorities are also assisting with salvage efforts, but port traffic is not being affected by the accident. Depending on the course of action they decide on, the port will coordinate with the Coast Guard and a commercial salvage company to help move the vessel to safety. No injuries have been reported in the incident.

London, May 3 — A press report, dated May 2, states: Ref *Hybur Star* was badly damaged yesterday when it slammed into a seawall leaving the Miami River on its way out to sea. The vessel, registered in Panama but owned by a company based on the Miami River, was left with a gaping hole in its hull. No one on board the vessel was injured. Crewmembers were able to shut down the vessel's compartment hatches to prevent it from sinking, but the vessel did take on some water. The Coast Guard said the vessel's bulkhead was designed to withstand just this type of collision. Coast Guard crewmembers and port officials were evaluating the damage, and Atlantis Marine Towing Company was on scene to assist. Officials said that it is likely that the company that owns the vessel will have to offload its cargo of frozen chickens onto another vessel. The *Hybur Star* was bound for Haiti when the accident happened.

Miami, May 3 — Ref *Hybur Star* hit the sea wall while leaving Miami River for Haiti yesterday. She sustained extreme hull damage, but remained afloat and is currently tied to the dock at the Port of Miami. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 4 — A press report, dated May 3, states: Ref *Hybur Star*, damaged when it slammed into a seawall Tuesday afternoon (May 2), has been moved from the Port of Miami to its terminal on the Miami River for repairs, as the investigation continues into the accident which caused the damage. Coast Guard officials say they have questioned the crew and the pilot who was guiding

the vessel to sea from the Miami River, but still have no solid information about what may have caused the accident. Investigators will look at the vessel's safety records, how fast it was going, and other factors beyond the control of the crew that might have contributed to the accident. No injuries were reported in the incident.

HYUNDAI FORTUNE (Panama)

London, Apr 28 — A SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage BV report, dated today, states: At 0915, local time, today, the convoy including c.c. *Hyundai Fortune* anchored offshore the Oman coast and in Oman territorial waters just south of the U.A.E port of Fujahrah. The casualty was towed by SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage partners' tug *Mahanuwara* with a SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage towmaster in command of the transport. A fire fighting tug escorted the tow and was used by the salvage team for boarding and control purposes during the voyage.

Sydney, May 1 — Melbourne-based Associated Marine Insurers has warned that the costly cargo losses resulting from the recent c.c. *Hyundai Fortune* fire may be greatly exceeded in the future when container vessels of 10,000 teu capacity become common. AMI managing director Adrian Norman speculated that the *Hyundai Fortune* event may be the largest single containerised cargo loss in history and it would ultimately impact on global cargo and hull insurance rates. Market sources estimate that with more than 7,000 bills of lading to review, cargo shippers, shipping and insurance entities may have to wait several years to know the final financial impact on them. Preliminary estimates of the total loss to underwriters, ship, container and cargo interests range as high as US\$400m. The incident also brought the spotlight again onto an emerging major issue for cargo shippers and insurers, Mr Norman said. The *Hyundai Fortune* was a relatively new generation post panamax carrier of more than 5,000 teu capacity. However, the trend now to larger and larger container carriers will soon see vessels of 10,000 teu being common, where it may be possible for single voyage insurable interests to exceed US\$500m. Australian cargo interests have reported that they have been caught up in the fall-out from the disaster, which destroyed most of the containers in the aft section of the vessel. Mr Norman said that as the vessel's cargo derived from multiple feeder ships and original ports of shipping before consolidation, cargo interests in many countries might be affected. "As a general average has been declared, investigators will seek to clear the ship of any negligent action or issues related to seaworthiness," he said. "Cargo interests whose goods survive will be required to lodge general average guarantees to release their goods and

may ultimately have to contribute a significant portion of the general average findings." Mr Norman said that salvage security would also have to be lodged and the salvage award would be very substantial given the value at risk, the probability of loss and the difficulty involved in getting the vessel to a safe port. Mr Norman said compounding the concentration of cargo risk was the concurrent trend towards smaller numbers of larger "hub" ports for consolidation or cargoes for key routes. "Australia does not have a hub port," he said. "Our largest container facility in Melbourne handles some 2m teu per annum, whereas Hong Kong for example handles 10 times that number. Again, accumulation issues will arise more frequently. "The likely complexity of the settlement highlights again the advantages to cargo interests of insuring their goods whether they be imports or exports with a local insurer." Mr Norman said that this was unlikely to be a one-off disaster. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

INGER (Netherlands)

St. Petersburg, May 4 — General cargo *Inger* is currently repairing at the Krasnaya Kuznitsa shipyard. Expected to sail May 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

IRAN ILAM (Iran)

London, May 3 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: C.c. *Iran Ilam* (27681 gt, built 2004), departed from Marsaxlokk Harbour, Apr 27 and had a fire in a container which was quickly extinguished while the vessel was lying off Malta. After extinguishing the fire, the vessel waited offshore to enter the port again to discharge damaged containers. Among these containers are a quantity of 700 ton Class 1 (Explosive Substances & objects) and class 7 (Radioactive objects). After offloading containers vessel departed for Misurata. (Note — *Iran Ilam* arrived and sailed Marsaxlokk Apr 28, according to LMIU AIS was in lat 35 57 32N, long 5 58 23.35W at 0819, May 3.)

ISMAIL PRINCE (Georgia)

London, Apr 28 — General cargo *Ismail Prince* sailed Algiers Apr 25.

JIAN HUA (Hong Kong)

London, Apr 29 — A Hong Kong-registered freighter ran aground off a south-western Okinawa Prefecture island today, local Japan Coast Guard officials said. None of its 27 crewmembers was injured and fuel oil has not leaked from the vessel. The Ishigaki Coast Guard Office has dispatched patrol boats to the scene. At around 0930 hrs, bulk *Jian Hua* (11280 gt, built 1976) ran aground about one kilometre north-east of a port on Taketomi Island, Coast Guard officials said. The vessel was on its way to Hong Kong from China via Ishigaki Port in Okinawa Prefecture. The accident occurred shortly after it

left Ishigaki Port. (Note — According to LMIU AIS: At 1403 hrs, Apr 28, *Jian Hua* was in lat 25 12. 27.67N, long 122 4 12.04E. Nearest port Shenao, 16.2 nautical miles. Speed 11.9 knots.)

Yokohama, May 1 — Reportedly bulk *Jian Hua* was refloated from the shallows by a towing vessel at 1040 hrs, Apr 29. No further information available. — Lloyd's Agents.

JINHAIDA-8 (China)

London, May 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Eight sailors were saved and one was still missing after general cargo *Jinhaida-8*, registered in Fuzhou, Nanjing for Jiangsu, capsized early this morning after colliding with vessel *Zhedongji-139*, registered in Wenzhou, Qinzhou for Jiaojiang, off the coast of East China's Fujian Province at approximately 0520 hrs, said the local maritime bureau. The accident occurred near Jiangjun'ao of Zhangpu County. Xiamen maritime rescue centre received the accident's report at 0600 hrs which said the sailors had jumped into sea waters after the ship capsized. The centre then joined in the rescue operation launched by East China Sea Rescue Base which had sent a rescue ship and a helicopter to the spot. Eight sailors were saved while one is still missing by this evening. Investigation into the cause of the accident is underway.

JOHN N. (U.S.A.)

London, May 4 — A press report, dated May 3, states: A fire of unknown origin broke out today on a fishing boat in dry dock, injuring two welders who were effecting repairs, authorities said. Firefighters from 11 companies spent all day battling the blaze on board fishing *John N.* (157 gt, built 1989), a 100-foot vessel docked at the Dorchester Shipyard, New Jersey, when the fire started at about 1042, local time, according to Glenn Nickerson, a spokesman for Cumberland County government. They were still on the scene at 1800. The fire centred around the vessel's hull, he said. The two welders, whose names weren't released, were taken to South Jersey Healthcare Regional Medical Centre in Vineland. Their condition was not immediately clear.

London, May 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Two men were injured when fishing *John N.*, being welded while in drydock at Dorchester Shipyard, New Jersey, caught fire yesterday morning. The fire reportedly started at about 1042 hrs, when sparks ignited a fire under the cabin within the ship's hull. The fire at one point was thought to be under control but reignited. The blaze was visible from the Mauricetown bridge. Eleven units responded to the fire from Cumberland and Cape May counties. They included Leesburg, Heislerville, Mauricetown, Port Norris, Millville and South Vineland among others. State police, marine police and the U.S. Coast Guard also were involved. By late afternoon,

there was a plan to breach the hull of the vessel to release water which had accumulated. A Coast Guard unit from Sector Delaware Bay, out of Philadelphia, was dispatched to the scene but officer Robert Fitzpatrick reported last night that when the vessel arrived at Dorchester it found containment was already in place. The last of the fire apparatus cleared the scene about 2015 hrs but fire investigators remained on the scene at 2130 hrs.

JONRIX (U.K.)

London, May 3 — According to LMIU AIS, general cargo *Jonrix* was located in lat 51 58 18.9N, long 04 07 51.4'E, at 1537, UTC, May 3, proceeding at 10 knots on a course of 302 deg.

LINDA MARIJKE (Netherlands)

See *Toyvo Vyakhya*.

LNG ABUJA (Bahamas)

Cadiz, May 2 — Lng *LNG Abuja* has been anchored at Cadiz Bay since last Monday, Apr 17 and sailed to the Navantia Shipyards at Cadiz, today, where she will be under repairs for ten to twelve days. — Lloyd's Agents.

LONG HAI (Panama)

Colombo, May 4 — Bulk *Long Hai* is still in the same position and the tug has been released. Vessel's agents have indicated that the necessary repairs will be carried out by a Singapore company while it is at anchorage. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAASSTROOM (Netherlands)

London, Apr 28 — Information received from Kiel, dated today: C.c. *Maasstroom* (7713 gt, built 2004) had a short circuit in the coolage water circulation control shortly after leaving the Kiel locks of Kiel Canal bound for Hamburg, Apr 27. The Wartsila-diesel failed as a consequence, and the vessel struck first some pilings and then ran aground at the 'Friedrich Voss-Ufer' at 0645 hrs. After the crew repaired the failure, the machine was restarted and the vessel came free at 0812 hrs. It was then inspected by the German Lloyd and resumed its voyage in the afternoon.

London, Apr 28 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states C.c. *Maasstroom* berthed in the North harbour of Kiel after the grounding and was boarded by police there. Its bow region was inspected by divers then. At 1330 hrs it left towards Brunsbuttel.

MACARENA B (Canary Islands)

Las Palmas, May 2 — C.c. *Macarena B* and ref *Astra*, in collision off Las Palmas: *Macarena B* is still at Astican shipyard. *Astra* was berthed at the Muelle de Cambulloneros for temporary repairs. The vessel arrived Apr 24 and sailed Apr 27 for Lagos. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARGARA (Cayman Islands)

London, Apr 27 — A Coast Guard Miami press release, dated today,

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

states: The Coast Guard is responding to product tanker *Margara* that ran aground three miles south of Tallaboa, PR, at 0115, local time, today, while en route Tallaboa from Cartagena, Colombia. Marine inspectors and investigators from Coast Guard Resident Inspection Office Ponce, Puerto Rico, and Coast Guard Sector San Juan, Puerto Rico, are on scene with the tanker which is reported to be carrying a cargo of 308,809 barrels of crude oil. Once there, the marine inspectors and investigators will inspect the vessel for signs of damage, determine if there has been a discharge of oil and begin an investigation to determine the causes of the accident. At this time, there are no reports or signs of pollution associated with the grounding. There are no reports of any injuries to the vessel's 28-member crew. The Coast Guard received the report of the grounding via VHF radio from the assist tug *Rosario P.* The cause of the grounding is under investigation.

London, Apr 27 — Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1752, UTC: Product tanker *Margara* is still aground and a survey is currently in progress.

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated 2100, Apr 27, states: Product tanker *Margara* grounded in southwestern Puerto Rico, today, on its forward starboard side, as it waited to transfer its oil cargo, the Coast Guard said. No injuries or leaks were reported. The *Margara* ran aground on a reef about three miles south of Tallaboa, Puerto Rico. Coast Guard officials had hoped a high tide in the morning would free the tanker from the reef, but that did not happen. The Coast Guard said it was hoped the crew would start transferring the oil to barges tomorrow.

London, Apr 28 — Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 0800, UTC: Product tanker *Margara* refloated about three hours ago. Vessel is about five miles out at sea. Diving inspections taking place.

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard says a larger than expected high tide this morning refloated product tanker *Margara*. A Coast Guard spokesman says tests continue but there's no indication of a leak. There are no reported injuries.

London, Apr 28 — A Coast Guard San Juan, PR, press release, timed 0919, EST, today, states: Product tanker *Margara* successfully refloated during high tide at 0026 today and is currently in deep water holding position five nautical miles off Guayanilla Bay, Puerto Rico. Marine inspectors and Coast Guard investigators from Sector San Juan and the Resident Inspection Office Ponce, Puerto Rico, are conducting soundings of the vessel's tanks every two hours to determine if there has been a discharge of oil. At this time, there are no reports or signs of pollution associated with the grounding. At the time *Margara* was

refloated a marine pilot was on board, and the vessel was operating under its own propulsion with the assistance of three local tugs. A thorough underwater hull integrity assessment is being conducted on *Margara* to determine if the vessel is seaworthy to continue operations by the U.S. Coast Guard and is allowed to enter Guayanilla Bay. "We will continue to work with the responsible party and all key responders from federal, local government, and the private sectors to assure that the vessel is seaworthy and not leaking oil before we allow it to enter Guayanilla Bay," said James Tunstall, Federal On Scene Coordinator, U.S. Coast Guard. "At this time it is necessary that we continue to take all the necessary precautions to protect the integrity and beauty of the Guayanilla Bay." An investigation has been initiated by the Coast Guard to determine the causes of the accident.

MARIAM EXPRESS (Panama)

London, May 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Mariam Express* (3348 gt, built 1978) sank off the coast of Dubai yesterday but coast guards of the United Arab Emirates rescued its 14 crew members. A source said today that the US\$ 700,000-*Mariam Express*- sank due to heavy winds. The source added that the ship, owned privately, works on the UAE-Iraq route, adding that another cause for its sinking was due to being overloaded. (Note — According to LMIU AIS *Mariam Express* was in lat 25 27 50.9N, long 55 07 16.24E, at 2023, yesterday, speed 0.8 knots, course 234.5 degrees.)

London, May 3 — Dangerous wreck warning: Dangerous wreck of ro/ro *Mariam Express* located in lat 25 28.87N, long 55 07.54E. Mariners are requested to navigate with extreme caution at all times in the area.

MATSUKAZE (Panama)

London, May 4 — Chemical/oil carrier *Matsukaze* arrived at Busan on Apr 26. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAUNAKEA (Liberia)

London, May 1 — Eastwind Shipmanagement PTE LTD, Singapore, technical managers of the ref *Maunakea* (5320 gt, built 1983), south-west Atlantic to Busan, cargo frozen squid, report that the vessel had an engine-room fire which spread to the vessel's main accommodation area while off the coast of Sumatra. The fire was extinguished and there were no injuries to the crew and no pollution. Tug/supply *Smit-Lloyd 28* is on scene and is expected to tow *Maunakea* to the port of Penang. Eastwind Shipmanagement has notified all the necessary authorities and will conduct a thorough investigation into the cause of the fire.

London, May 2 — Understand salvage services are being rendered to ref *Maunakea* by tug/supply *Smit-Lloyd 28* under Lloyd's Open Form.

London, May 3 — Ref *Maunakea* is currently under tow by the salvage tug *Smit-Lloyd 28* destined for the Port of Penang.

MELEK N. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Ponta Delgada, Apr 28 — Following successful sea trials, general cargo *Melek N.* sailed Ponta Delgada at 1530, Apr 28, bound for Istanbul. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Apr 28.)

MIRABELLE (Malta)

London, May 4 — General cargo *Mirabelle* arrived at Piraeus on Apr 28.

Piraeus, May 3 — General cargo *Mirabelle* arrived Piraeus port Apr 28 and remains in port. Reportedly repairs have not commenced yet. ETD unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

MIRIAM (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 4 — General cargo *Miriam* sailed from Barranquilla on Apr 29.

MISSISSAGI (Canada)

London, Apr 28 — Bulk *Mississagi* arrived and sailed Muskegon Apr 2.

NEDLLOYD DE LIEFDE (Liberia)

Balboa, May 2 — C.c. *Nedlloyd De Liefde* is now expected to complete repairs towards the middle of this month. — Lloyd's Agents.

NEW DELHI EXPRESS (Hong Kong)

London, May 2 — According to LMIU AIS, c.c. *New Delhi Express* was berthed near New York, in lat 40 39 44.89N, long 74 04 14.89W, at 1429, UTC, May 2.

NINA 1 (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, May 3 — General cargo *Nina 1*, Liepaja for Rotterdam, passed Brunsbuttel May 1.

OCEAN PEACE (South Korea)

See "Australia" under "Port State Control".

OTTON (Panama)

Bilbao, May 2 — Firefighting tug *Otton* is still under repair at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

OYANGHO-2 (South Korea)

London, Apr 28 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 2054, UTC: Trawler *Oyangho-2* (3210 gt, built 1972) had a fire in the fish hold, and subsequently sank in lat 35 45N, long 171 32E, at 1440, UTC, Apr 28. The crew abandoned the vessel and were safely picked up by trawler *Oryong No.503*.

POTENGI (Brazil)

Buenos Aires, May 2 — Our agents in San Nicolas report that product tanker *Potengi* (35845 gt, built 1991) grounded in way of KM 340, River Parana, at 2135, local time, Apr 27 and refloated by own means at 2240, local time. At 0001, local time, Apr 28 the vessel anchored at San Nicolas

roads for inspection. At 1836 hrs it commenced navigation from San Nicolas roads towards the port of San Lorenzo with no damages reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

PRIDE OF HAWAII (U.S.A.)

London, Apr 29 — Passenger *Pride of Hawaii* arrived at Baltimore on Apr 27.

PRIVATIM (Netherlands)

London, Apr 29 — At last the 73 metres long and 8.20 metre wide general cargo *Privatim* has been raised, after she sank on Jan 25 near the entrance of Eemshaven, in the River Ems. After her cargo had been removed at the end of March, salvage operations have been delayed by the bad weather. On Apr 25 the floating sheerleg crane *Atlas* from a salvage company at Sliedrecht arrived in the Eemshaven and commenced salvage operations. On Thursday (Apr 27) evening the first part of *Privatim*, which had been cut in two, was raised and the second part of the vessel was salvaged the next day. The two parts will be scrapped.

QUEEN OF THE NORTH (Canada)

London, May 3 — A press report, dated Apr 29, states: BC Ferries could pocket more than \$2.5 million for trips it won't be making this summer in the wake of the passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North* disaster. Shortly after the ferry sank at the end of March, BC Ferries called the incident a "force majeure" or an act of God. This conclusion was also approved by the B.C. ferries commissioner and provincial minister of transportation. As a result, under the Coastal Ferry Services Contract with the province, BC Ferries continues to receive its service fee from the province for the runs it did not provide until May 18. If the commissioner agrees to extend that status, the company will also get paid for runs it won't be able to provide during the summer season. On Monday (Apr 24), BC Ferries announced it has so far been unable to find a replacement vessel for the *Queen of the North* in time for the summer season. Instead, it will use the smaller *Queen of Prince Rupert*, which will run on a less frequent schedule. Under the Coastal Ferry Services Contract, B.C. Ferries receives between \$42,669 and \$43,496 per round trip, depending on the route. The new schedule results in 63 missed trips, worth \$2.7 million in service fees. Meanwhile, a tiny B.C. coastal community is being honoured for its role in rescuing passengers from the stricken ferry. Hartley Bay villagers will receive the Governor-General's Commendation for Outstanding Service next Wednesday. With the help of Hartley Bay residents, 99 of 101 passengers and crew from the *Queen of the North* made it safely to land Mar 22 after the vessel plowed into Gil Island and sank about 135 kilometres south of Prince Rupert.

RAJIV GANDHI (India)

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated Apr 26, states: Lt Cdr Yogesh Tripathi, the commanding officer of Naval missile corvette INS *Prahar* which sank off the Goa coast after a collision with SCI-owned c.c. *Rajiv Gandhi* last Friday (Apr 21), is under the scanner for indiscipline and dereliction of duty. Though investigations by the Board of Inquiry (BoI) ordered by Western Naval Command are still at a preliminary stage, it's learnt there's prima facie evidence that there may have been no command on the warship's bridge at the time of the collision, implying gross violation of set rules. Officially, the Navy has said that only exhaustive investigations will allow the BoI to draw conclusions into *Prahar's* sinking, as detailed provisions of international rules of the road will need to be invoked to pin-point the cause. For now, the Navy has rejected the SCI's unofficial opinion that the Naval ship did not follow navigational rules to avoid a collision in open sea. The Navy has also dismissed the idea that its navigational training needs to be revamped, and indicated that such incidents have happened with other Navies as well. Though all 73 personnel on board the warship were rescued, its sinking has caused concern in the Navy. Consider the following: *Prahar* was dragged for over 10 minutes by *Rajiv Gandhi* before the collision was even noticed by the personnel on board the warship. There was no recorded malfunction of the ship's modified Russian Garpun BEL-E surface radar. This is principally why the BoI feels there was absence of command on the bridge. One of *Prahar's* missile tubes (it is equipped with P-20s and Strela-2Ms) got stuck in the merchant vessel's hull, which is why it was dragged. The merchant ship, moving at about 16 knots switched off its engines only after an officer from *Prahar*, who first noticed the collision, clambered onto *Rajiv Gandhi*, proceeded to the ship's bridge and informed them of what was happening below. Most officers and sailors on *Prahar* embarked the merchant vessel, while others got into lifeboats after which a search operation was initiated by six Naval vessels, two Coast Guard ships, passing merchant vessels, one Dornier-228 aircraft and two Chetak helicopters.

London May 3 — C.c. *Rajiv Gandhi* arrived at Singapore on May 1.

SANKO ROBUST (Liberia)

London, Apr 29 — Bulk *Sanko Robust* arrived at Bilbao on Apr 27.

London, May 2 — Tug *Barracuda* passed Flushing 1330, May 1 escorting bulk *Sanko Robust* to Antwerp. *Barracuda* escorted *Sanko Robust* from Suez to Cartagena then Bilbao for partial discharge of cargo. The remainder to cargo will be discharged at Antwerp. (Note — *Barracuda* arrived Antwerp 1800,

May 1 and according to LMIU AIS *Sanko Robust* was moored at Antwerp at 0858 today.)

London, May 3 — Bulk *Sanko Robust* arrived at Antwerp on May 1.

SARONIC BREEZE (Panama)

Busan, May 2 — Ref *Saronic Breeze* completed permanent repairs Apr 29 and sailed at 1040, Apr 30, from Yosu bound for Incheon and returned to normal services. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

SCH 2432 (Germany)

London, May 3 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Inland waterways pusherbarge *Sch 2432*, owned by the Deutsche Binnenreederei, Berlin-Neukolln for Riesa via the Elbe-Havel-Canal and the River Elbe, struck the lock of Kleinmachnow on the Teltowkanal at 1947, Apr 30. The pushbarge struck the lock without reducing speed. It looks like an electrical fault caused the accident. The gate of the lock was damaged.

SEBA M. (Lebanon)

London, Apr 29 — Bulk *Seba M.* arrived at Bourgas on Apr 26.

SEREEN (Netherlands)

London, Apr 29 — General cargo *Sereen* sailed from Brest on Apr 26 bound for Corunna.

SHALA (Russia)

London, May 2 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Shala* (2829 gt, built 1986), St. Petersburg for Newport, with 3,742 steel rolls, was torn open in the Baltic by an ice floe on Apr 27. The vessel sustained leakage through a 50x50 cm hole and had to be towed back to St. Petersburg by ice breaker *Ivan Kruzenshtern* after sending out a mayday.

SPEEDRUNNER 1 (U.K.)

Piraeus, May 3 — Passenger ro/ro *Speedrunner 1* (3003 gt, built 1990) had a mechanical failure at its ramp's operating mechanism at Serifos port yesterday. At the time the vessel was scheduled to perform the voyage Sifnos Island - Milos Island - Piraeus. Its passengers were forwarded to their destinations on passenger/ro-ro *Panagia Hozoviotissa*. After completion of repairs and class inspection the vessel returned to service this morning. — Lloyd's Agents.

SPIRIT OF RESOLUTION (New Zealand)

See "New Zealand" under "Weather & Navigation."

STAR PRINCESS (Bermuda)

London, May 4 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: According to Lloyd Werft in Bremerhaven the fire-damaged passenger *Star Princess* is to leave the yard in the evening of May 12 after completion of repairs.

SUVA (Panama)

London, Apr 30 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1211, UTC: Reported today that crude oil tanker *Suva* (153322 gt, built 1993) has sustained an explosion on board in lat 06 00.8N, long 96 42.9E, in the Strait of Malacca. Three crew are dead and one has suffered serious burns. Rescue/salvage operations being directed from Port Kelang.

London, Apr 30 — Following received today, timed 1530, UTC: The explosion on board crude oil tanker *Suva* in lat 06 00.8N, long 96 42.9E, was in the cargo tank. The vessel is currently heading for Singapore.

Singapore, May 1 — A flash fire was reported in an empty cargo tank onboard crude oil tanker *Suva* in lat 06 06N, long 97 30E at approximately 1100, UTC, Apr 30. *Suva* is a VLCC managed by BW Shipping Singapore Pte Ltd, and was on ballast passage from Singapore to Fujairah. Information from the vessel indicates four fatalities to members of a contracted riding squad and injuries to one other. The vessel has been deviated to Penang, Malaysia, to obtain medical assistance. There are no reports of pollution or structural damage. An investigation into this incident is ongoing. — BW Shipping Managers Pte Ltd.

London, May 2 — Following received from Port Klang MRCC, timed 0120, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Suva* arrived alongside at Penang at 1815, local time, May 1.

London, May 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Four Chinese nationals were killed in an explosion on board a tanker in Indonesian waters off Penang island in northern Malaysia a new report said today. A Filipino and a Singaporean were injured, it said. Malaysia's northern region Marine Police Chief Zainul Abidin Hasan was quoted as saying that the explosion from an exhaust pump on crude oil tanker *Suva* occurred during welding work on the vessel. The tanker, which was heading from Singapore to Saudi Arabia, doubled back toward Penang, about 215 nautical miles away, to send the injured to hospital. The vessel was empty because it had earlier unloaded its cargo in Taiwan. The four dead, identified as Liu Yongqian, 27, Kong Fanlin, 27, Xiu Xiaobin, 39 and Xia Zhibing, 29, were fatally hurt in the explosion, a Singaporean contractor from the ship known only as Lok was quoted as saying. Lok said one of the men was scalded by hot steam while two drowned after falling into a water tank and the fourth died from his injuries after a fall. Injured Filipino Jeselton Claver Adel, 25, and Singaporean Lim Puck Chow, 48, were being treated at a private hospital in Penang.

Singapore, May 2 — Crude oil tanker *Suva* has landed the two injured crew who are now in medical care. *Suva* sailed from Penang after completing formalities at 0600, UTC, today and is now on passage to Fujairah. Team from BW Shipping

Managers boarded her at Penang for incident investigation; which is ongoing. On site inspections by Marine and Hull Superintendents have revealed no damage to the cargo tank structure or fittings, and we are making arrangements with class for a full inspection. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 3 — A blast on a BW Shipping very large crude carrier killed four workers and injured two others. Singapore-based BW Shipping Managers said that the crude oil tanker *Suva* sustained a flash fire in an empty cargo tank while the vessel was undergoing repairs on a ballast voyage to Fujairah. The dead workers, all Chinese nationals, were part of a repair team from a Singapore contractor carrying out work on the vessel while it was on ballast from Singapore to Fujairah. BW Shipping said there were no reports of structural damage to the vessel. Two workers, a Filipino and a Singaporean, were also injured in the blast. Following the incident the vessel, which had been transiting the Malacca Strait, was diverted to Penang, Malaysia to seek medical assistance. Malaysian Northern Region marine police chief ACP Zainul Abidin Hasan said that the explosion was believed to have occurred during welding work on the vessel at 0200, local time, on Monday (May 1). Malaysian press quoted a Singaporean foreman known as Lok, as saying that he and 11 other workers had boarded the tanker at 030s on Apr 29 to carry out repair work. Mr Lok was heading one of two teams working on the vessel and he said that exhaust pump had exploded. "It was not a gas leak and there were no sparks or fire but the heat was intense," he said. Flash explosions while repairing empty tanks are commonly caused by a failure to ensure that the tank is fully gas-free before welding work is carried out. He said one of the dead was scalded by hot steam while two drowned after falling into a water tank and the fourth died from his injuries after a fall while trying to save himself. Following investigations by the local authorities in Malaysia the *Suva* was allowed to sail at 1300, local time, on Tuesday and resumed its voyage to Fujairah. "We are now working to determine the cause of the incident," BW Shipping said.

Penang, May 3 — Crude oil tanker *Suva*: Based on the post mortem report, the death of three men was due to inhalation of poisonous gases and burns with the other man dying from severe head injuries and burns. The Police had completed their investigations and had ruled out foul play. All four casualties were Chinese nationals. Two others who were injured were Singaporean and Filipino and have been admitted to a private hospital in Penang. Based on a local news reported information, the Penang Deputy Chief of Police (DCP) Wan, who visited the two injured victims at the hospital

yesterday, said the five men working inside tank No. 6 carrying out cutting and welding works when sparks triggered off the flames. They were among 12 Singapore-based contractors who boarded the vessel at 0300, Apr 29 to carry out repair works on some empty tanks. It was learnt that the rest of the maintenance workers had flown back to Singapore following the accident. — Lloyd's Agents.

TAMAR F.I. (Falkland Islands)

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Tamar F.I.* (591 gt, built 1979) has not yet left for dry dock as planned due to the failure of one of the superchargers on the main engine. The vessel was due to have headed to Chile earlier this month to have repairs to its propeller carried out in dry dock. A spokesperson for the company said a replacement part for the supercharger was flown in on Wednesday's flight. "Once this has been fitted and tested, it is our intention to collect two final loads of sheep from the West for the Falkland Islands Meat Company before proceeding to dry dock to be there for May 3/4." When asked when the interim ferry service would resume, the spokesperson said, "There is obviously going to be some catching up to do after the dry dock but we will certainly be able to complete the scheduled ferry crossing at the end of May."

THE EXCELSIOR (U.K.)

London, May 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Cargo/training *The Excelsior*, 77 foot, sent out a mayday call after running aground and being battered by waves off the Essex coast. The vessel, a restored fishing smack, sent out a call for assistance at just after 0800, yesterday. It was sailing off Colne Point, near Point Clear, when it was ran aground on the Colne Bar, a sandbank near the entrance to the River Colne. There were 15 people on board the Lowestoft-based boat, including eight schoolchildren and two teachers. No-one was injured and the boat was not damaged. Walton and Frinton lifeboat press officer Stewart Oxley said that the lifeboat was sent out along with an inflatable RNLi craft from West Mersea. Mr Oxley said: "She (The Excelsior) was lying across the waves and the wind was coming in from the south. It wouldn't have been very comfortable for everyone on board. The lifeboat went alongside her and secured a tow rope and pulled the bow round into the sea which made the situation much more comfortable for everyone on board. She was towed off into deeper water and checks were made inside the boat but the crew were happy she was okay. She then sailed to Ipswich to be checked more thoroughly." The Cirdan Sailing Trust operates the vessel and Nick Back, chief executive of the trust, said: "It is not serious but we do not like going aground and I will be looking into the reasons for it."

TIAN FENG

Brisbane, Apr 28 — Non specific tanker *Tian Feng* also referred to as *Xien Sien* and *Jian Xien* from various sources was towed approximately 20 nautical miles from Weipa (after having oil pollutants cleaned up) by the Australian Navy and sunk on the Apr 18. — Lloyd's Agents.

TOYVO VYAKHYA (Russia)

London, May 3 — General cargo *Linda Marijke* arrived Rotterdam Apr 26 and sailed the same day, and general cargo *Toyvo Vyakhya* arrived Paldiski Apr 28.

TULLY (Virgin Islands, British)

Grenada, May 3 — General cargo *Tully* (324 gt, built 1969), grounded at Lance Aux Pines, St. George's, Apr 21. Vessel refloated at with the assistance of tug *Culpepper* at 1645, Apr 25 and is docked at Secret Harbour, St. George's. Arrangements are being made to take vessel to Curacao/Panama. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Tully* previously reported as *Tuffy* in issue of Apr 27.)

VENTSPILS (Russia)

London, May 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Product tanker *Ventspils* (5154 gt, built 1983) belonging to the Vladivostok shipping company RIMSKO, ran aground in the Sea of Okhotsk overnight to Monday (May 1). Nobody was injured in the incident, and there is no fuel leakage from the tanker. Ice-breaker *Kapitan Khlebnikov* and rescue vessel *Suvorovets* are on their way to the site, the Vladivostok sea rescue centre has reported.

London, May 1 — Following received from Vladivostok MRCC, timed 0705, UTC: Product tanker *Ventspils* is aground in lat 58 07.96N, lat 150 41.25E. Weather in the area is good.

London, May 2 — Understand product tanker *Ventspils* was refloated at high water this morning and it will be towed to Vladivostok after temporary repairs.

VIRGINIABORG (Netherlands)

London, May 1 — General cargo *Virginiaborg* (6361 gt, built 2001) lost its steering machinery in lat 44 38N, long 75 36W at 1330, EDST, Apr 29. Vessel proceeded to Prescott anchorage for repairs. (Note — *Virginiaborg* according to LMIU AIS in lat 46 3 45.97N, long 73 3 50.8'W at 1451, today.)

YUCATAN (Liberia)

London, Apr 28 — Bulk *Yucatan* (17997 gt, built 1996), upbound, experienced engine trouble in lat 45 30N, long 73 31W, at 1950, EDST, Apr 25, while approaching the St. Lambert Lock.

Montreal, Apr 29 — Bulk *Yucatan* seems to have had a normal transit time through the lock at St. Lambert and the rest of the system. Engine problem must have been very minor. Vessel arrived Hamilton Apr 27 and will be loading next at Sorel on approximately Apr 30. — Lloyd's Agents.

ZAMORANO PRIMEIRO (Spain)

Ponta Delgada, Apr 27 — Understand the crew of fishing *Zamorano Primeiro* have succeeded in effecting some engine repairs, and the vessel is now proceeding at reduced speed, under its own power, to the port of Burela for repairs, rather than Horta as previously reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

ZHEDONGJI-139 (China)

See *Jinhaida-8*.

ZIM MEXICO III (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Apr 30 — A press report, dated Apr 29, states: A federal grand jury has returned a criminal complaint against the captain of c.c. *Zim Mexico III* involved in a fatal Alabama State Docks crane crash in Mobile. The captain, 58-year-old Wolfgang Schroder, is charged with misconduct or neglect by a ship officer. If convicted, he could face a maximum 10 years in prison. Schroder, a German native who now lives in Ireland, was arrested on a criminal complaint by the Coast Guard in Houston on Apr 17. A federal magistrate judge in Houston released Schroder on 500-thousand dollars bond and ordered him to appear for a preliminary hearing in Mobile on May 8. The complaint says Schroder caused the *Zim Mexico III* to collide with a container crane at the state docks on Mar 2. The impact toppled the huge crane, killing Shawn Jacobs of Mobile, an electrical contractor. According to a criminal complaint filed by the Coast Guard Investigative Service, Schroder ignored at least five warnings about mechanical problems on the vessel, including one on the day of the accident. An affidavit states that an inspection of the vessel's electronic records indicated that alarms had signaled that the shaft generator was not providing enough power to the bow thruster, which was needed to properly turn the vessel.

were returned instead to Somalia," said an official with the US embassy in Nairobi, which was involved in the release of the suspects. The 10 had been being held on a US naval vessel off the coast of Kenya and were sent to the city of Mombasa on Saturday where they were turned over to the ICRC and sent back to Somalia, the official said. The remaining two, both of whom were wounded in the incident when two US warships returned fire on their vessel, remain under treatment, the embassy official said. "They will be repatriated when it is medically safe to do so," the official said, adding that the body of one alleged pirate who was killed in the incident would be returned to Somalia once an autopsy was complete. The embassy official in Nairobi gave no reason for the US decision to release the suspects who were not in control of any hijacked vessels when the incident took place. Another group of alleged Somali pirates, captured by the US Navy on a hijacked Indian dhow in January, are now being tried in Mombasa but Kenyan authorities were understood to have declined to prosecute the March detainees.



ARAL WIND (Marshall Islands)

London, Apr 28 — Product tanker *Aral Wind* remained 12 miles off Port Canaveral, yesterday, after the US Coast Guard again refused it permission to enter port. US Coast Guard Petty Officer Donnie Brzuska said that, after an offshore boarding of the ship on Wednesday (Apr 26), three deficiencies remained unaddressed. These were a malfunction in several pressure release valves designed to release vapours from cargo tanks, a crack in the main firefighting source and inoperable lifeboats. The vessel would not be allowed into port until these matters were addressed, Petty Officer Brzuska said. A source involved with the case said the trouble arose when a crew member over-filled some cargo tanks. The source added that the engine-room of the tanker was in very good shape, with only a minor malfunction and the vessel otherwise was well maintained. Petty Officer Brzuska said the matter of the overflow was being addressed with the owner.

AUSTRALIA

London, May 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A potential disaster at the Port of Geelong was narrowly averted yesterday after stanchions holding hundreds of tonnes of logs on bulk *Ocean Peace* gave way. Workers at the Port of Geelong's Corio Quay South said one stanchion on the port side of *Ocean Peace* broke away, while two others were bent out at an angle. Several logs could be seen



SOMALIA

London, May 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A group of alleged Somali pirates captured by the US Navy in March have been freed and returned home to Somalia after the United States declined to prosecute them, a US official said today. Ten of 12 suspected pirates detained on Mar 18 after firing on US warships in the Indian Ocean off the Somali coast were handed over to the International Committee for the Red Cross and repatriated at the weekend (Apr 29-30), they said. "The United States decided not to prosecute these 10 individuals in the United States, they

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protruding from the side of the ship late yesterday afternoon. Representatives of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority last night lifted two excavators off the ship and were moving the logs in preparation to repair the stanchions. The two excavators were loading the logs onto the ship when the steel supports buckled. No-one was injured in the incident. Toll Ports' Geelong general manager Lindsay Ward said his organisation was working with AMSA to ensure the logs were secured so loading could continue. The incident comes after stevedores refused to load the ship last week citing safety concerns. The Maritime Union of Australia first drew attention to the "ship of shame" when it docked in Tasmania last Monday, and inspectors discovered the ship had no working toilets, no hot water in the galley or showers, and half the showers were inoperable. Workers started loading *Ocean Peace* on Friday night after it was given the all-clear.

Seizures & Arrests



BIGA (Canary Islands)

Bilbao, May 2 — General cargo *Biga* is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

BOREAS (Cyprus)

Bilbao, May 2 — General cargo *Boreas* is still under embargo at the port of Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

OTAPAN (Mexico)

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

SANDRIEN (Bolivia)

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

SZAP 5 (Cook Islands)

Wellington, May 3 — A local press report, dated Apr 28, states: The owner of a fishing vessel arrested by Port Nelson has had business interests in three failed fisheries companies that are likely to leave creditors hundreds of thousands of dollars out of pocket. Tasmanian businessman Harold Adams owns trawler *Szap 5* (1390 gt, built 1978), which has been berthed at Port Nelson since Sep 2004. It has now been arrested by the port company for non-payment of about \$60,000 to \$70,000 in berthage back fees. A company that was set up to operate the *Szap 5* is in liquidation. Liquidator John Fisk said Szap Overseas Australia Fishing Ltd, which Mr Adams was director of, had spent about \$3 million refurbishing the vessel to operate it as a fishing boat. The upgrade was funded mainly

through advances from Mr Adams and some of his companies, Mr Fisk said. The *Szap 5*, formerly the Russian vessel *Komtek II*, made one voyage and the engine blew up, and the company ceased trading in Nov 2004, Mr Fisk said. He said Mr Adams was the company's largest creditor but the liquidators had not received a claim from him for the money he had invested. "He spent a lot of money on a vessel that looks like it was a bit of a lemon, frankly." Mr Fisk said six other New Zealand creditors of Szap Overseas Australia Fishing Ltd were owed about \$200,000. He said they were unlikely to receive any money, but if the *Szap 5* was sold, the liquidators would see if any money could be recovered for creditors. Mr Adams has bought back two old trawlers berthed in Wellington, which had previously been seized by the Ministry of Fisheries. The *Atlantic Elizabeth* and *Seafire* have been berthed at Wellington's CentrePort since being seized by the ministry in June 2004 during an investigation into Duesouth Trawlers, which owned the vessels at the time, and Due South Fisheries. Mr Adams directed Duesouth Trawlers and was a shareholder of Due South Fisheries. Both companies went into liquidation in March last year. Ministry of Fisheries investigator Gary Wright, from Napier, said the *Atlantic Elizabeth* was given back to the liquidators in that case last year. The *Seafire* was forfeited to the Crown in September after Due South Fisheries and Duesouth Trawlers were convicted of breaches of the Fisheries Act, relating to discrepancies in fishing returns, he said. However, by agreement, a redemption fee was paid and the liquidators also got the *Seafire* back. The liquidators put the *Atlantic Elizabeth* and *Seafire* up for sale. Mr Adams' company Pacific Services (New Zealand) Ltd, which was incorporated in late February and which he owns 99 percent of, has now bought them back. One of the liquidators in that case, Iain Sheppard, said Duesouth Trawlers and Due South Fisheries went into liquidation after they ran out of money when the vessels were seized and could not fish. The two companies had about 30 creditors who were owed about \$200,000, Mr Sheppard said. The creditors, who were all in New Zealand, would not get any money back. Centreport marine services manager Charles Smith said he was still waiting to hear what plans Mr Adams had for the *Atlantic Elizabeth* and *Seafire*. — Lloyd's Agents.

Pollution



DELAWARE BAY, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 26, states: Coast Guard, New Jersey Department of

Environmental Protection and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control are working together to clean up an oil spill. The crewman onboard the tug *Liberty* notified the Coast Guard that oil was floating in the upper Delaware Bay. Marine science technicians from Sector Delaware Bay and a helicopter from Air Station Atlantic City were deployed to survey the scene and begin initial assessments. The sheen is a narrow band of oil five to six miles long, near the centre of the bay in the main shipping channel, east of Port Mahon in Kent County, DE. The clean-up efforts of the spill began after the determination to use federal funds was made. Funds from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) will be used. Oil skimming vessels from Miller Environmental, Northstar Marine and the Delaware Bay and River Cooperative have been contracted for recovery and clean-up operations. The cause of the spill is under investigation.

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 27, states: Tar balls and oil from a spill discovered on Monday (Apr 24) have come ashore from Port Mahon to Pickering Beach east of Dover, and oil has been spotted four miles east of Bowers Beach, the Coast Guard said today. Response crews have found several oil-covered birds, officials said, although none are endangered or threatened migratory species. Six shoreline cleanup and assessment teams are working on affected shorelines from the Leipsic River east of Smyrna to the Mispillion River east of Milford. The Coast Guard also ordered use of absorbent barrier "booms" to block access to streams opening into the Delaware Bay between those two rivers. Booms also were spread across the mouths of Back Creek, Nantuxent Creek, Fortescue Creek and Dividing Creek on the New Jersey side of the bay, and workers have positioned absorbent barrier "booms" at Roosevelt Inlet near Lewes, a gateway to the inland bays and sensitive marshlands. Coast Guard investigators said a passing tug first spotted the 6-mile band of oil in the middle of the Delaware Bay east of Bombay Hook. Investigators believe the oil might have been spilled or dumped by a ship traveling along the bay's main channel late Sunday or early Monday.

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated Apr 28, states: An oil spill that marred some Delaware Bay shorelines this week has been linked to a container vessel that sailed out of Salem, N.J., on Monday (Apr 24), Coast Guard and Delaware officials said today. Owners of c.c. *Bermuda Islander* (3815 gt, built 1991) have agreed to take over recovery and cleanup costs associated with the spill, first discovered by a tugboat crew early on Monday. Coast Guard officials said the vessel, registered in the Netherlands, had been identified as one of the "vessels of interest" during the investigation. Laboratory

tests of oil from the spill and from the vessel are underway for use in confirming a link. Oil and tar balls have washed ashore at Port Mahon, Pickering Beach, Kitts Hummock and Bowers Beach, among other spots, and oil globs continue to float offshore, according to Capt. William P. McDaniel II, a DNREC enforcement supervisor. Some oil also was spotted on Grandy's Beach in Cumberland County, N.J. Officials said they have had no other reports of wildlife affects since several birds were seen with oil on their bodies yesterday. (Note — *Bermuda Islander* sailed Salem, NJ, Apr 24, for Bermuda.)

London, May 1 — A United States Coast Guard press release states: The owners/managers of c.c. *Bermuda Islander*, a Netherlands registered 340-foot container vessel, have activated the O'Brien's Group, a spill management consultant, and agreed to take over the co-ordination of, and accept costs relating to recovery and clean-up operations of an oil spill in the upper Delaware Bay that happened on Tuesday (Apr 25). The owners/managers, JR Ship Management, have been co-operating with the Unified Command since Thursday (Apr 27) afternoon. Clean-up costs had initially been funded by the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. *Bermuda Islander* was determined to be one of the vessels of interest based on information received as part of an ongoing investigation into the source of the spill. Positive determination of the spill source pends laboratory analysis of a number of oil samples taken during the course of the investigation, including samples from *Bermuda Islander*. A response expert from the O'Brien's Group has joined the Coast Guard, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) as part of the Unified Command. Clean-up crews continue to work the shorelines in Delaware affected by the spill in Port Mahon, Kelly Island and Pickering Beach. Crews are also being deployed to Gandy's Beach in Cumberland County, N.J., where sporadic tar balls ranging from the size of a dime to that of a quarter were reported. Skimming vessels have picked-up approximately 200-gallons of oily product out of the bay. Boom located at the Fortescue, Maurice and Nantuxent rivers in New Jersey remains staged for efficient deployment as a preventive measure. Delaware continues to maintain its preventive boom from Leipsic River south to Mispillion River and has boom staged for rapid deployment at Roosevelt Inlet. There have been no more reports of affected wildlife.

London, May 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The owners/managers of c.c. *Bermuda Islander* have hired The O'Brien Group, a spill management consultant, to assist in recovery and clean up of an Apr 25 oil spill in Delaware Bay. J.R. Ship Management

has had a response expert from The O'Brien Group working with the U.S. Coast Guard, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and Delaware Department of Environmental Resources and Environmental Control, according to a U.S. Coast Guard press release. Clean up costs initially had been funded by the federal Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. The owners of the vessel will now assume those costs. *Bermuda Islander* was determined to be a "vessel of interest," based on information received as part of an ongoing investigation into the source of the spill. Positive determination of the spill source is pending laboratory analysis of oil samples taken during the investigation, including samples from *Bermuda Islander*. Asked why the *Bermuda Islander* owners accepted responsibility for the spill before it was determined to be liable, Mike Hanson, representing MIT Network, said: "Because it was good corporate citizenship. At the end of the day, they felt it was the proper thing to do ... they couldn't be absolutely sure it wasn't them." The spill, which actually appeared to be a bilge discharge, left an oily sheen on the surface for about seven miles of the upper bay, from a point off the mouth of the Cohansey River to off Egg Island point, in New Jersey. As a result, 70,400 acres of New Jersey's oyster beds were closed, just as the spring harvest season was beginning. New Jersey fared better than Delaware in regard to fouling of the shoreline, as winds drove the oil slick closer to the Delaware shore. Clean-up crews worked the shorelines at Port Mahon, Kelly Island and Pickering Beach. They also were deployed to Gandy's Beach, in Cumberland County, where sporadic tar balls ranging from the size of a dime to that of a quarter were reported.

SANYI RIVER, CHINA

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Water supply to 40,000 villagers in Wuchuan city, Guangxi, were affected after a factory upstream discharged chemicals into a river that flows through the city. Xinhua reported last night that the factory had been ordered to stop the discharge but water quality remained poor and it would take at least two to three days to improve. The report said a factory in Huazhou city had violated regulations by discharging the chemicals into the river. The worst affected areas were an 8km section of the Sanyi River between Changqi town and Xinlian village. "In this area in particular, a 3km strip in Changqi town was most serious," Xinhua said. "Water there was brown and very murky. At present, water supply for 40,000 people who live in seven villages of Changqi town has been affected. "In addition, some villagers also suffered losses to their crops and livestock because preventive measures were not taken in time," the news agency said. The report did not

specify the losses but said a large quantity of fish had died. "By yesterday, the oxygen content of Sanyi River has not yet reached the accepted level," Xinhua said. In order to minimise damage, the Wuchuan city government decreed that local officials should prevent villagers from selling poisoned fish and using water from the river.

Weather & Navigation



AFGHANISTAN

London, May 2 — Floods caused by heavy rains and melting snow in the northern Afghan provinces of Baghlan and Faryab have killed at least 16 people and left hundreds of families in urgent need of assistance, officials said today. "Flash floods that followed heavy rains killed at least seven people and destroyed 120 houses in the Garziwan district of Faryab province," Abdullatif Ibrahim, governor of Faryab, said. The flooding also killed a villager in another district and at least 500 head of cattle, while 2,000 hectares of farmland were washed away, the governor added. Flood waters also killed eight people in Baghlan. Abdurrahim Zarin, spokesman for the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) said that the ministry had sent teams to the affected areas to assess the damage.

CENTRAL EUROPE

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The surging waters of the River Danube lapped at doorsteps today as hundreds of troops and volunteers built sandbag embankments and residents fled their village for a tent camp in the hills. Thousands watched the swelling Danube from hilltop tents throughout the nation's hardest-hit area, south-central Romania's flood-swamped Calarasi country. Almost 16,000 people have been forced to evacuate from about 148 communities in Romania, the Interior Ministry said. Areas in Ukraine, Bulgaria, Serbia, Hungary and Austria also have seen massive flooding. In Spantov, 62 miles south-east of Bucharest, residents fled surging water for a tent community of about 300 people. President Traian Basescu visited evacuees in Calarasi, where over 3,000 displaced people are living in army tents. In Manastire, troops frantically piled sandbags on the main road and continued to evacuate hundreds of residents. In the community of Chiselet, some homes lay in ruins after the Danube washed over them, while dozens of other homes were abandoned after being inundated. The situation is similar along the length of Romania's southern border, where the Danube, Europe's second-largest river, has

reached record levels in past weeks due to melting snow and heavy rain. The ministry said 3,800 members of the police force, army, emergency services and other departments were working on flood relief, using helicopters and boats to move residents, and tractors and water pumps to clear inundated areas. Authorities said they were taking measures to prevent the spread of disease. Disinfectant has been sprayed in some areas, according to TV reports. Medical teams were dispatched to vaccinate flood victims against typhoid fever and other waterborne diseases. In the eastern port of Galati, the river was at a new record level of 21.8 feet. Prime Minister Calin Popescu Tariceanu has blamed the flooding on Romania's system of dikes built under communism in the 1960s and 1970s to reclaim land for agriculture. The Danube has been flowing at double its normal volume for more than a week. There have been no confirmed reports of deaths from the recent flooding and no official estimates on damage.

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Serbia's agricultural sector is facing severe damage costs after floods struck the country this week. The estimated cost of the damage is dinars 3.1 billion (£25 million), although the flooding is still severe, and experts say the real consequences of the natural disaster cannot be assessed until after the waters recede. So far the Serbian government has allocated dinars 288 million (£2.4 million), to be diverted primarily to the populated municipalities hit by the floods. The assistant to the Minister of Agriculture for Inspection Affairs said current reports indicated that 122,537 hectares of agricultural land had been flooded but expected estimates to change after further analysis. Autumn crops, including some early vegetables, are expected to suffer most, and sowing of others, including corn, is expected to experience significant delays. Few companies have taken up the Government's offer of 30% subsidies for insurance premiums, which means it will be solely responsible for damages. The disaster could now have legal consequences for certain parties, accused by the authorities of not protecting their lands sufficiently. The director of the republic's water directorate, Nikola Marjanovic said: "The areas which have been flooded are the ones that are not protected, because strategic assessments have indicated that it is cheaper to sustain damages once in a while and repair them, rather than build longer dikes." The directorate also claimed the extent of the damage caused by the floodwaters could have been substantially reduced if the existing channels had been cleaned. Reports indicate they have not been cleaned since being installed some 40 years ago.

London, Apr 30 — A press report, dated Apr 29, states: The flood risk

from the swollen Danube has eased throughout Romania, allowing hundreds of villagers to return home, but officials say the threat of more floods persisted if dikes burst. Large regions of southern Romania along the Danube remain under water after weeks of flooding and some 14,000 villagers are still displaced. "People from several villages in the Dolj and Calarasi county are returning to their houses as flooding risk subsided," Interior Minister Vasile Blaga said. The levels have receded slightly in recent days but officials say many waterlogged dikes could still give way because of the prolonged pressure of high water levels. Experts say water flow is expected to dwindle from around 14,000 cubic metres per second to around 13,800 in the next couple of days and further down to 13,000 by the middle of next week. "Danube flow is decreasing slowly," Environment Ministry spokesman Ion Ghita said. Governments throughout the region have begun assessing the damage. Officials in Romania, a major European grains producer, have said that losses in farming will be much smaller than during last year's massive flooding of many Danube tributaries. In Bulgaria, towns along the river rushed to file requests for financial aid to cope with the aftermath of the flooding. "We are talking about millions of levs (euros) here, the worst hit areas along the Danube have already asked the government for financial support," Disaster Management Ministry spokeswoman Elena Yaneva said. The mayors of Vidin and Nikopol, worst hit by the swollen waters, said they would need money to strengthen dikes, tackle the growing number of mosquitoes that may spark epidemics, and repair damaged buildings and roads.

London, May 4 — A press report, dated May 3, states: Serbian Minister of Capital Investment Velimir Ilic said today that according to estimates of the Serbian government, the damage from floods and landslides in Serbia totals E11 million, while 500 million dinars have already been invested as an emergency intervention and advance for beginning of construction works. Opening the 32nd international construction fair, Ilic said that the estimated damage from landslides and rockslides on the roads in Serbia alone stands at three billion dinars, and it is expected that the damage on the arable land will range from 1.5 billion dinars to two billion dinars. The Minister announced that the Serbian government will first start the programme of clean-up of road landslides in order to normalise traffic, which will be followed by reconstruction of facilities. The Minister said that in all municipalities where housing objects have been destroyed, construction workers have received advanced payments for the beginning of reconstruction works and added that the Council of Europe also granted a favourable loan to Serbia worth E10 million.

CYCLONE "MALA"

London, May 2 — A press report, dated May 1, states: Four people were killed and 31 injured as Cyclone Mala battered Burma's Irrawaddy delta, its west coast and the outskirts of the capital, state-run media reported today. The tropical cyclone, packing winds of 240 kilometres an hour, slammed into Burma on Friday (Apr 28) and Saturday destroying hundreds of houses, two beach resorts and at least five factories, the Kyemon daily and the International Federation of the Red Cross said. Residents in Burma cleaned up Sunday after a tropical cyclone cut a path of destruction. Cyclone "Mala" wreaked havoc Saturday along the coast on the Bay of Bengal. The fierce winds ripped roofs off dozens of buildings and destroyed five factories in Hlaing Thar Yar, according to The New Light of Myanmar newspaper on Sunday. The International Federation of Red Cross said that 586 homes in Hlaing Thar Yar had been damaged. It has also sent an assessment team to Gwa, a coastal resort about 190 kilometres northwest of Rangoon, to check on damage there. The cyclone has moved inland and weakened significantly, according to U Tun Lwin, director of the country's meteorological department. The weather in Rangoon was clear and sunny on Sunday. The storm cut a destructive swathe through Burma's Irrawaddy delta, battering Haingyi Island, about 200 kilometres southwest of Rangoon with a wind speed of more than 120 kilometers per hour on Friday, damaging several houses. Bassein, to the west of Yangon, was also hit.

London, May 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Three people were killed and 31 others injured when a tropical cyclone hit western Myanmar, state-run newspapers reported Monday. The tropical Cyclone "Mala", packing winds of 240 kilometres per hour, slammed western Myanmar Friday (Apr 29) and Saturday, destroying more than 1,100 houses and five factories in some towns on the western coast, the reports added.

HURRICANE "KATRINA"

London, May 2 — A press report, dated May 1, states: Hurricane "Katrina" has caused nearly \$1.4 billion in damage to Gulf Coast wastewater treatment facilities, according to an international water-quality organization. The Water Environment Federation released a report late last month outlining the Sep 2005 hurricane's impact on 118 wastewater facilities in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi that serve some 1.8 million people. The group estimates that the cost to repair and rebuild wastewater facilities will be \$1.2 billion. The wastewater utilities also have lost \$163 million in revenue base, according to the report. Louisiana's wastewater infrastructure was hardest hit, suffering just over \$1 billion in damage.

KENYA

London, May 1 — Floods have struck Kenya once again and have caused more devastation and destruction. For the second time in a week, areas of the previously drought-stricken country have been submerged in water, reports Planet Ark. Hundreds of refugee shelters were destroyed by the rushing waters, leaving thousands homeless and claiming the life of a two-year-old child on Apr 27. United Nations (UN) officials say at least 270 shelters were destroyed in Kakuma camp, where around 90,000 people have been seeking refuge. As well as the mass loss of housing, food stores were also washed away and fears are growing that disease could spread quickly within the camp. The toddler who lost his life during the ordeal remains unnamed, but spokesperson for the UN, Emmanuel Nyabera, said he had been trying to follow his fleeing parents. “As the houses were collapsing he tried to follow his parents but fell into a pool of water,” Mr Nyabera told Reuters. “He was rushed to hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.” Refugees have been moved to higher ground and some have taken shelter in nearby churches and schools.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Residents on the Coromandel Peninsula awoke to instructions today to stay at home as the flood cleanup continued. State highways were open at first light today but the Thames Coromandel District Council said all its roads in all settlements and towns were likely to stay closed for some time until flood waters disappeared. Brad Wilkinson from the Thames Coromandel District Council said they realised it was a very widespread closure but unless people had an emergency they should stay at home. Firefighters were stood down today after the deluge of heavy rain made some houses uninhabitable, closed roads and brought slips down throughout the peninsula. Some smaller areas were cut off by flood waters for several hours until the water drained away and the roads could be reopened. Flooding on Auckland’s North Shore also caused serious problems for homeowners on Oteha Valley Road near Albany and some areas of the Wairau Valley in Glenfield and Red Beach, north of Auckland. The flood waters entered basements and garages, brought down powerlines and was too much for some roofs which leaked water into houses. In Hahei on the Coromandel Peninsula, 175mm of rain fell over 24 hours and firefighters pumped out the town’s sewage ponds after rising stream levels overflowed their banks. North of Waihi at Golden Cross the heaviest fall of the 24 hour period was recorded when 204mm of rain fell, most of it in six hours early yesterday morning. Today the Fire Service said they had had no calls to Auckland or the Coromandel Peninsula. However,

police said although most roads were open except council roads, they were advising drivers to take extreme care, particularly where the roads had been damaged. More bad weather had been predicted for today. In Auckland there was torrential rain shortly after 0600 but it lasted only about 15 minutes and caused no problems. The MetService said the Coromandel could expect between 25mm and 40mm of rain again today and some further flooding could result although it was not expected to be as bad as yesterday. Northland and Tauranga were also warned there could be a lot of rain and some flooding. Some of the flood-damaged Coromandel houses which have been declared no-go zones were holiday homes and uninhabited when the floods hit. The Thames Coromandel District Council said no one would be allowed back into the damaged homes until they had been inspected. Many roads in the area were badly damaged by floodwaters, including the road through the Karangahape Gorge between Paeroa and Waihi. Motorists said halfway through the gorge at Waikino the Ohinemuri River rose several metres to the road.

London, May 1 — A press report, dated today, states: More heavy rain is forecast for Northland, Coromandel and Bay of Plenty residents still cleaning up after flooding late last week. MetService forecaster Andy Downs said a new low was approaching the North Island and was expected to converge with warm air and bring further downpours, probably tomorrow night or Wednesday morning (May 3). That will be heartbreaking news to many property owners living in eastern parts of the North Island, who yesterday took welcome respite in drying conditions to clean up their properties after the deluge of the previous four days. Thames Coromandel District Council spokesman Peter Hazael said it was too early to put a price on the amount of property damage in the area.

London, May 1 — A press report, dated Apr 30, states: A report into an incident in the Manukau Harbour last October has found the master responsible. Maritime New Zealand says the master of general cargo *Spirit of Resolution* should not have been out in heavy weather when the vessel collided with the old Mangere Bridge. The Master will now be required to use a Pilot on board in the area until he undergoes further training.

London, May 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Insurance claims after last week’s North Island floods are mounting and payouts could enter the tens of millions of dollars, but the Insurance Council says much of the real cost is not as obvious. The council’s chief executive, Chris Ryan, said it was still too soon to say how many private claims would be made after the flash floods in Orewa, Coromandel, Bay of Plenty and Hawkes Bay. The MetService predicts

more heavy rain for today in the Coromandel and Mr Ryan said the number of claims was expected to continue to rise this week. The MetService yesterday issued a new severe weather warning for another period of intense rain for the Coromandel Peninsula, expected to arrive today. Thunderstorms were forecast for the north and east of the North Island from Kaitaia to Wairoa, lasting until tomorrow.

TROPICAL STORM “MALA”

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: The Meteorological Department yesterday issued a storm warning to people in the North and the Central Plains that a cyclone was developing in the Bay of Bengal which would bring heavy rain in the two regions. Fisherman in the Andaman Sea were advised to exercise extreme caution because of strong winds and high seas. The department said the cyclone, named “Mala”, had formed in the Bay of Bengal, with its eye 500km southwest of Rangoon. Packing maximum winds of 120kph, “Mala” is moving in the northeasterly direction at 15km/hr and is expected to hit land in Burma tonight. Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Lampang, Tak, Uthai Thani and Kanchanaburi should be prepared for heavy downpours. The department warned of strong winds and two to three metre waves in the Andaman Sea.

UNITED STATES

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Projected crop figures for Madera County, California have taken a huge battering by weather events of the past three months. The Madera County Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures (AWM) has predicted losses of more than \$23 million, reports the Madera Tribune. That figure comes as a result of a series of poor weather events throughout the months of February, March and April. Freezing temperatures, heavy rain and flooding have all affected the county since February and some areas are still suffering the consequences. Around 3,000 acres of farmland was flooded since February, causing damage to crops of almonds and fruit. As well as food products suffering losses, there is also expected to be a reduction in the amount of milk produced, as cows have been relocated due to the bad weather.

London, Apr 30 — A press report, dated Apr 29, states: Storms battered eastern Texas with wind up to 100 mph and hail the size of baseballs, damaging buildings and slamming parked airplanes into one another at an airport. No major injuries were reported in the storms late yesterday and early today, authorities said. Hundreds of homes and businesses were damaged, and some areas still lacked power this afternoon, said Kay Lunnon, spokeswoman for the city of Gainesville, near the Oklahoma border. Hangars were damaged at the

Gainesville Municipal Airport, and the high wind shoved aircraft parked outside, said Airport Director Matt Quick. About 15 aircraft were damaged at the airport, where about 70 aircraft are based, Quick said. To the south in Waco, the storms destroyed a home and damaged other buildings, authorities said. Two homes were damaged in Coldspring, north of Houston. No injuries were reported in either place, and the weather service did not confirm that tornadoes caused the damage. About 4,000 customers lost power in the Houston area, where streets flooded but no serious damage was reported, authorities said. In Liberty County, northeast of Houston, officials reported damaged homes and toppled trees.

London, May 2 — A press report, dated May 1, states: Spring flooding caused an estimated \$7 million in damage in North Dakota, most of it in the Red River Valley, a state official says. Rick Robinson, the planning and public information specialist for the state Department of Emergency Services, today issued what he said was a preliminary estimate of damage to county and township roads and other infrastructure. Walsh County today issued a preliminary damage estimate of just over \$1 million. Pembina County also issued a preliminary estimate, of about \$635,000. Grand Forks County Emergency Manager Jim Campbell today also issued an updated estimate for damages and flood-fighting costs there, putting the figure at more than \$1.3 million.

Earthquakes



CHILE

London, May 2 — A report, dated Apr 30, states: A magnitude 6.3 earthquake in offshore Atacama, Chile, occurred in lat 27.17S, long 71.01W, depth 10 km, at 2140, UTC, today.

INDONESIA

London, Apr 30 — A press report, dated today, states: An undersea earthquake jolted central Indonesian waters yesterday, but caused no casualties or damage, an official said. The 5.9-magnitude tremor was measured in the Indian Ocean, 195 miles southwest of Sumba Island, about 625 miles east of the capital, Jakarta, said Budi Waluyo of the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency. It struck at 1106, local time, some 33 kilometres below sea level.

JAPAN

London, May 2 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.6 jolted Kanagawa Prefecture and the Izu Peninsula, the Japan Meteorological Agency said today. The

1824 hrs quake measured a maximum intensity of 4 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of seven. Train services on the Tokaido Shinkansen Line were suspended for about half an hour after the quake. The quake measured an intensity of 4 in Yokohama and Manazuru, Kanagawa Prefecture; and in Ajiro and Ito, Shizuoka Prefecture. The focus of the quake was about 20 kilometres below the seabed east of the Izu Peninsula.

PANAMA

London, May 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A moderately strong earthquake and at least one aftershock shook Panama early today, but no damages or injuries were reported. Panama's Civil Protection Agency said the quake had a preliminary magnitude of 6 and struck at 0248 hrs, centred on the Pacific coast near the Costa Rican border about 500 kilometres west of Panama City, according to the country's Civil Protection Agency. The U.S. Geological Survey reported that the earthquake had a magnitude of 5.9 and had its epicentre 380 kilometres from the capital. A 5.2-magnitude aftershock struck at 0413, local time.

TONGA

London, May 2 — A press report, dated Apr 30, states: A magnitude 6.3 earthquake in Tonga occurred in lat 15.58S, long 173.14W, depth 10 km at 1933, UTC, today.

London, May 3 — A report, dated today, states: A magnitude 8.0 earthquake in Tonga in lat 20.03S, long 174.23W, occurred at 1526, UTC, today.

London, May 3 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 8.1 hit the Tonga islands, the US Geological Survey said, and a tsunami warning was issued for Tonga, Fiji, New Zealand and other South Pacific states. The warning said it was not known if a tsunami had been generated by the quake but that any such wave would have hit Suva, Fiji, at 0313, AEST, and Gisborne, New Zealand, at 0421 hrs. "It is not known that a tsunami was generated. This warning is based only on the earthquake evaluation. An earthquake of this size has the potential to generate a destructive tsunami," said the Pacific Tsunami Centre said. All tsunami warnings were cancelled at 0400 hrs. The earthquake occurred at 0226 hrs and was at 16.1 km depth, the USGS said. A police officer in Tonga told Britain's Sky Television it was the largest tremor for over 20 years but there were no immediate reports of damage. He said electricity went out though later came back. Another witness said the earthquake was felt in several islands and a resident of Tonga said he felt tremors lasting over 30 seconds. Fiji radio in the capital Suva said there were no initial reports of a tsunami. A warning was also issued for Hawaii in the United States but no destructive threat was seen, according to the Pacific Tsunami Centre.

London, May 4 — A report, dated today, states: A magnitude 6.0 earthquake has occurred in Tonga in lat 20.52S, long 174.10W, depth 38 km at 1125, UTC, today.

Volcanic Activity



BULUSAN VOLCANO, PHILIPPINES

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A Philippine volcano erupted today, belching ash about 1 mile into the sky for the second time this year, the government volcano monitoring agency said. It's already a mild eruption, but it's not life threatening, said Renato Solidum, director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. Solidum said, very light ash drifted towards the western side of the 5,148-foot Bulusan volcano, about 244 miles southeast of Manila. Bulusan erupted on Mar 21, the first time since 1995, spewing more ash than Saturday's explosion. Solidum said high sulfur dioxide gas readings several days earlier of more than 1,000 tons a day, more than double the normal level, suggested renewed activity of the volcano. However, there was no imminent danger of a violent eruption, he added. He said authorities have raised only the lowest of a five-stage alert. The agency warned people to stay away from areas within 2.5 miles of the crater. The Philippines is in the Pacific Ring of Fire, where volcanic activity and earthquakes are common.

MOUNT MERAPI, INDONESIA

Jakarta, May 4 — Lava flowed out of rumbling Mount Merapi, Indonesia's most active volcano, today but it stopped far away from inhabited areas on its slopes and in the foothills, a volcanologist said. Gunung Merapi, or Fiery Mountain, is one of the most dangerous volcanoes in the Pacific "Ring of Fire" and has been rumbling for weeks. Experts have said an eruption could come anytime. However, authorities have not yet raised the alert level from "2" to "1", which would require the immediate evacuation of people living under the volcano. "It started from 0200, local time, and is still flowing until now to a valley 200 metres away from the peak," said volcano observer Sapari Dwiyono from the state-run Centre for Volcano Research and Technology Development in Yogyakarta, the nearest city to the volcano. "The closest houses are 6 km away," he said, adding that the flow could only be seen from the mountain's south-eastern foothill. Indonesia has already moved about 1,300 people away from Merapi but officials put the total number of residents on and near the mountain at around 14,000, which includes villages in Central Java and Yogyakarta provinces. — Reuters.

Political & Civil Unrest

**AFGHANISTAN**

London, Apr 30 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Afghan troops killed 11 Taliban militants in separate raids while insurgents ambushed and shot dead three policemen across volatile southern Afghanistan, officials said today. Nine Taliban militants were killed during fighting that raged late yesterday, while 12 insurgents, including top commanders, were captured in a joint Afghan-coalition operation in Panjwayi, a western district in the southern Kandahar province, said Gov Asadullah Khalid. Khalid said seven more Taliban members were wounded and carried away by fleeing militants. 50 Afghan soldiers and police attacked a Taliban camp hidden in mountains in the Kajaki district, about 60 miles north of the Helmand capital of Lashkar Gah, local Afghan Army Commander Gen. Rahmattalluh Rofi said. After a one-hour battle, Afghan forces ventured into the mountains and found caves that had been used by Taliban militants. The bodies of two killed militants were found, along with several machine guns, Rofi said. Late yesterday, on a remote road outside the Helmand provincial town of Baghran, Taliban militants concealed in mountains fired on a vehicle carrying four policemen, killing three of them and wounding the other, said police official Haji Rafiq Khan.

EGYPT

Cairo, Apr 30 — Egyptian security forces killed one person and captured four early today in a gun battle in the centre of Sinai while investigating bomb attacks in the resort of Dahab and north Sinai, security sources said. Two people involved in the gunfight escaped, the sources added. However, separate security sources said that one man was killed and no one was captured. Details of the shootout were not immediately available. Bomb attacks killed 18 people in Dahab on Monday (Apr 24), and on Wednesday two men died after blowing themselves up in attacks on a multinational peace force and a police station, both based in the north of Egypt's Sinai peninsula. On Saturday police detained two men they said drove people suspected of involvement in the attacks. Shortly after the Dahab blasts police said they had formally detained at least 10 people and taken in about 70 local Bedouin for questioning. — Reuters.

Cairo, May 1 — Egyptian police hunting for bombers behind attacks in the Sinai peninsula killed three suspects today, the Interior Ministry said. A police officer was also killed and two others wounded in a heavy

exchange of fire with the wanted men in a mountainous area of northern Sinai, the ministry said in a statement. It said the men were part of a group which last week killed 18 people in bomb attacks on the Red Sea resort of Dahab and launched two suicide attacks on a multinational peace force and a police station in northern Sinai. The police yesterday shot dead another three men they said belonged to the same group of Sinai Bedouin. The authorities identified one of those as the mastermind of the attacks. The police are searching for suspects in a mountainous area of northern Sinai. Further details about the suspects killed today were not immediately available. — Reuters.

INDIA

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected Maoist rebels have killed 13 villagers kidnapped earlier this week in central India, police have said. Two of the hostages in the state of Chattisgarh were killed yesterday and 11 more today, police said. They were among more than 50 villagers taken hostage on Apr 25. Some of the other hostages were reportedly freed. Many victims were from the security forces and official government branches. But many too are villagers, suspected by the rebels of collaborating with the authorities. So far, there has been no word from the Maoist rebels, known locally as Naxalites, on this latest attack. The bodies were found deep in a forest in the Dandewara district. The bodies had multiple wound and rebels killed them by slitting throats, senior police officer Praveer Das said. Twenty-five villagers were released unharmed on today.

Jammu, May 1 — Suspected Islamic militants shot dead at least 22 Hindus in two small villages in Indian-administered Kashmir today, officials said. The massacre, one of the biggest in recent months, took place just days before Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh holds talks with Kashmiri separatists in New Delhi and later travels to the violent region for a "roundtable" conference with Kashmiris. "We have a report of a massacre in which 22 people were killed. We are waiting for details," Vijay Bakaya, Kashmir's top official, told Reuters. The militants struck the Hindu-dominated remote mountaineous villages in Doda district, some 100 miles from Jammu, Kashmir's winter capital, early today, police said. No militant group has claimed responsibility for the attack. Five people, among eight wounded, were in critical condition. "In the first village they killed 12 people and in the second they killed 10," a police official said. "After killing the villagers, they fled under cover of darkness." Army and police have reached the spot and a search and a combing operation had begun, the police official said. It was not immediately known if women and children were among the dead. — Reuters.

INDONESIA

Dili, Apr 28 — Two people were killed in clashes between East Timor police and sacked soldiers on Friday, the latest violence since the cash-strapped government dismissed more than 500 soldiers earlier this month. It was unclear how many people were hurt, but a Reuters photographer on the scene said a hospital official had told him of 30 injuries. "Two citizens were killed," police chief Paulo de Fatima Martins told Reuters by telephone. It was not immediately clear if the dead were former soldiers. But the witness said East Timor police had fired into a crowd of hundreds of ex-soldiers and their supporters who were burning cars and throwing rocks. Police were visiting residential areas of Dili, calling on people to remain calm. Today's protest had been planned as the last in a series by the sacked soldiers. — Reuters.

London, May 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Security forces fired tear gas and water cannons at protesters in the Indonesian capital today after they hurled stones at police and tore down a gate in front of parliament. Tens of thousands of workers turned out for the rally to protest government plans to make changes to a 2003 labour law, which businesses claim discourages investment by making it hard to fire employees. Workers say the revisions would chip away at job security. The demonstration, the latest in a series in recent weeks, turned violent after some of the protesters started setting tyres on fire on a toll road near the heavily guarded parliament. Some lobbed rocks at police, while other pressed up against the main iron gate surrounding the building, shaking it back and forth until it toppled over.

IRAQ

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: US forces in Iraq have killed 12 suspected militants and a woman in a raid and air strike on a house outside Baghdad, military officials said. The military says troops came under fire when approaching the house, which it described as a militant hideout. All the dead men were said to have been wearing vests loaded with ammunition. There was no word on US casualties. In other incidents, four bullet-riddled bodies were found in Baghdad and one civilian was killed in a roadside bomb.

Rome, Apr 27 — Three Italian soldiers and one Romanian were killed today when a roadside bomb ripped through their convoy in southern Iraq, the Italian defense ministry said. The ministry said in a statement a fourth Italian soldier was seriously wounded. The explosion occurred in the city of Nassiriya, where the Italian contingent in Iraq is based. — Reuters.

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The sister of the newly appointed Iraqi vice-president, Tariq al-Hashemi, has been killed in a drive-by shooting in the Iraqi capital

Baghdad. Meysoun al-Hashemi and her bodyguard were gunned down while travelling in her car through the Hay al-Ilam part of the city. It follows the killing of one of Mr Hashemi's brothers on April 13. Mr Hashemi, Iraq's most prominent Sunni Muslim, was elected on Saturday (Apr 22) as part of efforts to form a unity government. According to Iraqi police Ms Hashemi had just left her house in a southern suburb of the capital and was being driven to work when the attack occurred. Gunmen in another car fired a hail of bullets at her car, killing both her and her bodyguard Saad Ali, then sped off, police say. Ms Hashemi was the head of the women's affairs department in the Iraqi Islamic Party, the biggest Sunni Muslim political faction, which is headed by her brother. No-one has yet claimed responsibility.

London, Apr 30 — A press report, dated today, states: American and Iraqi forces have killed more than 20 insurgents during raids in areas used by militants to stage attacks in Baghdad, the US military said. In violence, a roadside bomb hit a US military convoy in central Tikrit, the hometown of Saddam Hussein, police Maj. Ahmed Awad said. He said the blast set a Humvee on fire and caused US casualties, but the US command could not immediately confirm that. The US military said the raids have taken place in and around Youssifiyah, a town about 12 miles south of Baghdad. In the latest operations yesterday, US and Iraqi forces attacked buildings used by foreign insurgent groups such as al-Qaida in Iraq, capturing seven militants and detaining more than 50 suspects, the US command said. Insurgents have been using the Youssifiyah region as a staging ground for suicide attacks in Baghdad, the command said.

Falluja, May 3 — A suicide bomber blew himself up among a crowd of men waiting to sign up to join the police force in the Iraqi city of Falluja today, killing at least 18 people, doctors said. Violence has flared in mainly Sunni Arab Anbar province, with US and Iraqi forces killing over 100 insurgents over the past week in the capital, Ramadi, west of Falluja, and a suicide car bomber killing 10 in an attempt to assassinate the governor yesterday. Parliament, which will soon vote on forming a government of national unity — seen as the best hope for ending the bloodshed — began its first normal business session since being elected in December. However, speaker Mahmoud al-Mashhadani deferred what was to have been the most important issue, the selection of a committee to review and amend the constitution, until after a new government is formed and approved by parliament. Parliament, in which the once dominant Sunni minority is more fully represented since abandoning its boycott of the US-backed political process by voting in December, is due to sit again next

Wednesday (May 10). In Falluja, 60 km west of Baghdad, doctor Bilal Mahmoud said most of the 20 people wounded in today's attack on the police recruits were in a critical condition. The insurgents have been shifting their focus from US and other foreign troops to Iraq's new army and police force. The large crowds drawn to recruiting centres are a common target. More than 80 people were killed in an attack on a police recruiting centre in Ramadi in January. — Reuters.

Baghdad, May 4 — A roadside bomb exploded near a courthouse in Baghdad today, killing at least nine people, as Iraqi politicians pressed ahead with efforts to form a national unity government they hope can avert civil war. The blast on Baghdad's Palestine Street also wounded 46 people, police said. In other violence today, gunmen killed Muhammed Ridha, a brigadier in the Defence Ministry, in the capital's Yarmouk district, police said. An Iraqi soldier was shot dead near Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit north of Baghdad, said the Joint Co-ordination Centre run by the US and Iraqi militaries. At least five people were killed in Ramadi in what witnesses and police said was a US air strike on a house. The US military said it was not aware of any air strike on a house in Ramadi but was checking reports. One police official said up to 13 people may have been killed. Hospital officials said five people were killed and 15 wounded. — Reuters.

IRAQ-KUWAIT

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The United Nations panel overseeing compensation for victims of Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait has paid out a \$248 million installment to cover claims for losses and damages, the world body said today. The latest installment, which consisted of large payments to private individuals, governments, international organisations and corporations, brings the total amount paid in compensation to more than \$20.6 billion, said the United Nations Compensation Commission. The UNCC is made up of the 15 UN Security Council member countries. Money to pay the claims comes from Iraqi oil sales. The commission has approved \$52.5 billion in total compensation. Payments are running well behind schedule, and it is expected to take years to complete the compensation. Last year, the UNCC said higher revenues from Iraqi oil sales had enabled the panel to speed up paying the claims, and it expected to pay off individuals by the middle of this year. The funds in the latest payout went to individuals, corporations, international organizations or governments in six countries: Britain, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Turkey. Until the US-led invasion of Iraq that toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003, the commission received 25% of the proceeds from the U.N. oil-for-food

program, which — in an exception to international sanctions — allowed the former Iraqi regime to sell oil and buy food, medicine and other humanitarian goods.

ISRAEL

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The Israel Air Force fired three missiles at two cars travelling in the central Gaza Strip today, killing a militant of the radical Islamic Jihad movement and injuring two others, hospital officials said. Initial reports released by the Palestinian Interior Ministry which said that two Islamic Jihad militants were killed appeared to be incorrect, with Gaza City's Shiffa hospital confirming only one death. The two injured were in moderate condition, the hospital said. The occupants of the targeted cars were members of Saraya al-Quds, the armed wing of Islamic Jihad, which had taken a leading role in rocket attacks at Israel from Gaza. An Israeli army spokeswoman confirmed the air strike, saying the target was a group of militants, who were on their way to launch rockets into Israel. Israel Radio said the car was loaded with locally-produced Qassam rockets.

NEPAL

Kathmandu, Apr 26 — Nepal's Maoist rebels today suspended a blockade of the capital after the country's incoming prime minister assured them elections would be held for an assembly to frame a new constitution. The Maoists said they had lifted the blockade on Kathmandu and major towns until parliament meets for the first time in four years on Friday (Apr 28), but they reiterated their key demand — a new constitution and a review of the role of the monarchy. Life returned to normal in Kathmandu after weeks of often bloody pro-democracy and anti-monarchy protests. However, in a village in the east of the country, six people died when an unrelated demonstration about the killing of a woman by soldiers turned violent. Troops opened fire on an angry crowd of about 100 people outside an army camp, after the protesters tried to snatch their weapons, the defence ministry said. Six were killed and 11 wounded and taken to hospital, it said. The Maoists also set off a small bomb in a town north of Kathmandu and killed a policeman, the ministry said. Meanwhile the rebels, who control much of the countryside, offered some relief to the beleaguered townspeople of Nepal by withdrawing their blockade until Friday, following an appeal by incoming prime minister Girija Prasad Koirala. "We want to make it clear that if the first meeting of the parliament does not take a positive decision on the declaration of an unconditional constituent assembly, we will be compelled to reimpose the blockade," Maoist leader Prachanda said. Koirala is set to become Nepal's next prime minister after King Gyanendra handed over

power to the country's main political parties and reinstated parliament in response to the protests. The veteran politician, four times prime minister and leader of the biggest party, had earlier appealed to the powerful Maoists to end their blockade. "The constituent assembly is the main agenda of the new parliament," Koirala said in a statement today. In Kathmandu, streets were crowded with tourists and shoppers and public transport was working. Political parties said their first priority would be to bring the Maoists back into the mainstream and called for a cease-fire. — Reuters. (See issue of Apr 26.)

Kathmandu, Apr 27 — Nepal's Maoist rebels declared a three-month ceasefire from today and political parties forming a new government promised to work with them, dramatically raising hopes of an end to the decade-old conflict. King Gyanendra caved in to the pro-democracy movement on Monday (Apr 24), reconvening the country's dissolved parliament. Mainstream political parties were invited to form the government and they promised to hold elections for a special assembly to write a new constitution, reflecting Maoist demands. The rebels, after initially announcing a blockade of Kathmandu and district capitals, called off the move. The Maoists, while announcing the three-month ceasefire, however reiterated their demand that the parliament's first session tomorrow make plans for a constituent assembly. "Our People's Liberation Army will not carry out any offensive military action during this period and will remain defensive," rebel chief Prachanda said in a statement. A senior political leader welcomed the Maoist announcement, and said the incoming government would likely join the truce. Madhav Kumar Nepal, general secretary of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML), the second-largest in the main seven-party alliance, said he expected the government to announce a ceasefire of its own, release Maoist prisoners, withdraw international arrest warrants for its top leaders and invite them for talks. The Maoists had initially called the king's deal with the political parties a "sham," unhappy that his address to the nation to dissolve parliament made no explicit mention of their demand for a constituent assembly, but they later came around, underlining they expected their demands to be met very soon. We want to make it clear that if the first meeting of the parliament does not take a positive decision on the declaration of an unconditional constituent assembly, we will be compelled to reimpose the blockade," Prachanda said in an earlier statement. Today, the rebels said there were "efforts to undervalue the great ideals shown on the street" as a movement only for the reinstatement of parliament by political parties. Girija Prasad Koirala, 84, is set to become Nepal's next prime minister after the king

handed over power to the alliance. Analysts said there were plenty of pitfalls ahead. The Maoist demand for an unconditional constituent assembly is generally interpreted to mean it should have the power to strip the king of his title and establish a republic. But an assembly on those terms is not something the king would be happy with, and could use the Supreme Court, dominated by royal appointees, to block it. It was also not clear if the Maoists would agree to lay down their weapons before elections to the special assembly, something parliament is expected to demand. — Reuters.

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The 50 billion Nepali rupees (714 million US dollars) tourism industry has received a body blow to its present and future prospects from the 19-day general strike called by Seven Party Alliance, Hotel Association Nepal said in Kathmandu today. A report issued by the association said that over 90 percent cancellations were registered during the strike. Hotels registered a loss of over 760 million rupees (10.8 million dollars) from over 600 hotels and resorts in the capital Kathmandu Valley during the general strike on April 6-24. Each day 30,000 tourists arrive to Nepal on an average. During the strike, it came down to about 3,000 a day, a drop of 90 percent, according to the association. The tourism industry alone generates 33 percent of total revenue for the government annually. Of the total foreign currency earnings, 24 percent is generated by the tourism sector alone, president of the association Prakash Shrestha said. The number of rooms at hotels run under the association comes to be 22,000 across the country and the number of beds stands at 45,000. Restaurants that give employment to over 37,000 people across the country lost over 475 million rupees (6.78 million dollars) over the 19-day strike.

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Maoist rebels captured 11 government soldiers in east Nepal on Thursday (Apr 27), the Defence Ministry said yesterday. The soldiers were seized in Dhanakuta district, about 500 kilometres east of Kathmandu, and taken to an unknown destination, the ministry said in a statement.

London, May 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Less than a week after taking power, Nepal's new government today declared a ceasefire with Maoist rebels and said it would no longer brand them as terrorists, the latest in a series of moves aimed at coaxing the guerrillas back into the political mainstream. The ceasefire added to the sense of political momentum that has been building in Nepal since violent protests last week forced King Gyanendra to reinstate parliament as a first step toward writing a new constitution that could weaken or eliminate the monarchy. The announcement after a cabinet

meeting led by Prime Minister G.P. Koirala reciprocated a three-month truce declared last week by the Maoists, whose 10-year fight to topple the monarchy has cost at least 12,000 lives and driven the Himalayan nation to the brink of economic ruin. Besides the cease-fire, the new government has taken steps toward releasing imprisoned Maoist leaders and has been in touch with the movement's underground political leaders, who are likely to make public appearances "very soon," Home Minister Krishna Sitaul told reporters after the meeting. The government also has decided to seek the lifting of Interpol arrest warrants against rebel leaders, officials said.

NIGERIA

London, May 4 — A press report, dated May 3, states: Nigerian troops killed at least one person during a protest at a U.S.-operated oil export terminal in Nigeria last night in a dispute with a nearby community over jobs, authorities said today. Hundreds of villagers invaded ExxonMobil's Qua Iboe terminal, which exports about 420,000 barrels per day, to protest against the arrest of fellow villagers who had stormed an offshore barge used by the company days earlier. "They were not protesters, they were armed with guns and cutlasses," said a naval source. "They started shooting at the police, who ran away. The navy arrived to secure the facility, there was an exchange of fire and there was one casualty," he added. Williams Williams, a youth leader from the area, said two people had been killed and four injured. The incident was not directly related to militant attacks in other parts of the delta which have forced oil companies to pull out staff and reduced Nigerian oil output by a quarter, but observers said it was part of a growing wave of violence in a region which produces all the country's oil. Initial reports of the clash yesterday were sketchy, but ExxonMobil said its production was temporarily interrupted. "We can not confirm possible injuries associated with the incident," said Exxon spokeswoman Susan Reeves in Houston. The problems for ExxonMobil began last weekend when about 15 unarmed youths from Mkpanak village boarded an offshore barge being used by an ExxonMobil contractor to demand jobs, a security source said. The commanding officer of Eastern Naval Command Benjamin Coker said today the youths had intended to blow up the barge, but a security source said they were unarmed and only seeking jobs and money. Six of those arrested were paraded by troops in front of the press in Calabar today. The militant group which has attacked other oil facilities in the delta, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, is a much more professional outfit, with heavier weapons and military-style organisation, observers said. But both incidents stem from deep-seated

resentment by many residents of the delta, where impoverished villages stand close to multi-billion-dollar oil facilities. Many residents of the vast wetlands region feel cheated out of the riches being pumped from their tribal lands. Rampant corruption and neglect has eroded trust in government, while communal rivalries and abuses by the military have fuelled the rise of well-armed community militias. They have taken advantage of the absence of law and order to engage in large-scale theft of crude oil, extortion, blackmail and kidnapping against oil companies, who rely on ill-equipped and poorly trained police and military to protect them.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, Apr 27 — Philippine police seized a cache of explosive materials and grenades during a raid on a suspected hideout of Islamic militants in Manila, a senior police official said today. Asher Dolina said no arrests were made when an elite police team stormed a bungalow-style house in the east of the capital and hauled five grenades, dozens of crude bombs, blasting caps and chemicals for making explosive devices. Dolina said there were also documents taken from the hideout but he declined to give further details. Last week, Philippine security officials said they disrupted a plot by militants to bomb shopping malls and public parks in two urban centres on the southern island of Mindanao over Easter, an important holiday for the mainly Catholic nation. — Reuters.

RUSSIA

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Thirteen gunmen were destroyed and another 59 were detained in Chechnya during a large-scale anti-terror drill that was held in southern Russia, Commander of the Interior Troops Col.-Gen. Nikolai Rogozhkin said today summing up the results of the exercises. According to him, 400 people were detained on suspicions of committing dangerous crimes for five days of the war games, 270 of them were on the wanted list, including the federal wanted list. The general estimated the operational situation in the Southern Federal District as difficult, but stable. "The situation is under control, now we are concerned over regions adjoining Chechnya," he said, adding that the number of bandits does not reduce as quick as we would like to.[zz]

SOLOMAN ISLANDS

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A dusk-to-dawn curfew in the Solomon Islands capital Honiara has been lifted. With the security situation now well under control, the Solomon Islands Police Commissioner Shane Castles recommended to the Governor-General this morning that he should revoke the declaration he signed last week under the Solomon Islands

Preservation of Public Security Act. The 1800 to 0600 hrs curfew has been lifted, as has a ban on the sale of alcohol. A Government statement says the decision means business will be able to return to normal. Commissioner Castles says the police, backed up by the extra forces flown into the Solomons by Australia, New Zealand and Fiji after last week's riots, will maintain their high profile in the streets. He is urging the public to maintain the peace and stay calm. Yesterday's resignation of prime minister Snyder Rini defused the tension. It could be next Thursday before a new prime minister is elected.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Honiara, Apr 27 — The Solomon Islands head of state lifted a dusk-to-dawn curfew in the capital Honiara today but foreign troops and police remained on the streets to prevent fresh riots sparked by the election of a premier. Protests last week against the election of Snyder Rini as prime minister spiraled into two days of looting, targeting the tiny Chinese business population in Honiara, before the arrival of Australian and New Zealand troops to restore peace. Rini resigned yesterday, saying he no longer had the support of parliament. A new prime minister will be elected in a secret parliamentary ballot on May 4. Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said regardless of who was elected prime minister, the island nation would struggle to end corruption and political instability. "Corruption is endemic in the Solomon Islands, it's an enormous problem," Downer told Sydney radio today. Rini said he hoped his decision to step down would bring peace to the nation of 992 islands spread out over 1.35 million sq km. His resignation was greeted with street celebrations, but jockeying for the prime minister's job is seeing MPs swapping allegiances in the fluid world of Solomons politics and it is unclear whether voters will be happy with their new leader. Governor-General Sir Nathaniel Waena lifted the curfew in Honiara after meeting Commissioner of Police Shane Castles, a government statement said today. Castles said the lifting of the curfew would allow businesses to return to normal but added police and troops would still patrol the streets. More than 100 people were arrested following the unrest, including two politicians. The Solomon Islands High Court refused bail today for the two MPs. — Reuters.

SOMALIA

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Rival militiamen battled for control of a school near the base of a powerful warlord in the lawless Somali capital yesterday, killing at least two people, residents said. The clashes occurred after radical Islamic militias seized the school in preparation for war against an alliance of warlords-turned-

Cabinet-ministers and armed businessmen over control of Mogadishu. The alliance includes Trade Minister Muse Sudi Yalahow, whose base was threatened. At least one Islamic combatant and a teenage boy caught in the crossfire were killed in yesterday's clashes during which the alliance drove more than 100 rival fighters from the strategic area, said traditional leader Hussein Aboti and Aweys Fodeey, a reporter for the independent Horn Afrik Radio.

SRI LANKA

Colombo, Apr 27 — Sri Lanka stopped bombing Tamil Tiger targets and reopened borders with the rebel territory today, but with the island teetering on the brink of war the police said a fragmentation mine blast killed two sailors. Both sides have vowed to retaliate if attacked again after heavy firing Tuesday (Apr 25) night and yesterday caused thousands to flee their homes and raised fears a 2002 ceasefire could collapse. If violence stops, diplomats say peace talks might still be possible, but if it intensifies, they fear a return to war. Police in the northern army-held Jaffna enclave said a suspected Tiger claymore mine blast killed two sailors, while two policemen were wounded in a claymore attack near the northwest coast. Military spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe said claymore blasts would not provoke air attacks. With the main supply road from the south into Jaffna cut off during the attacks, a shortage of fuel was hitting public transport and electricity supplies. The army said the road and the border through rebel territory reopened early today and government officials said fuel was being sent. — Reuters.

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Sri Lanka's military has held off air strikes on Tamil Tiger targets for a second day but troops have seized a suspected rebel in a shopping mall raid in Colombo. More than 120 people have died in the bloodiest three weeks since a 2002 cease-fire. Diplomats say the island teeters on the brink of a new war over the Tigers' fight for a Tamil homeland in the north and east. Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) north-eastern political leader S Elilan has warned the Government of the potential for violence. International pressure is helping keep Colombo in check. But with six soldiers and sailors killed on Thursday (Apr 27) in suspected Tiger grenade and mine attacks, more hawkish government voices are said to want strikes resumed. "If they attack us, we will retaliate," Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe said. Mediator Norway says it has not entirely lost hope peace talks can be salvaged. Negotiations should have taken place last week in Switzerland. Aid workers say assessment missions have now moved into rebel areas south of Trincomalee hit by bombing and shelling. The Red Cross and United Nations say initial Tiger estimates of

40,000 displaced people appear wrong, with numbers more likely in the lower thousands.

London, Apr 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Skirmishes continue in Sri Lanka Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers and the military have exchanged fire across front lines, while diplomats try to bring about new peace talks and avert renewed civil war. The Army says it believes rebels of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) are responsible for shooting dead a policeman in Vavuniya, a town just to the south of the front line with rebel territory. It says the Tigers fired shots across a northern checkpoint with government territory in the early hours of the morning, drawing small arms fire from government forces. "We have retaliated and they have drawn back," a military spokesman said. "There were no casualties."

London, May 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Tamil Tiger rebels shelled army positions and launched a deadly raid on a breakaway faction they say is backed by the Sri Lankan government, killing at least 15 people yesterday. Early yesterday, the Tigers overran three camps operated by a breakaway faction in the village of Welikanda, in the eastern district of Batticaloa. The main Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) pounded a base of the faction led by V. Muralitharan, better known as Colonel Karuna.

London, May 1 — A press report, dated today, states: At least five people have been killed in a mine attack in north-eastern Sri Lanka blamed on Tamil Tiger rebels, local military officials say. The explosion in the port town of Trincomalee was apparently aimed at a navy patrol, officials said. In a separate incident, the navy says five sailors have been wounded in an exchange of fire with the Tigers. It follows recent violence that has strained a fragile ceasefire and thrown peace talks into doubt. Four Tamil civilians and a navy official were killed in the blast in Trincomalee which took place in a residential part of the town. Eight others, including four navy sailors, are said to have been injured. "The people who did it are not humans, there are small children and ladies around," Kamalachandran, a local resident whose daughter was hurt in the blast, said. Separately, the Sri Lankan navy said that boats from the Sea Tigers, the rebels' naval wing, attacked one of its vessels off the coast of Trincomalee.

SUDAN

London, May 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The deadline for peace talks to end bloodshed in Sudan's western Darfur region was extended by 48 hours yesterday, after rebels rejected a proposed deal to halt the fighting that has left tens of thousands of people dead. Salim Ahmed Salim, a lead mediator for the African Union, said the talks would continue until midnight on Tuesday

(May 2), pushing back the deadline for talks that have gone on for two years but so far failed to halt the violence. Earlier, the rebels called for changes to the deal, after the Sudanese government indicated it would accept the proposal. Salim said the bloc had bowed to requests from the United States and others to continue negotiations.

London, May 3 — A press report, dated today, states: African Union (AU) mediators say they will delay a deadline for peace talks on Sudan's Darfur region announcing a second 48-hour extension to the negotiations. An (AU) spokesman said Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo had requested the extension, to Thursday night (May4), local time, so that a group of African heads of state who are due on Wednesday in the Nigerian capital Abuja, venue of the talks, could participate. The Government of Sudan has accepted an 85-page draft settlement designed to end fighting that has killed tens of thousands. But three Darfur rebel factions refuse to sign, saying they are unhappy with the proposals on security, power-sharing and wealth-sharing. "The deadline was put back by 48 hours," said AU spokesman Nouredine Mezni. The AU had already extended the original deadline of Apr 30, by 48 hours after the rebels rejected the draft settlement.



INDONESIA

London, May 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Business in the North Sumatra capital Medan ground to a halt Monday (May 1), with many companies unable to operate as normal because their employees were taking part in rallies to mark International Labour Day. Yopie Batubara, chairman of the North Sumatra chapter of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin), said 1,500 factories in the province closed their doors Monday, resulting in total losses of Rp 150 billion (US\$160 million). There are about 7,500 factories in total in North Sumatra that are members of Kadin. Rallies were also held in several other big cities in Indonesia, including Jakarta, Surabaya, Bandung, Surakarta, Makassar, Manado, Batam, Malang, Ambon and Yogyakarta. At the Medan Industrial Estate (KIM) as many as 200 companies remained closed Monday. The scene was similar in other business areas in the city, including along Jl. H.M. Yamin and Jl. Sisingamangaraja. Most of the companies decided to remain closed because of fears the worker rallies would turn destructive. PT KIM manager Jefri Sirait said the businesspeople he contacted informed

him the closures were only temporary. Business activities are expected to return to normal Tuesday, he said. "They have the right to halt their operations, even though I gave them assurances there was no reason to worry as we had already requested extra police protection," Jefri said. In Bandung, representatives of the West Java chapter of the Indonesian Textile Association (API) said massive Labour Day rallies had caused association members losses amounting to Rp 15.2 billion (US\$1.66 million). Nearly 80 percent of workers employed at 248 textile companies throughout West Java took part in rallies Monday, Ade said. This was confirmed by Dedi Wijaya, chairman of the West Java chapter of the Indonesian Employers Association. However, many of the workers agreed to work Sunday or on an upcoming holiday to make up the lost day, Dedi said. Thousands of workers took part in rallies throughout Bandung. In Batam, Riau Islands, about 200 members of the Indonesian Prosperity Trade Union (SBSI) rallied at the Batam mayor's office. One of the demands of the workers was that May 1 be declared a national holiday. In Makassar, South Sulawesi, about 1,000 workers demonstrated in front of the South Sulawesi governor's office. The workers reiterated their opposition to any government policy that harmed the welfare of workers. A similar rally was held in Yogyakarta, where workers spoke out against the involvement of universities in the controversial revision of the Labour Law. "The involvement of universities will just be used by the authorities and business owners to legitimize their oppression of workers," rally coordinator Muhamad Yusuf said. In Surakarta, Central Java, Labour Day was marked with a so-called workers' congress in City Hall, while in Malang, East Java, a rally blocked off a major road linking Malang and Surabaya. In Manado, North Sulawesi, about 500 demonstrating workers arrived at the North Sulawesi governor's office in buses, trucks and on motorcycles.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Six suspected strike-breakers have died after being thrown from a train near Johannesburg, South African police say. Five bodies were found beside the railway in Benoni, and a sixth man died on the way to hospital. The victims are believed to be security guards who were going to work despite a long running strike calling for better wages and working conditions. Clashes with police and attacks on working security guards have been linked to the strike in several cities. The South African Transport and Allied Workers' Union (Satawu) and 14 other unions first went on strike one month ago. Satawu resumed the strike this month, and is continuing to demand an 11% pay increase after other unions agreed to a rise of 8.3%.

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London, May 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Striking security guards will not hold protests this week, the SA Trade and Allied Workers Union (Satawu) said today. “The guards are still on strike. They’re at home and will not be protesting anytime this week,” Satawu spokesperson Ronnie Mamba said. He said the union was still waiting for the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration to set a date for negotiations between the union and employers. Satawu members have been on strike since Mar 23. Yesterday Satawu President Ezrom Mabyana said the security guard strike would continue until the demands of the workers were met. Meanwhile, the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) will meet with Satawu at a central executive meeting today.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Up to 90,000 Britain’s civil servants went on a two-day strike yesterday in a dispute with a government program on job cuts, leaving another blow to Prime Minister Tony Blair’s Labour Party ahead of local elections tomorrow. The Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) of the civil servants working in job centres, benefit offices and the child support agencies are staging the strike to protest the government to cut 30,000 posts in the Department for Work and Pensions, Mark Serwotka, a spokesman for PCS, said. Yesterday’s walkout came after a similar two-day stoppage in January earlier this year. And more than one million local council employees went on strike in March in a pensions dispute that closed schools and caused travel chaos in the biggest walk-out in Britain since 1926.

UNITED STATES

London, May 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A national protest against immigration policies took a severe toll on ports in southern California, with almost 90% of truckers stopping work yesterday. Port authorities and terminals said any backlog of container movements would be overcome quickly, provided the action does not continue during the week. A Port of Los Angeles spokesman said: “Truck movements for the two ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are only 10% of the daily average of 30,000 movements. If the stoppage is only one day, much of the backlog can be made up by the PierPass after-hours programme, which accounts for 30% of traffic.” A senior executive at California United Terminals in Long Beach, which services APL and MOL, said there could be severe disruptions if the stoppage lasts more than a couple of days. Oakland was unaffected, however, and a senior official said the port was operating normally.

Awards & Settlements



ACCIDENTAL DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A Baltimore Circuit Court jury has awarded more than \$5 million to the family of a 68-year-old woman who died after suffering a fall at Harbor Hospital in 2001. Anna Mae Bussey of Baltimore fell and broke her hip while she was a patient. The fall precipitated a chain of events that resulted in Bussey’s death a month later, said the attorney for her family, Alan J. Belsky. Bussey, who was taking blood-thinning medication at the time of the fall, had to stop taking the medicine to undergo surgery. She died from a blood clot. Belsky said the nursing assistant on staff at the time of the fall was not aware that Bussey required assistance walking and testified in court that she allowed Bussey to walk without holding onto her. “This verdict represents an awareness by the jury that they had an obligation to Ms Bussey, to not only award her damages, but that this kind of action is avoidable and should have been avoided,” Belsky said. The jury made its decision on Monday (Apr 24).

BID-RIGGING, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated Apr 26, states: Attorney General Lisa Madigan, New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal today announced an \$80 million settlement agreement with Bermuda-based holding company ACE, Limited, and its U.S.-based insurance subsidiaries. The charges against the insurance giant were that it engaged in bid-rigging, steering of insurance business and accounting misconduct. The agreement requires ACE to pay back \$40 million to policyholders, including Illinois policyholders, who were the victims of ACE’s scheme to rig bids on excess casualty insurance policies. The amount that Illinois policyholders will receive has not yet been determined. The company did not disclose to its policyholders that it was colluding with other insurers and brokers to rig bids for excess casualty insurance. Under the agreement, ACE also will pay \$40 million in penalties and payments to the three states, including \$8 million to Illinois. Additionally, the agreement requires ACE to reform critical business practices. Under the agreement, ACE is required to sharply curtail its use of “contingent commissions,” paying no contingent commissions on excess casualty insurance placements through 2008. Contingent commissions are payments that insurers pay to brokers and agents in

addition to the base commissions. Contingent commission amounts generally are based on the volume and profitability of the business a broker or agent produces for an insurance company. Madigan’s investigation found that because contingent commissions are based on volume and profitability, they encourage brokers and agents to improperly steer their clients to particular insurers, even if that is not in the clients’ best interest. In addition, ACE has agreed to stop paying such commissions in any line of insurance in which companies with 65% of gross written premiums do not do so. ACE also has agreed to support legislation banning contingent commissions and requiring greater disclosure of compensation to brokers and agents. Under the agreement, ACE has agreed to provide new disclosures about ranges of compensation paid to brokers and agents by insurance products on a special Web site later this year. The Division of Insurance within the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, along with the New York Insurance Department and the Connecticut Insurance Department, will monitor ACE’s compliance with these new business reforms. “Our investigation revealed that ACE secretly agreed with insurance brokers and other insurers to rig bids for insurance policies. Because of this illegal conduct, policyholders did not get the impartial recommendations they deserved to get and they ended up paying more for their insurance,” Madigan said. “ACE also paid contingent commissions to brokers in exchange for the brokers steering business to ACE, again without the policyholders’ knowledge or consent. This settlement, along with other recent similar settlements, will help restore integrity to the insurance markets.” Today’s settlement is a product of a wider ongoing probe of misconduct in the insurance industry. That investigation previously resulted in Madigan’s \$153 million settlement with Chicago-based insurer Zurich in March 2006 and Madigan’s \$190 million settlement with Chicago-based insurance brokerage firm Aon in March 2005. Those settlements, which also included the New York and Connecticut attorneys general, similarly dealt with bid-rigging, contingent commissions and improper steering. Madigan’s investigation was conducted in co-operation with the IDFPR’s investigation of ACE’s conduct. IDFPR has primary responsibility under Illinois law for regulating the insurance industry.

MICROSOFT CLASS-ACTION SETTLEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, May 3 — A press report, dated May 2, states: Microsoft Corp. reached a tentative \$70 Million settlement resolving antitrust claims brought by certain California government entities. The class-action suit was filed in August 2004 by the law firm of Townsend and Townsend

and Crew, counsel for the City and County of San Francisco and the City of Los Angeles, as well as the counties of Santa Clara, San Mateo, Los Angeles and Contra Costa. The suit claimed that Microsoft engaged in anticompetitive conduct and "used its market power to overcharge members of the government class." Microsoft denies the suit's claims. The \$70 million will be divided among the State of California and the government entities. Those entities can use the settlement benefits to get cash refunds "upon the purchase of any brand of qualifying computer hardware and software." "We value our relationship with these cities and counties and are pleased to reach a settlement that allows us all to focus on the future," said Tom Burt, corporate vice president and deputy general counsel for Microsoft.

NETFLIX CLASS-ACTION SETTLEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, May 3 — A press report, dated today, states: San Francisco Superior Court Judge Thomas Mellon Jr. has approved the latest revision to the Netflix class-action settlement. Netflix earlier admitted to delaying shipments to "less profitable customers," the customers that rent a significant number of films. Because the company was misleading customers about delivery time of movies, action was eventually taken against Netflix. Netflix will also be required to pay \$1.3 million to Adam Gutride and Seth Safier, who are the San Francisco attorneys that decided to do something about Netflix throttling customers. Netflix is now required to offer a free month of DVD rental service to 5.5 million current Netflix subscribers and former subscribers. The estimate for total settlement costs are almost \$9 million, according to the company. Netflix will most likely begin sending official notices of the settlement later in May.

PRICE-FIXING OF MEDICINES, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated Apr 26, states: Pharmaceutical company Dey Inc., will pay \$2.93 million to settle allegations it engaged in a pricing scheme that resulted in the Medicaid program paying too much for certain generic prescription drugs. Attorney General Jay Nixon filed the settlement with Dey Inc. yesterday in St. Louis city Circuit Court. Under the settlement terms, Dey Inc. will pay \$2.73 million to the Medicaid Fraud Reimbursement Fund and \$200,000 to the Merchandising Practices Revolving Fund, which is used to fund consumer protection litigation and education. In Nixon's lawsuit, filed in May 2005, he said Day Inc. did not accurately report the prices of drugs sold to pharmacies participating in the Medicaid program. The prices reported to pharmaceutical trade publications, referred to as the average wholesale price (AWP) or the wholesale

acquisition cost (WAC), often were substantially higher than the prices paid by the providers for the drugs, which were primarily generic brand inhalants used by patients with respiratory conditions. The AWP and the WAC are two of the bases used by the Missouri Medicaid program to determine the reimbursement paid to the providers when they submit claims to Medicaid. If a pharmacy knew it would receive a greater reimbursement from Medicaid if it dispensed a generic prescription drug sold by Dey Inc., it would be more likely to dispense that drug, the lawsuit alleged. As a result, Nixon said, Dey Inc. was able to artificially increase its market share through a scheme that cost Missouri taxpayers. Nixon had also sued a second company, Warrick Pharmaceutical Corp.; at the same time he sued Dey Inc., alleging Warrick engaged in the same scheme. That lawsuit is pending.



BEAUFORD, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Apr 30 — A press report, date today, states: Two people are dead and up to 40 people are injured after a train crash at a level crossing in western Victoria. Police said the one-carriage Ararat-bound Velocity passenger train collided with a truck at the Ercildoon level crossing near Beauford just after 1600, AEST. The driver of the high-speed train was not killed, V/Line spokeswoman Dionne Lew said, but a second driver on board the train was among the fatalities. The identity of the second dead person is not yet known. Police said two of the injured had suffered life-threatening injuries. A police spokeswoman said there were 26 passengers aboard the train and all had suffered some form of injury. A spokesman at the hospital said staff were preparing to receive about 40 casualties. Police and Country Fire Authority personnel were working to free the driver from the wreckage of the train.

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Police say it is too early to determine what caused a train crash in western Victoria that left two passengers dead and dozens injured. The sprinter train was travelling from Ararat to Melbourne when it collided with a semi-trailer at Trawalla. The 56-year-old train driver is in a critical condition at Melbourne's Alfred Hospital with multiple fractures and internal injuries. More than 30 others, including the truck driver, have been taken to the Ballarat Base Hospital. Police will spend the day at the scene of the crash and will prepare a report

for the coroner. Inspector Vic Dunn says he cannot say whether the truck driver was at fault.

BROXBOURNE STATION, HERTFORDSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Rail services to Stansted Airport were disrupted today after part of a freight train was derailed. A Network Rail spokesperson said a section of the freight train came off tracks in sidings north of Broxbourne station in Hertfordshire. Part of the main line was blocked by one of the freight wagons. Services run by rail firm One and Stansted Express services were hit and there were no services between Broxbourne and Harlow Town. Trains from Cambridge are also terminating at Harlow Town. A Network Rail spokesman said the incident happened at 0650 BST. "The cause of the incident is not yet known but our engineers are busy out on track investigating and working to remove the section of the freight train affected," he added. "We are hopeful of getting some services back on the move by the evening rush-hour." Bus replacement services were in place and passengers were advised to check with National Rail Enquiries for service updates.

CHITHERI, INDIA

London, May 2 — The Southern Railway (SR) cancelled eight trains following the derailment of nine wagons of a goods train at Chitheri on the Arakkonam-Katpadi section late on Sunday (Apr 30) night. A Railway release said the single line was restored this morning and all incoming trains coming via Jolarpet and Katpadi, expected to reach Chennai Central this morning, will arrive this afternoon.

GRAPEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

London, May 3 — Crews from Norfolk Southern Railroad spent this morning cleaning up after a train derailment in Grapeville, Westmoreland County. Thirty of the 59 cars in the train, heading from Huff, Indiana County to Gypsum, Ohio, left the tracks just after midnight near Saddler's Crossing Road. The cars were carrying gypsum, which is a by product of coal used in making drywall. Railroad spokesman Rudy Husband said the investigation is in the early stages, so it's not known why the cars jumped the tracks. No one was hurt. Clean-up is expected to last for about 24 hours.

PLAINS TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

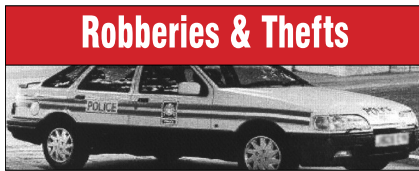
London, May 1 — A press report, dated Apr 30, states: A train derailment Friday (Apr 28) in Plains Township damaged more than 800 feet of Canadian Pacific rail line, railroad spokesman Michel Stenard said. The 55-car train derailed behind Union Street around 1530, spilling lumber

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and paper products all over the track. No hazardous materials were released, and no one was injured. Railroad officials had no idea yesterday what caused the 12 boxcars to jump the track. Railroad personnel worked all day to clear the cars off the track and rebuild the damaged line. The line remained shut down, but Stenard expected it would reopen sometime today.

SHARQIYA AREA, EGYPT

London, May 1 — A press report, date dotday, states: A cargo train collided head-on with a passenger train today in Sharqiya governorate, 65 km north of Cairo, injuring 45 people, the official MENA news agency reported. The passenger train coming from Cairo en route to Zaqaziq, capital of Sharqiya, crashed into a cargo train from Zaqaziq to Cairo in northern Sharqiya, said MENA. Egyptian Minister of Transport Mohamed Mansour had led a team of officials and technicians to the scene, said the report. The cause of the accident was under investigation.



Robberies & Thefts

PAINTINGS, NORWAY

Oslo, May 2 — A Norwegian court ordered two men to pay \$122 million in damages today after convicting them for the 2004 theft of Edvard Munch's masterpieces "The Scream" and "Madonna" and jailing them for seven and eight years. The Oslo court also convicted a third man for supplying a car for the armed robbery, but did not order him to pay damages. It acquitted three other men, including one who prosecutors suspected had been one of two robbers who entered Oslo's Munch Museum on August 22, 2004 and took the artworks in broad daylight. The prosecution was unable to prove who had actually grabbed the two 1893 paintings, which have not been recovered despite the offer of a 2 million Norwegian crown (\$325,900) reward. Police attorney Morten Hojem Ervik said police did have some information and he was hopeful the pictures would be found. "We don't think they have been destroyed," Ervik said, and added there was no evidence the paintings had been smuggled out of Norway. "We know a lot, but I can't share all of that with you here now because this work is still going on." Five of the men had been charged with planning or taking part in the robbery, and the sixth had been accused of handling stolen goods. All had pleaded not guilty in February. Two men wearing black ski masks, one of them waving a Smith & Wesson revolver, walked into the Munch Museum and pulled the two paintings off the walls in front of

dozens of stunned tourists who were forced to lie on the ground. A third man drove a get-away car which was later found. Presiding judge Arne Lyng sentenced Petter Tharaldsen to eight years Bjoern Hoen to seven years and Petter Rosenvinge to four years for their part in the robbery. — Reuters.



Miscellaneous

POWER OUTAGE TO REFINERY, ALGERIA

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Algerian state-run oil and gas company Sonatrach has shut its 335,000 barrel-a-day Skikda refinery due to technical problems, traders said today. "The whole refinery was shut down...(but) they have already restarted one unit," one market participant said, while noting another unit remains offline following an emergency shutdown yesterday. No other details were available and a spokesman at Sonatrach couldn't be reached for confirmation.



Fires & Explosions

BRUSH, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, May 1 — A press report, dated Apr 30, states: A series of brush fires consumed more than 1,500 acres in Lee County this weekend (Apr29/30), destroying or damaging more than two dozen homes, authorities said. Firefighters from 33 fire departments had the major blaze 60 percent contained this morning, but worried that windy conditions and rising temperatures could stoke lingering hot spots, said Gerry LaCavera, wildfire mitigation specialist with the Florida Division of Forestry. The cause of the fire was unknown but investigators "consider the fire suspicious," LaCavera said. No injuries were reported, and it was not immediately clear how many homes were destroyed.

CHEMICAL PLANT, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion at a chemical plant today caused no injuries but had officials asking some residents to stay inside their homes with their doors and windows closed as a precaution. The shelter in place was issued to all residents in the El Vista area of Port Arthur after the 0700 explosion at the Huntsman Chemical Plant. It's a precautionary

measure, said Port Arthur police Sgt. Janice Marshall. Authorities did not immediately know what caused the explosion. Heavy, black smoke could be seen coming from the burning unit and at one point flames could be seen billowing an estimated 100 feet into the sky. Roads around the plant were closed by authorities. Clark T. Colvin, a spokesman for Huntsman, said that all plant personnel had safely evacuated the area. Rescue teams from all three of Huntsman's local facilities responded to the incident, he said. Marshall said Port Arthur firefighters as well as those with Huntsman were battling the blaze, which had not been extinguished by late this morning.

COAL MINE, SHAANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, May 1 — A press report, dated Apr 30, states: A coal mine blast in northwestern China killed 27 people, the government said today, as rescuers searched for five remaining workers still missing in the mine's underground shafts. Thirty-nine miners were working underground when the gas blast occurred yesterday around 1620, local time, at the Wayaobao Coal Mine in Shaanxi province, China's State Administration of Coal Mine Safety said on its Web site. Seven people managed to escape, and 27 workers were confirmed dead, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Rescuers were still searching for five people still missing, it said. It wasn't immediately clear what caused the gas blast. Xinhua said investigations were underway. Police have placed the owner and management of the Wayaobao mine under watch, sealed the mine's records and frozen its accounts, according to Xinhua.

COAL MINE, SHANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, May 2 — A press report, dated May 1, states: The death toll in a coal mine explosion in north-west China rose to 30 today as more bodies were recovered, the government said. Another two miners remained missing after the blast on Saturday afternoon (Apr 29) at the Wayaobao Coal Mine in Shaanxi province, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Thirty-nine miners were working underground and seven managed to escape, it said. An investigation into the cause of the accident was under way, Xinhua said. Local authorities have detained the owner of the coal mine and other managerial staff, it said without giving any details.

FUEL DEPOT, JOHOR PORT, MALAYSIA

London, May 1 — A press report, dated Apr 30, states: Lightning has struck a fuel storage tank belonging to a unit of Malaysia's national oil company Petronas Bhd, sparking a huge blaze that engulfed two other tanks nearby, the subsidiary said yesterday. No casualties were

reported in the fire in Johor Port, located in the country's southernmost state of Johor.

OIL REFINERY, SICILY

Messina, Apr 30 — A fire has broken out at ERG Refinery near Santa Panagia in Southern Sicily. We understand that the fire first broke out at approx 1800, UTC and was followed by several explosions which were heard in nearby village of Priolo. A large cloud of smoke, allegedly caused by burning crude oil has enveloped the area. First reports indicate that at first the refinery's own fire teams had after a half hour managed to mitigate the fire which had allegedly started in a pipe connecting 2 oil-ducts below the Siracusa-Catania main road which was immediately closed to traffic. However several explosions occurred when the fire had been thought to have been conquered and two further fires subsequently broke out inside the refinery with tall clouds of smoke. There are reports that a 3rd fire subsequently broke out. Firefighters from Augusta, Siracusa and Catania are presently in attendance, aided by Carabinieri, Police and the Italian Army. The Mayor of Priolo has used the emergency broadcasting system by loud-speakers to ask people to stay indoors. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 1 — Accident at Erg Med ISAB at around 1630, Apr 30. Refinery had an explosion and fire in crude oil shore line. As blast caused extensive damage around 1900hrs fire attacked another two shore crude oil lines. Vessels alongside Esso terminals berth are now drifting off port limits. No damage found for the vessels in that area.

Messina, May 2 — Several teams of fire-fighters attending the fire at the ERG refinery in Priolo had apparently managed to extinguish the blaze 22 hours after it broke out, but flames erupted again soon after 2200, May 1. Firefighters worked throughout the night until 0600 today. Understand that it is proving particularly difficult to monitor the full length of the duct where the fire first started, as it is over two km long, and there are still fears that a rise in temperature may occur somewhere in the duct, setting it alight again. In addition, technicians and fire experts who were called in are unable to establish the exact quantity of crude oil still present in the duct. Earlier estimates suggested 2,000 cubic metres, but it is understood that the quantity may be greater. Understand that firefighters believe further fires are very likely unless the temperature inside the duct is brought down to acceptable levels. The possibility of deliberately burning the remaining crude in a "controlled" fire has been considered, but this course of action has been ruled out by the authorities due to the close proximity of towns such as Priolo and Melilli, which are still covered in a dense cloud of smoke. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of May 2.)

London, May 3 — Operations are

gradually resuming at Augusta, following the accident and fire at the Erg Med ISAB north site on Sunday (April 30). At 1800, local time, yesterday the Harbour Master at Augusta authorized vessels to drop anchor at the inner breakwaters to the north side of the leading line (north part of the harbour). Esso terminals, Sasol Italy, Maxcom and Cement factory have been operation as normal since yesterday evening. The Erg - ISAB terminal north site and Polimeri Europa refineries, however, remain out of operation and/or under controls for the meantime.

OIL STORAGE DEPOT, PASIR GUDANG, MALAYSIA

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Lightning struck a huge oil storage facility at a port in the southern Malaysian state of Johor today, causing at least one tank to explode and two others to catch fire, an official said. No casualties were reported. At least 5,000 workers have been evacuated and the area surrounding the fuel depot at the Pasir Gudang port has been cordoned off, a municipal official said. Fire department officials battled the blaze. The oil tank farm also houses petroleum products belonging to US companies Caltex and ExxonMobil, the official said. The five-story storage tank that caught fire belonged to national petroleum company Petronas, and the blaze spread to two other tanks, an official said. In a brief statement, Petronas said the depot stored fuel and petroleum products, and served the southern region in Malaysia bordering Singapore. "The company has made arrangements for the products to be sourced from its other depots," Petronas added. It was not immediately clear how much oil was lost.

PAPER FACTORY, UDHAM SINGH NAGAR, UTTARANCHAL STATE, INDIA

London, May 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful explosion occurred at a northern Indian paper factory yesterday, killing at least 15 workers and injuring more than 50 others, reports said. The reports said hundreds of people who were initially reported to be trapped in the factory were all rescued. The blast and fire occurred at the factory in the town of Udhm Singh Nagar, Uttaranchal State.

PREMISES, ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA

London, May 2 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion and fire has severely damaged a building in the centre of Adelaide. The Pirie Street blaze is thought to have been sparked in the basement of the building at about 0300, CST. No one was injured, but engineers have been called in to determine the safety of the structure. The blast completely gutted the basement and ground floor sections of the building which houses

a retail wine outlet and a sports store on the first floor. The area would remain closed off to traffic today, disrupting nearby shops and other businesses, a police spokeswoman said. Investigations into the cause of the blast were continuing.

PREMISES, DOVERCOURT, ESSEX, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 20 firefighters spent the night tackling a major blaze in a derelict row of shops and flats in Dovercourt town centre. Four crews two from Harwich and two from Manningtree and an aerial ladder were called in to deal with the fire in High Street, Dovercourt, at 2100 last night. Police officers closed the road for several hours as firefighters used breathing apparatus and hose reel jets to put out the blaze. A fire brigade spokesman said about 30% of the buildings were destroyed.

PREMISES, SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, May 3 — A press report, dated May 2, states: An attorneys' office fire Monday night (May 1) caused about \$1 million in damage, according to Santa Ana Fire Department spokesman Ben Gonzales. Gonzales said the department believes the fire was intentionally set. Gonzales said the two-alarm fire was reported around 2100 for the single-story office building above a parking structure. It took the firefighters about 30 minutes to extinguish the blaze, he said. There was no information that the fire was related to yesterday's immigration protests, Gonzales said. The fire was mostly contained to a central part of the building, but spread into the attic, causing smoke and water damage to much of the building. The Gardener & Riechmann attorneys-at-law office is listed as a full-service collection law firm for commercial and retail claims handling all of Southern California. The fire caused \$800,000 in property damage and \$200,000 in damage to the building contents, Gonzales said.

PREMISES, SANTA CLARA, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters have nearly controlled a three-alarm blaze that caused an estimated \$4 million of damage to a Santa Clara business this morning, according to a Fire Department spokesman. Engines first arrived at 3310 Victor Court around 0045 hrs to find flames blasting out the front door, according to Dave Parker with the City of Santa Clara Fire Department. By 0300 hrs the fire was almost under control. Parker said: "we're still hitting hot spots and there's a wall that's bulging so we don't want to bring our guys in." The building housed Redwood Space Controls, a circuit board processing plant, as well as another business, which was virtually undamaged because of a firewall. Redwood Space Controls, however, is a total loss. The

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owners of the building were at the fire and they told Parker damages could reach \$4 million. The San Jose Fire Department sent three units and nine firefighters to help fight the fire. Fourteen Santa Clara units totaling 30 firefighters were at the scene. There were no reports of injuries in the fire.

WAREHOUSE, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, May 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A warehouse fire on the East River in Brooklyn today sent plumes of thick black smoke over the city that could be seen for miles as firefighters battled it from land and boats. There were no immediate reports of injuries. The blaze erupted just after 0530 hrs and went to a seven-alarm blaze shortly after 0900 hrs. A partial collapse of the building shortly after 0900 hrs split a nearby utility pole, witnesses said. The fire at the huge multi-building complex blocked out the morning light and filled the neighbourhood with acrid smoke, causing many concerned calls from residents, said Fire Department spokesman Tom Kane. It was not immediately known what was burning inside the warehouse. Two marine units sprayed water on the flames from the East River, while 45 fire trucks and 200 firefighters were battling the fire from land, Kane said.

London, May 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire laid waste to a complex of seven old warehouses on the Brooklyn waterfront yesterday. The fire started before dawn, blazed furiously for six hours and continued burning into the early evening. More than 400 firefighters were called to the scene, and five fireboats pumped water on to the blaze from the East River. The ruined warehouse complex was part of an historic waterfront area marked for redevelopment as high-rise housing. The blaze consumed part of the former Greenpoint Terminal Market, which had been proposed for city landmark status, and a building that in the late 19th century was the world's largest rope factory. The complex was officially vacant, though it was not clear whether squatters were living there. Nicholas Scoppetta, the fire commissioner, said there would be an investigation into whether the fire was arson.

London, May 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire officials continued to monitor small pockets of "deep-rooted" fire at a historic waterfront complex that had been destroyed by a blaze that took nearly 36 hours to douse. Some smoldering fire deep-rooted in the debris continued to burn, Fire Lieutenant Tom Kane said. The blaze erupted early Tuesday (May 2) morning and was officially declared under control at 1711 yesterday, Kane said. Meanwhile, fire marshals pressed ahead with an investigation of possible arson. Investigators were canvassing the Brooklyn neighborhood for witnesses, Chief

Fire Marshal Louis Garcia said. Fourteen firefighters suffered minor injuries, officials said.

WILDFIRE, ARIZONA, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 27, states: A wildfire that charred 1268 acres, about 30 miles south-west of Winslow, Arizona, is fully contained. A spokeswoman for the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest said the Sand Fire was expected to be fully controlled by Sunday afternoon. The fire began last Saturday morning. It was caused by humans and authorities are still investigating. The blaze burned ponderosa and pinyon pine trees in rugged terrain. It didn't threaten any homes or buildings.

WILDFIRE, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 27, states: A wildfire, feeding off parched cypress and palmettos, continued to burn, today, in a remote part of the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area, Florida, while weary wildlife officials worked to control the blaze for the sixth day in a row. Workers from the Division of Forestry have used water, bulldozers and plows to slow and control the fire, which cools overnight, then springs back to life in the heat of the day. Today, the blaze headed north-west toward the Martin County line. It has burned 1,200 acres so far. The fire started off Corbett's Trail One, with a lightning strike last Friday evening (Apr 21). The lightning easily sparked the dry brush and wildlife officials began battling the blaze Saturday. Today, the flames were in a remote area, inaccessible to vehicles, and about a three and a half mile trek from the nearest road.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, May 2 — A press report, dated May 1, states: A wildfire in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula had charred about 3,500 acres of forest today and forced dozens of residents to evacuate homes in the area. The fire began yesterday afternoon, said Catherine Salm, spokeswoman for the Huron-Manistee National Forest. The cause had not been determined. Most of the affected land was within the national forest, although some was privately owned. "A lot of houses are intermingled with the forested areas, which is what makes this fire particularly dangerous," Salm said. No injuries were reported, and it was not immediately clear if any buildings had been lost, Salm said. An estimated 35 people evacuated their homes in Crawford County, said Larry Akers, local emergency management co-ordinator. The blaze was about 60% contained by this afternoon. Firefighters were concerned about breezy weather forecast for the area.

London, May 2 — A press report, dated May 1, states: People finally emerged from their homes near a

major Brevard County brush fire after the Division of Forestry declared the blaze contained. The fire in Port St. John consumed about 5,300 acres after it began Thursday (Apr 27) afternoon, closing I-95 and the BeachLine Expressway at times. Forestry officials credit water drops by helicopter and controlled back burns for finally bringing the fire under control. The Division of Forestry says the fire was set by man, but investigators do not know whether it was the result of an arsonist. The fire is likely to smolder until it rains.

London, May 3 — A press report, dated May 2, states: A wildfire charred about 6,000 acres of northern Michigan forest today, damaging more than a dozen buildings and forcing residents to flee rural homes. The blaze, mostly in the Huron-Manistee National Forest, was 95% contained by mid-afternoon, officials said. No injuries were reported. The cause of the fire, which began on Sunday (Apr 30), had not been determined. At least eight outbuildings, six cabins and one trailer had been damaged or destroyed, said Catherine Salm, spokeswoman for the forest. An estimated 35 people evacuated their homes in Crawford County, said Larry Akers, local emergency management co-ordinator. Many others were believed to have fled in Oscoda County, emergency co-ordinator Tim London said. The area is very dry, and the Department of Natural Resources has stopped issuing outdoor fire permits in the northern part of the state.

London, May 4 — A press report, dated May 3, states: Firefighting crews from three counties have surrounded the 1,000-acre brush fire along Cherrytown Road and reduced the area of active burn to one primary area. Yesterday, the fire had split into two separate blazes on either side of the Vernooy Kill, but that was successfully battled back by this morning. Ulster County Fire Co-ordinator Charles Mutz said they deployed a fourth division this morning to completely surround the fire. Relief crews kept 46 fresh volunteers working the fire in three-hour shifts until dusk. Two bulldozers were working the perimeter to prevent further spread into private and state forest lands. No populated areas are in danger and no injuries had been reported. Emergency medical teams have been deployed on the line with firefighters since the beginning and at three staging areas in case of injuries. The fire was first reported on Sunday (Apr 30) night as involving about 100 acres on Cherrytown Road and Trails End Road. The blaze increased tenfold over the next two days, jumping two fire lines and a stream. Dry conditions and a steady breeze helped spread the fire. Firefighters from Orange County and the three Sullivan County towns of Grahamsville, Claryville and Neversink joined a dozen Ulster county teams led by the Accord Fire

Department on the line today. Two inmate crews, state Department of Environmental Conservation forest rangers and fire teams from two local nature preserves bolstered manpower numbers.



ACCIDENT, O'HARE AIRPORT, CHICAGO, UNITED STATES

London, May 2 — A press report, dated today, states: An American Eagle flight landing at O'Hare Airport slid off the runway and onto the grass this afternoon. American Eagle flight 348, arriving from Arkansas Northwest Airport, failed to stop and left runway 22 shortly after 1400 hrs. The 40 passengers and three crew members were uninjured. They were deplaned and transported by bus to the terminal.

AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO SHIJIAZHUANG, CHINA

London, May 2 — An aircraft circled above an airport in north China for nearly two hours because of landing gear trouble on Apr 30, but it finally made a safe landing without any injuries. According to the Hebei Daily, FM 9140 of the Shanghai Airlines with 48 passengers aboard, was flying from Shijiazhuang of Hebei Province to Shanghai when the accident took place. After taking off, the crew found that they could not take back the landing gears, and they reported to the control tower immediately. The aircraft had to cancel its flight and returned to the airport at a ground command. After landing safely, five passengers demanded to return the tickets and the other 43 were transferred to Beijing and took another aircraft. A group of staff from the the Shanghai Airlines have arrived in Shijiazhuang, capital of Hebei, to investigate the accident.

C-FCFL

London, May 2 — Rental pilot of Piper PA-44-180 aircraft, was flying circuits at Toronto Buttonville Airport at 0959, HAE, May 1. While downwind, the landing gear was selected down and flaps were selected to 10 degrees. At approximately that time, the aircraft experienced a complete electrical failure. While the aircraft was on final the tower controller, who was unable to communicate with the pilot, gave the aircraft a green light signal to land. When the aircraft was on short final, the tower controller noted that the landing gear did not appear to be fully extended and gave a red, do not land signal. The aircraft landed and the gear collapsed on the runway. The aircraft slid to stop and the pilot exited the aircraft. There were no injuries.

C-FGGA

London, May 1 — The pilot of a Cessna 170B, C-FGGA, departed Collingwood, Ontario with an instructor and was practicing instrument flying at 1450, Apr 27. The pilot and instructor then flew to Holland Landing Airpark to practice short field landing with a crosswind. The pilot flew two approaches to Runway 26, but was having difficulty and aborted both approaches. The instructor flew the third approach. On touchdown, the aircraft bounced and began to drift to the right. The instructor was unable correct the drift and the aircraft departed the right side of the runway onto the grass. The aircraft nosed over and came to rest upside down. The pilot and instructor were not injured, but there was substantial damage to the aircraft. Winds reported at Borden at the time were 360 degrees true at 11 knots.

C-FICL

London, May 2 — Robinson R-44 Raven II helicopter, C-FICL, operated by Zimmer Air Service, with the pilot and one passenger on board was en route from Torrence, California to Blenheim, Ontario when it crashed for unknown reasons at 2138, UTC, May 1. The pilot and passenger were fatally injured and the aircraft was destroyed. The NTSB is investigating.

London, May 3 — Robinson R44 C-FICL crashed near Desert Center, California, at 2138, May 1, while on a flight from Torrance, CA. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

C-GLPP

London, May 2 — De Haviland DHC-7-102 aircraft, C-GLPP, operated by Trans Capital Air and flying for the United Nations (UN) landed gear up at Tchien, Grand Jide, Liberia at 1300, UTC, May 1. There were no injuries. The UN safety officer is looking into the occurrence.

CRASH, AMMAN AREA, JORDAN

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated Apr 27, states: Three people were killed, today, when their private training craft crashed minutes after take off from Amman airport. Head of Jordan's aviation authority, captain Suleiman Obeidat, said the small America-made Piper Archer was on a training flight from the capital Amman to Aqaba on the coast, when the pilot asked to return to base. He said the aircraft caught fire and crashed, killing everyone on board. Obeidat said the three deceased, including a female trainee, were members of the Jordanian aviation academy.

CRASH, CLUJ, ROMANIA

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The commission that investigates aircraft crashes in the International Airport in Cluj will check the aircraft's maintenance documents, said yesterday the representative of the Civil Aviation Inspectorate, Catalin Radu. Radu,

who is leading the investigation, said that so far the investigators interrogated the pilot and checked the aircraft. Radu said it is premature to draw conclusions regarding the causes of the accidents and that the investigation will also take into consideration the state of the runway and the weather conditions.

CRASH, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, May 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Aircraft wreckage sighted in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) yesterday has been confirmed as a South African plane missing in the area since late last week. The aircraft, which was carrying two crew members and a passenger, was discovered by a United Nations search team early yesterday morning in a mountainous region close to the DRC's border with Uganda. "The bodies have been recovered and they have been identified but I cannot give you their names. They were all South Africans," Phindiwe Gwebu, a spokeswoman for the South African Civil Aviation Authority told sapa news agency. The South African registered aircraft, chartered by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), had been missing since early Friday (Apr 28). Contact was lost shortly after it took off from Goma in the eastern DRC. It was en-route to the north-eastern town of Bunia, Sapa news agency reported. The incident came just a day after a aircraft crash in the DRC involving another South African registered aircraft.

London, May 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The UN hopes to send out mountaineers within a day or two to search for a missing aircraft in the Mountains of the Moon on the border of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo to find out whether wreckage spotted there is that of a missing South African aircraft chartered by the UN World Food Programme (WFP). Spokesperson for the organisation Michael Huggins told the Pretoria News the WFP was trying to sort out the logistics of the search and rescue mission. "We hope that we can send out the search team within the next day or so," he said. Huggins said the search for the missing aircraft would go on in the meantime. We do not know whether the wreckage spotted on Margherita Peak was in fact that of the single-engine Caravan aircraft that went missing on Friday (Apr 28)," he said. Huggins said the WFP had to continue with the search to make sure. "We cannot have the search and rescue team spend three or four days (trying to reach the plane) for nothing. "It looks like the wreckage, but we just cannot be sure." The aircraft went missing on a flight between Goma in the eastern DRC and Bunia on Friday. Searchers aboard a UN helicopter this weekend spotted wreckage in the mountains. Huggins said because it had so far

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proved impossible for teams to reach the wreckage, he could not confirm whether it was in fact the remains of the WFP-chartered light aircraft and whether or not there were any casualties. The Caravan single-engine aircraft carrying a South African pilot, his wife and a French or Canadian national, lost radio contact on Friday. The Caravan was operated by King Air Charter Services, based at Lanseria airport. The WFP and King Air at first said the wreckage was located on Margherita Peak, which is the third-highest summit in Africa. A UN helicopter twice tried at the weekend to land near the wreckage, which is just inside the Ugandan border, but was unable to do so. Huggins said the extremely difficult terrain at the crash site made it a complex operation. The mountains are made up of glaciers. He said he could not divulge the names of the missing South Africans at this stage. The aircraft went missing only a day after a cargo aircraft which two Pretoria pilots were flying was apparently shot down in the war-torn DRC. Captains Andre Nel, 53, and Charles Greyvenstein, 43, and two Congolese crew members who have not been named were killed when their aircraft was apparently shot down by a surface-to-air missile while landing at an aerodrome. They were flying from Goma to Amisi in the eastern DRC. Wendy Jasson da Costa of our Political Staff writes that foreign affairs spokesperson Ronnie Mamoepa said last night the South African Government had made contact with civil aviation authorities in South Africa and the DRC with a view to determining the cause of the aircraft's disappearance.

CRASH, TAJIMA AIRPORT, TOYOOKA CITY, HYOGO PREFECTURE, JAPAN

London, May 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A tandem aircraft crashed and burst into flames today on a runway at Tajima Airport in Toyooka City, Hyogo Prefecture, just after takeoff, killing both people on board, police said. The two killed were members of a local aero club, an official of a town hall in Kawanishi in the prefecture, police said. The private aircraft was one of two aircraft planning to fly to an airport in Nagasaki Prefecture by way of Kitakyushu City, the police said. The aircraft lost momentum right after takeoff and plunged onto the runway, where it exploded into flames. The companion aircraft was waiting for permission to take off at the time of the accident. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport dispatched two officials to the accident site to join an investigation with the police.

London, May 3 — Two men died when the light aircraft they were in crashed and burst into flames immediately after it took off from an airport this morning, police said. The two have been identified as Hiroshi

Sasaki, 31, of Nishinomiya, Hyogo Prefecture, and Manji Koyama, 58, a resident of the Hyogo Prefecture city of Kawanishi. Sasaki was reportedly operating the aircraft. The aircraft, an AMT200, took off from Tajima Airport in Toyooka for Kitakyushu at 1032, today, the airport administration office said. Two minutes later, the pilot radioed to the administration office that it would return to the airport. However, it crashed while banking left at an altitude of about 150 metres. Tajima Airport has since been closed, according to the administration office.

EK-32009

London, May 3 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft flying from Armenia's capital, Yerevan, to the southern Russian city of Sochi has crashed into the Black Sea, killing all 113 people on board. Fifteen bodies have reportedly been recovered from the water so far. The Airbus A-320 from Armenia's Armavia airline disappeared from radar screens at about 2215, UTC, yesterday. An Armavia spokesman said that bad weather caused the crash but a Russian emergency official said the aircraft may have had technical problems. Terrorism has reportedly been ruled out as a cause. According to a Russian emergency official, the aircraft "disappeared from radar screens as it was making another emergency landing attempt". "It plunged into the sea at an angle of 60 degrees," Viktor Beltsov said. Among those on board were eight crew and five children, he said. A Russian air traffic control official, Alexander Neradko, told the Interfax news agency the aircraft had not sent any distress signals before it crashed. Sochi is a popular Russian seaside resort, near the border with Georgia. Parts of the plane, engine fuel, human body parts, baggage and life jackets have been found in the water. Rescuers said a large number of life jackets were unused, suggesting the crash happened too rapidly for passengers to put them on. A number of rescue boats are at the scene, a few kilometres offshore, but their work is being hampered by heavy rain. Fragments of the plane have been detected at a depth of 300 metres, 5km from the coastline, Mr Beltsov said. According to an official from Armavia, Andrei Aghajanov, the aircraft had initially been denied permission to land because of heavy rain. However, he said, the airport then changed its mind and gave the go-ahead for the landing. "The plane was in an ideal technical condition, the crew was well qualified," Mr Aghajanov is quoted as saying.

London, May 3 — Airbus A.320-211, EK-32009, operator Armavia, with eight crew and 105 passengers crashed on the shore of the Black Sea and broke up, 6 km from Adler/Sochi Airport at 2212, UTC, May 2. All persons on board the aircraft were killed.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT, HOUSTON, UNITED STATES

London, May 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A Continental Express aircraft blew a tyre upon take-off yesterday but landed safely after circling the airport for about two hours. The aircraft tried to land once at Bush Intercontinental Airport but was waved off so officials could assess the damage and the aircraft could burn fuel, said Continental Express spokeswoman Kristy Nicholas. Continental spokeswoman Sarah Anthony said the Minneapolis-bound aircraft carried 45 passengers and a crew of three. The passengers were taken by buses to the terminal about 30 minutes after the landing. The airport got the call about the tyre about 1625, said spokesman Richard Fernandez. Other airport operations continued normally. The jet was an Embraer 145.

EMERGENCY LANDING, DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, May 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Officials say an American Airlines aircraft bound for Los Angeles returned to Denver International Airport safely last night after it was forced to make an emergency landing. Denver airport spokesman Steve Snyder says the aircraft's nose gear warning light turned on shortly after takeoff and the pilot decided to return to Denver International Airport. Flight 2261 left the airport after 2130 hrs and landed safely before 2230 hrs. It was met by emergency vehicles, but there were no injuries. Snyder says the aircraft will be inspected to see if there are any problems with the nose gear or the warning light.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SCHENECTADY AIRPORT, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, May 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A C-130 aircraft made an emergency landing at the Schenectady Airport yesterday evening. Around 7:30pm, the C-130 aircraft circled around Schoharie County and took an additional precaution as crews on the ground stood by just in case the situation escalated. Police said the aircraft had hydraulic failure, which made it difficult for the landing gear to engage. Fortunately, the aircraft managed to land safely. Airport crews towed the aircraft in order to take a closer look the problem and prevent further incidents.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SPRINGFIELD-BRANSON NATIONAL AIRPORT, MISSOURI, UNITED STATES

London, May 1 — A press report, dated Apr 29, states: An aircraft made an emergency landing today at Springfield-Branson National Airport, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The aircraft, a Trans States

Airlines flight, was travelling from Austin to St. Louis when it made the successful emergency landing at 1527 hrs, FAA spokeswoman Elizabeth Isham Cory said. "Basically they reported they thought they had smoke in the cockpit, and they landed safely," Cory said. The aircraft carried 29 passengers and three crew members, and one passenger suffered minor injuries. Airport spokesman Kent Boyd said one female passenger was taken to a hospital after she slipped while evacuating the plane. The cause of the fire was undetermined and the airport was closed for about an hour. Flights resumed about 1600 hrs. The Embraer Regional Jet, normally holds 50 to 70 passengers, Boyd said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, TEHRAN, IRAN

London, May 1 — An Iran Air Boeing 727 with 150 passengers on board was forced to make an emergency landing in Tehran yesterday due to technical problems, state-run television reported. Iran Air's director general, Malek Barzegar-Seddigh, said the aircraft was forced to return to the runway after taking off for the western city of Kermanshah. The passengers were able to take a later flight, he said, adding that experts were examining the 727.

INCIDENT AT DUBLIN AIRPORT, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

London, May 4 — A press report, dated May 3, states: An Iberian Airlines aircraft has undergone an emergency evacuation at Dublin airport. The evacuation took place at around 2000, immediately after the inward bound plane, with 97 passengers and six crew on board, had landed. The alert began as the Airbus A320 from Barcelona was preparing to land. It became apparent that there was a fire on one of its power units. The aircraft landed safely and fire engines were deployed around the aircraft causing the airport to be closed for a short time. It re-opened at around 2030. All passengers and crew were safely taken from the aircraft to be debriefed by airport staff. An investigation into the incident is underway.

N4574C

London, May 2 — A press report, dated May 1, states: A tour plane crashed late last night on Molokai, injuring all five people on board. Maui County police say the Tora Flight Adventures Club plane crashed in an open field near a private airstrip as it took off. The pilot and one of the passengers were flown to Queen's Medical Center on Oahu, where one was in critical condition and the other was in serious condition. Three other passengers were released from Molokai General Hospital. The four passengers on the twin-engine Partenavia aircraft were Japanese nationals on a tour.

London, May 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Three people were injured as a small passenger aircraft crashed late last night about two miles south-south-west of Kaluakoi on the western end of Molokai. Five people were on-board the Tora Flight Adventures Club when it crashed shortly after take-off, around 2030, Sunday night (Apr 30). Two passengers had to be rushed to Queen's Medical center on Oahu. One person is in critical condition, the other in serious condition. The pilot went to a nearby home to call for help. The aircraft sustained extensive damage. Tora Flight Adventure Club has an office at 14 Lagoon Drive on Oahu. Federal Aviation Administration officials described the company as an air taxi service.

London, May 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A Hawaii business whose Partenavia P68 Observer, operated by the Tora Flight Adventure Club, crashed yesterday on Molokai is being investigated for allegedly not having air taxi certification. The aircraft was carrying a pilot and four Japanese nationals. It had taken off from a private airstrip in West Molokai when it banked to the right and crashed about three miles south-east of the old Sheraton hotel at the Kaluakoi resort. Two of the passengers, one listed in critical condition and another in serious condition yesterday, were taken to Molokai General Hospital in Kaunakakai, then later to the Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Mike Fergus said the Tora flight club did not have a Part 135 certification to run an air taxi service. "The overall crash, as well as this particular issue, is being investigated," he said. The owner of the aircraft is listed as the Honolulu-based John Hutton Corp. on 14 Lagoon Drive, the same address as Tora Flight Adventure and the same company named as the landowner of 60.5 acres of West Molokai land including the private airstrip. Police and fire officials said the aircraft was severely damaged in the accident, with a crushed fuselage. The victims were stabilized and transported to waiting medics for assessment and treatment before being brought to Molokai General Hospital and later to Queen's. A National Transportation Safety Board investigator has been assigned to investigate the cause of the crash, according to the FAA. The FAA was conducting a separate probe about the air taxi certification and would provide the information to the NTSB.

London, May 3 — Partenavia S.P.A. P68 Observer, N4574C, operated by John Hutton Corp, crashed under unknown circumstances, shortly after take-off from a private strip, on the west side of Molokai, Kaluakoi, Hawaii, at 0600, local time, Apr 30. There were five people on board, one seriously injured, two minor injuries. The aircraft was substantially damaged.

N7604G

London, May 2 — A press report, dated May 1, states: A Cessna 172 that had been missing for five days in a rugged section of south-central Pennsylvania was found yesterday with the body of the pilot inside the wreckage, the Civil Air Patrol's Maryland Wing said. The pilot's sons located the crash site about 1245 hrs in an area called the "punch bowl," just north of the Pennsylvania state line and were joined by an air patrol ground team, officials said. The body of Bethesda pilot David K. Weiss was found in the wreckage of the aircraft. The area was being searched because authorities said signals relayed automatically to a cellular communications tower in nearby St. Thomas, Pa., indicated that a cell phone belonging to Weiss was in that area. Federal Aviation Administration radar also had indicated the vicinity as where Weiss was believed to be flying. Witnesses also had reported seeing or hearing something consistent with an aircraft crash. Weiss took off shortly after noon on Apr 25 from Gaithersburg Airport in Maryland, and was due back at 1430 hrs. He was flying on a routine "proficiency flight," needed to maintain his pilot's certification. Last contact with the pilot occurred when the aircraft was leaving the Washington Air Defense Identification Zone at 1217 hrs.

London, May 3 — Cessna 172L, N7604G, operated by the Congressional Flying Club Inc., crashed under unknown circumstances in a heavily wooded area near Shimstown Road, Franklin County, Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, on Apr 25. The one person on board was fatally injured. The aircraft was substantially damaged.

N9774L

London, Apr 28 — Beechcraft Musketeer 24 N9774L crashed near Sebring, Florida, Apr 26. The two persons on board were killed.

ZS-SKH

London, Apr 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Two South African pilots were killed when their Convair CV-580 (registration believed to be ZS-SKH, owned by Skyhaul (Pty) Ltd, and operated by LAC-Skycargo) crashed while approaching the town of Lubutu in the northern regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Captains Andre Nel and Charles Greyvenstein died yesterday when the South African-registered Convair 580 they were piloting fell from the sky. Three Congolese crew also died in the crash. "We do not know exactly what happened yet, there is no telephone reception in the area and we got the news via United Nations peacekeepers in the area," said Captain Johan Olivier, spokesperson for the owners of the plane. He was trying to get to the crash site today. The pilots were

flying cargo under contract for a Congolese airline from Goma to Lubutu when the plane crashed. The South African Civil Aviation Authority was already in contact with their Congolese counterparts about investigating the incident.

Space Vehicles



DISCOVERY (Space Shuttle)

London, Apr 29 — A press report, dated today, states: NASA plans to fly the space shuttle Discovery in July without further changes to the external fuel tank, despite some engineers' concerns that the tank needs more work. Foam insulation falling off the tank during launch damaged shuttle Columbia's heat shield. That caused the destruction of the craft and the deaths of seven astronauts as the ship attempted to return through the atmosphere on Feb 1, 2003. The problem area was redesigned, but foam from another part of the tank fell off during the July 2005 launch of sister ship Discovery on the first post-Columbia mission. The debris did not damage Discovery. NASA is in the midst of testing its second redesign, which removes two wedges of foam that shield cables and pressurisation lines on the outside of the tank from buffeting winds. "The question is 'Will the vehicle hold together or not?'" space shuttle program chief Wayne Hale said. "If the answer is 'No,' well we're not going anywhere." That decision will be made during a pre-flight review on June 16. The removal of the 11.6 metre long and 4.3 metre long foam ramps has also raised concerns about 34 small foam wedges, which cover metal brackets that anchor the pressurisation lines and a tray housing the cables.

Product Recalls



EXERCISE BENCHES, UNITED STATES

London, Apr 27 — A press release, dated Apr 26, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Hoist Fitness Systems Inc., which also does business as Body Gear, of San Diego, Calif., today announced voluntary recalls of approximately 48,000 Hoist Exercise Benches. The benches front frame assembly (with the foot rest) can fail to lock into place allowing users who grab the bench to position themselves to get their fingers entrapped between the front and back frame assemblies. This poses laceration and amputation hazards. Hoist has received two reports of injury, one consisting of a hand laceration and the other consisting of a partially amputated finger. The recalled exercise benches are free-standing and typically used for free weight workouts. They have white, gray, or black steel bases, with a black vinyl bench seat and backrest. The Hoist ø5 Position Fold-Up Bench, ø Folding Flat Bench, ø and ø Folding Ab-Crunch Bench ø are included in this recall. Although the bench names and model numbers do not appear on the benches, the serial number is located on a white sticker behind the seat of the bench. Only benches with certain serial numbers are included in this recall. Manufactured in China, they were sold at Specialty dealer stores and large sporting goods retailers nationwide from February 2004 through to January 2006 for between \$100 and \$300.

GENERAL MOTORS VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, May 1 — General Motors Corp. is recalling about 400,000 pickup trucks due to defective brake lights. The affected vehicles are the

Chevrolet Colorado and GMC Canyon from the 2004-2006 model years and the 2006 Isuzu i-280 and i-350.

Port Conditions



AUSTRALIA

London, Apr 28 — At 0640, local time, today Newcastle Port Pilots declared the Harbour Entrance "Moderate", with restricted inward and outward movements. To date, the sailing of one vessel has been delayed as well as one port entry.

PANAMA CANAL

London, Apr 28 — The situation in the Panama Canal continues to improve, with light arrivals in the coming days expected to help reduce the transit backlog. Vessels wishing to transit the Canal now face delays of approximately 2-4 days.

Balboa, May 1 — Panama Canal report for Apr 30: Improvement continues but delays for non-booked vessels still at approximately 2-4 days. A three day lane outage for maintenance is scheduled for Gatun locks, from 10 to 12 May, and we expect this will have negative impact in way to recovery. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 3 — After some improvement in the situation at the Panama Canal, vessels wishing to transit now face a wait of 2-4 days. However, the queue seems to have levelled off at about 60-70 vessels. On some days, arrivals have exceeded the daily capacity and this has a negative impact. Unless arrivals decrease and the Panama Canal Authority is able to increase their daily capacity, no great improvement is foreseen in the days to come.

SYRIA

Aleppo, Apr 30 — Waiting time presently twenty-four hours at Lattakia and two days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

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

Australia

Abbots Point	04-May-2006	Coal: One vessel loading at berth; 8 vessels due by 22/5.
Brisbane	04-May-2006	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Two vessels due by 14/5; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	04-May-2006	Coal: Three vessels loading at berth; 18 vessels arrived; 22 vessels due by 23/5.
Dampier	04-May-2006	Iron ore: Parker Point A berth: Four vessels due by 16/5; Parker Point B berth: 1 vessel arrived; 7 vessels due by 14/5; Parker Point C berth: 1 vessel at berth; 1 vessel due 3/5; East Intercourse Island; One vessel loading at berth; 1 vessel arrived; 12 vessels due by 24/5;.
Esperance	04-May-2006	Iron ore: Three vessels due by 20/5; no delays expected.
Geraldton	04-May-2006	Iron ore: No vessels.
Gladstone	04-May-2006	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Two vessels loading at berth; 13 vessels arrived; 40 vessels due by 27/6; Barney Point: 1 vessel loading at berth; 2 vessels arrived; 15 vessels due by 25/7; Plant shutdown notice: no shiploading operations 10-15/7 for maintenance and upgrading of terminal facilities.
Hay Point	04-May-2006	Coal: Two vessels loading at berth; 7 vessels arrived; 8 vessels due by 16/5.
Newcastle	04-May-2006	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: Three vessels loading at berth; 8 vessels arrived; 39 vessels due by 1/6; 3-7 days delay expected; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels loading at berth; 2 vessels arrived; 16 vessels due by 27/5; 3-5 days delay expected.
Port Adelaide	04-May-2006	May 3: Grain: No. 27 berth: 4 vessels due by 12/5, 2 to load wheat, 2 barley; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion.
Port Hedland	04-May-2006	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: One vessel loading at berth; 3 vessels arrived; 6 vessels due by 10/5; "B" berth: 1 vessel loading at berth; 4 vessels arrived; 5 vessels due by 13/5; 8 other vessels due by 18/5 at A or B berth 2/4; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island "C" berth): 1 vessel due 4/5; (Finucane Island "D" berth): 1 vessel loading at berth, 2 vessels arrived; 6 vessels due by 11/5; Cockatoo Island: 2 vessels due by 12/5.
Port Kembla	04-May-2006	Coal: Fourteen vessels due by 29/6; no delays expected.
Port Walcott	04-May-2006	Iron ore: One vessel loading at berth; 5 vessels arrived; 18 vessels due by 20/5.
Whyalla	04-May-2006	Iron ore: Five vessels due by 24/5; up to 1 day's delay expected.

Azerbaijan

Baku	01-May-2006	Oil products: Bay of Baku: No information; Azerneftiyag terminal: no information; Azertrans terminal: Nobel Avenue: port open; 2 vessels due by 2/5, both to discharge crude oil; Sangachal District: port open; no vessels.
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Bulgaria

Bourgas	02-May-2006	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (4 coils, 1 metals, 1 bagged ammonium nitrate, 1 sunflower seeds), 1 discharging lead/zinc concentrate; 6 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load (1 gasoil, 1 sunflower seeds, 1 chemicals), 3 to discharge (1 iron ore, 1 gasoil, 1 coal); 8 vessels due, of which 3 to load (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 steel sheets, 1 coils), 3 to discharge (1 kaolin, 1 salt, 1 lead concentrate), 2 passenger vessels.
Varna	02-May-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 24-30 April: Thirty vessels in port operating of which 17 loading (3 scrap, 3 bulk wheat, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 6 soda, 1 TSP, 1 chamotte/kaolin, 1 kaolin/chamotte/soda, 1 sunflower seed meal), 7 discharging (1 equipment in packing cases, 1 bulk sugar, 2 bulk coal, 1 raw phosphate, 1 bulk slag, 1 clay), 6 discharging/loading (5 containers, 1 containers/small consignments); no vessels waiting in roads.

Cyprus

Larnaca	02-May-2006	Two conventional vessels discharging at berth; 1 conventional vessel due 26/4; no delays expected.
Limassol	02-May-2006	Nine container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 3 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 7 container vessels, 3 conventional vessels, 4 passenger vessels due 3/5; no delays expected.

India

Kolkata	01-May-2006	3 Vessels operating at berth of which 1 loading General Cargo, 2 loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting order to discharge; 1 vessel under dry docked; 4 vessels under repair; 3 vessels due (Containers-2, Passenger).
Haldia	01-May-2006	10 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Iron Ore-4), 4 vessels discharging (PRXL, POL, Crude-2, Coking Coal-1, Net Coke), 2 vessels discharging Containers; 3 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load), 4 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load, 1 to load and discharge); 6 vessels due (LPG, Crude-2, Iron Ore, Net Coke, Containers).

A complete online archive covering the last 10 years of Lloyd's Casualty Week. For further information please call +44 (0) 20 7017 4779.

Port Conditions

Paradip	01-May-2006	4 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Iron Ore, Thermal Coal), 2 vessels discharging Net Coking Coal; 19 vessels due.
Visakhapatnam	01-May-2006	9 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Iron Ore, Thermal Coal), 6 vessels discharging (Crude-2, Coking Coal-2, LG Gas, Project Cargo), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 5 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (3 to discharge, 1 to load, 1 to load and discharge); 32 vessels due (Iron Ore-5, Granite, Soya, POL & crude Tankers-3, Rockphosphate-2, Urea, Coking Coal-10, Caustic Soda, Petroleum Coke, Alumina, Containers-2, Steam Coal-2, POL & Crude Tankers-2).
Chennai	01-May-2006	12 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Barytes, S. Slab, Iron Ore, Furnace Oil), 6 vessels discharging (Steel Plates/Slab, Wheat, Thermal Coal, Urea, Coking Oil, Flourspar), 2 vessel loading and discharging Project/General Cargo; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load, 1 to load and discharge); 3 vessels due (Containers, Project/ General Cargo, Wheat, IOL).
Tuticorin	01-May-2006	8 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Sugar-2, Fly Ash), 3 vessels discharging (Cu. Concentrate, Peas, Palm Oil), 2 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 7 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load.
Cochin	01-May-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Furnace Oil & LDO, 4 vessels discharging (Soda Ash, Logs, Bauxite, Crude), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers.
Mormugao	01-May-2006	4 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Iron Ore, S. Slab), 2 vessels discharging (Furnance Oil, MOP), 7 vessels working at midstream and loading Iron Ore; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load Iron Ore; 3 vessels under repair/dry docked; 11 vessels due (Containers, Met Coke-2, Coking Coal, Iron Ore-7).
Mumbai	01-May-2006	13 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Pipes, Bagged Sugar-2, POL), 3 vessels discharging (General /H-Lifts, Steel Pipes, Steel Cargo), 6 vessels loading and discharging (Containers-2, Project Cargo, Wood Pulp/Steel Coils, Cranes, Vehicles, Pulses/Logs/Sugar); 3 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (3 to discharge), 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load, 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load and discharge; 6 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 7 vessels under arrest; 1 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 36 vessels due (Contaners-3, Oil-2, Fertilizer Raw Materials-3, General Cargo-28).
J.N.P.T.	01-May-2006	8 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels discharging (Sty., Edible Oil,Cement), 5 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (2 to discharge, 2 to load and discharge); 2 vessels due (Containers-2, Liquid-2).
Kandla	01-May-2006	14 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Castoroil, Agri. Product, Salt, Cement, Rice), 6 vessels discharging (Other Liquid-2, Sulphur, Timber Logs, Steel Cargo, steel Coil), 3 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels not ready to work at anchorage to load.
Ennore	01-May-2006	2 vessels operating at berth and discharging Thermal Coal; 4 vessels due (MV Agawam (POL Products) , MT Jag Padma (POL Products), MV Rani Padmini (T.Coal), MV Tamil Anna (T.Coal)).
Israel		
Ashdod	02-May-2006	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 7 general cargo vessels discharging at berth, 4 vessels loading/discharging at berth (3 containers, 1car carrier); no vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 18 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	02-May-2006	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel discharging at berth, 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 1 vessel due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	02-May-2006	No labour problems. Five vessels discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 10 vessels loading/discharging at berth (7 containers, 1 car carrier, 2 tankers); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (3 containers, 3 tankers); 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 16 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Mozambique		
Maputo	03-May-2006	Six vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading (2 citrus, 1 mineral coke, 1 aluminium), 2 discharging (1 bulk maize, 1 bulk maize/wheat); 2 vessels due to berth 3/5, of which 1 to load citrus, 1 to discharge vehicles; 22 vessels due by 55/5 of which 5 to load (1 magnetite, 1 ferro chrome, 1 mineral coal, 1 bulk sugar, 1 aluminium), 12 to discharge (1 frozen fish, 3 bulk wheat, 2 vegetable oil, 1 bagged rice, 1 bulk maize, 1 bulk aluminium, 1 petcoke, 1 petcoke/aluminium, 1 other cargo), 5 to discharge/load containers.
Pakistan		
Karachi	02-May-2006	Three vessels loading at berth (1 MOL, 2 rice), 7 discharging at berth (1 cement, 4 sugar, 1 general cargo, 1 steel coils), 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 2 sugar, 1 general cargo); 2 vessels awaiting orders; 6 vessels due (2 containers, 2 general cargo, 1 rice, 1 naphtha), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	02-May-2006	Two rice vessels loading at berth, 2 vessels discharging at berth (1 sugar, 1 coke), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 3vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 HSD, 1 sugar).

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

Port Conditions

Russia

Novorossiysk	02-May-2006	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (1 cement, 1 scrap, 2 steel billets, 1 pipes, 1 steel billets/cars, 1 slabs, 1 diesel oil, 1 copper/lead), 3 discharging (2 bulk sugar, 1 citrus); 11 vessels waiting in roads, of which 6 to load (1 steel billets, 1 scrap, 1 coils, 1 copper, 1 diesel oil, 1 steel sheets/steel billets/coils), 4 to discharge bulk sugar, 1 to discharge/load bulk sugar; 72 vessels due, of which 66 to load (2 cellulose, 12 steel billets, 12 copper, 2 DRI, 1 scrap, 7 coils, 1 vehicles, 1 pig-iron, 1 HBI, 2 bulk NPK, 1 steel billets/slabs, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 4 slabs, 1 pipes/steel billets, 1 pipes, 4 aluminium, 1 ammonium sulphate, 1 bulk NPK/bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 vegetable oil, 1 coils/steel sheets, 1 coils, 1 UAN solution, 2 equipment, 1 bulk urea, 1 bulk cement, 1 wheat, 1 steel sheets), 4 to discharge (1 coils, 1 vegetable oil, 1 bulk sugar, 1 non-ferrous metals), 2 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: no tankers berthed; 8 tankers in roads, all to load, of which 7 crude oil, 1 diesel oil; 6 tankers due, all to load, of which 4 crude oil, 1 diesel oil, 1 fuel oil.
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Spain

Bilbao	02-May-2006	Forty-one vessels operating (9 tankers, 32 other vessels), of which 7 loading, 22 discharging, 12 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	02-May-2006	Twenty-three vessels in port operating, of which 4 loading cement, 16 discharging (11 steel products, 1 machinery, 1 fruit, 3 gas), 3 loading/discharging (1 general cargo, 1 steel coils, 1 vehicles); no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

Turkmenistan

Okarem	01-May-2006	Oil products: One vessel loading crude oil at berth; 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	01-May-2006	Oil products: Two vessels at berth of which 1 completed loading gasoil, 1 completed discharging crude oil; 2 vessels in roads of which 1 to load gasoil, 1 to discharge crude oil.

Ukraine

Mariupol	02-May-2006	Twelve vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 5 steel, 2 fire-clay, 1 wheat, 2 coal, 1 equipment, 1 sunflower seeds/husks; 11 vessels in roads, of which 10 to load (5 steel, 1 coal, 3 fire-clay, 1 wheat), 1 to discharge equipment; 56 vessels due, of which 52 to load (23 steel, 12 coal, 12 fire-clay, 1 pitch, 1 wheat, 1 kaolin, 1 coke, 1 heavy lift cargo), 2 to discharge heavy lift cargo, 1 to discharge/load containers, 1 for repairs.
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USA

Beaumont, TX	03-May-2006	No new restriction in draft (40 ft. 0 ins. FW max. channel draft reported); LouisDreyfus terminal: 3-4 days delay expected.
Galveston, TX	03-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: 1-2 days delay expected.
Houston, TX	03-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: 1-2 days delay expected.
Kalama, WA	03-May-2006	Kalama export terminal: 1 day's delay expected; United Harvest terminal: no delays expected.
New Orleans, LA	03-May-2006	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 6-7 days delay expected. Cargill-Westwego: 1-2 days delay expected. ADM/Ama: 4-5 days delay expected. Bunge/Destrehan: 1 day's delay expected. ADM/ Destrehan: 4-5 days delay expected. ADM/Reserve: 4-5 days delay expected. Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected. ADM/Paulina: 4-5 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: 3 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 3 days delay expected. Nine-day forecast for Carrollton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to decrease to 5.6 ft. by 20/4/06
Portland, OR	03-May-2006	Columbia Grain terminal: 4 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: no delays expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays expected.
Seattle, WA	03-May-2006	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 1 day's delay expected.
Tacoma, WA	03-May-2006	Temco terminal: 1 day's delay expected.
Vancouver, WA	03-May-2006	United Harvest terminal: 1 day's delay expected.
New Orleans, LA	25-Apr-2006	Apr 25: 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.

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Port Conditions

<p>Portland, OR 25-Apr-2006</p> <p>Seattle, WA 25-Apr-2006</p> <p>Tacoma, WA 25-Apr-2006</p> <p>Vancouver, WA 25-Apr-2006</p>	<p>Bunge/Destrehan: no delays expected. ADM/ Destrehan: 2-3 days delay expected. ADM/Reserve: 2-3 days delay expected. Cargill/Reserve: 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: 2 days delay expected; Mile 158.0 Myrtle Grove Midstream terminal: 3 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: no delays expected. Nine-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to increase to 5.8 ft. by 20/4/06 Columbia Grain terminal: 3 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: 2 days delay expected. Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 1 day's delay expected. Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected. United Harvest terminal: 3 days delay expected.</p>
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