

Small tankers most at risk from piracy

Think tank notes ease of boarding is key to target selection as it launches agenda for action, writes Marcus Hand in Singapore- Wednesday May 24 2006

SMALLER product tankers plying coastal waters in the Malacca Strait are more at risk from pirate attacks than ships transiting the main traffic lanes, says Singapore think tank the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies.

"There are very few attacks in the Malacca Strait TSS [traffic separation scheme] itself," said IDSS research fellow Catherine Zara Raymond at the launch of the institute's 'Agenda for Action' for safety and security in this key waterway.

Analysing attacks over the 2000-2005 period, most were against ships under 20,000 gt with smaller product tankers topping the list at more than 30 attacks.

"Fewer attacks occur on vessels above 20,000 gt and when these do occur, they are mostly on bulk carriers that may tend to be more vulnerable because they are slower or otherwise take fewer precautions against attack," she said.

Ms Raymond clarified that vessels were targeted not because they were coastal shipping, but because they were likely to be smaller, lower freeboard vessels and therefore easier to board.

"Their [the pirates'] criterion is ease of boarding," said Pottengal Mukundan, director of the International Maritime Bureau. "The vast majority of voyages in this region are coastal and it is not that coastal vessels are targeted per se."

The majority of attacks took place in four locations over the six-year period: near the port of Belawan, Indonesia; off Malacca, Malaysia; the Philip Channel on the western approach to the Singapore Strait and east of Bintan Island on the eastern approach to the Singapore Strait.

A 21-point action plan recommended by IDSS contains few new ideas, urging instead that

recommendations already put forward in recent years at a variety of forums should be adopted and implemented.

One point of controversy was a call to develop guidelines for private security firms operating in the strait as this would be seen as an admission by regional governments that they could not cope with the problem.

A call for the development of guidelines for involvement of non-littoral states in the security of the strait also raised some objections, especially at a time when attacks have been sharply reduced. There were no pirate attacks in

the Malacca Strait in the first quarter of 2006, according to the IMB's piracy reporting centre.

"If attacks have gone down and most attacks are not in the sealanes, [I am] not sure why we need security from non-littoral states," said Robert Beckman from the National University of Singapore's faculty of law.

Capt Mukundan said that it was in the long-term interests of everyone concerned that the number of attacks remained low.

He urged against complacency and repeated a call for more arrests and prosecutions of the pirates.

Tokyo MoU satisfied with East Asia detention rate

THE Tokyo Memorandum of Understanding has declared itself generally content with the number of vessel detentions arising out of inspections made in the region last year, its annual report reveals.

The memorandum undertook a concentrated inspection campaign on operational requirements from September to November.

During the period 5,040 inspections, involving 4,599 individual ships, took place.

There were 144 detentions as a result of serious operational deficiencies.

Some 8.1% of ships inspected lacked adequate maintenance or testing of life-saving appliances, 7.3% of ships failed to keep life-saving equipment available for immediate use, 6.6% did not implement an effective maintenance plan of their fire protection systems and the passage plans on 7.8% of ships inspected were found to be unsatisfactory.

Though the general outcome was satisfactory, the report says: "Continuous attention needs to be paid to the insufficient maintenance of life-saving equipment and fire protection systems, which are the root cause of many detainable hardware deficiencies."

Over the entire year 21,085 inspections were undertaken involving 11,430 ships. Some 14,421 vessels were found to have a total of 74,668 deficiencies.

These were serious enough to cause the ships to be detained in 1,097 cases.

This represented a slight improvement on 2004, when 1,393 ships were detained.

The overall percentage of ships detained in the region, which includes 18 separate jurisdictions, was 5.21%.

The highest percentage of ships detained by Port State Control was recorded in Hong Kong, where 16.8% of the 500 inspections resulted in a ship being detained.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>BYONG TAI DA 21</i>	—	CHN	—	2,611	—	—	In collision with <i>Zheng Yu 56</i> at XiaoBanmen Channel in lat 30 10.07N, long 122 35.06E, May 10. Damage to starboard shell plating in way of No.2 cargo hold, water ingress. Beached at Zhoushan for temporary repairs.
<i>FILIPINA PRINCESS</i>	ro-ro	PHL	BV	13,705	4,277	1973	Grounded in Carmel bay, near Tablas Island Philippines, while sheltering from tropical storm "Chanchu" May 12. Refloated May 15 by tugs and inspection carried out. Sailed under own power May 15. Arrived Keppel Shipyard, Cebu, May 18 for repairs.
<i>LONGOBARDA</i>	chem tanker	ITA	RI	6,750	10,006	1991	Had fire while repairing at Bijela Shipyard May 15. Twelve workers injured. Investigation under way.
<i>LUCKY STAR</i>	tanker	BOL	—	1,685	—	—	Due to main engine failure and typhoon "Pearl" grounded at Kaohsiung May 17. Crew lifted off.
<i>MALITAM</i>	product tanker	PHL	—	720	1,000	1978	Grounded off Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro Province, Philippines, due effects of typhoon "Chanchu" May 13. Crew rescued. Sistership proceeding to tranship cargo.
<i>NORTHERN SAMAR</i>	ro-ro	PHL	—	466	—	1996	Sank off Tabaco, Albay, southern Luzon, May 12 during typhoon "Chanchu" after large waves broke anchor chain. Constant battering holed port side of vessel. Owners ordered to remove wreck.
<i>PRIDE OF ALOHA</i>	passenger	USA	NV	77,104	8,800	1999	Reported May 16 to have sustained damage to a bearing in the starboard propeller shaft while en route to scheduled drydocking at San Francisco. Next cruise cancelled.
<i>SC BALTIC</i>	general	DIS	NV	3,382	3,391	1975	Grounded on Yksnoya Island, near Volda, May 13. Ingress of water. Refloated same day assisted by salvage vessel. Proceeded to Aalesund under own power. Repairs to commence in a few days.
<i>SEACOR ENERGY</i>	tug	USA	—	483	1,200	1985	Struck a submerged object in Bell Pass, Bayou LaFourche, Pointe A la Hache, New Orleans area, lat 29 34N, long 89 45W, May 14. Sitting on the object and resting on the bottom. Salvors moved vessel 150 yards, where it sank. To be salvaged.
<i>SPAR ORION</i>	bulker	NIS	LR	26,449	47,639	1996	Grounded on a reef 0.3 miles west of Port Everglades May 17. No reported breach of hull. refloated May 18 and anchored at Miami for structural checks. Refloated May 18 and anchored Miami for investigation.
<i>TIDEWAY</i>	ro-ro	VCT	LR	943	1,452	1980	Sank in lat 13 15.67N, long 70 22.52W, May 17. All 11 crew rescued.
<i>ZHENG YU 56</i>	—	CHN	—	2,261	—	—	In collision with <i>Byong Tai Da 21</i> at XiaoBanmen Channel in lat 30 10.07N, long 122 35.06E, May 10. FPT leaked. To repair at Wezhou. ETC 8 days.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ADAM E.CORNELIUS (U.S.A.)

Troy, Michigan, May 11 — United States Coast Guard Sector Sault Ste. Marie received a report, Tuesday (May 9), from bulker *Adam E.Cornelius* (15674 gt, built 1973) of a minor fire on board in the incinerator room caused by unattended trash burning. The fire was extinguished immediately, with the expenditure of one portable dry chemical extinguisher. The damage was limited to paint and wiring in the incinerator room. The incinerator, the light and the blower vent in the incinerator room were all rendered inoperable. The vessel was not diverted or detained, since it was in Lake Superior en route to Duluth. Marine Safety Unit Duluth investigators will board the vessel in Duluth to take statements and photograph/survey the damage. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News.

AL TAJ

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

AL-DANA

Bahrain, May 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Dhow *al-Dana* was only licensed in Doha to carry only 20 people, it was revealed yesterday. The dhow was built in Qatar in 2000 and launched under the name *Al Khofal*, according to sources. It was fitted with a Hyundai 360 engine and its registration number in Qatar was 12662. Qatari officials granted a licence to the vessel to carry a maximum of 20 people at a time, said the sources. They said Bahraini Abdulla Al Kobaisi bought the vessel for Bahrain dollars 60,000, from its previous owner, Omran Ahmed Ali Alkwayr, on Nov 27, 2005. The vessel was registered in Bahrain on Dec 25 under the name *Al-Dana*, with a three-year validity ending on Dec 25, 2008. A Coastguard official earlier revealed that the registration was only for the vessel to be in Bahrain and it was not a licence to carry passengers. The passenger carrying licence is granted only on the basis of a passenger vessel safety certificate from a marine surveyor. Sources said the Bahraini owner entrusted the survey to a Bahraini company which gave its report on Jan 17 with a list of measures to be taken to obtain the safety certificate. "The surveyor put 29 conditions which the owner had to comply with," sources revealed. "One of the conditions was that the vessel should not carry more than 50 people at a time, after equipping it with all safety measures." There were 130 people on board the *Al-Dana* at the time of the accident. Seventy-two survived. Meanwhile, a Bahrain court is expected to give its ruling today on

a second bail application for an Indian alleged to have been the "co-captain" of the vessel. Law firm Rashid Al Jar & Associates is to appeal again today against a decision by the Public Prosecutor rejecting bail for Thakkuparambil Rupesh. The appeal will be presented to Attorney General Ali Fadhel Al Buanain, said Mr Al Jar, who added that he was expecting a positive decision. Mr Rupesh was only a "free visa" fisherman who was assigned to the dhow to work as a cleaner and had been wrongly listed by authorities as the "co-captain," said Mr Al Jar. He said Mr Rupesh was cleaning the deck when the vessel capsized. Mr Al Kobaisi, Indian captain Rajendrakumar Ramjibhai and Mr Rupesh have each been charged with manslaughter and unintentionally inflicting injury. Mr Al Kobaisi was released on Bahrain dollars 3,000 bail more than three weeks ago but the other two have been kept in custody. Mr Al Jar's firm was given power of attorney to represent Mr Rupesh, after being brought in by the community group Janapriya. The Indian Community Relief Fund has appointed lawyer Mohammed Al Watani to take up the case of Mr Ramjibhai and to co-ordinate with Rashid Al Jar & Associates over Mr Rupesh's case. Mr Rupesh and Mr Ramjibhai are in custody at the Coast Guard headquarters. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALEXANDROS T. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, May 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The six Filipino crewmen who survived the sinking of bulker *Alexandros T.* in South Africa left for Manila yesterday to be reunited with their families, an official said yesterday. Another survivor, Romanian Liviu Baluta, was also set to return home to Bucharest. There was no word on the fate of the 18 Filipino seamen still missing. Rescuers have not resumed the search for them because of bad weather.

ALFASHIP (Bahamas)

London, May 12 — A report in today's issue of "Newsfront" states: Polembros claims its crude oil tanker *Alfaship* is safe for demolition. The Bangladesh High Court has instructed the government not to allow the vessel for scrapping following a case filed by a local environmental group. The company says that, before leaving Piraeus on its final voyage, the *Alfaship* was made "gas free" and emptied of all oily "slop" and oil cargo residues. The vessel is currently lying at Chittagong's outer anchorage and is awaiting relevant inspection by local authorities.

ALGOVILLE (Canada)

Toronto, May 15 — Bulker *Algoville* departed Goderich at 0003, local time, May 14, on a downbound route to Quebec. ETA May 18. The vessel has therefore been repaired and is now back at work. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

ALPHASHIP (Bahamas)

Chittagong, May 17 — Crude oil tanker *Alphaship* arrived at Chittagong outer anchorage at 0945 hrs, Apr 27, in ballast. Reportedly, the vessel is presently awaiting inspection by a team formed by the Govt. of Bangladesh, thereafter the matter of demolition will be decided. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANDREA LOLITA (Philippines)

Manila, May 13 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that the Philippine registered coastal tug *Andrea Lolita*, 600 hp, 80.2 gt, built 1994, Manila, sank 0500 today in rough seas near Mindoro island. The tug, with a crew of seven, had originated from Puerto Princesa port and was bound for Batangas Port with barge *Riverine*, with a crew of four, in tow. The tug, however, ran into tropical storm "Chanchu" as it approached Mindoro island. Large waves swamped and capsized both the *Andrea Lolita* and *Riverine*. The Coast Guard reported that the crew of *Andrea Lolita* was able to jump ship and reach the shores of Abra Ilog in Misamis Occidental province. *Riverine* crew remained unaccounted for. Search and rescue operations are ongoing for the barge's crew, the Coast Guard said. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, May 15 — The Philippine Coast Guard today, have advised that the Philippine-registered coastal tug *Andrea Lolita* did not sink as earlier reported. The Coast Guard's Public Information Office said in a report that the *Andrea Lolita* with its entire seven-man crew was now anchored at Tilik, Lubang, Occidental Mindoro. Coast Guard spokesperson Commander Joseph Coyne said that difficulties in communication between the Coast Guard's remote detachments and headquarters due to tropical storm "Chanchu" resulted in some reporting errors. Cdr. Coyne, however, confirmed the sinking of the barge, *Riverine*, which the *Andrea Lolita* was towing. The tugboat and barge were proceeding to Batangas Port from Puerto Princesa when they were hit by Tropical Storm "Chanchu" as they were about to reach Mindoro island. The tugboat was able to take shelter off San Jose town but the *Riverine* capsized, Saturday (May 13), due to large waves and powerful winds. *Andrea Lolita* was able to rescue the four crew members of the *Riverine*. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ANGEL EMIEL (U.K.)

London, May 16 — Following received from Coasguard Dover MRCC, timed 2032, UTC: Trawler *Angel Emiel* (125 gt, built 1991), MMNR9, with four persons on board, was towed into Dover by Dover lifeboat at 2004 hrs. Vessel had earlier experienced machinery failure in lat 50 58.5N, long 01 13.67E.

Dover, May 17 — Trawler *Angel Emiel* was towed by Royal National Lifeboat Institution into Dover pm, May 16, and it is currently berthed at

the Jet Foil Terminal. The Duty Pilot of Dover Harbour Board is visiting the vessel later today. — Lloyd's Agents.

Dover, May 17 — The main engine of trawler *Angel Emiel* is totally inoperative and at present the vessel is waiting to be towed to Brixham. — Lloyd's Agents.

BALTIC TRADER (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See "Languedoc, France" under "Pollution."

BOHMEN (Germany)

See *Myriam*.

BYONG TAI DA 21 (China)

Antwerp, May 18 — At about 0352 hrs, May 10, general cargo *Byong Tai Da 21* (2611 gt, built 2003) was in collision with general cargo *Zheng Yu 56* (2261 gt) at XiaoBanmen Channel in lat 30 10.07N, long 122 35.6E. *Byong Tai Da 21* was in ballast condition and damaged on its starboard shell plating in way of No.2 cargo hold. Then, a large quantity of water entered the cargo hold. The ship had to carry out voluntary stranding and succeeded at the beach of Zhoushan. She then stayed at Zhoushan for temporary repairing and then proceeded to Taizhou shipyard for permanent repairing (about 10 days). *Zheng Yu 56* was fully loaded and damaged on its bow plating. Her FPT leaked. The vessel sailed to the port of Shantou for cargo discharging and planned permanent repairing at the port of Wenzhou (about 8 days.) — DPS-Teamhead Surveyors.

CARIBOU (Canada)

Halifax, May 15 — Passenger ro/ro *Caribou* completed scheduled dry-docking about two weeks ago and returned to service shortly thereafter. — Lloyd's Agents.

CLEMENCEAU

London, May 16 — The former French aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* is expected to arrive in the port of Brest tomorrow, putting the French government under new pressure to find an acceptable solution for its demolition in France. The engineless vessel, which was ordered to return from India, where it was due for breaking, by French President Jacques Chirac on Feb 15, was being towed northwards off the French Atlantic coast yesterday and is expected off Brest early tomorrow morning. Now known officially as *Q 790*, the vessel is already causing controversy in the port city, where opinions are divided between those who want the city to be chosen as the site for the development of a new vessel demolition centre and those who want the vessel to be taken elsewhere as quickly as possible. French Defence Minister Michele Alliot Marie has assured that the vessel will be gone from the Brest roads before the start of the major nautical festival planned by the city for July, 2008. At this point, however, it is not known where the vessel will

be taken. A Defence Ministry spokesman said last week: "No one can say today if the future demolition will take place in Europe or elsewhere." The first priority following the vessel's arrival in Brest will be to make the vessel secure to receive visitors, notably the press, local officials and interested environmental and other bodies. In July, a detailed examination of the vessel is due to get under way to determine how much asbestos remains on board. The Defence Ministry estimates that 75 tonnes at most remains, while Greenpeace and other environmental organisations claim that the real amount is between 500 and 1,000 tonnes. This examination is expected to last until October or November, after which proposals are to be invited for the contract to remove the asbestos and break up the vessel. The choice of contractor or contractors is scheduled for the end of this year or early next. The Defence Ministry estimates that it has spent Euros 12 million so far on the decommissioning of the vessel, of which E5 million was for asbestos removal in Toulon, E4 million for outbound towage through the Suez Canal to India, E1.3 million for the return journey via the Cape of Good Hope and E1.7 million for the breach of its contract with Ship Decommissioning Industries, the company which was given the task of supervising the vessel's demolition.

London, May 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Decommissioned aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* arrived Brest today.

CP VALOUR (Bermuda)

Ponta Delgada, May 11 — Container Carrier *CP Valour*: Tug *Ayton Cross* towing a platform named *THIESTE* arrived at Horta to participate in the removal operations supervised by SvitzerWijsmuller experts. The date for commence the operations still unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

CRIMSON MARS (Singapore)

London, May 16 — Wood-chip carrier *Crimson Mars* sailed from Launceston on May 12 bound for Hualien.

CURRENCY (Switzerland)

See *Stolt Basel*.

DANIELLA NATIVIDAD (Philippines)

Manila, May 12 — The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) stopped the departure of tanker *Daniella Natividad* last night. The tanker was scheduled to leave Lamao port in Bataan province yesterday evening for repairs at it's Navotas terminal in Manila. MARINA officials, however, refused permission for the vessel to leave because it failed to secure a special permit to navigate from the regulatory agency. This will require a safety inspection by MARINA officials to ensure that the vessel is seaworthy. The safety inspection is expected to take place today. Officials of Shogun Ships,

owner of the vessel, said that the vessel was operational and capable of sailing back to Manila despite the accident. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, May 13 — Product tanker *Daniella Natividad* arrived Navotas, Manila, on its own power at 1945, May 12. It is anchored off Cailian Shipyards in Navotas, where it will undergo afloat repairs to the damaged void tank. This will take place after follow-up inspections by the Maritime Industry Authority and a survey by its class surveyor, Bureau Veritas. Hull insurance is provided by Manila-based Pioneer Insurance while P&I coverage is by London-based Steamship Mutual. She had an explosion and fire early Thursday (May 11) morning during welding operations being performed on one of its void tanks. Repairs were being undertaken on the vessel as it was awaiting its turn to take on a cargo of fuel from the Petron Refinery in Limay, Bataan. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, May 17 — Afloat repairs on product tanker *Daniella Natividad* started today, according to Shogun Ships, owners and operators of the vessel. The tanker is now docked at Pier No 3 at the Navotas Fishport in Manila. According to Shogun Ships operations officer Clare de la Pena, a contractor was hired to repair the vessel rather than bring it to a shipyard which would be more expensive. Cost of repairs is expected to reach Pesos 500,000 (US\$9,600 dollars). Replating will be carried out on the vessel's deck and void tank No 5 as well as replacement of the damaged railing. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

DIMITRIS MANIOS (Cyprus)

London, May 14 — According to LMIU AIS, bulker *Dimitris Manios* was in lat 53 41 47.52N, long 04 50 27.6E, at 1107, UTC, today, course 002 deg, speed 13.1 knots.

DONG DAN NO.2 (Vietnam)

Manila, May 14 — Vietnam-flagged petrol barge *Dong Dan No.2*, owned by the Ho Chi Minh City-based Thong Nhat co-operative firm, carrying 830 cubic meters of petrol, exploded at Ho Chi Minh City at 0700 Friday (May 12). The barge and its seven man crew were docked at Petec oil port in Ho Chi Minh City's District 7 preparing to pump out its load of petrol when an explosion occurred, the Ho Chi Minh City-based newspaper "Than Nien Daily" reported yesterday. Initial investigations indicated that, as the petrol was being pumped out, a crew member turned on a generator to pump water to cool down the barge, setting off sparks and the explosion. City authorities dispatched a firefighting vessel and three fire trucks. The blaze was brought under control after two and half hours. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Ho Chi Minh City, May 16 — Barge *Dong Dan No.2*, loaded with 400-500 tonnes of gasoline, had an explosion in the engine-room which destroyed

cabins and damaged the engine-room. One crew member died. The cargo on board was safely discharged right after the incident without oil pollution. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

EASTERN BAY (Liberia)

London, May 11 - A press report, dated today, states: Refrigerated general cargo *Eastern Bay* (8917 gt, built 1997) had machinery problems on the Waterweg and had to be assisted by tugs *Smit Japan* and *Thamesbank*. (Note — *Eastern Bay* sailed Puerto Limon Apr 27 and arrived Rotterdam 0130, May 10 from Dover.)

London, May 15 — Refrigerated general cargo *Eastern Bay* sailed Rotterdam at 1415, May 12, for Santa Marta.

ECE (Marshall Islands)

London, May 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Scientists say there has so far been no damage caused by chemicals leaking from the wreck of a cid tanker *Ece* which sank off the Channel Islands. *Ece* sank after a collision with another vessel off the north west coast of Guernsey with more than 10,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid on board. Since then, the National Oceanography Centre has been assessing the impact this could have on the environment. Researchers are continuing to monitor the situation. The chemical is normally used as a fertiliser and initially there were fears it could cause long-term damage to the delicate ecosystem of the English Channel. However, despite the fact that it is leaking into the sea, there has been no damage detected. Dr Boris Kelly-Gerrey said: "We can say that some of the phosphoric acid has leaked into the English Channel, but that currently we can see no adverse impact on marine life. "However, that could change and the likelihood of such a change is uncertain, which is why it is crucial that we maintain the monitoring we have been doing which is being undertaken by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency with the French authorities."

EMILY (North Korea)

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control."

EVCO CREST (Canada)

London, May 11 — On May 6, tug *Evco Crest* (56 gt, built 1969) with barge *Evco No.91* (2184 gt, built 1969) in tow, was struck by barge while shortening towline near Vancouver Wharves, BC.

EVCO NO.91 (Canada)

See *Evco Crest*.

FILIPINA PRINCESS (Philippines)

Manila, May 13 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that passenger ro/ro *Filipina Princess* (13705 gt, built 1973) ran aground 0324 "today" as it attempted to take shelter in Carmel Bay, near Tablas island, Romblon province in central Philippines. The

vessel with 713 passengers had originated from Davao in Mindanao and was bound for the Port of Manila when it sought shelter at Carmel Bay to escape the rough seas brought about by tropical storm "Chanchu." The ship's master miscalculated the water's depth, however, and the ship ran aground. There were no reports of deaths or injuries. Sulpicio Lines, owner and operator of the vessel, said that they had contracted Malayan Towage and Salvage, Inc. to free the vessel. At 1300 "yesterday," Malayan Towage salvage tug *Maranaw* had left Manila for Carmel Bay. The tug is expected to reach the vessel at around 0400 tomorrow. Sulpicio officials said that the once the ferry is freed, they expect it to proceed on its own power to Manila. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, May 14 — Passenger ro/ro *Filipina Princess*: Assisting the transfer was salvage tug *Maranaw* which ferried passengers between the two vessels. *Maranaw* reached *Filipina Princess* early this morning. Malayan Towage & Salvage Co.-owned *Maranaw* was contracted by Sulpicio Lines to free the grounded vessel. Initial reports from the *Maranaw* indicated that the hull of the *Filipina Princess* had not been breached. Malayan Towage officials said that tug *Ranger* would be joining the *Maranaw* tomorrow. The two tugs would attempt to refloat the *Filipina Princess* with the onset of the high tide at noon tomorrow. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, May 15 — Passenger ro/ro *Filipina Princess* was refloated at 1100 today by two Malayan Towage & Salvage Co. tugs. To lighten the vessel, 713 passengers were transferred to another ferry yesterday. With the onset of the high tide this morning, tugs *Charger* and *Maranaw* pulled the *Filipina Princess* out of its grounded position in Carmel Bay, near Tablas island, Romblon province in central Philippines. Underwater inspection is now being undertaken by the owner's divers to determine if the vessel can resume its trip to Manila on its own power. While the hull appears not to have sustained serious damage, one of the vessel's propellers may have been bent. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, May 15 — Passenger ro/ro *Filipina Princess* left Carmel Bay at 1345, local time, today under its own power. Cebu-based Sulpicio Lines, owners of the vessel, reported that ETA in Manila is 0430 tomorrow. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, May 16 — Passenger ro/ro *Filipina Princess* arrived at Manila's North Harbour terminal at 0430 today, under its own power. The Safety Department of Sulpicio Lines, the vessel's owner, reported that the vessel's hull was undamaged but the blade of one of its twin propellers was bent when it ran aground in Carmel Bay on Saturday (May 13). After offloading its cargo, the vessel will sail this afternoon for Keppel Cebu Shipyards, for emergency drydocking. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

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

Manila, May 17 — Passenger ro/ro *Filipina Princess* left Manila's North Harbour terminal at 1930, local time, Tuesday, (May 16) bound for Keppel Cebu shipyard in central Philippines, where expected to arrive at 0530, local time, Thursday, for emergency drydocking. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, May 18 — Passenger ro/ro *Filipina Princess* arrived at Keppel Cebu Shipyard at 0530, local time, today. This was reported by the vessel's owner and operator, Sulpicio Lines. The vessel is currently being prepared for emergency drydocking and is expected to enter Keppel Cebu's graving dock in the afternoon. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

G.A.SKYTTE (Sweden)

London, May 17 — Roll On Roll Off *G.A.Skytte* sailed Gothenburg May 15.

GUAN (Belgium)

London, May 16 — The name of the Belgian inland cargo vessel of 51 metres length that sank after a collision last Tuesday (May 9), is the *Guan* (not *Kempenaar* as before reported). The *Guan* is owned by G. Bulens in Merksem, Belgium. The tug that ran into its stern and sank it was Netherlands pusher tug *Phoenix*, built 1974, length 20 metres, width eight metres, which was pushing two barges loaded with coal. The salvage companies GPS Marine Services BV from Sliedrecht and Bergings-en Transportbedrijf BTS from Schiedam are to attempt to salvage the sunken vessel, which lies 9.5 metres deep with a list of 30 deg. Its cargo of 575 tons of copper is to be salvaged first, then floating sheerleg cranes *GPS Atlas* and *Amsterdam* from BTS will lift the sunken vessel. The salvors expect that the whole operation will take between two and three weeks.

HAMNAVOE (U.K.)

London, May 16 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland, timed 0843, UTC: Aberdeen Coastguard have advised that passenger ro/ro *Hamnavoe* (8780 gt, built 2002) had experienced a brief grounding at 0630, UTC, today. *Hamnavoe* had a shaft generator problem while departing Stromness harbour, which contributed to the vessel briefly touching the seabed. The master returned to Stromness harbour to check for damage. Divers have made an inspection and have discovered no structural damage, apart from minor paintwork damage. Inspections are on going.

London, May 16 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1357, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Hamnavoe* departed Stromness for Scrabster at 1000, UTC, after inspection revealed no structural damage.

HARVEST GAVINA (South Africa)

Cape Town, May 15 — Trawler *Harvest Gavina* is still undergoing

repairs which are expected to be completed at the beginning of next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

HYBUR STAR (Panama)

Miami, May 16 — Refrigerated general cargo *Hybur Staris* being held for the US Coast Guard at TMM Intl., on the Miami River. The US Coast Guard is still awaiting a repair proposal from its owners to decide whether this vessel is safe enough to sail again. — Lloyd's Agents.

HYUNDAI FORTUNE (Panama)

London, May 16 — Container carrier *Hyundai Fortune* has been put up for sale in an "as is" condition. Very large cargo claims are expected due to the nature of the Far East cargo — high-value goods such as MP3 players and digital cameras. Containers from the vessel have been transported back to various European locations. The vessel is currently anchored off Khor Fakkan.

IERAPETRA L. (Greece)

London, May 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: AEK Athens fans ruined and plundered the ferry *Lerapetra* (? roll on roll off *Ierapetra L.* 12891 gt, built 1975), during the route from Heraklio, Crete, to the port of Rafina in Attica. More specifically, about 700 AEK supporters went on board after the end of the Greek soccer cup final, between Olympiacos and AEK which took place in Crete. The victory of Olympiacos over AEK, with a 3-0 score, caused irritation within the supporters of AEK which caused damages in both the stadium and the vessel. The Prosecutor ordered a preliminary inquiry into the incidents that took place onboard the vessel. During the trip, a group of youths started breaking everything for no apparent reason. They caused extensive damages to the passenger lounges and the bars, and a crew member was injured. A Greek police officer was injured in the leg by a flare, while a crew member was also injured. As the owner company of the vessel, Dane Sea Line of Piraeus, estimates the damages to the vessel come to 150,000 euro. The Greek Media has accused the administration of Greek police and the Ministers of Public Order and Shipping of not preventing the events.

Piraeus, May 16 — Roll On Roll Off *Ierapetra L.* was damaged by football supporters between Crete and Rafina May 11. The vessel arrived at Rafina May 11 and sailed the same day bound to Piraeus for repairs. The vessel arrived at Piraeus May 11 and remains in port. ETD/completion of repairs unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

IMANT SUDMALIS (Belize)

See "Canary Islands" under "Port State Control".

INGER (Netherlands)

St. Petersburg, May 17 — Repairs to general cargo *Inger* are now complete. After completion of loading operations the vessel will sail to Holland. ETD 19-20 May. — Lloyd's Agents.

INTEGRO

London, May 12 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Inland container Carrier *Integro* ran aground near Bergambacht at the Lek river in the Netherlands May 9. The vessel was refloated by the tug *En Avant 27* later the same day.

JOSEF MOBIUS (Germany)

London, May 18 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Hopper dredger *Josef Mobius* (5372 gt, built 1974) had already been damaged by a fire in Spain on Jul 28, 2005. A fire in the machine room also damaged the superstructure and bridge. The ship was towed to Rendsburg and repaired at Nobiskrug/HDW within three months. After completion of final works in Kiel it was redelivered to its owners in March 2006.

KAPITAN BOLSUNOVSKIY (Russia)

Busan, May 15 — Following completion of repairs, fish factory *Kapitan Bolsunovskiy* sailed Busan at about 1800, May 12, bound for the Bering Sea. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

KEMPENAAR (Belgium)

See *Guan*.

KIM JACOB (Liberia)

Lisbon, May 16 — Despite the ETD being set for May 10, the repairs to crude oil tanker *Kim Jacob* are still on going. — Lloyd's Agents.

Lisbon, May 18 — Understand that the ETD for crude oil tanker *Kim Jacob* has been set for May 23. — Lloyd's Agents.

KOMETIK (Canada)

St. John's, May 11 — Hull damage to crude oil tanker *Kometik* was apparently minimal. It is not presently known whether the vessel has been cleared to return to charter. — Lloyd's Agents.

KOTUKU (New Zealand)

London, May 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Three people were confirmed dead and three more were still missing when a huge sea-and-air search was called off as night fell today, 28 hours after fishing (general) *Kotuku*, length 17 metres, sank off the south coast of New Zealand. Three other men on the vessel, including skipper John Edminstin, were rescued after managing to swim through freezing waters to safety on an uninhabited offshore island. Six of the nine people on board the vessel were from the same family, and news reports said the missing were two boys aged nine and 10 and their 78-year-old grandfather. Police confirmed that three bodies had been recovered. The *Kotuku* went down yesterday evening in Fouveau Strait, 15 kilometres off Stewart Island, which lies to the south of New Zealand's two main islands. Up to 20 boats combed the area last night and all day today and ground parties searched

uninhabited islands in the strait for the three missing people. Reports said police were not alerted to the tragedy until nearly four hours after the *Kotuku* capsized when the survivors were spotted on Women's Island, which is normally uninhabited, and a vessel discovered some floating debris. Police said it was not known why the vessel capsized but it was not believed to have hit rocks and the skipper was a veteran trawlerman from his home port of Bluff at the foot of the South Island.

London, May 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A search resumed at first light for two nine-year-old boys and their grandfather, who are still missing after fishing *Kotuku* sank in Foveaux Strait on Saturday (May 13). The *Kotuku* had picked up a family from Muttonbird Island before it capsized seven kilometres east of Stewart Island. It had nine people on board when it went down. The bodies of Ian James Hayward, 52, Clinton Allan Woods, 34 and Tania Marie Topi, 41, have been recovered. Three survivors — Paul Maurice Topi, 46, Dylan James Topi, 16, and the trawler's skipper John Edward Edmiston, 56 — swam to nearby Women's Island when the trawler went down. They alerted rescuers by lighting a fire. Police say the odds of any others surviving in the freezing conditions are remote. The three missing are Leslie Christian Topi, 78 and his nine-year-old grandsons Sailor Roy Trow-Topi and Shain Jack Topi-Tairi.

Wellington, May 15 — Police have found the bodies of an elderly Bluff man and his two young grandsons, who have been missing since Saturday (May 13). Sergeant Brock Davis of Invercargill police said the bodies of 78-year-old Leslie Topi, and his nine-year-old grandsons, Sailor and Shain, were recovered by police divers at around 1100 today and were currently being brought to shore. Earlier today searchers located the wreckage of fishing (general) *Kotuku*, which capsized in Foveaux Strait on Saturday. The vessel sunk near Women's Island, 15 km off Stewart Island, at around 1430 on Saturday with nine people on board, including three generations of the Topi family. Three people — skipper John Edminstin, Dylan Topi, 16, and his uncle, Paul Topi, 46, — managed to swim to the island and were rescued after bonfires were spotted on the beach around five hours later. A fourth person, Ian Hayward, 52, reached the island, but died later. His body was recovered on Saturday night. The bodies of Dylan Topi's mother, Tania Marie Topi, 41, and Clinton Allan Woods, 34, were also recovered earlier. Police said at least some of those on board were not wearing lifejackets. A police dive team arrived from Wellington this morning to survey the wreckage. It was believed the bodies of the two little boys would have been trapped inside the cabin. Rescue Co-ordination Centre spokesman Lindsay Sturt said

the vessel may have gone down too fast for anyone to raise the alarm. "We can't speculate what happened, but we do understand that if it's capsized very quickly, they may not have had time to put a mayday call out, whether they had a working radio or not. That's something we hope to find out today," he said. The Transport Accident Investigation Commission said it had begun an investigation into the sinking. National Radio reported that police divers were using special underwater cameras to survey the wreck. Riverton Coastguard rescue vessel skipper, Chris Musgrave, told National Radio that conditions were deteriorating. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Two big waves struck so suddenly and violently that no one caught in the Foveaux Strait trawler tragedy had a chance to react. Police yesterday gave fresh insights into the sinking of fishing (general) *Kotuku* that led to the deaths of six people. The last three bodies were recovered from the submerged vessel by a police dive squad yesterday. "The boat was struck by two waves in a very short space of time," said Inspector Barry Taylor. "It happened so quickly there was not an opportunity to get to either of the emergency beacons that were on board or to the radio to make a mayday call." Whether the radio was working was not known yesterday. That will form part of the investigation. "To the best of our knowledge there were sufficient lifejackets on board; however none were being used at the time," Mr Taylor said. A series of inquiries into the tragedy have begun. Police will assist the Maritime Safety Authority, the Transport Accident Investigation Commission and the coroner in making their findings. The possibility of the vessel being overloaded may also be considered, but Mr Taylor said he had no information on that. The vessel was travelling back to Bluff on Saturday (May 13) with members of the Topi family who had been hunting mutton birds on Titi Island.

Wellington, May 16 — A local press report, dated today, states: The load of fishing (general) *Kotuku* may have shifted after it was hit by a wave, forcing the boat to tip when a second, deadly wave struck, fishing industry representatives say. Police believe the boat sank in less than a minute. Six people died, including people representing three generations of one family, when the 15m vessel sank in heavy seas in Foveaux Strait on Saturday afternoon. The last three bodies, those of nine-year-old cousins Sailor Roy Trow-Topi and Shain Jack Topi-Tairi and their grandfather, Leslie Christian (Peter) Topi, 78, were retrieved from the sunken vessel by police divers yesterday morning. Paul Morris Topi, 46, Dylan James Topi, 16, and boat owner John Edward Edminstin, 56, were rescued on Saturday night after swimming to nearby Women's Island and lighting

fires to alert rescuers. The bodies of Tania Marie Topi, 41, Clinton Allan Woods, 34, and Ian James Hayward, 52, were found in freezing waters on Sunday. The Topi family was returning from an annual muttonbird-gathering trip on Kaihuka, an island to the east of Stewart Island, and had buckets of muttonbirds on board. Maritime New Zealand and Transport Accident Investigation Commission investigators arrived in Bluff yesterday to begin an inquiry into the cause of the tragedy. The load the vessel was carrying would be part of the investigation, police said. Speculation is rife in Bluff, and many believe the first of two waves to strike the boat would have pushed its load to one side and the second would be enough to roll the boat. New Zealand Federation of Commercial Fishermen chief executive Peter Dawson agreed it was a likely scenario. "If the load shifts or something shifts, it can create a free-surface effect. Things move around and the vessel moves," he said. "That can certainly set up circumstances where the centre of gravity shifts and goes out to one side. The further it goes, the less stable the vessel becomes until it is now on a list, and it can't recover from that." Another wave or sequence of waves could see it become completely unstable and it could roll, Dawson said. "It happens from time to time. It's certainly not unusual for these sorts of circumstances to occur." Another fisherman, who did not want to be named, said it was possible the load moved or the first wave filled a section of the boat with water. "I've been scratching my head about this. I know *Kotuku* and she's a very good sea boat. Something unusual has happened, without a doubt," he said. "It's got to have been either the load moved or the vessel filled up with water, and the next (wave) has rolled it over because there is no freeboard left." A single wave would have had to have been very large to roll the vessel, he said. The Invercargill police acting area commander, Inspector Barry Taylor, said he believed the boat was equipped with all necessary safety equipment. "To the best of our knowledge, there were sufficient lifejackets on board. However, none was used at the time." He believed the vessel sank in less than a minute, leaving no time for passengers to get the safety equipment. "It happened so quickly there was not the opportunity to get either beacons that were on the boat and available or (make) a mayday call," he said. Police dive squad leader Senior Sergeant Bruce Adams said members of the Topi family joined the team while it dived to the vessel, which was sitting about 30m under water on a sandy base. It took three dives during an hour in the morning to recover the bodies. Peter Topi was in the wheelhouse and the boys were under the deck, where they had been sleeping and sending text messages. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A planned dive to

film the wreck of fishing *Kotuku* today had been called off due to bad weather, a Maritime New Zealand spokeswoman said. Police divers were due to begin filming the wreckage of the fishing trawler which sank in the Foveaux Strait on Saturday (May 13), killing six people. Rough weather stopped the operation yesterday and Maritime NZ spokesman Steve Corbett said today the divers were planning to film the boat later this morning. Investigators would use the film footage to help determine how the accident happened and to assess whether or not the vessel could be refloated, Mr Corbett said. However, a spokeswoman said this afternoon the dive would "probably not be this week." "The weather's not that great down there," she said. The vessel would not be salvaged by Maritime New Zealand but would be the responsibility of its owner. (See issue of May 17.)

Wellington, May 18 — Maritime New Zealand has placed a 500-metre exclusion zone around fishing (general) *Kotuku*, which sank suddenly last Saturday afternoon (May 13). Maritime New Zealand Director Russell Kilvington said the exclusion zone had been put in place to preserve evidence. He is also determined to prevent any tampering, mutilation or destruction of the wreck which will may need to be accessed as the investigation proceeds. No person or vessel can enter the exclusion zone without written authority. — Lloyd's Agents.

LNG ABUJA (Bahamas)

Cadiz, May 15 — Liquid Natural Gas Carrier *LNG Abuja* is still under repair at Cadiz Shipyards. Vessel's agents informed ETD is May 23. — Lloyd's Agents.

LONG HAI (Panama)

Colombo, May 15 — Bulker *Long Hai* is still in the same position and repairs are being carried out. — Lloyd's Agents.

LONGOBARDA (Italy)

London, May 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Twelve shipyard workers were injured in a fire yesterday on board chemical tanker *Longobarda* (6750 gt, built 1991), while the vessel was at the Bijela Shipyard for repair/refit. It is understood that the fire occurred in the vessel's pumping area and that an investigation is being carried out.

London, May 17 — Twelve workers have been injured at the Jadransko Brodogradiliste shipyard in Bijela while repairing chemical tanker *Longobarda*. An explosion on board left 10 workers with slight injuries and two with burns on 30% of their bodies. Doctors at Belgrade Hospital say both men are now stable and their lives are not in danger. Yard officials said an investigation into the incident would start soon.

Rijeka, May 17 — Twelve workers were injured in a fire at 1230 hrs, May 15, in the pump area of chemical

tanker *Longobarda*, above deck. The cause of this accident is not familiar yet and no official information is available. One of the men said that the flame and fumes appeared in the form of explosion as soon as a colleague of his tried to commence to cut the metal. The men had to flee for their lives. Ten men are hospitalized in a local medical centres while two were transported to Belgrade. All the injured were employed at Adriatic Shipyard at Bijela. After the accident, an investigative judge made a preliminary investigation, but the cause of the accident will be known after the professional assessor's finding. — Lloyd's Agents.

LUCKY STAR (Bolivia)

Taipei, May 17 — According to the Kaohsiung Harbour Bureau, Taiwan, non specific tanker *Lucky Star*, 1685 gt, anchored at outer No 1 anchorage area of Kaohsiung port. Due to the main engine failure and the stormy weather causing by the typhoon "Pearl", the vessel was dragging towards the coast of Kaohsiung port and grounded at/around 0540, today. Immediately the rescue helicopter was launched by Taiwan Coast Guard and all the crew members (total four China crews and nine Indonesia crews including master) were safely rescued. — Lloyd's Agents.

MALAKHOV KURGAN (Ukraine)

See "Pay Dispute On Ukraine Flagged Vessel, Lyttelton, New Zealand" under "Labour Disputes".

MALITAM (Philippines)

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

MALITAM (Philippines)

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

MALTE B. (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 17 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1415, UTC: General cargo *Malte B.* (2528 gt, built 1998) was contacted by drilling platform *Todco 256*, which drifted into it in bad weather at Galveston Pier No 21 on May 11. *Malte B.* was inspected by class and found to have minor damage, repairs to which are expected to be completed before vessel departs Friday (May 19).

MARE ISLAND (U.S.A.)

San Francisco, May 12 — The hull of ferry *Mare Island* (549 gt, built 1997, not ferry *Solano* as previously reported) was not damaged in the incident on May 6. The cause of incident was a breakage of a water jet fed back cable. "Upon the incident the cable which was available as spare part locally" was utilized to bring *Mare Island* to its present location at Mare Island. A replacement part has ordered from Sweden. The ferry is laying idle waiting for the part. It is scheduled to arrive next week and ferry in question will resume its service then. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARGARA (Cayman Islands)

London, May 17 — Product tanker *Margara*, bound Banias, passed Gibraltar, 0720, May 15, and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 36 5.22N, long 03 51.1W, 40 nautical miles off Almunecar, Spain, at 1520, May 15.

MATTHEW TIBBETTS (U.S.A.)

London, May 12 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1420, UTC: Tug *Matthew Tibbetts* (109 gt, built 1969) had barge it was coupled with strike pier in New York harbour yesterday morning. Barge sustained one-inch hole in starboard ballast tank and has now proceeded to berth to undergo cleaning. *Matthew Tibbetts* has already proceeded.

MAUNAKEA (Liberia)

Port Klang, May 15 — Refrigerated general cargo *Maunakea* is currently at Port Klang Anchorage, waiting for its cargo of frozen squid to be offloaded at Port Klang. General Average has been declared. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Klang, May 16 — Refrigerated general cargo *Maunakea* berthed alongside Northport (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd, South Point, Port Klang, at about 1100 hrs, May 16. Arrangement and preparation is being made to discharge the cargo. The accommodation superstructure was noted to be burnt. Fire appeared to be from the engine-room. — Lloyd's Agents.

MIRIAM (Germany)

Mannheim, May 12 — Non specific tanker *Miriam* and general cargo *Bohmen* were in collision on River Rhine at Leimersheim, near Germersheim, last night. Allegedly being due to failure of the steering gear, the *Miriam* swerved from the course and crashed into *Bohmen*. *Myriam* lost about 40.000 litres of gasoline, of total about 200.00 litres, into the Rhine. The remaining load is due to get transshipped into a replacement tanker. In the relevant area on the Rhine presently there is no navigation allowed. *Miriam* said being insured with 'Overfliet', M/s. Gielisch and *Bohmen* said insured with Mannheimer Versicherung, M/s. Lenz + Bierwagen. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 12 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Non specific inland tanker *Miriam* was in collision with another inland water craft (general cargo *Bohmen*) on the Rhine close to Leimersheim/Leopoldshafen in the night of May 11 around midnight. *Miriam* had 270 tons of gasoline on board. One tank sprang a leak, and 15 tons of the cargo leaked into the Rhine. More than 130 fire fighters from Baden-Wuerttemberg and Rheinland-Pfalz were called as there were fears the vessel might explode. The Rhine was closed in the region. In the running of the day two special vessels were to salvage the vessel which stuck fast on one side of the Rhine.

MRINAL (Liberia)

London, May 12 — Bulker *Mrinal* arrived Singapore May 10 and sailed May 11.

MYRIAM (Germany)

London, May 12 — The single hulled German non specific tanker *Myriam* owned by Langeslag in Marktheidenfeld in Germany, was involved in a collision with inland general cargo *Bohmenl* on the River Rhine last night off Leimersheim, between Germersheim and Iffezheim. The 110 metre long and 11 metre wide tanker was loaded with petrol. The collision was most probably caused by a failure of its steering gear and caused a leak in the hull, out of which about 15 tons of petrol leaked into the river. Oil booms have been laid around the stricken vessel and shipping traffic on the River Rhein was held up due to explosion danger of the leaking petrol, until about midday. Also the people living along the river have been asked to keep their windows and doors closed and avoid open fires. *Miriam* has subsequently been pushed to the river shore and another tanker, *Partizaan* came alongside to take over part of the cargo of petrol. *Miriam* was then towed to Karlsruhe harbour for further investigation. The freighter with which she collided was able to proceed on its voyage. There has been minimal pollution of the river because most of the petrol has evaporated.

MYSTIC (Netherlands Antilles)

London, May 17 — Refrigerated general cargo *Mystic*, now renamed *Myst*, arrived Aliaga Apr 30, in tow of tug *Susanne A.*, to be broken up.

NEDLLOYD DE LIEFDE (Liberia)

Balboa, May 15 — C.c. *Nedlloyd De Liefde* is expected to complete repairs late today and depart Cristobal tomorrow afternoon. The vessel will proceed to Manzanillo International Terminal (close to Cristobal) for cargo operations. — Lloyd's Agents.

NEW DELHI EXPRESS (Hong Kong)

London, May 12 — Container Carrier *New Delhi Express* arrived New York May 10.

London, May 14 — Container Carrier *New Delhi Express* sailed New York May 11.

NORSEMAN (U.S.A.)

London, May 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard is on the way to help the crew of a New Bedford based fishing boat that became disabled after a fire in its engine room. The 76-foot fishing *Norseman* (168 gt, built 1987) is said to be adrift about 75 miles southeast of Chatham. The crew of seven people reported that it was able to put out the fire and no injuries have been reported. The Coast Guard Cutter *Spencer* has been diverted to the scene and the Coast Guard says a

Jayhawk helicopter and Falcon Jet were sent from Air Station Cape Cod.

London, May 12 — Following received from Coastguard Boston, Mass., timed 1935, UTC: Fishing *Norseman*, official number 921663, reported smoke in its engine-room. The crew were subsequently able to locate the source of the smoke. There was no damage to the engine. The vessel has been able to restart its engines and is now proceeding into port.

London, May 13 — A press report, dated May 12, states: The Coast Guard says fishing *Norseman* is now returning to port under its own power after a fire in its engine-room. *Norseman* was about 75 miles southeast of Chatham when it became disabled earlier today. The crew was able to put out the fire and no injuries were reported. The Coast Guard initially dispatched a cutter and two aircraft to the scene, but they were recalled when the vessel reported that it would be able to return to port under its own power.

NORTHERN SAMAR (Philippines)

Manila, May 12 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that the passenger ro/ro *Northern Samar* (466 gt, built 1960) sank off Tabaco port in Albay province, southern Luzon at 1345, today. The vessel had taken shelter at the port from tropical storm "Chanchu". The vessel was anchored off the port but strong winds and waves brought about by the storm broke it's anchor chain and the vessel was carried towards shore. The constant battering punched a hole through the port side of the vessel. There were no casualties reported. The vessel is owned by Sta. Clara Shipping Lines. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, May 14 — The Philippine Coast Guard said that it is investigating the master of passenger ro/ro *Northern Samar* (466 gt, built) for failing to move his vessel away from the Tabaco port pier despite repeated orders from port authorities and the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard in a report said that the *Northern Samar* was moored portside along the Tabaco Port pier. With the onset of tropical storm "Chanchu" on May 11, Capt. Necito Librada was ordered to move her to a more sheltered anchorage. The order was ignored, and the storm battered the vessel against the pier for several hours until a hole was torn along the vessel's port side. It was only then, that the crew attempted to maneuver the vessel away from the pier. Before the ship could get far, however, she sank 50 meters away from the pier. The wreck now poses a threat to vessels docking at the Tabaco port. Capt. Librada, on the other hand, claimed that he was unable to leave the pier because of a defective anchor chain. The Coast Guard also said that it was currently examining the wreck for possible oil leakage. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, May 15 — The Philippine Coast Guard has ordered the owners of passenger ro/ro *Northern Samar* to remove the wreck of the vessel as it poses a hazard to vessels docking at Tabaco port in Albay Province, southern Luzon island. The vessel is owned by Sta Clara Shipping Lines. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

NORWAY (Bahamas)

Port Klang, May 17 — Passenger (cruise) *Norway* was towed from Port Klang in the first week of May, bound for an Indian port. — Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN GEM (Belize)

London, May 17 — Following navigation warning issued today: General cargo *Ocean Gem* is under tow of tug *Eisho Maru No.8* and is expected to be in lat 41 26N, long 141 28E, Shiriya Saki, at 1900, JST, today, and subsequently in lat 41 16N, long 140 21E, Tappi Saki, at 0500, JST, May 18. Speed about seven knots, length of tow about 750 metres.

OCEAN JEWEL OF ST. PETERSBURG (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Santo Domingo, May 12 — Passenger (cruise) *Ocean Jewel of St. Petersburg* is in for repairs due to mechanical problems, however the said repairs have not started yet since there are other vessels prior to her arrival. No estimate when the repairs will take place. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORADEA

Bucharest, May 15 — Pusher tug *Oradea* is still at Giurgiu in the same position. The tug owners are advising that no decision has been taken yet with regards to selling/scraping vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORIENT BRILLIANCE (Panama)

See *Orient Alliance* under "Seizures & Arrests."

OVERSEAS COLMAR (Marshall Islands)

London, May 18 — Crude oil tanker *Overseas Colmar* sailed Shanghai Apr 24 and according to LMIU AIS was in lat 24 33.23N, long 120 14.48E at 1014, May 17, 22 nautical miles from Taichung, speed 10.6 knots.

PHILIPP (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 11 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 2017, UTC: Towage of general cargo *Philipp*, by tug *Kingston* commenced at 0827, UTC. At 1826, UTC, VTS Southampton reported that *Philipp* was safely alongside Berth 106, Southampton and that *Kingston* had been released.

London, May 14 — According to LMIU AIS at 1600, UTC, today, general cargo *Philipp* is still berthed at Southampton.

London, May 17 — Following received from Associated British Ports Southampton, dated today: General cargo *Philipp* is currently at Berth 47, Eastern Docks, Southampton.

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

PHOENIX (Netherlands)

See *Guan*.

PIZ BUIN (Germany)

London, May 17 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: In the evening of May 16 non specific tanker *Piz Buin*, homeport Marktheidenfeld, ran aground when attempting to anchor on the Rhine close to Bonn. The anchor failed to fix the vessel which consequently grounded with its bow. *Piz Buin* has a cargo of diesel and shall be salvaged during the course of today.

POMPEI (Belgium)

London, May 16 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 2000, UTC: General cargo *Pompei* (1482 gt, built 1988), in lat 20 07N, long 116 34E, has reported it is "not under command" and has requested immediate assistance. No other details are currently known. (Note — *Pompei* was last reported sailing Singapore on May 6, with a reported destination of Nakhodka and today issued a distress signal, which was received by USCG Guam.)

London, May 17 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 2327, UTC, May 16: General cargo *Pompei* experienced an engine breakdown. The vessel is not reported to be in any immediated danger of sinking but the crew are requesting to be evacuated, as the weather in the area is very rough. A tug is proceeding, ETA not presently known.

London, May 17 — Following received from the managers of general cargo *Pompei*, dated today: A tug is proceeding to assist the vessel and is expected on scene within eight hours. The *Pompei* is on voyage from Singapore to Sakhalin Island and it does not have any cargo on board.

London, May 18 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 2309, UTC, May 17: General cargo *Pompei* is still drifting but is not in any immediate danger. The crew are still on board the vessel.

London, May 18 — Following received from the managers of general cargo *Pompei*, dated today: *Pompei* was taken in tow about 0800, UTC, today, and is due Hong Kong May 20.

PRIDE OF ALOHA (U.S.A.)

Honolulu, May 16 — It was reported that passenger (cruise) *Pride of Aloha* (77104 gt, built 1999) sustained damage to a bearing in the starboard propeller shaft while en route to a normal scheduled drydocking in San Francisco. The delay resulted in the cancellation of a trans-Pacific cruise from San Francisco to Hawaii this week. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Pride of Aloha* arrived Nawiliwili May 16.)

ROMI

London, May 16 — Inland barge *Romi*, length 60 metres, width seven metres, with a cargo of metal slag, capsized in the River Scheldt at Antwerp, near the Steenplein, about 0545, local time, today. The skipper is

safe, but his wife and brother in law are still in the upturned vessel. The vessel is still floating with her bottom up. Divers of the firebrigade are trying to save the two trapped people, but so far in vain. They have heard knocking signals from them, but cannot reach them. The upturned vessel has been towed to the river side and a floating crane with a lifting capacity of 800 tons is on her way to salve. At about 1040, local time, today, floating crane *Brabo* of the Port of Antwerp arrived at the scene of the capsized *Romi*. Cables will be attached to lift the upturned vessel. The search for the two missing people was extended this morning with a helicopter equipped with a heat search equipment to find bodies, but with no results. Just after midday a body came floating up near the capsized vessel, but sank straight afterwards. Again divers and a helicopter made a search for this body, but so far, no results. At about 1600, local time, *Romi* will be lifted out of the river by *Brabo*. The 42-year old wife of the skipper and his 40-year old brother in law are still missing.

Zeebrugge, May 16 — Inland barge *Romi*: At 1900, local time, floating crane *Brabo* commenced transport of the lifted barge. The barge will be put on land at the Deurganckdok. During this operation all traffic will be suspended between those two points, because no vessel is allowed to pass the floating crane during this operation. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, May 17 — Still no victims found yesterday, after the overturned inland cargo vessel *Romi* had been lifted by the floating sheerleg crane *Brabo*. Under surveillance of the river police *Romi* has been transported to the Deurganckdok, starting this transport at 1930, local time, yesterday. So far the bodies of the two missing persons have not been found. One of the theories of the cause of the capsizing is, that a passing ship might have caused a high bow wave, which entered the hold of the fully laden open hold of *Romi*.

London, May 18 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The cargo of the capsized general cargo *Romi*, metal cinder, is still lying on the bottom of the Scheldt, close to buoy 114, off Sint-Anna Beach and its position marked for a possible later salvage. The ship lost its complete cargo due to missing hatches when capsizing.

SC BALTIC (DIS)

London, May 13 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: General cargo *SC Baltic* (3382 gt, built 1975), Bergen for Fiborgtangen with general cargo, grounded hard on Yksnoya Island near Volda at 1330, local time, today. Vessel is taking some water but is not in danger of sinking. Rescue vessel *Emmy Dyvi* is in the area. There will be an attempt to refloat the vessel on the next high tide.

London, May 14 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today,

states: General cargo *SC Baltic* was refloated on the high tide at 2300, local time, May 13, assisted by rescue vessel *Emmy Dyvi*. Following an inspection, the vessel proceeded to Aalesund under its own power, assisted by *Emmy Dyvi*.

Trondheim, May 15 — A local newspaper has reported that general cargo *SC Baltic* grounded at approximately 1300, May 13, at Yksnoya, Vartdalsfjorden, outside Volda, west Norway. Rescue vessel *Emma Dyvi* (from Aalesund) arrived alongside the *SC Baltic* at 1430 hrs but attempts to refloat the vessel did not succeed. However, at high tide the same evening, the vessel was afloat at 2210 hrs. *SC Baltic* then proceeded under its own power to Aalesund, arriving at 1045, May 14. The vessel's agent at Aalesund has advised that the vessel has a cargo of paper on board and was en route from Follafoss to the Continent. No decision as to cargo / repairs taken yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 16 — Following received from the charterers of general cargo *SC Baltic*, dated today: *SC Baltic* is expected to commence repairs in the Aalesund area in the next few days.

SEACOR ENERGY (U.S.A.)

London, May 15 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1345, UTC: Anchor handling tug/supply *Seacor Energy* (483 gt, built 1985) struck submerged object in Bell Pass, Bayou Lafourche, Pointe A la Hache, New Orleans area, at 0700, UTC, May 14. Vessel is sitting on the submerged object and resting on the bottom. No pollution reported.

London, May 17 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1350, UTC: Anchor handling tug/supply *Seacor Energy*: Salvors began dewatering vessel and moved it 150 yards north of its original casualty position; however, vessel's stability became compromised and they had to put water back into the vessel. Unfortunately this did not prevent the vessel from sinking in this new position. At present, visibility is poor underwater and divers are therefore unable to ascertain the location and extent of the damage. It is planned to put an A-Frame around the vessel today and it is then hoped to move it into dry dock tomorrow.

SEASPAN 105 (Canada)

London, May 12 — At approximately 1822 hrs, May 11, wooden barge *Seaspan 105* (568 gt, built 1953), being towed by fishing vessel *Hesquiat*, overturned and sank in lat 48 38.5N, long 124 59.5W, off Barkley Sound, west coast Vancouver Island, BC.

London, May 12 — Following received from Victoria BC RCC, timed 1825, UTC: Wooden barge *Seaspan 105* began listing while under tow of fishing vessel *Hesquiat*. The tow was abandoned after the barge began to

sink. The barge ended up on rocks and it is understood has begun breaking up. It is further understood it will not be salvaged. The barge was not carrying any dangerous or hazardous cargo.

SHALA (Russia)

London, May 17 — General cargo *Shala* arrived Newport May 11 and sailed May 12.

SOLANO (U.S.A.)

See *Mare Island*.

SPAR ORION (NIS)

London, May 17 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1600, UTC: Bulker *Spar Orion* (26449 gt, built 1996), loaded with 44,000 tonnes of cement, is aground on a reef about 0.3 miles west of Port Everglades. There is no reported breach in vessel's hull and no pollution has been reported. High tide is about this time and it is hoped this will facilitate refloating.

London, May 17 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 2045, UTC: Bulker *Spar Orion* is still aground. Salvage prospects are currently being assessed.

London, May 18 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 0745, UTC: Bulker *Spar Orion* has been refloated this morning and is now at anchor at Miami carrying out structural checks.

Rotterdam, May 18 — Donjon-SMIT was contracted to refloat bulker *Spar Orion*, loaded with 44,000 tonnes of cement, on basis of LOF2000 May 17. At 0120, local time, May 18, bulker *Spar Orion* was successfully refloated. No pollution has been reported. Salvage divers will carry out a dive inspection later today. — SMIT Salvage B.V.

London, May 18 — Following received from the owners of bulker *Spar Orion*, dated today: Vessel, which is on voyage from Slite to Port Everglades, is now afloat and at anchor off Port Everglades. No damage has been observed from inside the vessel and we are now waiting for divers to report back following their external underwater inspection today.

ST.LUC EXPRESS (Honduras)

Miami, May 16 — General cargo *St.Luc Express*: The owners 30 days to remove this vessel expired on May 14. The vessel is on Port property located just south of their locks, on the Banana River and being held by a company called "Beyel Brothers". The vessel is on land and being held down by an anchor, so it does not tip onto its side. We were advised that US Coast Guard spent approximately \$38,000 to clean up an oil leak from this vessel. This clean-up has been completed. Port Canaveral, US Coast Guard and Beyel Brothers have all lost contact with the vessel's owner, Mr. Guy Bellard, and have recently been advised that the owner has moved from his previous location. No whereabouts of Mr. Bellard is known at this time. — Lloyd's Agents.

STAR PRINCESS (Bermuda)

London, May 14 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Star Princess* departed from the Lloyds Werft shipyard in Bremerhaven at 1110, May 13, following completion of repairs to the fire-damaged area.

STAR SIRANGER (Singapore)

London, May 12 — General cargo *Star Siranger* sailed Flushing May 10.

STOLT BASEL (Switzerland)

London, May 17 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: At 0045, local time, May 17, chemical tanker *Stolt Basel* (2408 gt, built 1992), home port Rotterdam, collided with non specific tanker *Currency*, home port Werkendam, when it was leaving the port of Wesseling, on the Rhine, via stern. When the stern was on the river, *Stolt Basel* drifted into the anchor chain of *Currency* and subsequently ran aground.

SUMMIT (Bahamas)

London, May 14 — A press report, dated May 13, states: Irate passengers on board Celebrity Cruises passenger (cruise) *Summit* planned protests over skipped ports in the Los Angeles-to-Vancouver, British Columbia, trip, a report said. Propeller troubles slowed the ship's progress and cancelled stops in Seattle and Sitka, Alaska. Ketchikan was the ship's next scheduled stop. Passengers criticized Celebrity for failing to disclose mechanical problems before the *Summit* left California May 7. A cruise line spokesman said the problem was not confirmed until the ship left port. The cruise line denied it was holding passengers hostage, said most were understanding of the situation and all had been refunded \$200.

SUPERFERRY 1 (Philippines)

London, May 15 — Roll On Roll Off Fire damaged hit an area on ro/ro *Superferry 1* (9184 gt, built 1975) while it was on passage to Coron, Palawan yesterday, the Philippine Coast Guard reported today. The blaze began at the ground deck of the tourist accommodations on the ship, while it was in the vicinity of Cape Calavite in Mindoro at 1000 hrs, yesterday. *Superferry 1*, owned by Aboitiz Shipping Lines, had come from Manila. The fire was believed to have been caused by faulty electrical wiring, according to a PCG report. Nobody was injured in the fire. PCG spokesperson Lieutenant Commander Joseph Coyne said the damage caused by the fire was only minimal and the *SuperFerry 1* had been able to reach its destination, Coron, Palawan.

Manila, May 16 — Roll On Roll Off *Superferry 1* had a fire on the ground deck of the tourist accommodations in the vicinity of Cape Calavite, Mindoro Island, at about 1000, May 14, while en route to Coron, Palawan. The damage caused by the fire was reported to be minimal and the vessel

was able to proceed to its destination. The fire was believed to have been caused by faulty electrical wiring. Nobody was injured in the fire. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, May 16 — Roll On Roll Off *Superferry 1* arrived at Pier 15 of Manila's South Harbour terminal at 1130 today, under its own power. The vessel is now undergoing an inspection by the owner's safety officers and engineers. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TENERIFE (Belize)

See "Canary Islands" under "Port State Control".

THE CALYPSO (Cyprus)

London, May 17 — Following received from Associated British Ports Southampton, dated today: Passenger *The Calypso* is currently at Berth 102, Western Docks, Southampton.

TIDEWAY

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, May 17 — Following received from Curacao RCC, timed 1345, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Tideway* (943 gt, built 1980) sank in lat 13 15.67N, long 70 22.52W, at 0330, local time, today. Vessel had issued distress at 1940, local time, May 16 stating that it required assistance. All 11 crewmen were rescued by a Venezuelan frigate.

TIGER SPIRIT (Cyprus)

Kolkata, May 16 — General cargo *Tiger Spirit* has completed all the repair work May 15 and it is expected to leave Haldia port today for port Kolkata. — Lloyd's Agents.

TODCO 256 (drilling platform)

London, May 17 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1410, UTC: Drilling platform *Todco 256* had fire on board in Galveston area May 15, causing extensive structural damage estimated at between \$12 and \$20 million. Fire-fighting operations have been carried out to bring the blaze under control but Coast Guard personnel are still unable to board due high temperatures.

London, May 17 — A press report, dated May 15, states: TODCO today announced that its jackup rig, TODCO 256, incurred damage during a fire on board the rig in a Galveston, Texas shipyard. All personnel on the rig were safely evacuated and the fire has been extinguished. The rig, a 250 foot mat slot type unit, was being reactivated for a one-year term contract and was anticipated to start operating in July 2006. The Company has not yet determined the full extent of the fire damage, projected repair costs, necessary time to repair the rig or indemnities from the shipyard and their insurance underwriters. The rig could be substantially delayed from its anticipated July 2006 start date. The rig has a net book value of approximately \$2.6 million and is insured for \$16.0 million as a cold-stacked rig.

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

VITTA THERESA

London, May 12 — Chemical tanker *Vitta Theresa* (3067 gt, built 1971) grounded at a breakwater outside Lagos, Nigeria, in January 2006. In March the hull broke up.

VOLA 1 (Malta)

London, May 12 — Bulker *Vola 1* (13851 gt, built 1992) struck the wharf at Sorel QIT dock while docking, today. (Note — *Vola 1* sailed from Antofagasta, Chile, at 1030 hrs, Mar 31, bound for Montreal.)

WAYNE & RANDY (Canada)

London, May 16 — At 0656, UTC, today, fishing *Wayne & Randy* (86 gt, built 1974), with five persons onboard, was reported taking on water, nine nautical miles north of Shippegan, NB, in lat 47 53.36N, long 64 43.36W. The CCGC *Cap Breton* escorted the vessel back to port without further incident.

ZHENG YU 56 (China)

See *Byong Tai Da 21*.



SOMALIA

London, May 14 — A press report, dated May 13, states: Twelve Indian seamen on board vessel *Al Taj*, which was hijacked by pirates off Somalia coast and then freed on payment of ransom, finally arrived at Hamriya port. “All the 12 sailors including the captain were in poor health because of stress and lack of proper food but now they are all ok,” said Narendra Shial, of Mustack Essa Trading Company here which owns the vessel. The Dubai police are interrogating the sailors and once it is over they will sail to Gujarat after unloading the cargo consisting of general foodstuff in Dubai, said Shial. He said the captain of the ship was an Indian, Noor Mohammed and not a Libyan as reported earlier.



CANARY ISLANDS

Tenerife, May 15 — Both product tanker *Imant Sudmalis* and chemical tanker *Tenerife* are back in normal service. *Tenerife* has changed name to *Blue Ice*. — Lloyd’s Agents.

CYPRUS

Limassol, May 12 — General cargo *Emily* (1094 gt, built 1979), which arrived at Limassol May 9 from Tsingeli, Greece, is detained by the Dept. of Merchant Shipping due to deficiencies. — Lloyd’s Agents.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 17 — Following press release, dated today, received from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Maritime & Coastguard Agency surveyors today detained the Maltese flagged passenger *Vistamar* (7478 gt, built 1989) at Tilbury Docks, in London, after numerous faults were identified onboard including unusable port and starboard tenders, a dirty engine room and various oily hazards. The vessel, with its passengers onboard was allowed to move to a different mooring by the Tower of London before all the passengers will be disembarked tomorrow. The vessel has 178 passengers booked on board. The 1989 built, Bureau Veritas classed, 117 metre length vessel is not allowed to travel further before all deficiencies are corrected and MCA surveyors have re-inspected the vessel. Bryan Hopkins, Surveyor in Charge from the MCA’s Orpington office said: “The owners of the vessel in Almeria, Andalucia in Spain have been informed of our decision to detain this vessel. Our concerns were raised when items such as fire dampers were clearly inoperative, both lifeboats were damaged, escape signs were missing and various means of escape were not marked clearly. Other issues raised during our inspection included out of date publications on board; life saving signals were out of date and charts remain uncorrected. The MCA take passenger safety extremely seriously, and we will not allow vessels to traverse our waters where clearly international standards of safety are being breached. We apologise to any passenger who may have been inconvenienced by this action, but we hope they understand this detention has been undertaken in their best interest.”



ALBATROS (Cambodia)

Trieste, May 18 — Ro/ro *Albatros* remains under permanent detention at Trieste. — Lloyd’s Agents.

AUTHENTICITY (Latvia)

Zeebrugge, May 16 — Product tanker *Authenticity* (1696 gt, built 1979) had an embargo placed on it at Antwerp at 1553, May 12. Embargo and arrest were lifted at 0258, May 13. — Lloyd’s Sub-agents. (Note — *Authenticity* arrived Antwerp 1313, May 12, from Muuga, and sailed 1041, May 13, for Hemiksem.)

EMIR (Turkey)

Taranto, May 15 — The situation of general cargo *Emir* is unchanged. Unable to trace vessel’s owners or any party holding legal rights on it. Vessel is in poor condition. — Lloyd’s Agents.

GOLDEN TAURUS (Bolivia)

London, May 14 — Fishing *Golden Taurus* is still at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under arrest by order of the Admiralty High Court.

HYOK SIN 2 (North Korea)

London, May 16 — Following received from the Admiralty Marshal: Bulker *Hyok Sin 2*, which was arrested at Tees Apr 24 in respect of breach of charter party, was released May 5.

MALTESE FALCON (Malta)

London, May 12 — By decree given by the Civil Court, First Hall, (Malta) on May 3 on the application of Emanuel Azzopardi et, from 0900 to 1200, June 1 has been fixed for the sale by auction of roll on roll off *Maltese Falcon* (15406 gt, built 1978). Vessel seized from the property of Sea Malta Company Limited. (Note — *Maltese Falcon* arrived Valletta Dec 12.)

MARIANO LAURO (Italy)

London, May 16 — Following received from the Admiralty Marshal: General cargo *Mariano Lauro* (4500 gt, built 2006) was arrested at Victoria Wharf, Plymouth, May 15 on behalf of Snai Srl due breach of charter party.

MARIGO (Greece)

Piraeus, May 16 — Product tanker *Marigo* was sold and renamed *Leona*. Vessel still remains at Ikonio, Piraeus port. — Lloyd’s Agents.

MEDIA V (Cyprus)

Durres, May 18 — Passenger ro/ro *Media V* continues to remain under the same legal status. — Lloyd’s Agents.

ORIENT ALLIANCE (Hong Kong)

London, May 17 — Orient Steamship has had its bulker *Orient Alliance* (77655 gt, built 1990) arrested in South Africa for alleged non-payment of bills. The vessel was detained in Cape Town last Friday (May 12) by Johan Engelbrecht, acting on behalf of the Sheriff for Cape Town, who confirmed that the vessel was arrested at about 2100, local time. He said South African law firm Deneys Reitz Attorneys was acting on behalf of the creditors. The vessel, which was still being held yesterday, was on a voyage from Port Walcott to Britain when it called at Cape Town last week for supplies.

London, May 18 — Orient Steamship is facing at least 35 claims for alleged non-payment of bills for both bulker *Orient Alliance* and bulker *Orient Brilliance*, according to the lawyer acting on behalf of creditors. Matthew Ash, a director of South African law firm Deneys Reitz Attorneys, said *Orient Alliance* was arrested to cover debts on both vessels. The vessel was detained last Friday (May 12) by Johan Engelbrecht, acting on behalf of the Sheriff for Cape Town after it entered port to pick up supplies while on a voyage from Port Walcott to

Britain. There are not reported to be any plans to arrest *Orient Brilliance*, which is due in dry dock in China for permanent repairs after being holed in four tanks when departing San Nicolas in Peru at the end of last August. Emergency and temporary repairs to the vessel took more than six months to complete and the vessel only left Peruvian waters in mid-March. The accident left *Orient Steamship* with a shortfall in revenue of more than \$2.5 million because there was no loss-of-hire insurance. Mr Ash declined to comment on the total amount of the claims but said they represented money allegedly owed to 35 separate "third-party suppliers". In effect this meant *Orient Alliance* was arrested 35 times. He said *Orient Alliance* was arrested for claims on both vessels because they are associated with each other. Under South African court procedures, *Orient Steamship* can pay the claimants, put up security showing the claims will be paid or contest them.

PANIC (Greece)

London, May 12 — A report in today's issue of "Newsfront" states: After being seized by Nik Biniari — Neometalliki A EVE at the end of April in pursuit of a Euros 2,445.90 claim in an action against its registered owners, Panic NE, passenger (cruise) *Panic* has been listed for hammering down, on May 31, 2006. Lying at Eleusis, the vessel is carrying start-up price of Euros 14,000.

RUSTAVI (Georgia)

St Petersburg, May 16 — Fish carrier *Rustavi* is still under arrest at Murmansk. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAGITTAREUS (North Korea)

Piraeus, May 18 — North Korea general cargo *Sagittareus*, HMVC2, 80 gt, built 1984, ex *Fearless*, length 24.60 metres, was arrested for cigarette smuggling at Patras Apr 29 and remains in port there. — Lloyd's Agents.

SASHA EMIEL (U.K.)

London, May 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A British fishing vessel has become the latest to be fined for unsustainable and illegal practices in UK waters. The owners and master of fishing (general) *Sasha Emiel* (BM181) (242 gt, built 1980) were fined a total of £16,645 and ordered to pay costs of £2,675 at Bournemouth Magistrates Court after being found guilty of sending false notifications and entering false log book entries, regarding over-recording sole. The case follows a string of similar offences by foreign trawlers around the UK earlier in the year, underlining the action taken by authorities. "We will pursue everyone who fishes illegally. Today's fines reflect the seriousness of the offences committed. These penalties should not be seen as an occupational hazard but a real deterrent," said Angus Radford,

District Inspector with the marine Fisheries Agency. "The sole fishery is important to the local area and it is important that we make sure this stock is protected. Fisheries protection is an important part of maintaining a sustainable fishing industry. The MFA and Royal Navy, want a long term sustainable future for the nation's fishing industry."

SEA SERENADE (Cyprus)

Koper, May 16 — Roll On Roll Off *Sea Serenade* is still idle at shipyard berth at Izola. — Lloyd's Agents.

SENTINEL (Comoros)

Genoa, May 12 — General cargo *Sentinel* is still reported berthed at Genoa under arrest and that no prospects of release are known for the time being. — Lloyd's Agents.

THALASSA (Belgium)

London, May 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A Belgian skipper has been fined £2,500 after pleading guilty to over-fishing off the Essex coast. Willy van Beverin was arrested after his trawler, *Thalassa*, was seized by the Royal Navy and brought into Harwich port. Magistrates in Harwich were told that the vessel had 30% more cod on board than it should have and 12% more sole. Van Beverin was also made to forfeit his catch estimated to be worth £12,000. He told the court that having no scales on board his vessel meant that it was hard to estimate how much fish he was catching.



ATLAS CREEK ISLAND, NIGERIA

London, May 12 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 150 people have been killed in an explosion at a petrol pipeline near Nigeria's largest city, Lagos. Police and Red Cross officials at the scene of the blast, on Atlas Creek Island, said many of the bodies had been burnt beyond recognition. Eyewitnesses in Lagos said they had seen thick black smoke rising from a nearby area. A fire at the scene was put out, the Red Cross said, but no injured people have been recovered. The blast incinerated all those within a 20m radius, but the exact number of casualties may not be known for some time. An AFP news agency reporter at the site of the blast said he had seen bodies strewn over a 100m area of the coast and the charred remains of a boat on the water containing corpses. There are some reports that the blast, which happened early this morning, may have been caused by people stealing petrol from a pipeline. There have been hundreds of deaths in Nigeria in recent years in similar circumstances. "We found that vandals have drilled holes on [into] the pipeline, from

where they have been stealing fuel," said Nigerian Red Cross Secretary General Abiodun Orebiyi. Local people were apparently gathered around the site of the leak when the fuel ignited. Mr Orebiyi said that 500 jerrycans had been found at the scene. Villagers who survived fled in case they were arrested for stealing petrol. The pipeline serves the Atlas Cove petrol depot, which supplies south-western Nigeria.

London, May 13 — A press report, dated May 12, states: Rescue workers began stockpiling the corpses of dozens of dead villagers into a mass grave following a gas pipeline explosion in south-western Nigeria. Vandals were reportedly tapping into the pipeline to steal oil when it erupted yesterday, setting fire to hundreds of jerry cans full of oil in the coastal village. The blast came as villagers flocked to the ruptured pipe to scoop up fuel that was gushing out. "Between 150 and 200 people died," Lagos Police Commissioner Emmanuel Adebayo told reporters at the scene. Firefighters were at the scene of the explosion at Ilado, a village about 40 km east of Lagos, and Red Cross workers were helping survivors. There has been no official confirmation of the number of casualties from the blast.

London, May 14 — A press report, dated today, states: President Olusegun Obasanjo yesterday ordered a full scale investigation into the cause of the blast into the Ilado pipeline explosion that killed over 200 people, just as rescue workers were seen burying the dead in mass graves. Obasanjo ordered increased security around the nation's pipelines following explosion.

Lagos State Health Commissioner Tola Kasali said only after all bodies had been buried in mass graves would a definitive death toll be given. But a firm toll seemed increasingly unlikely considering the bodies seen floating yesterday in just one arm of the region's labyrinth waterways and creeks.



GRAND HARBOUR, MALTA

London, May 16 — A press report, dated May 14, states: Malta's oil pollution response unit is still cleaning up tonnes of oil scattered all over Grand Harbour that were dumped illegally from a sewage outfall last Wednesday (May 10). The oil spill, believed to be made of 12 to 15 tonnes of burnt fuel oil, has hit almost all the harbour area. Until yesterday, the Oil Pollution Response Module (OPRM) was coordinating efforts to contain the oil spill through special equipment meant to absorb the oil. Just over nine gallons of oil have been recovered so far. "It has

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spread from Marsa to a great part of Grand Harbour," said the head of OPRM Tony Mallia about the spill equivalent to seventy 45-gallon drums and that so far has cost the authorities around Lm4,000 in cleaning operations. The culprit is still unidentified but it is suspected that the oil was discharged through a manhole in Marsa or Hamrun.

LANGUEDOC, FRANCE

London, May 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Navalmar Transportes, the owners of general cargo *Baltic Trader*, have been ordered by a court in Marseliiies to pay Euros 430,000 for polluting French Mediterranean waters on Jan 18, 2005. In addition, the master has been ordered to pay Euros 20,000.

SEVASTOPOL AREA, UKRAINE

London, May 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Russian fleet is being blamed for the oil slick off of Ukraine's Sevastopol. The half-ton spill of diesel fuel is located near floating dock No. 88, which belongs to the Russian Black Sea Fleet. Commanders of the fleet have refused to comment on the incident or allow environmental activists access to the floating dock in Sevastopol, Ukrainian Crimean Black Sea TV reported. Russian commanders say the dock is a territory of a Russian military unit. It is unclear who is to blame for the oil spill and whether the spill was an accident or a routine discharge of waste. Water samples have been taken by environmental activists, according to the head of the environmental control department. "We have discovered an oil slick sized 100 to 400 metres. Because we were not allowed to enter the territory of the Russian military unit, we had to take water samples for background analysis at a distance of 100 meters from the polluted area," Ihor Zheltov, head of the department of environmental control for Sevastopol bay said. Total damages may be determined after the analysis is ready, activists say.

Weather & Navigation



CHINA

London, May 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Drought and floods in different parts of China have affected the lives of tens of millions of people, a national environmental protection official said today. A drought is threatening supplies of drinking water to more than 14 million people, said Zhang Zhitong, executive director of the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters. The drought has affected 16.3 million hectares of farmland in the China's northern, northeastern and southwestern

regions, Zhang said. The amount of affected farmland was 36.3 percent more than the average annual area, he said. The drinking water shortage had also affected 11.55 million head of livestock, according to the official. Weather forecasters say there is no sign of the drought breaking in most parts of northern and southwestern regions in the foreseeable future. Beijing, with a permanent population of 15.36 million and more than four million transients, is suffering its worst drought in 50 years, with only 17 millimetres of rainfall reported in the past four months, down 63 percent from the same period last year. Local authorities warned the lack of rain is already challenging the city's water supply. Beijing has suffered drought for seven consecutive years. The average annual rainfall between 1999 and 2005 was only 70 percent of the average since records began. The State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters Thursday ordered local governments to take "all possible" measures to combat the drought. "Drinking water supply and safety must be secured and spring ploughing and sowing must be guaranteed," Zhang said. Meanwhile, some other parts of China are suffering floods. Approximately 4.54 million people have been victimized by floods since mid-April, according to Zhang. Floods and landslides had left 10 people dead and five missing in central, eastern, southwestern and southern regions, Zhang said. The direct economic losses were reported at more than 2.637 billion yuan (about \$330 million), Zhang said. Moreover, floods had ruined more than 37,100 homes, he said. About 30 tropical storms or typhoons will be formed in the Northwest Pacific Ocean or South China Sea this year, compared with 23 in 2005, prompting the National Climate Centre to warn local governments to take due precautions, the China Daily reported yesterday. "Local governments in coastal areas should be well prepared for the typhoons as they could combine with rainstorms to cause huge damage," the centre warned. "From now on, local authorities should get ready for bad weather, particularly floods resulting from torrential rains, and persistent drought in other areas," Qin Dahe, director of the China Meteorological Administration, was quoted as saying. He added that with the weather shifting between high temperatures and heavy rainfalls, China may experience more droughts than floods.

INDIA

Hyderabad, May 18 — Falling trees and lightning strikes killed 16 people as storms lashed India's southern state of Andhra Pradesh, officials said today. The deaths were reported from the state's south-eastern districts during a hail and electrical storm yesterday. Five people, part of a wedding party, were killed when strong winds felled a huge tree onto their vehicle near Kodad town, 165

km south-east of the state capital, Hyderabad, local official V.P. Jauhari said. — Reuters.

SURINAME

London, May 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Floods caused by days of rain have killed three people and left up to 22,000 others homeless along riverbanks in Suriname's remote central lowlands, officials said today. Suriname's Red Cross said at least three people died while the United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said that high waters forced up to 22,000 people from their homes. Suriname, which declared the flooded areas disaster zones and has appealed for international help, has started a massive distribution of supplies amid criticism that the relief effort was slow to start. Officials said, however, that they have been hampered by damage to roads, airstrips and other parts of the South American nation's infrastructure. Authorities expect the flooding to worsen since heavy rains were forecast for the next few days.

TANZANIA

London, May 15 — Floods in northern Tanzania have displaced more than 19,000 people, submerged close to 1000 homes and destroyed crops, a local government official said today. The floods in Moshi, near Mount Kilimanjaro, mostly affected residents who had previously been hit by drought, which had threatened up to 11 million people with starvation. "I think we have more than 19,000 displaced. Up to now there are 998 houses that are under water," James ole Millya, Moshi Rural district commissioner, said to Reuters.

TYPHOON "CHANCHU"

London, May 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Chanchu" slammed into the Philippines overnight, causing flash floods and landslides that forced the evacuation of hundreds of villagers, disaster relief officials said today. The storm, the first to hit the Philippines this year, also left 4500 people stranded in nine main ports in the central Visayas and eastern Bicol regions after the coast guard suspended ferry operations. Families from several villages in the town of Sogod, in the central island province of Leyte, were also evacuated to safer ground after heavy rains caused a landslide that cut off a main highway, the civil defence office said. Flash floods were also reported after a river near the area overflowed its banks, said Nerry Amparo, head of operations in Manila's Office of Civil Defence. "But initial reports in the area say there were no casualties or injuries yet," Mr Amparo said. Storm warnings were issued in some 23 provinces and islands, including the capital Manila, where rain has fallen since yesterday. Packing sustained winds of 100km/h near the centre and gusts of up to 130km/h, "Chanchu" was tracked near the central island of

Masbate before dawn today. It was expected to pass over Marinduque island later in the day, before heading northward to the main island of Luzon, the state weather bureau said. Parts of Leyte as well as the entire province of Albay in the Bicol region were experiencing blackouts.

London, May 12 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Chanchu" located near lat 13.0N, long 122.6E at 0600, UTC. Movement past six hours 280 degrees at 11 knots, position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, position based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots Radius of 64-knot winds: 15 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 35 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 80 nautical miles northeast quadrant over water, 70 nautical miles southeast quadrant over water, 70 nautical miles southwest, 75 nautical miles northwest quadrant over water. Forecast position for 0600, UTC, May 13, near lat 14.2N, long 118.9E with maximum sustained winds of 85 knots and gusts to 105 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 25 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 45 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 95 nautical miles north semicircle, 90 nautical miles south semicircle.. Typhoon 02W "Chanchu", located approximately 135 nautical miles east-southeast of Manila, Philippines, has tracked westward at 11 knots over the past six hours.

Manila, May 12 — Typhoon "Chanchu" triggered evacuations in the central Philippines today as flooding and strong winds shuttered ports and caused a landslide near a village devastated by a huge mudslide in February. About 1,000 people in nine villages in Sogod area on Leyte island were cut off because of the latest landslide but there were no reports of casualties. "It was very close to Agas Agas where the landslide of Feb 12 took place," Rosette Lerias, governor of Southern Leyte, said. "There were no houses in the area of the landslide." "Chanchu", with gusts of up to 130 kph, was moving north and residents living along coastal areas in the Bicol region have been evacuated. "We have started the pre-emptive evacuation in coastal areas. We are worried that strong winds will wash away their houses when the storm surges," Office of Civil Defence Bicol director Arnel Capili told local radio. More than 4,500 people were stranded in ports and Capili said almost all provinces in the coconut-producing Bicol region were without electricity after power plants were shut down as a precaution. The Department of Agriculture said there were no immediate reports of crop damage. Several domestic flights to Bicol region and Visayas islands were cancelled leaving hundreds of people stranded in airport terminals. The Coast Guard and maritime authorities also issued travel warnings, ordering nearly 20 domestic ferries to stop

services to to areas affected by the typhoon. — Reuters.

Manila, May 13 — Outrigger *May Ann 5*, which left Pilar, Sorsogon, was reported to have capsized off Kinamaligan, Masbate, at about 1600, May 12, due to rough seas caused by typhoon "Chanchu". The boat, without manifest but carrying about 24 passengers and crew left the port of Pilar without permission from the port authorities. Thirteen persons were rescued, six are confirmed dead and five are still missing as of early this morning. News bulletins also reported that thousands of passengers were stranded at Manila's domestic air and sea ports as the local authorities cancelled most of the scheduled trips. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, May 13 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that product tanker *Malitam* (720 gt, built 1978) ran aground today off the coast of Pinamalayan in Oriental Mindoro province, central Philippines. Initial reports said that the vessel, carrying 1.5 million litres of bunker fuel, was driven into shallow waters off the town of Pinamalayan by strong winds and waves, brought about by typhoon "Chanchu". The Coast Guard said that all 13 crew members had been rescued and a Coast Guard Marine Environmental Protection unit had been dispatched to the area to determine if an oil spill had occurred. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, May 14 — Malayan Towage and Salvage Co salvage tug *Tabangao* reached grounded product tanker *Malitam* at 0700 today. *Malitam*, which is trapped in the shallows off the coast of Pinamalayan, Mindoro Oriental, is in relatively good condition, Malayan Towage salvors said. "The hull is intact and there is no sign of an oil leak," it was reported. In order to refloat the vessel, all or part of its cargo will be transferred to another tanker. If the vessel is still unable to free itself, *Tabangao* will attempt to pull it free. Batangas Bay Carriers, owners of *Malitam* have dispatched a sister tanker to offload the vessel. The tanker is due to arrive tomorrow morning. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, May 14 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Chanchu" located near lat 13.9N, long 116.5E at 0600, UTC. Movement past six hours 280 degrees at 10 knots, position accurate to within 20 nautical miles, position based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 100 knots, gusts 125 knots Radius of 64-knot winds 35 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 115 nautical miles northeast and north-west quadrant over water, 110 nautical miles south-east and south-west quadrant over water. Forecast position for 1800, UTC, near lat 14.2N, long 115.4E with maximum sustained winds of 110 knots and gusts to 135 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 35 nautical miles.

Manila, May 14 — The death toll from typhoon "Chanchu" rose to 32 in

the Philippines today, after more bodies were found from a capsized boat, and officials said the storm had affected or displaced more than 42,000 people. The National Disaster Co-ordinating Council said eight people, most of them fishermen, were still missing. Most of those killed were from a boat that capsized off Masbate island in the south of Luzon region early on Friday (May 12), the council said. It raised the toll from capsizing of outrigger *May Ann 5* to 25 after more bodies were found off Masbate. Officials said 18 people survived the accident and two were missing. Seven other people were killed elsewhere, including three hit by falling coconut trees, the disaster council said. "There were bridges that were washed out and landslide areas that we need to clear," disaster council administrator Glenn Rabonza said on local radio. The disaster council said 608 houses were destroyed while 3,542 were partially damaged. Damages to agriculture — including coconut plantations, rice and corn — have yet to be determined, the disaster council said. The Philippine capital remained cloudy today with strong wind gusts. Residents in some areas complained of power outages due to toppled billboards and snapped tree branches that had yet to be cleared. Some areas in the Bicol region were without electricity for a fourth day today, Rhadz Barcia, a resident of Legazpi City in Albay, said. A two-day meeting of South-east Asian trade ministers at the Boracay resort in the central Philippines has been moved to Manila, said Ramon Kabigting, director of the Bureau of International Trade Relations. The Philippine weather bureau said "Chanchu", with winds gusting up to 150 kph, was moving westwards away from the Philippines. "The typhoon is now in the South China Sea and moving away from the country, but rains and gusty winds will prevail over south-western Luzon today and tomorrow," Ludy Alviar, a government meteorologist, said. — Reuters.

Manila, May 15 — Grounded product tanker *Malitam* was unable to off-load its cargo of bunker fuel as scheduled today because the tanker which was supposed to receive its cargo was delayed. The tanker, which is anchored off Batangas port, is awaiting permission from port authorities and the Philippine Coast Guard to leave. A special permit to leave the port is required because of the stormy conditions brought about by Tropical Storm Chanchu. *Malitam* will have to be emptied of its cargo prior to refloating. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, May 15 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of typhoon "Chanchu" was located near lat 14.8N, long 115.2E, approximately 450 nautical miles south of Hong Kong, and has tracked northwards, or 350 degs, at six knots over the past six

hours. The position is accurate to within 20 nautical miles and is based on the eye being fixed by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 120 knots, gusts to 145 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 40 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 105 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 125 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 40 feet. At 0600, UTC, May 16, the centre is predicted to be near lat 17.7N, long 114.7E, with maximum sustained winds of 115 knots and gusts to 140 knots.

Manila, May 15 — Thousands of evacuees started to return home in the central Philippines today as typhoon "Chanchu" headed towards southern China after killing 37 people and ripping up villages in the Philippines. "There are only 435 families left in the evacuation centres," Nerti Amparo, chief of operations at the National Disaster Co-ordinating Council, told Philippine television. "With the weather that we have now, they would start going back to their homes except for those who have lost their houses and have no relatives to turn to." More than 600 homes were completely destroyed while over 3,500 were partially damaged after the typhoon, with gusts of up to 150 kph, ripped through the central and north-western Philippines over the weekend (May 13-14). Thirty-seven people were killed in the storm, including 25 drowned when a boat sank after defying coastguard orders to stay in port. Power and telephone lines were being restored and debris cleared in southern Luzon and the central Visayas region. Domestic flights and some ferry services were resumed. "Chanchu" is currently over the South China sea and is expected to hit the southern Chinese province of Guangdong, including Hong Kong and Macau, on Wednesday, Chinese state media said. — Reuters.

Manila, May 16 — The owners of product tanker *Malitam* reported that coastal tanker *Bagungon* arrived at the site of *Malitam*'s grounding at 0900 today. *Bagungon* will tranship part of *Malitam*'s cargo of bunker fuel, after which an attempt will be made to refloat *Malitam*. The cargo transfer is expected to take place tomorrow morning. — Lloyd's List Correspondent. (See issue of May 16.)

London, May 16 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Typhoon "Chanchu" near lat 17.7N, long 114.8E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 355 degrees at eight knots. Position accurate to within 20 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 110 knots, gusts 135 knots. Forecast position lat 19.5N, long 114.9E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 100 knots, gusts 125 knots. Forecast position lat 21.4N, long 115.3E at 0600, UTC, May 17. Maximum

sustained winds 90 knots, gusts 110 knots.

London, May 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Chanchu", which killed at least 37 people in the Philippines, is now heading for Hong Kong and east China. The eye of the storm was expected to pass just east of Hong Kong tomorrow before making landfall in China's Guangdong province. Small ships and fishing boats have been warned to seek shelter and people told to keep away from the shoreline. According to Hong Kong Observatory, Chanchu is currently travelling at speeds of 16 km/h with winds of 157 km/h near the storm's centre. The observatory says the storm is the strongest ever to be recorded in the South China Sea for the time of year. Weather forecasters are warning of strong winds, squalls and heavy downpours. Taiwan has also issued a sea warning, calling on all maritime traffic west and south of the island to prepare for strong winds.

Manila, May 17 — Offloading of product tanker *Malitam*'s cargo of bunker fuel did not take place as scheduled today because of the late arrival of electric pumps and generator. The pumping equipment arrived after lunch and it was determined that it would be too late to begin pumping operations. "With only a few hours of daylight left, we decided it would be safer to postpone off-loading to tomorrow," said Capt. Rogelio Navarro, who heads Batangas Bay Carrier's Quality Assurance Safety and Security department. Batangas Bay Carriers owns and operates the *Malitam*. The *Malitam*, carrying 1.5 million litres of bunker fuel, ran aground Saturday (May 13) off Pinamalayan, Mindoro Oriental. The bottom part of the vessel's hull is buried in sand and salvors will attempt to refloat it after part of its cargo is off-loaded to a barge which is standing by. The hull of the vessel appears to be intact but the owner's suspect that the rudder and propeller may be damaged since both are lodged in the sand. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Hong Kong, May 17 — China evacuated more than 600,000 people as the strongest typhoon on record to enter the South China Sea in May bore down on the south coast today, causing flight and shipping delays around the region. Typhoon "Chanchu", packing winds up to 170 kph, was forecast to make landfall northeast of Hong Kong in Guangdong province later today after killing 37 people as it swept across the Philippines last weekend. Chinese state television news said some 320,000 people were evacuated from their homes along the coast of Guangdong province, while more than 300,000 were moved in neighbouring Fujian province. Fujian called back all ships to port, and Guangdong called back in "more than 58,000 vessels" as schools suspended classes, it said, adding that strong rainfalls brought by "Chanchu" were posing flood

threats. According to a forecast map on the Tropical Storm Risk Web site, the typhoon was skirting the coast of China and would weaken as it advanced north. After the eye made land, the next major city it would pass was Xiamen, in Fujian province. On the southern coast of Taiwan, road workers struggled to keep motorways along the coastline clear of debris including tree branches as large waves crashed over the embankments, television pictures showed. government issued warnings to residents in central mountain areas of landslides and flooding caused by the heavy rain, as mountain rivers already had begun to rise, threatening bridges and roads. Shipping links between Taiwan's outlying islands of Quemoy and Matsu and the Chinese coastline were suspended as the storm approached, media said, with the central weather bureau saying Quemoy and Penghu island's would be directly threatened. In Hong Kong, winds of up to 65 kph caused flight delays and some shipping services were suspended, but the former British colony's government weather observatory said the threat was receding as "Chanchu" churned northwards. In China, rescue ships, helicopters and thousands of paramilitary troops were standing by, and all sea transport to the Chinese island province of Hainan had been halted, state media reported. — Reuters.

Hong Kong, May 18 — A powerful typhoon slammed into south China today killing two children and forcing the evacuation of more than 630,000 people, Xinhua news agency said, while 99 Vietnamese fishermen were believed missing at sea. Typhoon "Chanchu", packing heavy rain and winds up to 170 kph, made landfall between the cities of Shantou and Xiamen and was heading north-east, the Hong Kong Observatory said. China's coastal provinces of Guangdong and Fujian took the full brunt. "Two children died when the houses they lived in collapsed and another two elderly people were injured," Xinhua said, quoting local government sources. Almost all roads in Shantou were flooded and there had been several blackouts, Xinhua said. Vietnam's National Search and Rescue Centre, in a bulletin carried by the Voice of Vietnam radio station, said 99 fishermen on board 11 vessels last made radio contact yesterday morning some 160 nautical miles south of Hainan island, then in the storm's path. "Vietnam has alerted all vessels in the nearby areas to search for the fishermen," the radio said. More than 630,000 people had been evacuated in the path of the storm, which killed at least 37 people when it swept through the Philippines at the weekend (May 13-14). The eye of the storm crossed the Chinese coast halfway between Hong Kong and Taiwan. — Reuters.

Shanghai, May 18 — A typhoon slammed into south China today

killing eight people and forcing the evacuation of more than 900,000 people, Xinhua news agency said, while Vietnam was still searching for 35 fishermen missing at sea. Typhoon "Chanchu," packing heavy rain and winds up to 170 kph, made landfall between the cities of Shantou and Xiamen in the early morning, the Hong Kong Observatory said. China's coastal provinces of Guangdong and Fujian took the full brunt of the storm. Eight people were killed in Shantou, where "Chanchu," the strongest typhoon on record to enter the South China Sea in May, triggered house collapses and landslides, Xinhua said. Almost all roads in Shantou were flooded and there were several blackouts, Xinhua said, adding downpours in Fujian had led to flooding in a number of rivers. State television news said Chanchu had been downgraded to a tropical storm and was heading north-east at a speed of only 25 kph but it would still bring strong rainfall to China's eastern provinces, including financial hub Shanghai. In Vietnam, authorities have re-established radio contact with six of the 11 vessels carrying more than 90 people that went missing yesterday some 160 nautical miles south of China's Hainan island, then in the typhoon's path. "Two more vessels have sunk but the crews were safe, so we only have 35 people missing now," Huynh Chin, deputy head of the Red Cross Association in the central Vietnam province of Quang Ngai, said by telephone. Xinhua said more than 900,000 people in Guangdong and Fujian had been evacuated in the path of "Chanchu." The eye of the storm crossed the Chinese coast halfway between Hong Kong and Taiwan. — Reuters.

Manila, May 18 — Efforts to refloat product tanker *Malitam* encountered another problem today when the pumps which would transfer *Malitam's* cargo of bunker fuel to a petrol barge failed to work. Batangas Bay Carriers officials did not disclose the nature of the problem but said that they were confident that they could get the pumps working in time for offloading operations to take place after noon today. Batangas Bay Carriers owns and operates *Malitam*. Delays have beset the refloating of *Malitam*. First, the petrol barge, which was to receive the cargo could not leave port because of typhoon "Chanchu". When the barge finally reached *Malitam*, off-loading had to again be postponed because of the lack of pumping equipment and generator. Now that the equipment has arrived, there are difficulties in making it work. Notwithstanding the snags, Batangas Bay Carriers officials said that they hope to finish off-loading operations by Saturday. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

UNITED STATES

London, May 15 — A press report, dated May 14, states: Torrential rain forced hundreds of people from their homes in parts of New England today,

as water flowed over dams and washed out roads. The governors of New Hampshire and Massachusetts declared states of emergency, activating the National Guard to help communities respond to the storm. Maine's governor also declared a state of emergency for one county. "It's a very serious situation," said New Hampshire Gov John Lynch, adding that forecasters were predicting 12-15 inches of rain by the end of the storm in parts of southern New Hampshire. "It continues to change and the situation continues to worsen." A dam in Milton, NH, was in danger of failing, which could send a 10-foot wall of water downstream, the National Weather Service said in a bulletin. People downstream were being evacuated in the town. The state Office of Emergency Management said at least a dozen dams were being closely watched. In Massachusetts, cars were pulled from flooded streets in downtown Peabody, about 20 miles north of Boston, and about 300 people were evacuated from an apartment complex for seniors. About 150 residents in Melrose, MA, had to leave their homes after sewage lines were overwhelmed, backing up into houses, said Massachusetts Gov Mitt Romney. Some parts of New Hampshire had seen seven inches of rain by midday today and forecasters said up to 5 more inches might come during the day. About 100 residents were evacuated from their homes in Wakefield, NH, because of concerns about two dams in the area. Officials also reported a railroad culvert and embankment washed out in Milton, with train tracks suspended in midair. The local emergency management office in Hooksett said the town was essentially closed because so many roads were flooded. In Maine, flooding was reported on 60 roads in the southern part of the state, said governor's spokeswoman Crystal Canney.

London, May 16 — A press report, dated May 15, states: Emergency crews used boats to rescue people trapped in their homes, and sewage systems overflowed today as rain pounded New England for the fourth straight day in what could prove to be the region's worst flooding in decades. The rain totals could hit 15 inches by this afternoon, triggering the worst flooding in some areas since 1936, the National Weather Service said. In the Merrimack Valley, north of Boston on the New Hampshire line, the Merrimack and Spicket rivers overflowed their banks and forced the evacuations of hundreds of people. Tens of millions of gallons of sewage spilled into the Merrimack River after pipes burst in Haverhill, MA, yesterday, and millions more poured from a treatment plant in Lawrence after floodwaters knocked it out of service today. "It's going to get worse before it gets better," Governor Mitt Romney said. Emergency crews took to flooded streets in boats and used bullhorns to urge people to leave their homes in Lowell. Forecasters said the

river could rise past 60 feet by tonight, putting it at more than eight feet over flood stage. In New Hampshire, more than 600 roads were damaged, destroyed or under water. Gov John Lynch said his own front yard in Hopkinton had become a pond. In Concord, flooding closed St. Paul's School and the prep school was working to get its students back home on short notice. In southern Maine, fast-rising floodwaters forced scores of families to flee homes near the Mousam River. Kayakers paddled down a main street in York Beach, where firefighters in a boat went building to building to make sure that propane tanks were shut off. Harder rains were predicted for late today, threatening to push the Merrimack, Spicket and other large rivers further over their banks and swamp entire neighbourhoods.

Boston, May 16 — Rain soaked New England for a fifth straight day today after the worst flooding in 70 years forced thousands from their homes overnight, but authorities said the worst of the floods appeared to be over. "We've turned a corner here," said Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency spokesman Peter Judge. "The vast majority of rivers have crested. Now it's a matter of getting them down below flood stage over the next day or so." Rescue workers and residents sloshed through knee-high water contaminated with sewage in communities north of Boston along the Merrimack River, which flows from New Hampshire to Massachusetts before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean. No serious injuries or deaths were reported as of today, partly because no strong winds accompanied the storm. Meteorologists predicted another inch of rain today in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine, which are in states of emergency, but said there was an outside chance of bigger thunderstorms that could complicate relief efforts. Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney said 369 National Guard soldiers manned checkpoints, helped with evacuations and hauled sandbags to contain overflowing rivers. The Red Cross said 209 people had moved into shelters in Massachusetts and 372 in New Hampshire. Authorities said they expected the storm to pass tomorrow but relief work could continue for another week, as they assessed the full extent of damage that Romney said could reach "tens of millions of dollars" in Massachusetts alone. Up to 17 inches of rain has fallen since Friday (May 12), swelling the Merrimack River at one point more than eight feet above flood stage. It had receded by three feet by this afternoon. "We have a little rain in the forecast — not significant enough to add to flooding issues. But this will probably slow down the recession of these rivers," said Judge. Romney said about 2,500 people were evacuated from their homes in Massachusetts overnight. In New Hampshire, several thousand residents were evacuated

and more than 700 roads in the state had been closed, the New Hampshire Bureau of Emergency Management said. Hundreds were evacuated in Maine. All three states are seeking federal assistance. The flooding caused sewage to back up into cellars and sinks, rescue workers said. About 35 million gallons a day of sewage was flowing into the Merrimack River in Haverhill after a piping system burst, authorities said. — Reuters.

Boston, May 16 — The skies cleared over New England today after five days of torrential rain and the worst floods in 70 years but hundreds of people crowded into makeshift shelters after mass evacuations from swamped homes. “We’ve turned a corner here,” said Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency spokesman Peter Judge. “The vast majority of rivers have crested. Now it’s a matter of getting them down below flood stage over the next day or so.” Thousands of people were forced to flee their homes in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine since Monday (May 15) as rivers threatened to overflow their banks or broke through sand-bag barriers erected by National Guard troops and rescue workers. By late yesterday, washed-out roads, badly damaged buildings and the danger of buckling dams had prevented many residents from returning home. The Red Cross said 372 people had moved into shelters in New Hampshire and 209 in Massachusetts. Rescue workers sloshed through knee-high water contaminated with sewage in streets north of Boston near the Merrimack River, which flows from New Hampshire to Massachusetts before dumping into the Atlantic Ocean. A 59-year-old man whose body was found in a swamped car in Derry, New Hampshire, was the first known death directly related to the floods, New England Cable News reported. Massachusetts Gov Mitt Romney said 369 National Guard soldiers helped with evacuations and relief work. Authorities said they expected the storm to pass today but relief work could continue for another week, as they assessed the full extent of damage that Romney said could reach “tens of millions of dollars” in Massachusetts alone. Up to 17 inches of rain have fallen since Friday, swelling the Merrimack River at one point more than 8 feet above flood stage — its highest since 1938. It had receded by 3 feet by yesterday afternoon. “We have a little rain in the forecast — not significant enough to add to flooding issues, but this will probably slow down the recession of these rivers,” said Judge. Romney said about 2,500 people were evacuated from their homes in Massachusetts overnight. In New Hampshire, several thousand residents were evacuated and more than 700 roads in the state had been closed, the New Hampshire Bureau of Emergency Management said. Hundreds were evacuated in Maine. All three states declared states of emergency and are seeking federal

assistance. The flooding caused sewage to back up into cellars and sinks, rescue workers said. About 35 million gallons a day of sewage — the equivalent of 54 Olympic-sized swimming pools — was flowing into the Merrimack River in Haverhill after a piping system burst, authorities said. — Reuters.

[p2]Authorities warily monitored swift, high rivers and strained dams today as New England began to clean up from days of record-breaking rain that dumped up to 17 inches in some places. Residents and businesses were evacuated in downtown Amesbury, near the New Hampshire border, where the swollen Powow River threatened to push down a stone retaining wall adjacent to a dam and unleash a torrent of water. “If this blows through, the water’s going to go right through downtown,” said Mayor Thatcher Kezer. Crews used heavy machinery to pluck debris from the water and cut down trees that could fall into the river. Meanwhile, work continued in Haverhill to repair a damaged sewer line that was spewing tens of millions of gallons into the Merrimack River. In New Hampshire, officials worked to resolve problems at a series of dams along the Newfound River in Bristol. Loose bolts at one dam had prompted the evacuation of up to 400 families and businesses. The region’s shellfish industry prepared to absorb another blow as the state closed shellfish beds from the New Hampshire border to Cape Cod. Runoff from roads, flooded rivers and overburdened sewage systems pollutes the beds. More than a foot of rain fell across a wide swath of New England between Friday (May 12) and yesterday, causing the region’s worst flooding in 70 years. At least 2,500 people were forced from their homes by the flooding and hundreds of roads were washed out. Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney said today he was seeking major disaster relief to speed help to those affected. Police reported a single fatality, a 59-year-old New Hampshire man whose body was found in a partially submerged car on closed road north of Boston.

Earthquakes



INDONESIA

London, May 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.6 hit undersea near Indonesia’s Sumatra Island, officials said today. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. The undersea earthquake rocked Indonesia’s Sumatra town and western Java island. Officials said it had a preliminary 5.6-magnitude and was centred 8 miles undersea in the Sunda straits, about 90 miles west of

Jakarta. The tremor could also be felt in Jakarta.

London, May 17 — An earthquake measuring 6.5 on the Richter scale rattled Banda Aceh, capital of Indonesia’s Aceh province, and its suburbs last night but did not panic residents, an official said. The quake which occurred at 2228, local time, was mainly felt by people living in the southern coast of Aceh province, Antara news agency today quoted Aceh Besar district meteorology and geophysics agency head Syahnan as saying. He said the quake’s epicentre was located west off Nias island coast (North Sumatra province) and 16 km beneath the sea level. There is no immediate report of casualty or material loss.

MEXICO

London, May 14 — A report, dated today, states: A magnitude 5.5 earthquake occurred in lat 14.44N, long 92.37W, offshore Chiapas, at 0738, UTC, today, depth 76 km.

NEW ZEALAND

London, May 16 — A powerful earthquake hit deep under the South Pacific late today near an uninhabited chain of islands north of New Zealand, the U.S. Geological Survey said. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issued a bulletin saying the magnitude 7.4 quake had not generate a destructive Pacific-wide tsunami but warned it could spawn a small tsunami within 60 miles of its epicentre. The USGS said the quake hit at 2239 hrs about 90 miles below the seabed, and was centred about 180 miles south-southwest of Raoul Island.

TONGA

London, May 17 — A magnitude 5.8 earthquake disrupted a simulated tsunami warning drill in Tonga today. The quake, the latest in a string of aftershocks to hit the South Pacific nation since a powerful 7.8 quake on May 4, caused no damage or injury. Tonga registered the quake when emergency authorities were broadcasting simulated alerts as part of a Pacific-wide simulation to test a warning system.

Volcanic Activity



MOUNT MERAPI, INDONESIA

London, May 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Indonesia’s vice president has ordered the evacuation of some 17,000 people living near a volcano, which has been threatening to erupt for weeks. Jusuf Kalla’s order came as he toured the slopes of Mount Merapi on the island of Java. The volcano has recently been spewing more lava and smoke, and scientists say that an eruption is imminent. But

the threat level has not been raised to the highest alert - a move which would trigger a mass evacuation. "I ask that immediate safety steps are taken, beginning by taking at least 50% of the total population from the danger zone," Mr Kalla was quoted as saying by Indonesia's state-run Antara news agency. Mr Kalla - who also heads the country's emergency situations board - said an eruption was only a matter of time. He was speaking during a visit to Magelang and Sleman - the two districts around the slopes of the rumbling volcano in central Java. Mr Kalla flew over the mountain, and later met some of the people already evacuated from their homes. Mount Merapi, overlooking the ancient city of Jogjakarta, is on Orange Code - the second highest alert level.

Purwobinangun, May 14 — Dozens of Indonesian villagers returned to their homes on the slopes of Mount Merapi briefly today despite an official order to evacuate over concerns the dangerous volcano could soon erupt. Indonesia yesterday raised the alert status of Merapi to the highest level, also known as code red or danger status, although experts said they could not predict when it would erupt. Thick clouds of charcoal grey smoke billowed periodically from the crater today, but there were no visible signs of hot lava flowing from Merapi. Villagers left evacuation centres and packed into trucks a day after authorities ordered the compulsory evacuation of thousands of residents living near or along Merapi's fertile slopes. Merapi has been rumbling for weeks and lava has flowed occasionally from its crater in recent days. Experts said the top alert means that technically the mountain could erupt within 24 hours. The chief of a volcano research centre in Yogyakarta said a lava dome had formed in the volcano's crater, but it was difficult to predict when it would collapse. The lava dome could also subside gradually. "If the new lava dome collapses, it will bring a new catastrophe with the free flowing of lava and the pouring of hot ash and other little material," the chief of the Centre of Research, Development and Technology on Volcanoes, Ratmono Purbo, said. Authorities evacuated more than 5,000 people living near the volcano to shelters in safe areas after the new alert level. An official at the Kaliurang observation said lava flow had increased to two km from the crater of Merapi, which rises above acres of palm and banana trees near the ancient city of Yogyakarta at the centre of densely populated Java island. — Reuters.

Mount Merapi, May 15 — Indonesia's Mount Merapi volcano erupted with clouds of hot gas and rained ash on surrounding areas today, sending some nearby villagers who had been reluctant to leave scurrying for safety. Gray ash covered crop fields and hundreds of rooftops in the area of Ketep, 10 km from the base of the mountain, and many

houses appeared deserted after residents evacuated. Not everyone was gone, however. Some people cleaned ashes off their houses and others opened shops, while commercial mini-buses continued to run. As ash rained down on villages around the mountain, schoolchildren in uniform hurried to class, covering their noses and mouths. The mountain "has exploded already", the head of the Merapi section at the Center of Vulcanological Research and Technology in Yogyakarta told Reuters. He cautioned, however, that Merapi's eruption process could be gradual rather than a sudden burst, and that the massive eruption scientists fear had yet to come. The top of Merapi was totally obscured by thick gray and white clouds, which trailed down the volcano's slopes. Al Reuters witness saw lava flowing from the side of the mountain in the early hours of today, but that was before the fresh clouds of hot gas and ash spewed from the volcano. Lava, gas and ash have all been seen off and on since the volcano's activity picked up in recent weeks. But Ratmono Purbo, the head of the vulcanology centre in Yogyakarta, said of today's hot clouds: "This is the biggest pile we have so far, adding that they "are billowing out of the crater for four kilometres". The top alert level for the mountain means residents can be forced to evacuate. Authorities had moved more than 5,000 people living near the volcano to shelters in safe areas immediately after the new alert level, and local media said thousands more were leaving today, carried in hundreds of trucks and cars. — Reuters.

London, May 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Indonesia's Mount Merapi volcano has exploded sending clouds of hot gas and ash four kilometres down its flanks but scientists say the dramatic show still is not a full eruption. Grey ash has covered vegetation and rooftops 10 km from the base of the mountain but not everyone has gone. Some people are cleaning ash off their houses while others are opening their shops and commercial mini-buses are still running. The Centre of Vulcanological Research and Technology in Yogyakarta said that even though it had exploded, the mountain's eruption process could be gradual rather than a sudden burst.

Mount Merapi, May 16 — Lava streamed down the sides of Indonesia's Mount Merapi today, but the clouds of hot gas belching from the top were substantially smaller than the day before. Around the base of the mountain, thousands of residents went about their daily lives such as milking cows and collecting grass for feed despite warnings a major eruption could come soon. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, on a visit to the threatened area, urged officials to be persistent in their efforts to move people away from the danger zone. Vulcanologists said Merapi was in its final eruption phase and feared the possible collapse of a swelling lava

dome at the top, which could trigger more massive and dangerous clouds and sprays of lava. When, or if, this might happen again was uncertain, said Triyani, an official at the Centre of Vulcanological Research and Technology Development in Yogyakarta near Mount Merapi. "We cannot predict, because this mountain is unique," she said of the nearly 3,000 metre conical-shaped volcano in the centre of Java island. Another volcanologist from the centre, travelling with Yudhoyono, said: "At least for today it will not collapse." Lava flows could be seen in the pre-dawn hours today, but they were close to the peak and did not threaten populated areas, while the clouds around the summit looked to be about half the size of yesterday's, witnesses said. No ash falls were reported, unlike yesterday when grey ash coated fields and houses near the mountain. "By 0600 this morning there were 11 hot clouds" that had erupted from the mountain, said Triyani. She said that the biggest was two kilometres in length down the side of the mountain. — Reuters.

Yogyakarta, Indonesia, May 17 — Lava flows and clouds of hot gas spouting from Indonesia's Mount Merapi volcano dwindled today, enabling evacuees to return to their farms and businesses and children to go back to their schools. Many planned to return to shelters in the evening, however, and volcanologists continued to warn people to stay away from danger zones on the slopes of Merapi. The mountain has been on the verge of a major eruption the past few days. Thousands of people have been evacuated to shelters since Indonesia raised the alert status of Merapi on Saturday (May 13) to the highest level, known as code red or danger status, but many have been returning during the day to cut grass and tend livestock. "The office still orders people to stop their activities such as farming, walking up the slope and mining of sand in restricted areas," said the Centre of Vulcanological Research and Technology Development in Yogyakarta near Mount Merapi. However, it also said the number and frequency of tremors, lava flows and hot clouds belching out of the crater of the mountain in central Java had decreased considerably. The centre has recorded 34 tremors so far today, compared with 126 the previous day, while lava has flowed out of the mountain 54 times, down from 257 times a day before. — Reuters.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

Kandahar, Afghanistan, May 14 — Afghan police battled Taliban insurgents in the south of the country

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today and five policemen were killed and seven wounded, a police commander said. Police earlier received word that some Taliban were hiding out in the Panjwai district of Kandahar Province and went to look for them, said police commander Shahwali Khan. "Unfortunately, we lost five of our men," Khan said, adding that three civilians were also hurt. Khan said the Taliban had also suffered casualties but he did not know how many. Earlier, the Taliban said they had killed an Afghan intelligence officer in the neighbouring province of Helmand. Gunmen on a motorbike shot dead the officer in the town of Lashkar Gah. A teacher with the officer was wounded, the deputy governor of Helmand said. Taliban spokesman Qari Mohammad Yousuf said by telephone from an undisclosed location that the Taliban had carried out the attack late yesterday. In a separate incident, six people — three of them policemen — were wounded in the northern province of Baghlan in a roadside blast. Police said they were trying to clear a landmine found beside a road when a second went off. A UN driver and a doctor from a German aid agency were killed on Friday (May 12) when attackers fired rocket-propelled grenades at their vehicle in the western province of Herat. A worker for the UN Children's Fund was seriously wounded. All three casualties were Afghan. — Reuters.

Kandahar, Apr 15 — Afghan police killed 11 Taliban in a battle near the southern town of Kandahar in which five policemen were also killed, Afghan government officials said today. The fighting in Panjwai district, 30 km west of Kandahar town, erupted yesterday after police got word that some Taliban were hiding there and went to search for them, police said. Police commander Shahwali Khan said five policemen were killed and seven wounded. A spokesman for provincial Governor Mohammad Daoud Ahmadi said 11 Taliban were also killed. — Reuters.

Kandahar, May 17 — A suicide attacker in Afghanistan rammed a car packed with explosives into a vehicle of a U.N. mine-clearing agency today, killing himself and wounding the agency driver, police said. The attack, the latest in a string of suicide and roadside bomb blasts blamed on the Taliban, occurred on the road between the main southern town of Kandahar and its airport. A Taliban spokesman, Qari Mohammad Yousuf, claimed responsibility. — Reuters.

Kandahar, Afghanistan, May 18 — Hundreds of Taliban insurgents launched an attack on a town in the southern Afghan province of Helmand, and 13 policemen and 40 Taliban were killed in hours of fighting, government officials said today. Helmand's deputy governor, Amir Mohammad Akhundzada, said it was the biggest strike in the province by the hardline Islamists since they were driven from power in late 2001. The attack on the the town of Mosa

Qala, 470 km south-west of Kabul, was launched yesterday evening and the fighting went on until early today. "Thirteen policemen were killed and six were injured," Interior Ministry spokesman Yousuf Stanizai said in a statement. "Forty people on the enemy side were killed." In a separate incident, a suicide car bomber attacked a convoy in the generally peaceful western city of Herat, killing himself and an American civilian. A US embassy spokesman said he was a State Department contractor training Afghan police. Another suicide bomber attacked a US military convoy near Ghazni town, 125 km south-west of the capital, Kabul, killing himself and a man on a motorcycle but causing no casualties among US troops, an Afghan army officer said. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the Herat attack but there was no immediate claim for the second suicide blast. A Canadian woman soldier was killed in fighting in neighbouring Kandahar province yesterday, hours before Canada's parliament narrowly backed a two-year extension of Canada's Afghan mission to 2009. The US military said 18 Taliban were killed and 26 captured in the fighting in Panjwai district, 25 km west of Kandahar town. In Helmand, Afghan forces were battling the insurgents after they withdrew from Mosa Qala, Akhundzada said. There had been civilian casualties but he said he did not know how many. British troops are in charge of security in Helmand but no foreign soldiers were involved in the battle, Afghan officials said. The Taliban focused their attack on government offices and police stations, and many shops in the town's market caught fire during the battle, Akhundzada said. The town is 40 km north of the province's Sangin district, the scene of frequent clashes between Taliban and foreign and government forces. A Taliban commander said 30 policemen had been killed. Taliban spokesman Qari Mohammad Yousuf told the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press news agency that the Taliban had captured the town but later withdrew. — Reuters.

BRAZIL

London, May 13 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 21 people, including 14 police, have been killed in a series of attacks on police in the Brazilian city and state of Sao Paulo, local media say. Six attackers are also said to have died and several members of the public were injured in the overnight clashes. The authorities are blaming a criminal faction known as the First Command of the Capital (PCC) for the violence. Correspondents say the wave of attacks could be a response to yesterday's mass jail transfer involving PCC inmates. The transfer was organised to try to counter what the police describe as a "mega-rebellion" planned by the PCC for tomorrow, according to news agency

reports. PCC leaders were being questioned on the subject when the attacks started last night, targeting police officers in police stations, mobile units, at their homes or in bars.

Sao Paulo, May 14 — Heavily-armed gangsters attacked police posts in Brazil's Sao Paulo state for a second night in the worst wave of crime-related violence in the country's industrial and business heartland in memory. At least 52 people, mostly police and prison guards, have been killed in shoot-outs and attacks Friday night (May 12) and last night, the state security office said today. The bloodshed was unleashed by a powerful criminal gang in retaliation for the transfer of imprisoned gang members to a remote penitentiary. Prisoners had also rioted in 36 penitentiaries, the security office said. A total of 100 attacks have been counted since the gangsters armed with grenades and machine guns first struck on Friday night, hitting police posts and other targets in rich and poor areas of the city and other locations in the state. The latest wave included the drive-by shooting early this morning of a police post at Itapeceirica da Serra on the Regis Bittencourt highway, a main road running west from the city. Police chased and killed the three attackers, a state security spokesman said. As of this morning, 35 police and prison guards had been killed as well as three civilians and 14 gangsters. A further 53 people have been wounded, the state security office said. New riots broke out in prisons across the state just as authorities managed to bring some under control. The state prison service said rioting had erupted in 36 of state's 106 correctional facilities. — Reuters.

Sao Paulo, May 15 — A wave of gangster attacks in the Brazilian state of Sao Paulo in which at least 81 people, many of them police, have been killed in four days forced schools, shops and offices to close early and disrupted public transport in the world's third largest city today. Gun-toting policemen manned checkpoints on main roads after the violence which broke out on Friday (May 12) in retaliation for the transfer of jailed crime bosses and other gang members to a remote prison. Thousands of commuters, mostly poor workers, were stranded as many bus companies halted operations after gunmen from an organised crime group called the First Command of the Capital, or PCC, set ablaze at least 65 buses over last night and this morning. "This is war and we are not going to retreat. There will be more death," the state military police commander, Elizeu Eclair Teixeira Borges, told a news conference. More than 180 attacks were recorded over the weekend, mainly targeting police posts, vehicles and off-duty policemen. The official death toll today stood at 81, including 31 policemen, eight prison guards and four civilians. The other dead were

suspected gunmen killed by police. A further 79 people have been wounded. Inmates had also staged uprisings in about 45 prisons in Sao Paulo state and were holding around 200 people hostage, mostly guards, officials said. The federal government offered to send troops to Sao Paulo, Brazil's business and industrial capital, to help combat the worst wave of crime-related violence in recent memory, but state governor Claudio Lembo, who belongs to an opposition party, rejected the offer. "The army at this point would be something unnecessary," Lembo said after meeting Justice Minister Marcio Thomaz Bastos. "At this moment we are effectively controlling the situation" The mood in Sao Paulo was tense as gangsters struck in rich and poor areas alike. School attendance was down by about 30% today, officials said. Some schools, including elite international schools, closed early. Many offices sent workers home early this afternoon. Traffic was gridlocked and taxi companies were inundated with calls. Cell phone lines were also clogged. Most downtown shops closed by mid-afternoon, witnesses said. The stock exchange suspended after-hours trading. At least eight bank branches, including Banco do Brasil and Bradesco, were shot up by gunmen overnight, officials said. Police say the PCC, one of the most powerful of Brazil's organised crime gangs, launched the attacks after authorities transferred several hundred prisoners to a new penitentiary 410 miles from the capital. They included PCC leader Marcos Willians Herbas Camacho, or Marcola. The gangs have an organised structure in the prisons and jailed leaders often control outside operations. — Reuters.

Sao Paulo, May 16 — Violence eased in the Brazilian business capital Sao Paulo today after police struck back against gangsters who terrorised the city for five days that left more than 80 people dead. Police sources said police units killed at least 14 suspected gangsters overnight in operations, mostly in slums and rough areas of the city. About 90 people have been arrested. Local newspapers reported a deal was struck between authorities and leaders of the organised crime group orchestrating the violence, the First Command of the Capital, or PCC in Portuguese. The governor's office denied a truce had been negotiated. Uprisings in about 70 Brazilian prisons linked to the violence also ended last night and about 200 hostages were freed, the authorities said, without explaining more. The violence broke out on Friday (May 12) in retaliation for the transfer of jailed crime bosses and other gang members to a remote prison. Gangsters hit police posts, vehicles and off-duty policemen across the city and elsewhere in the state, and torched dozens of buses. The incidents caused panic in Sao Paulo, the world's third-largest metropolis and a cosmopolitan city with a dynamic business and night life. The

city was quiet over last night as residents followed a self-imposed curfew. Heavily armed police manned positions throughout the city. The official death toll since Friday stood at 81, including 31 policemen, eight prison guards and four civilians. The other dead were suspected gunmen killed by police. A further 79 people have been wounded. Policemen accounted for most of the early deaths but in the past two days, the dead have mostly been gangsters. "We have our wire taps, we have our informers," said a police sergeant at the fortified civil police headquarters. Leading newspapers O Estado de S.Paulo and Folha de S.Paulo both reported state authorities had negotiated a truce with PCC chieftain Marcos Willians Herbas Camacho, whose transfer to a remote prison along with several hundred other prisoners triggered the violence. The prisoners were also protesting harsh conditions in the overcrowded jails, including periods of solitary confinement with no access to phones or television and just one hour of exercise per day. Jailed crime bosses are known to run outside operations by using their cell phones. — Reuters.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, May 15 — A press report, dated May 14, states: Hundreds of militiamen carried out a night-time raid on a Congolese army camp, setting off gun battles that killed 52 rebel fighters and one soldier, an army spokesman said today. The raid last night came as the country prepares to hold its first nation-wide election in decades at the end of July. The Democratic Republic of Congo is struggling to regain peace after years of dictatorship and war. Sporadic fighting continues in the east, where militiamen control large areas, and United Nations troops based in the country say they are planning military operations to try to secure those areas before the vote. "The militiamen have not retreated. They're still hiding in the forests and we will surely confront them tonight as well," Major Angole Mbula said. He said 52 militia fighters and one government soldier died in yesterday's fighting in the eastern Ituri region. Mbula said as many as 500 militiamen attacked the battalion based in the village of Nioka. The attackers included fighters from the Revolutionary Congolese Movement and others led by Peter Karin, a warlord based in the area, Mbula said. "The militias are well-armed with rocket launchers, mortars and RPGs," Mbula said. Militias in Ituri are regrouping after a series of UN-backed military offensives set them back in late 2004. The Revolutionary Congolese Movement was created in December and has grown to 1,500 fighters, UN officials have said. Peter Karin commands about 300 men, Mbula said.

Kinshasa, May 16 — One of the founding members of a militia group

in northeastern Congo has been wounded and captured in fighting with the Congolese army, the United Nations mission in the African country said today. Innocent Kaina, known by his nom de guerre "India Queen", was wounded during an army operation in the jungles of Ituri district in Democratic Republic of Congo. He was evacuated by U.N. peacekeepers to the main town of Bunia where he was due to be interrogated. Kaina was a founding member of the Revolutionary Movement of Congo (MRC), a loose coalition of militia groups which joined forces in neighbouring Uganda last year to try to prevent the return of state authority to Congo's Ituri. — Reuters.

ETHIOPIA

Addis Ababa, May 12 — Two explosions hit Addis Ababa early today, damaging the offices of the national airline and another government building and injuring seven people, witnesses said. The first blast occurred at 0200, GMT, at the Ethiopian Airlines office. The second hit the state electricity company headquarters 200 metres away several hours later. Seven people were injured in that blast, the witnesses said. Police kept crowds away from the scene, and traffic flowed normally in the Ethiopian capital. It was the latest in a wave of mysterious attacks on Addis Ababa that have escalated since January, targeting public buildings and hotels. — Reuters.

INDIA

Imphal, India, May 17 — Separatist militants attacked a convoy in which the chief minister of India's Manipur state was travelling today but he was not wounded, police said. The attack on Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh by rebels firing from automatic weapons took place at Wiakhong in Thoubal district, some 55 km west of Imphal, the state capital. Police suspect rebels of the outlawed People's Liberation Army (PLA) were responsible. The attackers fired at Singh's car from a vehicle that was travelling in the opposite direction. "The chief minister escaped unhurt," said a senior police officer in Imphal. "His bodyguards shot dead one attacker in retaliatory fire." One of Singh's bodyguards was in critical condition after being shot by the militants. Manipur is part of India's remote and turbulent northeast region — seven states which are home to more than two dozen armed separatist groups and over 200 tribal and ethnic communities. — Reuters.

Srinagar, India, May 18 — Suspected Islamist militants threw a grenade at a crowded marketplace in Indian Kashmir today, the second such attack in 24 hours, wounding 18 people, police said. "The grenade was aimed at a security vehicle but missed the target and exploded in the busy market," a police official said. More than a dozen people were wounded yesterday in a similar attack on a

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Hindu gathering protesting the killing of 35 people in the troubled state's Doda region earlier this month. No militant group fighting the Indian rule in the region has yet claimed responsibility for today's attack in Pulwama town, 45 km south of Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state. The latest violence comes ahead of the second round of a peace conference between Kashmir's main separatist political alliance and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in Srinagar on May 25. The first round of the meeting held in New Delhi this month had the region's frontline separatist rebels abstaining and it was not clear yet if they would participate in the Srinagar round. — Reuters.

IRAN

Tehran, May 14 — Al Qaeda-linked guerrillas executed 11 men at a roadside in southern Iran before fleeing to mountain hideouts, police said today. Such violence is rare areas far from Iran's lawless borders but common along the Afghan and Pakistani frontier. The murders raise concerns about the safety of a road often used by tourists visiting historical sites in southern Iran. Interior Minister Mostafa Pourmohammadi said some of the militants had been killed by security forces. Media said others had fled into the Kofout mountains in southeastern Kerman. "Some of the villains have been arrested and some killed. Those remaining cannot get out of the country as the borders are being strictly controlled," state television quoted him as saying. Gunmen disguised as policemen pulled over four cars on the desert road between the cities of Kerman and Bam on Saturday night, the television reported. Eleven executed men were tipped into a ditch. The gunmen also sprayed a passing car with bullets, killing a 12th man. "Terrorist elements named Jundollah (God's soldiers), headed by Abdolmalek Rigi, claimed responsibility for the attack," General Eskandar Momeni, a deputy commander of Iran's police force told Iranian media. A police spokesman confirmed Momeni's remarks. Jundollah (God's soldiers) are Sunni Muslim militants who beheaded an Iranian security agent last June and killed 22 people near the south-eastern city of Zahedan in March. Iranian officials say Jundollah commander Rigi was a cell leader of Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network in Iran. Jundollah hail from the eastern border province of Sistan-Baluchistan. — Reuters.

IRAQ

Baghdad, May 14 — Bombs killed 30 people in Baghdad today and sectarian attacks wrecked six Shi'ite shrines in a rural area, adding to pressure on Iraq's rival leaders to agree on the formation of a unity government. With a week left for Prime Minister-designate Nuri al-Maliki to meet a constitutional

deadline to present a broad-based coalition Washington hopes will avert a slide towards civil war, a series of blasts hit Baghdad. Two suicide bombers in cars killed 14 Iraqis at the entrance to Baghdad airport. Violence also flared in southern Iraq where two British soldiers were killed in a roadside bomb attack in Basra, Iraq's second city. Last week, a British military helicopter came down there, possibly hit by a rocket, killing five troops and sparking clashes between British forces and militias. US and Iraqi officials have said the leader of al Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, is stepping up a campaign to target majority Shi'ites in and around Baghdad in an attempt to provoke retaliatory attacks against minority Sunnis, dominant under Saddam Hussein, and ignite all-out sectarian warfare. There were more signs of factional wrangling over key posts delaying the formation of the government. Witnesses near Baghdad's airport saw three burnt out trucks and a car in a car park used by Iraqi civilians. No one was hurt in the blasts that destroyed small shrines in a rural area north of Baghdad yesterday, the latest in a string of sectarian attacks that have soared since bombs in February wrecked a major Shi'ite shrine in Samarra and sparked communal bloodshed. Two of the blasts in Wajihya, a religiously mixed village 30 km east of the regional capital Baquba, reduced to rubble the one-room building attached to the shrine dedicated to Abdullah bin Ali al-Hadi, a noted cleric related to the two Shi'ite imams commemorated at the Golden Mosque in Samarra. Residents picked tattered religious banners and a torn Koran from the rubble of the building. The tomb was not damaged. "People usually visit the tomb on Saturdays. The attacks took place after I left the shrine at night. The first bomb hit at 2100 hrs. The second one came 10 minutes later," one woman said. Five shrines were destroyed in Wajihya. A sixth on a dirt road outside the village was also blown up, residents said. In other deadly blasts in Baghdad, six people, including three policemen, were killed by a bomb targeting a police patrol. Four people were killed and five wounded when a bomb aimed at an Iraqi police convoy went off in north-eastern Baghdad. Near the southern holy Shi'ite city of Kerbala, police found the bodies of five people, blindfolded, bound and with gun shots. Separately, the bodies of four brothers who worked in a humanitarian organisation were found beheaded also in Kerbala. — Reuters.

London, May 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Four soldiers have been wounded in a mortar attack on a camp near Amara in southern Iraq, the British Army says. They were hurt during shelling at Camp Abu Naji, where the Queen's Royal Hussars battle group is based. Major Sebastian Muntz, in Basra, said: "The injuries are mostly superficial". It

comes after two UK soldiers died and a third was injured in a roadside bomb attack outside Basra on Saturday (May 13) night. The bomb exploded as the patrol approached a bridge. It is understood to have been detonated by a wire, rather than electronically, making it impossible to counter using radio-jamming techniques. Their deaths brought to 111 the number of British military casualties in Iraq since 2003.

London, May 16 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 23 people have been killed in a shooting and bombing attack in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, police say. Five people were shot dead by gunmen at a car park in the city's busy north-eastern Shaab area. When people, including nearby police units, rushed to the scene, a car bomb was detonated, killing a further 18. At least 33 others were wounded in the attack, police said. The car park is often used by worshippers at a nearby Shia Muslim prayer hall. Officials say the death toll could rise further. In other violence in the city, at least six civilians were killed and several injured in gun battles between gunmen and police in Baghdad's southern Doura district, Iraqi officials said. The US military said today that three of its soldiers were killed in roadside bomb attacks in and around Baghdad in the past 24 hours. Yesterday, the US military reported that insurgents shot down a US helicopter, killing two soldiers. The attack happened during fighting on Sunday (May 14), south of the capital, Baghdad. Two US soldiers were also killed in a roadside bombing in Baghdad on Sunday, and two US marines were killed by enemy fire in western Anbar province. Elsewhere in Iraq, eight policemen were killed in clashes yesterday with a local armed Shia tribal group, near the southern city of Basra. Elsewhere, in Baladruz, east of Baghdad, gunmen killed four primary school teachers while they were on their way to work in a minibus. There were unconfirmed reports of several other deaths in Iraq yesterday. Politicians have been expecting an escalation in violence as efforts to form a national unity government move into an intense final phase. The Iraqi Prime Minister-designate, Nuri Maliki, has until next Monday (May 22), when the constitutional deadline expires, to complete his cabinet. The most contentious and lingering problem has been how to fill the crucial security posts at the ministries of defence and the interior. Intensive negotiations have so far failed to break the deadlock. It has even been suggested that the government might be announced with those posts left vacant to be filled in the coming weeks.

Baghdad, May 18 — Thirteen people died in a shooting and a bombing in Baghdad today, including four Iraqi policemen, police said. Gunmen opened fire on a minibus taking labourers to work in south-western Baghdad, killing six. In northern

Baghdad, seven people were killed and four others wounded in a car bomb apparently targeting a police patrol. Of those killed, four were police and three civilians. — Reuters.

ISRAEL

Nablus, West Bank, May 12 — Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian militant during a raid in the West Bank town of Nablus today, the army said. Witnesses said the militant, named as 26-year-old Raed Etbila, was a member of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a group within Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah faction. He had been on Israel's wanted list for about two years. "The troops were fired upon and spotted an armed man. They fired at him and wounded him. He was taken for medical treatment and later died in hospital," an army spokeswoman said. The spokeswoman said another man was arrested during the military operation in Nablus and that five other wanted men were detained in raids elsewhere in the West Bank. — Reuters.

Jenin, May 14 — Israeli troops killed seven Palestinians including a leading Islamic Jihad militant today in the bloodiest fighting in weeks in the occupied West Bank, an Israeli military official and Palestinian sources said. The violence drew vows of revenge from Islamic Jihad, a group that has spearheaded attacks against Israel throughout a more than five year Palestinian uprising. An Israeli military spokesman, Capt Jacob Dallal, said soldiers shot and killed Elias Eshkar, a "top Islamic Jihad terrorist in the West Bank" blamed for being the mastermind of attacks that have killed more than 50 Israelis since early 2005. The most recent suicide bombing blamed on Eshkar killed 11 people in a Tel Aviv restaurant in mid-April, the highest death toll in an attack in the Jewish state in about two years. Four other militants died in the raid in which soldiers surrounded a house in the town of Qabatiya, as Eshkar hid inside, including Eshkar's brother, Dallal said. The troops killed the gunmen after they shot at the soldiers, ignoring an appeal to surrender, he said. The soldiers shot dead a sixth Palestinian while dispersing protesters during the raid, he said. Palestinian medics and security sources said two of the six killed in Qabatiya were civilians. In the nearby town of Jenin, soldiers shot dead Ali Omar Jabarin, a 21-year-old intelligence officer, and wounded four of his colleagues during a gunbattle at their Jenin headquarters, Palestinian sources said. The Israeli army said soldiers exchanged fire with gunmen during a raid in Jenin to detain wanted militants, and reported one Palestinian was hit by gunfire there, but could not confirm whether he was killed. Islamic Jihad's armed wing condemned the Israeli raids in a statement as "a new Zionist massacre" and vowed "we will continue our

martyrdom operations". Israel mounts frequent military raids in the West Bank against suspected militants. Islamic Jihad often says that its attacks are a response to these raids. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas issued a statement condemning the violence and urged the world to intervene. In the Gaza Strip, masked gunmen shot and wounded a Palestinian bodyguard for an intelligence chief reporting to Abbas, security officials said. Gunmen later fired at a senior Hamas commander as he left a Gaza City mosque, witnesses said. He was unharmed. There were no immediate claim of responsibility for the shootings, which were further cases of internal violence in Gaza where rivalry between Hamas and Abbas's Fatah faction has led to bloodshed in recent weeks. — Reuters.

Nablus, West Bank, May 17 — Israeli soldiers killed two Palestinian militants during a raid in the occupied West Bank today, Palestinian security sources and medics said. They said the two gunmen were killed during an exchange of gunfire with Israeli troops in the West Bank city of Nablus. A third gunman was injured in the clash and was arrested by Israeli forces, the sources said. An Israeli military source said soldiers had identified hitting three gunmen inside a building in the city which a force had encircled trying to arrest a wanted militant inside. Medics at the hospital said they had found a green wristband written in Arabic on each of the two dead men identifying them as being with the militant group Islamic Jihad. Palestinian sources said the gunmen were from outside Nablus and had come to use the city as a hideout. — Reuters.

MYANMAR

Myanmar, May 14 — Over the last month, more than 800 ethnic Karen have fled the biggest Myanmar army offensive in a decade to a makeshift jungle camp near the Thai border. Hundreds more are likely to follow. Protected by Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) guerrillas in a steep valley one mile from Thailand, the Karen refugees spoke of friends and relatives murdered, villages burned to the ground and the ashes seeded with landmines. The Karen, a mainly Christian people who make up just over 10% of Myanmar's 52 million people, have been fighting a guerrilla independence war in eastern Myanmar for the last 50 years — one of the world's longest-running conflicts. Since November, reports from refugee relief groups inside Karen State have pointed to a determined assault on ethnic areas by the Burmese-dominated junta, which calls itself the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). — Reuters.

PAKISTAN

London, May 12 — A press report, dated May 11, states: Saboteurs today blew up a tower of the 132-KV

Rakhni-Barkhan power transmission line, suspending supply of electricity to Barkhan, Kohlu and Mawand. According to a spokesman of the Quetta Electric Supply Company (Qesco), a powerful explosive device was used to blow up the tower. "Vast area of three main towns in Kohlu and Barkhan districts were plunged into complete darkness," Qesco officials said, adding that work to install a new tower had been launched. Meanwhile, several rockets were fired at an FC checkpoint in the Karmo-Wadh area in Kahan. A heavy exchange of fire was also reported between security forces and armed tribesmen in the Narigaj area in Sibi district. No casualty was reported in both the incidents. However, tribesmen claimed that security force had suffered casualties in the exchange of fire. They also took the responsibility of blowing up the two power supply towers. Four bugti tribesmen were killed and five others injured in an armed clash between two factions of the Mandwani and Kalpar Bugtis in the Lanjo area of the Sui tehsil on Thursday. According to officials, armed men belonging to the Mandwani Bugtis opened fire on a convoy of Kalpar tribesmen, which was on its way to Sui. The vehicle of the Kalpars overturned after running over a landmine, killing four people. The Kalpar Bugtis returned fire by taking positions in nearby mountains, injuring five Mandwani Bugtis.

Karachi, Mar 12 — The business activities in Pakistan's southern port city - Karachi in general and Sindh Province in particular, were partially paralyzed today following a day long strike called by main opposition party, Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal (MMA) against the government's failure in arresting those involved in the Nishtar Park bomb blast in Karachi last month, as well as the increasing incidents of killing and plunder in the city, demolition of old villages, price hike and the repeated increase in POL prices. No untoward incident from any part of the city was reported. Heavy contingents of police and Rangers were deployed at sensitive point and intensive patrolling was going on. All major markets of electronics, food grains, clothes, autoparts, showrooms, furniture, timber and big bazaars were closed. The government and private offices complaints shortage of staff due to less availability of public transport. Reports from interior of Sindh say transport vehicles were scarce at Hyderabad roads, while few vehicles were seen plying from Hyderabad to various destinations of the interior Sindh. All business centres were closed in Mirpur Khas, Digri, Jhudo, Khipro and Umarkot. Larkana and Thatta were completely closed. Shutters were down in all main markets of Sukkur and vehicular traffic was thin. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Quetta, Pakistan, May 12 — Pakistan detained about 30 suspects in overnight raids after a series of landmine blasts in the country's

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troubled south-west killed six policemen, officials said today. Five landmines exploded in quick succession yesterday as commandoes of police Anti-Terrorist Force were training at a school on the outskirts of Quetta, capital of the restive Baluchistan province. An outlawed Baluch militant group, fighting for more autonomy and more benefits from oil and gas exploration in the region, claimed responsibility for the attack. Police detained two men hours after the blasts and 27 more were rounded up in raids overnight in and around Quetta. "These people have track records of involvement in such activities," a senior police official said, adding that it was a case of picking up the usual suspects and hoping interrogations turned up a link. A spokesman for the Baluch Liberation Army, a militant group listed as a terrorist organisation by the government last month, called newspapers offices in Quetta yesterday to claim responsibility for the blasts and warned of more attacks. — Reuters.

Karachi, May 16 — Another attack on government property was reported due to ongoing miscreants' attacks on power, railway and oil gas installations in south western province of Pakistan. According to local media three pylons of a 132kv double-circuit power transmission line were blown up in the Mainghundi area, some 25km off Quetta in Balochistan, and at least 19 rockets were fired on checkpoints in the Dear Bugti district early yesterday morning. Power supply was suspended to various areas of the Mustang district and the Sariab grid station after the incident. However, the electricity supply to the areas was restored through alternative arrangements. Meanwhile, a heavy exchange of fire between security forces and armed tribesmen was reported in the Sangsilla area of the Dera Bugti district. Sources said the tribesmen fired at least 19 rockets on FC checkpoints in Chashma, Loti, Pir Koh and Sangsilla areas of Dera Bugti. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Miranshah, Pakistan, May 16 — Seven pro-Taliban militants and a Pakistani trooper were killed in a clash in Pakistan's troubled tribal region of North Waziristan today, security officials said. The clash occurred after the rebels ambushed a paramilitary vehicle in the Shawat area, around 12 km south-west of North Waziristan's main town of Miranshah, a military official said. "Seven miscreants were killed and one soldier died," he said. Separately, militants shot dead two policemen in Miranshah overnight, a security official in the area said. North Waziristan, a semi-autonomous area bordering Afghanistan, is the focus of a military campaign to rid the tribal lands of al-Qaeda remnants. — Reuters.

Quetta, Pakistan, May 17 — Tribal militants fighting for more autonomy blew up a natural gas pipeline in

Pakistan's troubled south-west today, killing a girl and wounding her mother and another relative, officials said. The girl died when the 16-inch diameter pipeline passing near her house in Dera Bugti town in Baluchistan province blew up, Abdul Samad Lasi, a senior government official in the area, said. In another incident, militants attacked a police station near Dera Bugti and killed two policemen. Another policeman was seriously injured in a landmine explosion in the town of Kohlu. — Reuters.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, May 12 — A powerful blast ripped through a public market on the restive southern Philippine island of Mindanao today, wounding five people, police said. Ramon Ochotorena, police chief of Zamboanga del Sur Province, said the explosion, which damaged several fish and meat stalls at Margosatubig's public market, was triggered by a dispute among a group of drunken fishermen. "This has nothing to do with terrorism," said Ochotorena as police officers rushed the victims to a hospital for gunpowder burns from what appeared to be dynamite sticks. He said a group of fishermen were having drinks at a karaoke bar when a heated altercation ensued among them. Minutes later, an explosion rocked the market. "Our initial investigation showed the explosive device was similar to dynamites used by fishermen in the area," Ochotorena said. — Reuters.

Manila, May 18 — The Philippines suspended military offensives against several Muslim rebel groups for a week today as a high-level team from the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) visited the troubled south, an army general said. The OIC, a group of 57 Muslim states, sent a five-member delegation to the Philippines this week to review the progress of a 1996 peace deal between the government of the mainly Catholic country and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). Brigadier-General Alexander Aleo, the military commander on the southwestern island of Jolo, said offensives were put on hold for seven days as the Islamic envoys viewed how Muslim villages scarred by nearly 40 years of secessionist violence were faring. The brief cessation also applied to Abu Sayyaf, a small but violent group with its stronghold on Jolo and links to al Qaeda. However, Aleo said troops were ready to react if attacked. "We're not out to spoil the OIC trip to the south," Aleo said. "We're suspending operations in response to a request from the MNLF. I want to make it clear that we're not after the MNLF — our operations are directed against the Abu Sayyaf." Sayed Kassem el-Masry, an Egyptian diplomat and head of the OIC mission, said the delegates would meet local Muslim leaders to look at obstacles holding up full implementation of the peace agreement. The MNLF says the

government fulfilled the first part of the accord by absorbing 10,000 former rebels into the military and police but has yet to fully deliver economic assistance to families of 50,000 ex-guerrillas. The government — now trying to seal a peace deal with another Muslim rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front — has blamed technical and financial issues for the delay. Today, the OIC mission visited Muslim areas on the southern island of Mindanao before heading to Jolo by the weekend (May 20-21), listening to complaints from both sides. The requests from Muslim leaders included freedom for MNLF founder Nur Misuari, who has been detained since 2002 while on trial over a failed rebellion on Jolo in late 2001. Aleo said the situation on Jolo had stabilised since January 2005 when 5,000 soldiers were sent to fight hundreds of Abu Sayyaf rebels and rogue MNLF members who ambushed an army convoy. Dulmatin and Umar Patek, the two key suspects in the deadly Bali bombings in 2002, were believed to be hiding among the Abu Sayyaf on the remote island. — Reuters.

RUSSIA

London, May 15 — A press report, dated May 2, states: A militant base has been destroyed in Chechnya's Vedeno district, the Regional Operations Headquarters' press center told Interfax today. "The base was discovered in a search operation outside the village of Verkhatoï," a headquarters spokesman said. A large amount of clothing and food, as well as batteries for radio transmitters and 2,000 cartridges for firearms, were discovered in the base's caches, the spokesman said. Several members of criminal armed groups and their collaborators had been arrested in Chechnya over the weekend.

Makhachkala, Russia, May 16 — A policeman and two rebels were killed today in a gun battle in the southern Russian region of Dagestan, police said. At least nine other people were injured, including a civilian, they said. The rebels had blockaded themselves in an apartment in Kizilyurt, a town northwest of the local capital, Makhachkala. Special forces surrounded the block of flats and stormed the building. — Reuters.

Moscow, May 17 — A suicide bomber killed seven people including a top Russian policeman today when he drove his car into a police convoy in the southern Russian region of Ingushetia. Among the dead was Dzhabrail Kostoyev, deputy head of the Ingushetia interior ministry, two of his guards, and four civilians, a police spokesman said. The news came simultaneously with a report from Interfax news agency that unknown gunmen had killed the governor of a detention centre in the region of Karachayevo-Cherkessia, further from Chechnya but also increasingly prone to violence. Rebels have pledged total war against police in the North Caucasus, saying they

are collaborating with Russian occupiers. Islamist Web sites today published comments from a rebel commander in Ingushetia, who pledged such attacks would increase. — Reuters.

SOMALIA

Mogadiscio, May 12 — Islamic fighters and warlord militias battled for control of the Somali capital for the sixth day today with the death toll approaching at least 130 in the worst violence in a decade. The Islamic side said five people had died in overnight fighting, bringing the death toll to at least 126 as street battles spread beyond Mogadiscio's battered northern shanty town of Siisii into the neighbouring district of Yaqshid. Warlord spokesman Hussein Gutale Rage said the death toll had reached 150 but this could not be immediately verified. Hundreds of people have been wounded in the clashes, which started on Sunday (May 7), with shells regularly hitting houses and killing many civilians, including women and children. — Reuters.

Mogadiscio, May 13 — Mortars, machine guns and rockets pounded Mogadiscio today in a seventh day of fierce militia fighting that has killed at least 144 people so far and which spread quickly across the ravaged city. As the street battles dragged on in rundown areas of the Somali capital, the interim government — powerless to stop the shooting and unable to enter Mogadiscio — called for foreign intervention to end the worst fighting there in years. At least 11 civilians were killed overnight and into today as gunmen from a powerful alliance of warlords engaged in close-range firefights and artillery duels with militiamen backed by the city's influential Islamic courts. Fighting had originally been limited to the northern shantytown of SiiSii but spread into the nearby areas of Yaqsid and Karan before erupting today in neighbourhoods across southern Mogadiscio. The warring parties were massing militiamen and another warlord, Mohamed Dheere, and his militia arrived from his stronghold in Jowhar to join the battle. "The coalition is planning to attack the Islamic court militia from other fronts," said Ali Nur, a militiaman allied to the warlords. The warlords closed off the entries in and out of Mogadiscio, including a key road to southern Somalia to block the advance of a powerful Islamic militia heading to join its allies. Warlord Colonel Abdi Hassan Awale said his fighters were checking all vehicles travelling in and out of the city for the presence of foreigners believed to be training and fighting alongside the Islamic militias. "It was necessary to put pressure on these roads to catch the foreigners and the supporters trying to escape from the capital," Awale said. As the battlezone widened, residents and aid workers said they feared more civilian casualties as munitions kept striking homes. Most of the dead and many

among the hundreds who were wounded were non-combatants. Residents continued to flee their homes, taking basic possessions with them. The interim government, now based in the southern city of Baidoa because it is unable to exert much control in the country of 10 million, appealed for humanitarian aid for the victims. "We ... call upon and invite the international community to intervene and get involved in the crucial situation in Mogadiscio by ... co-operating fully with the Somali transitional federal government to rescue the innocent suffering people," Information Minister Mohamed Abdi Hayir said in a statement. — Reuters.

Mogadiscio, May 14 — Rival militias observed a truce today demanded by clan elders alarmed that eight days of fighting, which has already killed 148 people, seemed ready to engulf Somalia's main city Mogadiscio. However, at least four civilians were killed before the shooting between gunmen from a powerful alliance of Mogadiscio warlords and militiamen backed by the city's influential Islamic courts stopped. In a message broadcast by radio, the elders demanded a halt to the shooting and said that if either side broke the truce, they would support the other. Both sides have massed fighters along the major roads in and out of the coastal capital and reinforcements kept rolling in to join what is fast becoming an all-or-nothing war for control of the city. — Reuters.

Mogadishu, May 16 — Islamic militias attacked a prominent Somali warlord and killed two of his fighters early today, in clashes that could spark a resumption of the worst battles in Mogadishu for a decade. "Mohamed Dheere was attacked at 0400 hrs by the Islamic court militia in a road linking Mogadishu to Bal'ad. His forces have been dispersed, but I understand they are regrouping again," Siyad Mohamed, an Islamic militia leader, told Reuters. The fighting was confirmed by a member of a self-styled, anti-terrorism alliance backed by powerful local warlords, including Dheere. — Reuters.

London, May 17 — A press report, dated today, states: At least five people have been killed in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, when Islamist gunmen attacked a warlord, breaking a three-day truce. The attack coincided with a rally intended to call for peace, following the death of at least 140 people. Hundreds of demonstrators, guarded by Islamist gunmen, started chanting anti-US slogans, accusing the US of backing the alliance of warlords. Some civil society groups boycotted the event, saying it had been "hijacked". A compound belonging to warlord Mohamed Omar Habeb Dheere north of Mogadishu was overrun by the Islamist gunmen. Reuters news agency reports that Mr Dheere had arrived from his base in Jowhar at the weekend to back up the warlords'

Alliance for the Restoration of Peace and Counter-Terrorism. The US says it has not violated the arms embargo on Somalia but has said it would work with those who can help "prevent Somalia becoming a safe haven for terrorists". Reports suggest two of those warlords may soon be sacked from the interim government. The government is based in the small town of Baidoa, three hours from the capital, Mogadishu. It has not moved to Mogadishu because of security concerns, and controls only a small part of the country. British international development minister Hilary Benn has met the president and prime minister there in a previously unannounced visit. Mr Benn says he will be offering international support for attempts to end the anarchy.

SRI LANKA

Colombo, May 11 — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers killed 17 sailors today in the worst naval battle since a 2002 truce halted two decades of civil war, and 50 rebels were believed to have died, a top Navy source said. He said the crew were killed when Tiger suicide bombers rammed their fast attack boat off Sri Lanka's northern tip, while the military sank five rebel boats. A naval transporter carrying 710 troops had sought refuge in Indian waters and was now safe, he said. Sri Lanka's government responded by scrambling fighter jets and helicopter gunships to bomb rebel territory, but there was no immediate confirmation of casualties in rebel areas. — Reuters.



NIGERIA

Part Harcourt, May 12 — Three foreign oil workers, including an Italian, taken hostage in Nigeria's oil capital Port Harcourt were released today after a day in captivity, police said. The employees of Italian oil contractor Saipem were abducted at gunpoint by members of a community where Saipem was working and which was in dispute with the company over compensation for environmental damage. "They have been released. The issues of disagreement must have been resolved," Rivers State Police Commissioner Samuel Agbetuyi said. A Bukuma community leader, Mbaka Harmony, told a local radio station that that the community was demanding 300 million naira (\$2.3 million) in compensation for damage caused by Saipem's laying of a pipeline through the area. In Rome, the Italian Foreign Ministry confirmed the release of the Italian national, Vito Macrina, and the two other men. — Reuters.

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Labour Disputes

**FINLAND**

London, May 15 — The Finnish Paper Workers' Union organized a two-day nationwide strike today to protest the planned mass layoffs in the paper industry in the country. Tens of thousands of paper workers walked off their jobs early today, shutting down nearly all paper factories in the country. Office personnel in the forest industry are also planning a one-day walkout on Wednesday (May 17). Finland-headquartered paper maker UPM-Kymmene said in a statement on Friday it would cut its Finnish workforce by 2,557 and pull the plug in four mills in Finland over the next three years. The Finnish Forest Industries Federation, which represents paper companies, will face losses estimated at 80 million Euros due to the strike.

NORWAY

London, May 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The nation-wide strike which hit around 30 of Norway's key ferry points last Saturday (May 13), was expected to cause greater problems at the start of a new work-week this morning. The union says a further escalation of the strike will be considered. The Naval Officers' Union has called a number of its members out on strike for higher pay, after it turned down a proposal for a new wage agreement put forward by the National Arbitrator early Saturday morning. Around 30 ferry connections in 11 counties have been hit by the strike, which has resulted in reduced services in some areas, and a complete halt at other points. There has been no contact over the weekend between the parties involved in the strike, NRK reports. A further escalation of the strike will be considered later today, a union spokesman says. The Ship's Engineers' Union accepted the proposal.

London, May 16 — The continuing strike by tug boat officers serving Norway's Sture and Mongstad terminals is causing severe operational difficulties. The limited number of tug boats still in operation are servicing shuttle tankers only. No conventional tankers are being serviced. The strike was launched by the Norwegian Seamen's Union, Officer's section, on May 13. Although the union and the Employers Organization are negotiating to find a solution, no developments have been reported to date.

London, May 17 — A press report, dated today, states: The tug strike at Sture and Mongstad terminals continues, and from 2400 hrs, on Saturday (May 20) more ferries, boats

and tugs along the coast are expected to become involved. At Sture terminal today, only shuttle tankers are being served. However, Mongstad is operating with "normal traffic" - as far as possible - with three tugs working.

PAY DISPUTE ON UKRAINE FLAGGED VESSEL, LYTTTELTON, NEW ZEALAND

London, May 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Crew members on board fishing vessel which is docked in Lyttelton Harbour are refusing to leave the ship until they receive back-pay they say is owed to them. The Maritime Union says the 27 Ukrainian fisherman on board the fish factory *Malakhov Kurgan* (2554 gt, built 1972) have not been paid their correct wages. The union's secretary, Trevor Hanson, says their contract states they were being paid just over \$7 a day, but when they are in New Zealand waters they are entitled to be paid the New Zealand minimum rate. He says it appears they are being threatened with jail when they return home, unless the give up their claim. The Department of Labour says it is talking to both parties to determine the facts.

Christchurch, May 15 — A press report, dated May 12, states: The Department of Labour says it hopes mediation can get under way on Wednesday (May 17) between a group of Ukrainian fishermen and their employers, in a bid to settle a pay dispute. Twenty-seven fisherman claim they have been paid just over \$7 a day to work on fish factory *Malakhov Kurgan*, currently docked at Lyttelton harbour. The Department says foreign crews must be paid at least the minimum wage while in New Zealand waters. The men are refusing to leave the vessel until they get the back pay they say they are owed. Department spokesperson Andrew Annakin said it is hoped mediation will resolve the issue. He said the mediation itself and its outcome will be confidential. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 18 — A press release from Maritime Union Media, dated May 17, states: The Maritime Union says that the treatment of a Ukrainian fishing crew in Lyttelton is a national disgrace and a prime example of the problems plaguing the fishing industry. The crew have been on strike for unpaid wages on board fish factory *Malakhov Kurgan* which is laid up in the Port of Lyttelton. Eight crew members remain on strike on board after refusing a deal that 19 of their fellow crew members accepted. Maritime Union General Secretary Trevor Hanson says the crew have asked for the Union to represent them, as they are employees of a state-owned Ukrainian fishing company working in a joint venture with New Zealand company United Fisheries. Mr Hanson says the Union is unhappy about mediation that occurred between the Department of Labour and the crew. "There seems to be an approach of divide and rule, and

an intention of quietly getting the crew out of the country before further questions are asked about their employment conditions." Mr Hanson says the Maritime Union is concerned that the crew members who accepted the deal did because of pressure coming from their employers in the Ukraine. "The Maritime Union has written evidence from the crew that shows these workers have been put under pressure from their Ukrainian employers, and we are asking for evidence that all workers on board *Malakhov Kurgan* have been paid the minimum wage for their work while in New Zealand waters." Mr Hanson says the the Union has run out of patience with the fishing industry. He says the Department of Labour has distributed multilingual leaflets to overseas fishing vessel crews telling them they are entitled to the same working conditions as New Zealanders. "We are of the opinion that the Department of Labour should be following up their leaflets and enforcing the law with regard to this group of workers." Mr Hanson says the New Zealand Government must ensure that the workers are not victimized when they return home, and says the solution is for proper employment agreements under New Zealand law to be signed by all fishing crew before they arrive in New Zealand waters.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

London, May 15 — A press report, dated today states: All rail services from Heuston Station in Dublin to Cork, Tralee, Waterford, Rosslare, Limerick, Ennis, Galway, Ballina and Westport have been cancelled by IarnrÚd ...ireann. Services from Tralee and Cork to Dublin are also affected, as well as commuter services to and from Heuston. It follows a dispute with drivers over the introduction of new trains. RTE reports that two drivers in Cork refused to operate the new trains this morning. The drivers have not been suspended, however, IarnrÚd ...ireann says it has told them they will not be paid until they operate the new trains. It is believed a number of other drivers are now refusing to work in support of the drivers.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, May 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Striking security guards rampaged through Cape Town yesterday during a protest linked to a national strike. Cars were vandalised and shops looted in the city centre after a legal protest over wages and work conditions by 5,000 strikers turned violent. Two union leaders were among 39 people arrested and were due to appear in court today. Security guards first went on strike in March. One of the unions is holding out for a better wage deal. Protesters smashed shop windows and seized goods from shops and street traders, according to reports from the city. More than 100 cars were vandalised in the city centre. Most shops in the

city centre later closed their doors and vendors were seen packing up their goods and leaving the area. Tony Ehrenreich, provincial secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), and Evan Abrahams of the SA Transport and Allied Workers' Union (Satawu), were among those arrested and held overnight pending a bail hearing. Satawu and 14 other unions first went on strike in March. Satawu resumed the strike in April, and is continuing to demand an 11% pay increase after other unions agreed to a rise of 8.3%. South Africa's security industry has boomed as a result of high crime levels and under-resourced police. Guards typically work long hours in dangerous conditions for minimal wages.

Awards & Settlements



ACQUISITION OF DOCUMENTS, UNITED STATES

London, May 16 — A press report, dated May 15, states: The Boeing Co agreed to pay \$615 million to settle a US Justice Department investigation into its acquisition of documents from competitor Lockheed Martin, according to media reports today. The deal tentatively calls for Boeing to pay \$564 million to cover civil claims and \$50 million to resolve criminal investigations. Details are expected to be released this week. In 2003, Boeing lost multiple contracts reportedly worth about \$1 billion, and three of its business units were suspended as a result of its possession of documents belonging to Lockheed Martin. Under Secretary of the Air Force Peter B. Teets said at the time of the suspension, "Our inquiry into Boeing found that they were in possession of thousands of pages of Lockheed Martin proprietary EELV documents during the 1998 source selection." Last March, the US Air Force removed the 20-month suspension, and Boeing agreed to reimburse the government \$1.9 million to cover the cost of the investigation. Boeing's new deal with the Justice Department lets the company avoid criminal charges or any admission of wrongdoing, according to media reports. Lockheed has pending civil claims for damages related to the improperly maintained documents, but has not yet commented yet on how the reported Boeing settlement will affect those claims.

BILLING DISPUTE, UNITED STATES

London, May 17 — A press report, dated May 16, states: A federal judge has ordered a Sprint Nextel Corp business to pay \$17.1 million to a bill collection firm in a contract dispute. US District Court Judge John W. Lungstrum issued an order yesterday stating that Sprint owed the damages

to Penncro Associates Inc, a Philadelphia-area business that Sprint hired in 2002 to collect unpaid cell phone bills. Sprint later ended Penncro's assignment, an action previously found to breach the contract signed by the two companies. Under the contract, Penncro would have received about \$53 million, according to the judge's order. In arriving at \$17 million, the judge subtracted \$28 million in costs that Penncro avoided by not doing the work and another \$7.7 million in losses Penncro avoided. Sprint executives were still reviewing the decision today and had not decided whether to appeal, said David Gunasegaram, a Sprint spokesman.

CONTRACT DISPUTE, UNITED STATES

London, May 17 — A press report, dated May 16, states: An arbitrator's decision will cost Nike Inc at least \$52.5 million. Nike said today an arbitrator ruled against the company in a contract dispute between the company's Converse subsidiary and Alon International SA, a former licensee for Converse in Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. The arbitrator awarded Alon \$52.5 million in damages, plus legal fees, less some amounts previously paid to Alon. Nike said the potential liability had not been accrued by the company and would likely result in a charge to earnings for the company's fiscal 2006 fourth quarter, ending May 31. "We disagree with the ruling and will exercise our legal right to challenge both the award and the amount of damages," said Jim Carter, Nike's general counsel.

DAMAGE TO CROPS, COSTA RICA

London, May 18 — A press report, dated May 17, states: DuPont Co has been ordered to pay as much as \$60 million to a group of Costa Rican farmers who blamed the fungicide Benlate for destroying their fern crops. Jurors in Florida state court in Miami deliberated for five days before finding today that Benlate harmed 27 farms in Costa Rica. DuPont said it would appeal the loss, its seventh in lawsuits over the chemical since June, 2000. "We're very happy with the judge and jury," Don Russo, a Miami lawyer for the growers, said. He told jurors during the trial that his clients "experienced an agricultural disaster" when Benlate killed the ornamental ferns they sold to florists, driving some of them out of business. The suit was one of thousands focusing on DuPont's marketing and handling of Benlate, which the Wilmington, Delaware-based company pulled from the market in 2001. DuPont said in February that it had paid more than \$1.9 billion in damage awards, settlements and other costs over the fungicide. The award was between \$50 million and \$60 million, DuPont spokesman Clif Webb said in a statement. The jury calculated \$113.4 million in total damages. Jurors found 14 of the farms 45% negligent, 12 of

them 50% negligent, and one 70% negligent. The growers' lawyers said that left DuPont liable for about 53% of the damages, or \$60 million. The growers claimed that DuPont scientists knew about problems with Benlate since the 1980s. The lawsuit accused DuPont officials of covering up the problems in order to pump up sales and failing to do enough safety testing.

GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION, UNITED STATES

London, May 16 — A press report, dated May 15, states: Rocket-maker Aerojet-General Corp has agreed to settle for \$25 million with a group of plaintiffs who alleged they were harmed by groundwater contaminated by rocket fuel near Aerojet's headquarters outside Rancho Cordova, the company said today. A jury last week found against Aerojet in the case and set damages at more than \$14 million. The settlement puts an end to the case before a second phase of the trial, which would have weighed whether to impose punitive damages on the aerospace and defence subsidiary of GenCorp Inc. The parties in the case are to submit the settlement agreement for review by Sacramento Superior Court Judge Patricia Esgro by Jun 30. GenCorp disclosed the settlement agreement today in a regulatory filing that said only that the deal was reached on Friday (May 12) after more than two months of trial in Sacramento Superior Court. The group of environmental tort cases dates back to as early as 1997. GenCorp said the settlement calls for dismissal of all claims and full releases by the plaintiffs, who had alleged economic damages and illness, and in some cases death, caused "by their ingestion of groundwater contaminated by Aerojet and others." Hundreds of plaintiffs were involved in four lawsuits against Aerojet over perchlorate, a component of rocket fuel, and other contaminants that leached into drinking water wells. Plaintiffs dropped out over time, leaving about 60 plaintiffs in three consolidated lawsuits by summer 2004. By the time trial began, it was down to two cases and 10 plaintiffs, according to courthouse personnel. A jury on Wednesday ruled against Aerojet and awarded damages in varying amounts, in some cases finding that not all the fault could be attributed to Aerojet. The total damages, a court worker said, were more than \$14 million, with the possibility still open for punitive damages. The settlement would close the door on the possibility of a big punitive award. GenCorp said in a securities filing that the award would be paid in three stages, with \$14 million payable next month, \$7.5 million in January 2007 and \$3.5 million in 2008. It was unclear from the filing whether the confidential settlement included attorney fees, court costs or other expenses.

GenCorp spokeswoman Linda Cutler noted that the water in question was monitored by the water companies that supplied it and by regulators and met safety standards. "In the end the case was down to 10 plaintiffs and the verdict was on behalf of only six. We don't agree with the verdict; we don't believe it was supported by the evidence," but the company decided in the end that it was better to settle and move on.

MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 11 — A press report, dated May 10, states: A boy who suffered brain damage after he was asphyxiated during birth has been awarded substantial damages, London's High Court has heard. Jack Massara was starved of oxygen for 19 minutes because staff did not cut his mother to widen her birth canal. If the procedure had been performed, Jack, eight, would have been spared brain damage, his family's lawyer said. Jack, who was born at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, cannot stand and has a severe speech impairment. Jack, born in June 1997, will need full-time care for the rest of his life and is unlikely ever to work or have a family of his own, the court was told. His parents, Merlin and Karita, from west London, were suing Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust for compensation. Jack was awarded a lump sum of £850,000 plus inflation-linked annual payments of £100,000 until he is 19 and £200,000 a year thereafter.

London, May 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A woman whose daughter was born severely disabled because of a hospital blunder has received £5m compensation after a seven-year legal battle. Zoe Blair, 32, was starved of oxygen in the womb just before she was born at South Tyneside Hospital. Zoe's mother Rosemary, formerly of South Shields, but now of Bexhill, East Sussex, sued the now defunct Gateshead and South Tyneside Healthcare Trust. Bosses admitted liability and the deal was approved by the London High Court. Ms Blair said the settlement was a huge relief and that the money will be used to provide 24-hour care for Zoe. The court was told that Ms Blair had been given a delivery date for the birth of February 20, 1974 but was admitted two weeks earlier when a scan showed abnormalities in her baby's heart rate. Zoe was born eight days prematurely and the oxygen starvation to her brain immediately before delivery led to severe brain damage and cerebral palsy.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A teenage girl who was paralysed in a road accident has been awarded £2.2m. Ashleigh Cowen, 16, from Chester-le-Street, was struck by a British Telecom van as she got off a school bus in the town in 2002. She also suffered severe

brain damage and can now only communicate by blinking her eyes. Following the settlement at Newcastle High Court today her family said they would use the money to fund 24-hour care for Ashleigh. A British Telecom spokesperson said: "Both parties had reached agreement on the matter of liability some time ago. BT is pleased for Ashleigh and for her family that today's court judgement has made an award in accordance with what has been agreed, and brings all legal proceedings to a conclusion." Ashleigh needed 18 months of medical treatment before she was able to return to her specially-adapted home.

WRONGFUL DISMISSAL, UNITED STATES

London, May 18 — A press report, dated May 17, states: A Broward Circuit Court jury has levelled a \$6 million verdict against United Parcel Service, finding that the company wrongfully fired a delivery truck driver from its Deerfield Beach office. After a four-day trial, jurors concluded on Friday (May 12) that UPS unlawfully retaliated against John Thigpen, a 20-year employee, for pursuing workers' compensation benefits. Thigpen received \$669,661 in economic damages and \$5.3 million in non-economic damages for the mental anguish he has suffered. "UPS wanted to have its cake and eat it too — they demanded that Mr. Thigpen work incredibly hard delivering packages every day, but they did not want to be responsible for taking care of him when he was injured on the job," said one of his attorneys, Russell S. Adler. UPS spokeswoman Heather Robinson said the company may appeal. Thigpen's legal team, Adler and Shawn Birken, argued that the Pompano Beach man was fired after a UPS official sent a May, 2001, e-mail directing supervisors to target "injury repeaters." Thigpen had been injured seven times while with UPS, Adler said. He was fired in November, 2001. Robinson said Thigpen's injury claims had nothing to do with his firing and he was not considered an injury repeater. UPS attorneys argued in court documents that in the four years leading up to the e-mail, Thigpen had not received workers' compensation benefits.



Railway Accidents

SUSA AREA, ITALY

London, May 12 — A press report, dated May 11, states: A freight train derailed in northern Italy today, killing one person, police said. No one was injured, police said, and fire and rescue personnel were at the scene of the accident in Chiomonte in the Susa Valley, which hosted some venues for the Turin Winter Olympics earlier

this year. The accident, which occurred about 1830, was caused by mechanical failure, police said. The train was headed toward Turin when it derailed, officials with the Susa Fire Department said. The ANSA news agency said the victim was the train's driver, who died when he jumped from the train as it was about to slam into an empty house.

TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES

London, May 18 — A press report, dated May 17, states: A CSX freight train traveling from Attleboro to Middleboro partially derailed between Route 44 and Harrison Avenue in Taunton, MA, early yesterday, forcing the evacuation of surrounding homes. One of the six derailed cars was a tanker containing a corrosive liquid, but it did not spill. No one was injured in the accident, which was reported at about 0545 hrs, fire Capt Michael Sylvia said. Several homes along the tracks were evacuated as a precaution and the Barnum pre-school on Barnum Street was closed for the day because of its proximity to the accident scene. The cause of the accident was under investigation, Sylvia said. Initial reports were that heavy rain had damaged the tracks, but Sylvia said yesterday that had not been confirmed. The Federal Railroad Administration is investigating the accident, he said. Six of the freight train's 59 cars derailed, CSX spokesman Bob Sullivan said. The only spill was plastic pellets from a car carrying the packing material, he said. The state Department of Environmental Protection responded to the accident. The train was travelling at about 10 mph at the time of the accident, DEP spokeswoman Theresa Barao said.

THUN, SWITZERLAND

London, May 18 — A press report, dated May 17, states: Three people were killed in the Swiss town of Thun when a construction train that failed to brake was intentionally crashed into a parked train to end an uncontrolled, 30-km downhill journey. The victims were two Swiss employees of the train owner BLS Loetschbergbahn AG and a construction worker from Germany, said Rolf Grossenbacher, a spokesman at BLS. The train, consisting of a locomotive and five wagons, crashed into two parked wagons and then continued on for about 200 metres before stopping. The train was traveling at a "great" speed though it was too soon to know exactly how fast, Grossenbacher said. The cantonal police of Bern and an investigating magistrate were combing through the wreckage to try to find out why the brakes failed, he said. Rail traffic between the towns of Thun and Spiez was suspended, the Swiss Federal Railways SBB AG Website said. International trains were being diverted through Lausanne in central Switzerland.

Miscellaneous

**AUSTRALIAN WHEAT SHIPMENTS UNDER INVESTIGATION BY INDIA**

Sydney, May 12 — Indian authorities have expressed concern over the quality of wheat being exported to India. Part of a 500,000 tonne shipment of wheat to India by AWB has been held up, so while two vessels are currently unloading wheat in India, three others are stalled at ports around Australia. An AWB spokesman said that the company was working through the issues with Indian officials. "There's been some discrepancy between how AQIS has worded the contract and how the Indian Government, or our Indian customers, have worded it," Mr Sealey said. Last week Indian authorities refused to allow AWB's first shipment into the country, after testing showed the wheat contained unacceptable levels of pesticide. The shipment was cleared after the company sent its own delegation to India and the wheat was retested. AWB is understood to be looking for alternative markets for the loaded grain, in case India does reject the shipments.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, May 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Sixteen more people in the poultry industry in Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan, may have been infected with the H5N2 strain of avian influenza, the Ibaraki prefectural government said yesterday, citing the latest tests by the National Institute of Infectious Diseases. Antibody tests on the 16 suggest that none developed any symptoms, and there is no danger of infecting other people, the local government said.

Jakarta, May 14 — An Indonesian toddler who had tested positive for bird flu according to local tests died today, a senior health ministry official said. The 18-month boy's blood sample has been sent to a World Health Organisation-affiliated laboratory in Hong Kong for confirmation. Local tests are not considered definitive. I.Nyoman Kandun, director general of disease control at the health ministry, said the boy from North Sumatera was one of a family of five who had tested positive for bird flu according to local tests. Three of them have died in the past week. Another health ministry official said the family had eaten chicken but had not had any direct contact with sick fowl, the usual mode of transmission of the disease to humans. The WHO has confirmed 25 fatalities from avian influenza in the world's fourth most populous nation, the second highest number of human deaths after Vietnam. — Reuters.

Hong Kong, May 15 — Hong Kong is checking media reports of the deaths of 30,000 chickens on a farm in the northeastern Chinese city of Dalian, a government spokesman said today. The farm, operated by the Dalian Hanwei Chicken Farm Co., kept two million hens and was a major supplier of eggs to Beijing and southern China, including Hong Kong and Macau, the South China Morning Post reported today. "We are trying to clarify with Chinese authorities about the reports. All food that's exported to Hong Kong from China must be approved by authorities in the mainland," the spokesman said. In an interview with Hong Kong's TVB station yesterday night, a manager of the company's subsidiary in Beijing said she was told 20,000 to 30,000 chickens died on the farm around May 4. The manager, Zhang Yan, said the chickens died after being injected with vaccines to protect them against bird flu. That eggs may be contaminated is especially worrying for Hong Kong. Unlike imports of live chickens or pork from China, which need to originate from approved farms, there is no such requirement for eggs, though they are randomly tested in China. — Reuters.

London, May 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Some one million domestic fowl are to be culled in Romania after the potentially deadly H5N1 bird flu virus was found in three locations in the centre of the country, Romanian Agriculture Minister Gheorghe Flutur said. "The discovery of bird flu in a farm is a first in Romania, since the first case of the disease was detected on October 7, 2005. We will quickly cull the farm's approximately 350,000 chicken, as well as other poultry in contaminated centres," he said. According to an investigation by the anti-epizootic committee, a farm in Codlea already delivered poultry "illegally" to three counties in central and eastern Romania, reported the AFP. Yesterday evening, veterinary health authorities said they had seized almost three tons of chicken that could be infected by the bird flu virus in a supermarket in the eastern town of Galati. The poultry meat was apparently delivered to the supermarket by the Codlea farm, according to the head of the Galati veterinary health bureau, Viorel Gheorghita, quoted by the news agency Mediafax. Authorities had announced in late April that the H5N1 virus had been eradicated in their country, but found new cases in the central town of Hurezu on Friday (May 12).

London, May 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Five more people have died from bird flu in Indonesia, the World Health Organization has confirmed. The deaths of the five, who were all from the same family, brings Indonesia's bird flu death toll to 30. At least four of the people who died lived in northern Sumatra. The WHO has sent a team to the area to investigate. An Indonesian health

ministry official told Reuters news agency there was no evidence of human-to-human transmission in the latest cases of the H5N1 virus.

Cairo, May 18 — A 75-year-old woman died of bird flu in Egypt today, the sixth death caused by the disease, a World Health Organisation (WHO) official said. John Jabbour said the woman was from Minya in southern Egypt. She had been in contact with infected poultry, he said, quoting information provided by the Egyptian authorities. Jabbour said the case had been reported too late for the antiviral Tamiflu treatment to have any effect. Infected people need to receive Tamiflu within two days of the appearance of bird flu symptoms, he said. "This is what is going on in Egypt. Contact with infected poultry and late reporting of symptoms," Jabbour said. The WHO has confirmed that 13 people have been infected with bird flu in Egypt. Eight of those infected have fully recovered. The United Nations' chief bird flu expert this week praised Egypt's response to bird flu. Surveillance of bird flu had helped to keep the human case mortality rate very low, he said. Egypt's first human bird flu infection was reported in mid-March. — Reuters.

Fires & Explosions

**FOREST, MEXICO**

London, May 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Forest fire in Mexico has charred 5,800 hectares in the state of Yucatan, damaging the ancient cities of Chichen Itza and Oxtankah, the country's National History and Anthropology Institute (INAH) said yesterday. The INAH chief, Federica Sodi Miranda, said that the agency had already begun work to establish the fire's impact on the ancient buildings. She said that in Chichen Itza, which is 180 km west of tourist resort Cancun, fires had damaged a fourth century building which had not been completely excavated, where INAH anthropologists and archeologists had been working. Fires also hit Oxtankah, the fourth century Mayan market city, around 9 km from Chichen Itza, damaging a building in the northern area. The INAH will have to close some historical areas due to the forest fire, she added. Fires began in the states of Yucatan and Quintana Roo in February. Authorities have registered 22 major fires in the Yucatan Peninsula.

HANGAR, BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, BELGIUM

London, May 12 — The three Airbus 320 that were destroyed in a fire at a Brussels hangar last weekend had a combined insured value of almost

£120 million. The Armavia aircraft (EK-32010) was insured for \$35 million on a policy led by Lloyd's syndicate Pritchard 318 and brokered by United Insurance Brokers. The Armenian Airlines aircraft (EK-32001) had a hull value of \$28 million with the policy held by AIG and brokered by Aon. The Hellas aircraft (SX-BVB leased to Volare Airlines) was insured for \$54.6 million by Ace. Willis was the broker. A Belgian military aircraft was also destroyed in the blaze.

PREMISES, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

London, May 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The damage bill from a fire at a western Sydney waste management centre is expected to reach \$10 million. The blaze broke out at the waste management centre on Wallgrove Road at Eastern Creek about 2030, May 12. An employee noticed the fire and alerted emergency services. Investigators are yet to determine the cause of the fire; however, it is not being treated as suspicious. The fire continues to burn and is not expected to be fully extinguished until tomorrow. No employees were hurt during the incident.

REFINERY, WYNNEWOOD, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES

London, May 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire at one of the processing units in Gary-Williams Energy's oil refinery in Wynnewood, Okla., was contained Saturday (May 13) afternoon and the plant was operating at reduced rates, according to a spokeswoman for the company. The fire, which began Friday at about 1400, CDT, was still burning Saturday, but "as a safety measure to allow the hydrocarbons to burn off," said spokeswoman Sally Allen. Allen said she was hopeful that the fire would be extinguished by the end of the day. The alkylation unit was completely down and other units were operating at reduced rates, she said. Allen wasn't able to quantify the cuts or estimate how long operations at the 53,000-barrel-a-day refinery would be affected. She said that the fire likely began in the alkylation unit. The unit had been undergoing maintenance. The refinery produces gasoline, diesel, asphalt and military-grade jet fuel.

WAREHOUSE, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

London, May 14 — A press report, dated today, states: An extensive fire at a warehouse in Moscow's north-eastern borough has been extinguished, Itar-Tass learnt at the Moscow fire protection service. "Firefighters now started screening burnt-down constructions which are sprinkled with water so as to prevent new fire flare-ups," a source noted. Specialists from fire-test laboratory who will have to establish reasons for the fire, will get down to their work at the place of the incident some time later. "They will examine all versions, including negligence with fire, a

power short-circuit and an arson," the source emphasized. The fire at the warehouse with medicines, belonging to the Protex Pharmaceutical Company, erupted early in the morning. The total area, gutted by fire, amounted to 13,000 square meters. One man died in the fire.

London, May 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A short circuit caused fire at a pharmaceutical warehouse in the northeast of Moscow yesterday, the fire fighting service of the Russian capital told Itar-Tass today. "The supposed cause of the fire is heating due to electricity network's emergency work regime," the fire service spokesman said referring to preliminary results of the expert examination. Thus the arson version is not considered. Nevertheless the fire fighting service pointed out that a police probe into the fact of the fire is continuing. The fire at the warehouse of the Protek pharmaceutical company started at 0630 hrs, yesterday. It destroyed 13,000 square metres of the warehouse with the total space of 22,000 square meters and brought down overhead covers and the roofing.

WASTE MANAGEMENT CENTRE, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

London, May 15 — A press report, dated May 14, states: A fire at a western Sydney waste management centre continues to burn into a second day, with police estimating that the total damage will reach \$10 million. The fire broke out at the Eastern Creek waste management centre about 2030 hrs, Friday (May 12). Fire crews are still working to extinguish the flames, which are expected to burn through until tomorrow. Police said the damage bill was expected to reach Aus\$10 million (£5.3 million). No employees were hurt, and the fire is not being treated as suspicious.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, May 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A brush fire that burned more than 800 acres in Volusia County jumped Interstate 95 yesterday and forced authorities evacuate 1,090 homes, according to Local 6 News. The suspicious fire broke out in three places and raced eastward across Interstate 95 and toward Edgewater and New Smyrna Beach. "(The fire) started as just a few acres and exploded into an 800-acre fire," Local 6 reporter Erik von Ancken said. Firefighters worked in pairs last night because of the fast-moving fire. Residents in the Tiffany Estates and the Waterford Estates areas were told to leave their homes as wind pushed the flames toward the subdivisions. The mandatory evacuation included homes on Mission and Glencoe roads and both sides of Taylor Road. Officials said 200 more homes were evacuated in the Coral Trace subdivision last night. When the wind shifted last night, it sent the threat south-east and some evacuees near New Smyrna Beach were allowed

to return home, Local 6 News partner Florida Today said. Fire officials shifted resources from the Pioneer Trail fire in New Smyrna Beach to the Saddle Creek Road area in Edgewater, the report said. Firefighters from the Division of Forestry, Volusia County Fire Services and the cities of Edgewater, New Smyrna Beach and Port Orange were battling the blaze.

London, May 17 — A press report, dated May 16, states: Firefighters were able to build containment lines around a brush fire overnight, allowing residents to return today to 1,400 homes that were evacuated a day earlier. Crews were concentrating on problem areas around Interstate 95, which remained closed this morning, said Timber Weller, a spokesman for the Florida Division of Forestry. "They're continuing to widen the lines and spray out the hotspots, especially focusing around 95, so hopefully we can get that stretch opened up," he said. Residents were allowed to return home after midnight, Weller said. The fire started in a rural area along I-95 in Volusia County, south of Daytona Beach, then breached the highway and threatened houses as it burned about 800 acres. It was about five miles south of another brush fire that had forced about 1,000 residents in New Smyrna Beach to evacuate their homes last week. Parts of I-95 have been closed intermittently for weeks because thick smoke from several fires in east-central Florida mixed with morning fog. Wildfires have burned more than 101,600 acres in Florida since Jan 1, according to the state Division of Forestry. That total already far exceeds the acreage burned in Florida in each of the past four years. A state of emergency that Governor Jeb Bush declared on May 8 remained in effect, and Bush said today that the federal government had approved a request for disaster aid. A dry spring has made the state particularly vulnerable for wildfire, Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson said. "Let's not forget we have thousands of tons of debris on the ground from eight different hurricanes. That's causing us major problems," he said.



9A-DAN

Rijeka, May 18 — Cessna 772, registration number 9A-DAN, with three persons on board, crashed near Pitomaca, northern Croatia, around 1900, local time, May 16. The pilot and a passenger are seriously injured. Allegedly the pilot lost control in the air due to engine failure. — Lloyd's Agents.

AIRCRAFT DIVERTED TO NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, UNITED STATES

London, May 15 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft carrying Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., from western Massachusetts to his home on the coast was struck by lightning and was diverted to New Haven, Conn., his spokeswoman said. The eight-seat Cessna Citation 550 lost all electrical power, including communications, and the pilot had to fly the aircraft manually, according to spokeswoman Melissa Wagoner. No one was hurt. The senator had just delivered the commencement address at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams and was on his way to his Cape Cod home when the aircraft was struck at 1600, Saturday (May 13), Wagoner said. The jet landed safely at New Haven at 1611 hrs, said Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Arlene Murray. A report was filed with the agency, which will look into the incident.

CRASH, BARANGAY IBO, LAPU-LAPU CITY, PHILIPPINES

London, May 14 — A press report, dated May 13, states: A Cessna 150, which was on a training flight with a Korean student, crash-landed beside the road in Barangay Ibo, Lapu-Lapu City, at 1550 today. The aircraft failed to reach Runway 22 of the Mactan-Cebu International Airport. The pilot was rushed to the hospital with a broken nose, while his Korean student was unscathed, said Area I Manager Engineer Rodolfo Perez of the Air Transportation Office. A passing Honda car was damaged when the aircraft hit it. General Manager Adelberto F. Yap of Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority (MCIAA) said the pilot and his student seemed to have underestimated the distance in reaching runway in their landing maneuver. Yap said the aircraft belongs to Avia Tours Flight Training School owned by one Jessup Bahinting, an occupant of a hangar at the general aviation area of Mactan airport. Perez refused to make official statements about the accident because under their policy, the ATO in Manila will send investigators from the Flight Safety Division to determine its cause. He said the maintenance crew of the flying school dismantled the aircraft to clear the area of wreckage that could block the road. Investigators who are expected to arrive today will determine whether the accident was caused by pilot error or mechanical error.

CRASH, FRIEDENS AREA, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

London, May 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The investigation continues today into what caused a deadly plane crash in Somerset County. It happened yesterday around 1500 hrs, as the aircraft tried to take off from the Somerset County Airport in Friedens. Witnesses say it looked

like the engine was sputtering when the aircraft took off. The pilot apparently sensed something was wrong and tired to go back to the airport, but the aircraft went into a spin and crashed. The two men's identities are being withheld until their families are notified. Miller said it is believed that they flew into Pittsburgh earlier today, then flew to Somerset.

CRASH, GERALDTON AREA, AUSTRALIA

London, May 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people escaped serious injury when their light aircraft crashed near Geraldton yesterday. The pilot made an emergency call at 0930 hrs before crashlanding in a paddock and creek bed 12 km south-east of Geraldton. A Fire and Emergency Services spokeswoman said the pilot and the only passenger onboard suffered minor injuries and were airlifted by helicopter to Geraldton Hospital. The Australian Safety Transport Bureau is investigating the crash, thought to be due to engine failure.

CRASH, LA RONGE, SASKATOON AREA, CANADA

London, May 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A Convair 580A air tanker that crashed during training yesterday, killing one pilot and injuring two others, was just delivered to the Saskatchewan government in the last month, says the province's environment minister. The Convair 580A was one of four aircraft the Saskatchewan government had recently bought from Conair Aviation of Abbotsford, B.C., said John Nilson. "They are older aircraft that have been totally refurbished with new instrumentation and new engines on them, so they are like brand new aircraft," Mr. Nilson said. He said the aircraft was like a small passenger plane that could fit about 100 people and was equipped to drop fire retardant on forest fires. The aircraft went down about 1230 yesterday about 10 km from the provincial firefighting centre in La Ronge, about 380 km north-east of Saskatoon. The crash caused some fuel to spill, but Saskatchewan Environment employees were on site cleaning it up, Mr. Nilson said. He did not give details on how much fuel had spilled. Three pilots were on board conducting training. One was from Conair's main office in Abbotsford, B.C., and had come to help train the Saskatchewan pilots, Mr. Nilson said. He said the pilots also had training on the aircraft in British Columbia. Names of the pilots were not released.

CRASH, LAKE HARRIS, LEESBURG, UNITED STATES

London, May 13 — A press report, dated May 12, states: The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating a aircraft crash in Leesburg last night. Lake Sheriff officials say the pilot and a passenger escaped with only minor injuries

when their Cessna 152 tried to land at Leesburg Regional Airport in Lake County. The aircraft crashed into Lake Harris during a fierce thunderstorm. The pilot, Sheldon Kinser, and Matthew Gerig were able to swim to shore and were picked up by a boater and treated for minor injuries at the scene. Authorities say the aircraft is submerged under water.

CRASH, SEA OF OTKOTSK

London, May 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: One of the passengers on board a Russian helicopter that had fallen into water in the Sea of Okhotsk earlier today, has died. The Russian helicopter Mi-14 fell into the sea during Russo-Japanese exercises to drill operations to render assistance to a ship in distress. There were 13 people on board the helicopter, which overturned but remained afloat. Twelve of them have been rescued. Right after the incident the exercises were stopped and all vessels were used to rescue the people. The rescued were brought to the Japanese vessel *Erimo* and the Russian vessel *Agat*. The rescued people are being evacuated to the port of Korsakov. The patrol ship *Bug* is towing the helicopter to the same port.

DAMAGE TO BROOKLEY AIRPORT, ALABAMA, UNITED STATES

London, May 11 — A press report, dated today, states: An airport lighting system that helps pilots navigate landings had nearly \$1 million in damage caused by someone who stole the blue lenses covering the lights. Investigators suspect that more than one person broke through a fence onto an airfield at Brookley Field Industrial Complex on April 23, or early the following morning, FBI spokesman Craig Dahle said. The "downtown" airport has not had to turn planes away because of the damage, said Bay Haas, executive director of the Mobile Airport Authority, which runs that complex and city's main airport in west Mobile. While the downtown airport is supposed to be secure, the intruders got into an area "that would have been least likely to be observed," Dahle told the Press-Register in a story today. Dahle said the airport does not have security cameras where the break-in occurred. The stolen lenses have a concave shape like a saucer, are approximately 8.5 inches in diameter and coloured royal blue, Dahle said. Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen said runway lights and approach lights were damaged in the incident. Bergen called the initial damage estimate of slightly less than \$1 million "significant." "The systems are very expensive," she said. The "downtown" airport does not service commercial passenger planes. Instead general aviation, military and mail-service flights land there, according to airport officials.

EK-32009

London, May 15 — A press report, dated May 14, states: Preparations to recover the flight data recorders from the Armavia Airbus A320-211 (EK-32009) which crashed in the Black Sea started today near the Russian city of Sochi. According to a source, the Russian Black Sea Fleet's vessel *Epron*, equipped with a Taiger robot, was expected to arrive at Sochi later today. At the same time, specialists in the city of Gelenzhik are preparing another French robot for its dispatch to Sochi. The two robots will be able to lift the flight recorders, which were located this week, at a depth of 496 metres. The progress of the operation now depends on the weather. A storm started in the Black Sea yesterday, forcing a vessel with the Kalmar deep-water inspection system on board to leave the area of the crash.

London, May 17 — A press report, dated May 16, states: Russia today launched an operation to recover the flight recorders from an Armenian passenger aircraft that crashed in the Black Sea, sending a robotic device with a hydraulic arm to the sea floor in an attempt to bring up the devices. Authorities hope the recorders will help determine the cause of the May 3 crash of the Armavia Airbus A320-211 (EK-32009), which plunged into the sea in heavy rain and poor visibility as it approached the airport on a flight from the Armenian capital, Yerevan, to the Russian resort city of Sochi, killing all 113 people on board. An official involved in the operation said the recovery device was lowered from a vessel and reached the sea floor, where the recorders were believed to be lying about 15 feet apart at a depth of just under 1,640 feet, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported. The RT-1000 apparatus has been used by geologists to lift natural objects weighing up to 88 pounds from the sea floor, but has not been used at such depths, ITAR-Tass quoted Transport Ministry official Alexander Davydenko as saying. He said authorities believe the device can lift parts of the aircraft weighing up to 26 pounds and the flight recorders, which weigh 15 pounds, the report said. The operation to pinpoint the boxes and lift them to the surface could take three days, officials said. Russian prosecutors dismissed the possibility of terrorism, and officials pointed to the rough weather or pilot error as the likely cause. However, officials with Armavia have suggested that air traffic controllers should at least share the blame.

EMERGENCY LANDING, PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, May 15 — A press report, dated May 14, states: An aircraft's engine caught fire over Pittsburgh, and made an emergency landing this morning at Pittsburgh International Airport. The private chartered jet was on its way from Canada to Atlanta, when a fire was discovered. The pilot managed to douse the flames while

the jet was still in the air. Firefighters were also ready and waiting when the jet touched down safely. No one was hurt in the incident, authorities said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, PORTLAND, OREGON, UNITED STATES

London, May 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A United Airlines jet headed for Denver from Portland turned around after taking off today after an emergency escape slide apparently deployed while the plane was in the air. United Airlines flight 364 had taken off about 0814 hrs, from Portland International Airport when a warning indicator connected to an emergency escape slide prompted the crew to turn the plane around and return to Portland. There were a total of 189 passengers and crew on board. The plane landed without further incident, and there are no reported injuries. Airport emergency vehicles briefly surrounded the plane upon landing, but the jet soon made its way to the terminal. United Airlines employees said the escape slide deployed when the plane landed, but a witness who saw the Boeing 757 land at the airport told KATU News he saw the slide flapping in the wind as plane came in to land. The slide was located over the wing of the twin-engine jet aircraft. Officials say another plane is flying in from San Francisco and that passengers can expect to depart for Denver just after 1400 hrs.

INCIDENT ON FLIGHT FROM TOKYO TO SAPPORO, JAPAN

London, May 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Hokkaido International Airlines, the Sapporo-based carrier known as Air Do, said yesterday that birds hit one of its Boeing 767 aircraft in midair Monday (May 15) night, leaving a hole in one of the plane's main wings. According to the airline, the two-engine jet, which had left Tokyo's Haneda airport, was about to land at Sapporo's New Chitose Airport around 2045 hrs, when birds collided with its right wing, creating a hole about 30 centimetres wide. The carrier said the collision apparently occurred when the plane was descending and was at an altitude of around 600 metres.

INCIDENT, PUDONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CHINA

London, May 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The back tyres of a China Eastern Airlines' airbus suddenly burst as the aircraft was landing at the Pudong International Airport on Saturday (May 13) afternoon. Nobody was injured in the accident. According to the airline, the A340-600 airbus returned from Seoul, South Korea to the Pudong airport at about 1423 hrs. During the landing, 12 tyres attached to the undercarriage blew up. The crew immediately adopted emergency measures to safely stop the aircraft on the runway. All

232 passengers were taken away by shuttle bus and the aircraft was pulled off the runway for repair later. The airline said the accident was still under investigation.

MISSING AIRCRAFT, TALLAPOOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA, UNITED STATES

London, May 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Search teams in Alabama were still looking today for a twin-engine plane that reportedly crashed with two northeast Georgia people aboard. A spokeswoman for the Alabama Department of Public Safety, Dorris Teague, said state troopers were searching a rural area of Tallapoosa County in the east Alabama by helicopter this morning, but had not found the plane. Pat Mitcham, spokeswoman for the Civil Air Patrol's ground command, said the missing flight originated in Habersham County, Georgia. Jim Tatum, manager of the airport in Cornelia, said two people were on board the Aerostar plane that left the airport at 0920 hrs, yesterday. He said their names haven't been released pending notification of the next of kin, but he said they were from Clayton. Tatus said they were planning to go to Mobile, Alabama, stopping in Pensacola, Florida the way. The Federal Aviation Administration said the plane reportedly crashed yesterday afternoon. The FAA, state troopers, sheriff's officers and the Civil Air Patrol organized the search, setting up a post along Alabama 50 near Camp Hill. Tallapoosa County Sheriff Jimmy Abbett said there were no reports of eyewitnesses.

N1715Q

London, May 13 — A press report, dated May 12, states: Two people are dead after a small aircraft crash in Georgia. Authorities say the aircraft clipped trees and crashed into a two-storey brick house in Cumming, Georgia. Two bodies have been found in the wreckage. Their identities have not been released at this time. Officials report no one was in the home at the time of the crash and there's no apparent, serious damage to the home itself. The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

London, May 16 — Cessna 150L N1715Q crashed into a house in Cumming, Georgia, at 1556, May 12. The two persons on board were killed.

N68999

London, May 12 — Piper PA-60-602P (Aerostar), N68999, privately operated, on a flight from Cornelia, Georgia, to Pensacola, Florida, crashed under unknown circumstances, wreckage was located in a wooded area near Camp Hill, Georgia, May 10. The two persons on board were fatally injured, the aircraft was the subject of an alert notice.

N7604G

London, May 18 — A press report, dated May 17, states: Weather,

mechanical failure and lack of fuel have been ruled out as causes of a fatal aircraft crash last month, according to a preliminary report by the National Transportation Safety Board. David K. Weiss, 72, was killed in the Apr 25 crash of the Cessna 172L (N7604G) he was piloting. The aircraft went down in an area of southern Pennsylvania between two mountain ranges shortly after taking off from Frederick. Weiss died of injuries suffered in the crash, according to a Pennsylvania medical examiner's report. Weiss took off from Gaithersburg at about 1210 hrs to practice manoeuvres, landing in Frederick at 1240 hrs and taking off again less than 30 minutes later, flying north-west towards the Pennsylvania border, the report said. The last radar contact with the plane occurred just before 1400 hrs, showing Weiss heading south-west at 2,300 feet, the report said. Logbooks for the Congressional Flying Club, which owns the aircraft, show a previous pilot filled the aircraft with 22.3 gallons of fuel before Weiss's flight and NTSB investigators reported a strong odour of fuel at the crash site, indicating the crash was not caused by a lack of fuel, the report said. Investigators also accounted for all of the aircraft's major components. Except for breaks in cables, possibly caused by a steeper descent than they were designed to handle, all flight controls appeared to have been in working order at the time of the crash, according to the report. Weather also does not appear to have played a role. An airport about 12 miles from the crash site reported clear skies and light wind that day. The wind speed on that day was not strong enough to create a condition known as "mountain wave" activity, in which air flowing over mountainous terrain can cause updrafts and downdrafts that can affect aircraft, said Capt David Lawlor, a Civil Air Patrol group commander. The aircraft crashed into trees about 950 feet up the side of a 2,000-foot mountain. The wreckage path showed the aircraft first struck a tree about 80 feet above the ground and continued at a 10-degree downward angle, the report said. Weiss was flying on a routine "proficiency flight," needed to maintain his pilot's certification.

N78BJ

London, May 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A pilot was killed when his plane crashed into a dirt road in Coweta County. Coweta County Coroner W.H. Pierce says the man was in a small two-seater, double-winged plane that went down around 1840 hrs, yesterday. The man's name was not immediately released. Witnesses told authorities the pilot was doing aerial stunts when the plane went down. The pilot died at the scene.

London, May 16 — Taylor Skybolt N78BJ crashed near Sharpsburg, Georgia, at 2241, May 14. The aircraft

was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N916RL

London, May 16 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A small Cessna 340 twin engine aircraft was forced to make an emergency landing at the Salt Lake International airport. Officials say the pilot was unable to force the landing gear to locked into position. The aircraft circled the airport to burn off fuel before making its approach. The aircraft touched down with its landing gear partially extended. The gear held up for a short time before collapsing and dropping the aircraft on its belly. The aircraft ground to a safe stop on the tarmac as airport emergency crew rushed to the scene. The aircraft was flying from Provo to Salt Lake City and there were two people on board, one an FAA official. Neither was hurt but the aircraft sustained some damage.

London, May 17 — Cessna 340 N916RL experienced landing-gear collapse on landing at Salt Lake City, Utah, at 1633, May 15, following a local flight. The aircraft sustained minor damage. The two persons on board were not injured.



POOL LADDERS, UNITED STATES

London, May 17 — Following press release, dated today, was issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Aqua-Leisure Industries, of Avon, Mass., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 320,000 Simple Set Pool Ladders. The plastic step support clips can be assembled upside down, causing the ladder steps to break under a user's weight. Aqua-Leisure and CPSC are aware of nine incidents. There have been six reported injuries, including a concussion, a broken arm, fractured ribs and a wrist sprain. The ladders were included with Aqua-Leisure Simple-Set inflatable pools that range from 12- to 18-feet in diameter. The white metal arched ladders have two, three or four plastic blue steps on each side of the arch with two blue cross bars just above the top step. White plastic and metal clips are used to connect the steps to the ladder. Each step is molded with the words "Aqua-Leisure." Manufactured in China, the products were sold at discount department and toy stores nationwide from January 2002 through to August 2005 for between \$90 and \$200, depending on the size of the pool.

SWING SETS, UNITED STATES

London, May 11 — A press release, dated today, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Adventure Playsets, dba Backyard Ventures Inc., of Amarillo, Texas., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 26,000 Adventure Playsets Wooden Swing Sets. Hazard: defective bolts could cause the swing set frame to detach from the fort structure, posing a fall hazard to the user. Backyard Ventures has received 64 reports of the bolt heads twisting off during installation. No injuries have been reported. The recalled swing set models include: The Durango, Tacoma, Oddsey, Bellvue, Monarch, Grand Teton and Outlook II. The swing sets are made of wood, and feature various types of slides, swings and a fabric canopy over part of the structure. Manufactured in the United States and China the products were sold at Wal-Mart, Menards, and Toys R Us stores nationwide and Wal-Mart.com from February 2006 through to March 2006 for about \$1,000.

TOYOTA MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, May 16 — Toyota Motor Corp., Japan's biggest automaker, said it will take back 217,767 Land Cruiser Prado sport-utility vehicles in Japan and overseas to fix faulty rear axle shafts. The recall, which starts tomorrow, affects vehicles built between April 1996 and January 1999, Toyota said in a filing to Japan's transport ministry today. As many as 107,767 units will be recalled in Japan and 110,000 units will be taken back from Europe, China and Australia, Toyota said. The axle shafts, which are not reinforced, may cause tires to fall off when they are driven on winding roads, Toyota said, without providing financial details of the recall. One accident was linked to the faulty drive shaft, the transport ministry said, adding that the accident did not cause any injuries.

VOLVO MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, May 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Swedish carmaker Volvo said yesterday it has decided to recall some 250,000 vehicles worldwide. The recall concerned 217,000 XC90s of the 2003, 2004, 2005 and some 2006 models, and 34,300 S40s and V50s of the 2004, 2005 and 2006 models that are fuelled by petrol. The XC90 SUV had a problem with the outer steering arm, while a fuel hose on the S40 and V50s could be damaged due to heat from the turbo engine. "We have discovered that these details are not of the quality we would like and will replace them free of charge," spokesman Christer Gustafsson told the online edition of Goteborgs-Posten. No accidents have been reported, according to Gustafsson. Volvo Cars is owned by US auto giant Ford

Port Conditions



PANAMA CANAL

London, May 12 — Fog in the Panama Canal yesterday has had an impact on the improving situation related to transit delays. The projected queue for the weekend is expected to be above 60 vessels, as a result of the local weather conditions. Delays for smaller vessels under 91 feet have increased again to about 2 days. Panamax/restricted vessels still face delays of 2-3 days. The booking slot for tomorrow was awarded to a

southbound Panamax tanker at a premium of USD 30,600.00.

London, May 15 — Panama Canal situation: Presence of fog during the last few nights has impacted negatively and the queue remains at over 60 vessels. Delays for non-booked vessels still two to four days.

London, May 16 — Several days of evening fog, combined with general loss of time, has had a negative impact on traffic in the Panama Canal. The projected queue up to 2400, tomorrow is 75 vessels. 53 vessels were schedule to arrive yesterday alone. The scheduled closure of Gatun East Lock for 4 hours last night for the replacement of miter gate is expected to have had an additional effect. In light of the above, prospects for a speedy return to normal conditions do not look

promising. Delays are again increasing and running as follows: - Panamax: northbound 3-4 days/ southbound 2-3 days - Regular/unrestricted vessels: 2-3 days.

London, May 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Delays in the Panama Canal have increased slightly due to fog and loss of time during transits. Non-booked vessels are expected to face the following delays: Panamax: northbound two-three days, southbound three-four days. Regular/unrestricted vessels: three-four days. The projected 48 hour queue up to 2400 hrs, tomorrow (May 18) is 62 vessels.

SYRIA

Aleppo, May 13 — Waiting time is presently 24 hours at Lattakia and two days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

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

Australia

Abbot Point	24-May-2006	Coal: 9 vessels due by 10/6.
Brisbane	24-May-2006	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 2 vessels due by 31/5; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	24-May-2006	Coal: due to rail maintenance, all 3 berths are suspended for approx. 3 days; DBCT berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; DBCT berth 2: 4 vessels waiting; 12 hour maintenance shutdown planned for ca. 14/6; DBCT berth 3: 8 vessels waiting, not scheduled; 31 vessels due by 2/6; maintenance shutdown planned for 22/5 to 5/6.
Dampier	24-May-2006	Iron ore: Parker Point A berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 9 vessels due by 30/5; Parker Point berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 5 vessels due by 4/6; Parker Point berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and waiting; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 12 vessels due by 2/6.
Esperance	24-May-2006	Grain: 2 vessels due by 5/6, both to load unknown grain cargoes; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Geraldton	24-May-2006	22 May: Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 1 vessel due 27/6. 24 May: Grain: 1 vessel due by 3/6 to load unknown cargo; no delays expected.
Gladstone	24-May-2006	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 3 vessels berthed, 15 waiting, 30 vessels due by 28/6; shiploader upgrade complete; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed, 2 waiting; 16 vessels due by 15/7; shiploading operations shut down for maintenance from 10-15/7.
Hay Point	24-May-2006	Coal: Berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 5 vessels due by 1/6; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 4 vessels due by 13/5; 1 vessel due 1/6; 2 vessels due by 8/6, not yet scheduled for berthing.
Newcastle	24-May-2006	22 May: Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 49 vessels due by 28/6; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 3 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 25 vessels due by 24/6; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 1 vessel off port awaiting coal. 24 May: Three vessels due 28/5, all to load wheat; 2-5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Hedland	24-May-2006	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; 5 vessels due by 31/5; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 6 vessels due by 2/6; 7 other vessels due by 17/6, no e.t.a. received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 6 vessels due by 27/5; "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 6 vessels due by 28/5; Cockatoo Island: 1 vessel due 27/5.
Port Kembla	24-May-2006	22 May: Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 7 vessels due by 30/6; no delays expected. 24 May: Grain: 1 vessel anchored to load wheat; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	24-May-2006	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 12 waiting; 10 vessels due by 21/5; shippers are at present experiencing product shortages which may affect berthing schedules.
Whyalla	24-May-2006	Iron ore: 10 vessels due by 27/5.

Azerbaijan

Apsheron	22-May-2006	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 4 vessels berthed, of which 1 discharging crude oil, 3 waiting to discharge (1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil, 1 gasoil); 2 vessels anchored in roads, 1 to discharge crude oil, 1 gasoil.
Baku	22-May-2006	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; Azerneftiyag terminal: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: no vessels; Sangachal district: no vessels.

Bulgaria

Bourgas	22-May-2006	Ten vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 coils, 1 rebars, 1 containers), 5 discharging (1 billets, 1 containers, 1 salt, 1 zinc concentrate, 1 reinforced concrete); 3 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 chemicals, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 empty; 11 vessels due, of which 5 to load (2 coils, 2 containers, 1 reinforced concrete), 4 to discharge (2 containers, 2 coal), 2 passenger vessels.
Varna	22-May-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 15-21 May: Forty-five vessels in port operating of which 24 loading (2 scrap, 1 cigarettes in packing cases, 2 bulk sulphuric acid, 2 bulk clinker, 8 soda, 1 bulk silica sand, 4 chamotte/kaolin, 2 equipment in packing cases, 1 technical salt, 1 sunflower seeds), 13 discharging (1 bagged rice, 1 containers, 1 bulk copper slag, 1 bulk sugar, 4 bulk coal, 2 raw phosphate, 1 bulk copper concentrate, 1 equipment in packing cases, 1 bulk dolomite), 7 discharging/loading (6 containers, 1 equipment in packing cases); no vessels waiting in roads.

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

Port Conditions

Cyprus

Larnaca	23-May-2006	Four conventional vessels discharging at berth; 2 conventional vessels due 24/5; no delays expected.
Limassol	23-May-2006	Four container vessels discharging/loading at berth; 6 container vessels, 3 conventional vessels, 1 Ro/Ro, 3 passenger vessels due 24/5; no delays expected.

Egypt

Adabiya	23-May-2006	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), all general cargo.
Alexandria	23-May-2006	Twenty-six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 20 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier, 2 tankers, 3 container vessels; 6 vessels at inner anchorage, 5 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	23-May-2006	Fourteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 9 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier, 1 livestock, 3 container vessels; 2 vessels at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	23-May-2006	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 1 container vessel; 2 vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	23-May-2006	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 5 container vessels.
Suez	23-May-2006	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 5 container vessels.
Suez Canal	23-May-2006	Twenty-seven vessels transiting Northbound, 32 Southbound.

Estonia

Tallin	22-May-2006	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 3 vessels berthed, of which 2 loading (1 coal, 1 oil products), 1 discharging malt; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 3 vessels due, with 8 days berthing delay expected.
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India

Kolkata	22-May-2006	2 vessels loading operating at berth (Containers, General Cargo); 1 vessel under dry docked; 4 vessels under repair; 2 vessels waiting to sail ;4 vessels due (Containers-2, Edible Oil, Repairs).
Haldia	22-May-2006	12 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Iron Ore, POL, Thermal Coal), 9 vessels discharging (Crude-2, Coke-2, Moke-2, Rock Phosphate, Fertiliser, General Cargo); 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage (3 to discharge, 1 to load); 5 vessels due (Soya, Coke, Butadine, Steel, Containers).
Paradip	22-May-2006	8 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Iron Ore-2, Chrome Ore-2, Thermal Coal), 3 vessels discharging (Hard Coke-2, S. Coal); 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to load; 23 vessels due.
Visakhapatnam	22-May-2006	12 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Iron Steel Plates, Product Tanker), 8 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, Steel Pipes, Sulphur, Urea, L. Ammoina, Met Coke), 1 vessel loading and discharging CP Coke & Granite; 5 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (4 to discharge, 1 to load); 30 vessels due (Iron Ore-8, Steel Cargo-3, BF Slag, Lime Stone, M Ammonia , Urea, Methanol, Coking Coal-7, Containers-2 , Crude Oil, Gypsum, Steam Coal, Product Tankers-2).
Chennai	22-May-2006	14 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Granite Block, Sugar, Iron Ore-2), 3 vessels discharging (Thermal Coal, Steel Coal & Coking Coal), 3 vessels loading and discharging (Steel Coil/Granite Block, Containers-2); 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 3 to load) ; 2 vessels due (Tug, S. Coal).
Tuticorin	22-May-2006	10 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Granite, sugar, Maize, General Cargo-2), 4 vessels discharging (Coke, Wheat, Thermal Coal, Wheat), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge.
Cochin	22-May-2006	4 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Furnace Oil, 2 vessels discharging (Rock Phosphate, Crude), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge.
New Mangalore	22-May-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Granite Stones, IOL, POL Products-2), 3 vessels discharging (LPG, POL Crude, Coal); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 3 to load); 14 vessels due (Wood Pulp, POL Product-3, Iron Ore (F)-4, POL Crude-3, Container, Crude Palam Oil, Coal).
Mormugao	22-May-2006	3 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading Iron Ore, 1 vessel discharging R.P. Coke, 3 vessels working at midstream and loading Iron Ore; 3 vessels awaiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load), 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 8 vessels due (Coal, Coking Coal, R.P. Coke, Iron Ore); 13 vessels due (Container, P. Coke, S. Slabs, Lime Stone, Coking Coal, Iron Ore-7).
Mumbai	22-May-2006	22 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (Bagged Sugar-5, Steel Cargo, POL), 11 vessels discharging (Steel Coils-2, Steel/tube/Equip, Steel Cargo, Pulses/Logs, Steel Slabs, Salt, Gypsum, Rock Phosphate, POL-2), 3 vessels loading and discharging (Mach/Proj, Steel/General Cargo, Steel Plates, Pulses/Logs/Sugar); 2 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge, 1 vessel not ready to work at anchorage to discharge; 8 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 8 vessels under arrest; 5 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 31 vessels due (Contaners-7, Oil, General Cargo-23).
Kandla	22-May-2006	11 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading (Other Liquid, Proj. Cargo, Cement, MR/GR Block, Bentonite, Rice& GC), 4 vessels discharging (POL, Timber Logs, steel Product, DAP), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers ; 1 vessel not ready to work at anchorage to load; 3 vessels under repair (1 Repair, 1 Maintenance, Dredger).
Ennore	22-May-2006	1 vessel operating at berth discharging to Thermal Coal, 3 vessels due (MV Apj Sri Devi (Thermal Coal) , MV Tamil Anna (Thermal Coal), MV Gem of Ennore (Thermal Coal).

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

Israel

Ashdod	23-May-2006	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 11 vessels discharging at berth (5 general cargo, 6 bulkers), 3 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 tanker); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 3 bulkers); 1 vessel awaiting orders; 14 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	23-May-2006	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel discharging at berth, 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	23-May-2006	No labour problems. Seven vessels discharging at berth (3 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 9 vessels loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 3 tankers, 1 passenger vessel); 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge, 4 tankers waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 18 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.

Kazakhstan

Aktau	22-May-2006	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, all loading crude oil; 3 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargoes; 5 vessels due by 23/5, all to load unknown cargoes.
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Mozambique

Maputo	24-May-2006	Seven vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 ferro chrome, 1 clinker, 1 mineral coal), 3 discharging (1 bulk maize, 1 bulk aluminium, 1 bulk wheat), 1 loading/discharging containers; 4 vessels due to berth 24/5, of which 2 to load (1 scrap, 1 ferro chrome), 1 to discharge frozen fish, 1 to load/discharge containers; 25 vessels due by 17/6 of which 11 to load (3 citrus, 2 mineral coal, 3 ferro chrome, 1 containers, 1 bulk sugar, 1 aluminium), 9 to discharge (1 petcoke/aluminium, 1 bagged rice, 1 steel billets, 2 vehicles, 1 bulk aluminium, 1 bulk wheat, 1 pitch, 1 other cargo), 4 to discharge/load (2 containers, 2 containers/steel rolls), 1 other vessel.
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Poland

Gdansk	22-May-2006	Six vessels loading at berth (2 coal, 1 general cargo, 2 bulkers, 1 tanker); 12 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, 1 bulker waiting in roads; 22 vessels due.
Gdynia	22-May-2006	Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 6 vessels discharging at berth (2 grain, 2 bulkers, 1 general cargo, 1 tanker); 2 bulkers awaiting orders; 20 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 51 vessels due.

Russia

Novorossiysk	22-May-2006	Fifteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (1 HBI, 1 cement, 1 bulk urea, 1 scrap, 2 steel billets, 1 H-beams, 1 copper, 1 coils, 1 wheat, 2 diesel oil), 2 discharging bulk sugar, 1 discharging/loading containers; 3 vessels waiting in roads, of which 2 to load (1 coils, 1 UAN solution), 1 to discharge bulk sugar; 64 vessels due, of which 58 to load (4 copper, 12 steel billets, 3 DRI, 2 scrap, 4 slabs, 2 pipes, 1 wire rods/steel sheets, 7 coils, 1 lead/pipes, 1 HBI, 1 WRIC, 5 aluminium, 1 steel billets/steel blooms, 1 slabs/steel billets, 2 cellulose, 4 vegetable oil, 1 coils/lead, 1 pipes/steel sheets, 1 slabs/steel billets, 1 cement, 2 pig-iron, 1 diesel oil, 1 steel sheets), 4 to discharge (2 vegetable oil, 1 non-ferrous metals, 1 coils), 2 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 3 tankers berthed, all loading, of which 2 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 3 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 6 tankers due, all to load crude oil.
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Slovenia

Koper	22-May-2006	Port working normally. Eight vessels berthed of which 1 discharging/loading containers, 4 loading sawn timber/general cargo, 2 discharging bulk cargo, 1 loading bulk cargo; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge bulk cargo; 18 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 3 to discharge/load containers, 2 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 2 car carriers to discharge vehicles, 2 tankers to discharge liquid cargo, 4 vessels to load sawn timber/general cargo, 5 to discharge bulk cargo.
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Spain

Bilbao	22-May-2006	Twenty-nine vessels operating (8 tankers, 21 other vessels), of which 6 loading, 16 discharging, 7 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	22-May-2006	Sixteen vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 steel coils, 2 bulk fertiliser), 13 discharging (11 steel products, 1 gas, 1 machinery); no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

Sri Lanka

Colombo	22-May-2006	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Eight container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 18 vessels discharging at berth (11 containers/feeders, 3 bulk palm oil, 1 bagged fertiliser, 1 bagged soya bean meal, 1 bulk cement, 1 Ro/Ro); 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 5 vessels dry-docked; 7 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.
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Turkmenistan

Aladja	22-May-2006	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, completed loading crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	22-May-2006	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, discharging crude oil; 1 vessel due 22/5 to discharge crude oil.

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Port Conditions

Ukraine

Illichevsk	22-May-2006	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (5 steel products, 2 grain, 1 sunflower seed oil, 1 gasoil), 1 discharging ore, 1 loading/discharging containers; 3 vessel in roads, all to load, of which 1 steel products, 2 sunflower seed oil; 17 vessels due, of which 7 to load (5 steel products, 1 sunflower oil, 1 equipment), 2 to discharge (1 steel products, 1 ore), 8 to load/dischARGE containers.
Mariupol	22-May-2006	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading (5 steel, 2 fire-clay, 1 wheat, 1 equipment, 1 ammonium saltpetre), 1 discharging/loading equipment/fire-clay; 7 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 2 steel, 2 coal, 3 fire-clay; 49 vessels due, of which 46 to load (22 steel, 11 coal, 6 fire-clay, 2 wheat, 2 ammonium nitrate, 1 pitch, 1 coke, 1 sunflower beans/husks), 2 to discharge (1 equipment/containers, 1 feldspar), 1 to discharge/load magnetite/steel plates.
Odessa	22-May-2006	Fourteen vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (6 metal, 1 wheat), 6 discharging (2 luggage, 1 iron ore, 1 bananas, 1 general cargo, 1 sand), 1 loading/discharging containers; 6 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load (2 metal, 1 oil), 1 to discharge sugar, 2 to load/dischARGE containers; 63 vessels due, of which 30 to load (20 metal, 1 scrap, 4 pig-iron, 1 general cargo, 1 car parts, 1 timber, 1 wheat, 1 coal), 5 to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 luggage, 2 oil, 1 citrus), 28 to discharge/load containers.

USA

Beaumont, TX	22-May-2006	No new restriction in draft (40 ft. 0 ins. FW max. channel draft reported); Louis Dreyfus terminal: no delays expected.
Galveston, TX	22-May-2006	Channel open under normal traffic. No new restriction in draft (normal 39 ft. 6 ins. BW max. channel draft reported - 40 ft. 0 ins. with ideal conditions). ADM-Farmland terminal: 2-3 days delay expected.
Houston, TX	22-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: 1-2 days delay expected; Cargill terminal: no delays expected.
Kalama, WA	22-May-2006	Kalama export terminal: 5 days delay expected; United Harvest terminal: no delays expected.
New Orleans, LA	22-May-2006	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 5-6 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: 1-5 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: no delays expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 2 days delay expected. Nine-day forecast for Carrollton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to decrease to 5.6 ft. by 18/5/06.
Portland, OR	22-May-2006	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: no delays expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays expected.
Seattle, WA	22-May-2006	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Tacoma, WA	22-May-2006	Temco terminal: 1 day's delay expected.
Vancouver, WA	22-May-2006	United Harvest terminal: 2 days delay expected.

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