

May 19 2006

CNAN bosses get 15-year sentence for Bechar loss

writes Andrew Spurrier in Paris. — Thursday May 18 2006

THE former head of state-owned Algerian shipping company CNAN, Ali Koudil, has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for negligence leading to loss of life following the loss of one of the company's ships with 16 crew members off Algiers in 2004.

Four other former CNAN senior executives also received 15-year prison terms for their role in the loss of the Bechar and the grounding of another CNAN ship, the Batna, in stormy conditions off the Algerian coast.

There were no details yesterday of the verdicts returned on the 20 or so other defendants in the case, most of them members of the crews of the two ships who were accused of being absent from their posts on the day of the drama.

The guilty verdicts against Mr Koudil and his colleagues were returned despite pleas from defence lawyers that those who bore the real responsibility for what had happened had not been prosecuted.

Both the Bechar and the Batna were out of service. Built in 1978 and in a parlous state of repair, they had been moored just outside the port of Algiers pending a decision from CNAN on their futures.

The court heard that when the storm came up they were prevented by their state of disrepair from making it out to sea to find calmer conditions.

Buffeted by strong winds, the Bechar broke up on rocks close to one of the port's jetties, losing all but two of its 18-

man crew, while the crew of the Batna escaped without casualty after the vessel ran aground on sand.

The court heard that the master of the Bechar made repeated calls for help between 1630 and 2000 hours, asking notably for a helicopter to airlift the crew to safety. His calls remained unheeded, however, apparently because there was no helicopter available capable of effecting a rescue mission.

Defence lawyers claimed that the real cause of the disaster had not been the state of the ships but the absence of an adequate rescue capability.

One lawyer told the court that the coastguard service was responsible for

rescue operations at sea in co-operation with the Ministry of Defence. He pointed to the existence of a national centre with responsibility for carrying out rescue missions.

"If this centre, run by the Ministry of Defence, has not the means to save 16 seafarers, how can you expect the managers of a shipping company to be able to help them," he asked.

"It is the institutions of the state which were failing and not the accused."

Port of Algiers Authority also came under attack for having ordered CNAN to remove the two vessels from the port and placed them in moorings unsuitable for ships in their condition.

Norwegian unions agree offshore pay rise

By Jerry Frank- Thursday May 18 2006

NORWAY'S offshore oil unions have emerged from pay talks in time to celebrate today's Constitution Day with the promise of a 4.5% pay rise.

Unions had held out for a bigger share of the nation's offshore bonanza fuelled by high oil prices after a fortnight ago rejecting a 2.5% offer. Improved terms from employer group OLF have come amid fears of a repeat of the industrial strife that almost brought all production to a standstill two years ago.

Demand for skilled workers to man the offshore boom is rising as Norwegian majors spend big profits from the high price of oil on more exploration and production.

Unions also won higher pay for night-shift work and holidays for their members who pump 2.4m barrels a day.

Oil bosses and union chiefs from Nopec, SAFE, Lederne and ALT hold talks every other year on pay and conditions for the 6,200 offshore workers.

Unions are also due to hold talks with the Norwegian Shipowners' Association from May 22.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>DANIELLA NATIVIDAD</i>	product tanker	PHL	ABS	2,692	4,359	1996	Had explosion and fire in void tank near Lamao, Bataan, May 11 while tank cleaning. 2 crew members killed, 1 injured. Fire extinguished same day. Vessel reported to be operational.
<i>DONGTAI FORTUNE</i>	container	HKG	GL	10,524	14,180	1985	In collision with c.c. <i>Easline Tianjin</i> in dense fog off Shangdong Peninsula Apr 27. Damage to stern & containers. 1 container fell onto <i>Easline Tianjin</i> . Ordered to effect temporary repairs at Shidao before proceeding to Ninbo for permanent repairs
<i>DCI TUG VI</i>	tug	IND	IR	562	540	1979	Had explosion on board, capsized and sank about 40 miles off Kodiakarai coast, Tamil Nadu state, May 6. All crew abandoned ship and rescued.
<i>EASLINE TIANJIN</i>	container	SGP	CS	10,649	15,664	1985	In collision with c.c. <i>Dongtai Fortune</i> in dense fog off Shangdong Peninsula Apr 27. Damage to bow. Berthed at Shidao for Coast Guard investigation.
<i>ELEKTRON</i>	ro-ro	NOR	NV	1,628	624	1969	Struck in stern by chemical/oil carrier <i>Bro Sincero</i> at the Berendrecht lock May 6. Damage to stern on starboard side. Struck lock door No 4 and reported to be a "dead vessel". Tugs proceeded to assist. Arrived Antwerp May 6 & sailed May 8.
<i>EVERBLOOM</i>	general	KHM	—	1,139	1,700	1984	In collision with general cargo <i>BBC Aramis</i> in Yellow Sea, near Qingdao, May 5. Port forepart believed damaged. Proceeded to shipyard at Zhoushan for temporary repairs before resuming voyage.
<i>MARY KAY ECKSTEIN</i>	tug	USA	—	929	—	1982	Struck Thebes Railroad Bridge, Mile Marker 43.7, Upper Mississippi, May 8. 22 of tug's 30 barges broke loose, drifted and grounded or sank. Recovery under way as of May 10. Investigation in hand.
<i>PHILIPP</i>	general	ATG	GL	2,567	2,937	1978	Reported drifting south of Portland Bill, in lat 50 25.41N, long 02 28.49W, 10 May to effect engine repairs. Proceeded May 11 but had further engine problems. Unable to repair. Taken in tow of tug, bound Southampton.
<i>THE CALYPSO</i>	passenger	CYP	LR	11,162	1,965	1967	Broadcast Mayday requesting assistance following fire in engine-room in lat 50 28.9N, long 00 10.1E, May 6. Carbon dioxide released into engine-room. Fire extinguished. Towed to Southampton, arriving same day.
<i>TIGER SPIRIT</i>	general	CYP	GL	9,974	13,173	1989	Encountered heavy weather and experienced heavy pitching and rolling after sailing Singapore Apr 24. Two containers fell into sea, 16 damaged. Water entered in lat 14 38.5N, long 92 33.7E, Apr 28. Berthed Haldia May 4 for repairs.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AGELESS (Panama)

Port Said, May 10 — Bulker *Ageless* completed repairs and entered the Canal with today's northbound convoy, continuing on passage. — Lloyd's Agents.

AGIOS GEORGIOS (Greece)

Piraeus, May 5 — General cargo *Alex-D.* sailed from Keratsini on Apr 1 with destination Poti. No damages/repairs reported. No further information regarding fishing *Agios Georgios* was available. — Lloyd's Agents.

AL TAJ (United Arab Emirates)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy".

ALASKA QUEEN II (Canada)

London, May 10 — Fishing *Alaska Queen II* (106 gt, built 1943), reported taking on water near Rippon Point, north end of Pitt Island, British Columbia, in lat 53 53 55N, long 130 10 41W, at 2205, PDST, May 7. The vessel has been deliberately beached and will be salvaged at a later date.

ALEXANDROS T. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, May 5 — Rescue teams continued to search yesterday for 26 missing crew members from bulk *Alexandros T.* which sank off the South African coast on Wednesday evening (May 3) in heavy seas and 45 knot winds. The 171,875 dwt vessel, laden with 155,000 tonnes of iron ore, was on a voyage from Ponta da Madeira, in Brazil, to China when it sustained heavy water ingress and flooding in several cargo holds. The master ordered the crew to abandon ship, after which seven crew members were rescued from a life raft and one from the water by the *CSE Fortune Express*, which reported the vessel went down at 1752, UTC. A spokesman for Greek managers overseas Marine Enterprises said a further four empty liferafts had been spotted but these were empty. South African aircraft are continuing to look for survivors. While Craig Lambinon, of the National Sea Rescue Institute in Cape Town said the weather improved yesterday morning the missing crew members "have been in the water a long time". Overseas Marine Enterprises' spokesman reported 20-foot swells and said that a storm is now forecast. Dutch company Smit signed a Lloyd's Open Form contract for the vessel's salvage and tug *Smit Amandla* is continuing to proceed towards the site of the casualty to join the rescue efforts, the Overseas Marine Enterprises' spokesman said. He could not confirm ownership of the cargo. The company is in close contact with or is trying to

contact all the families of the crew. The nationalities of the crew are four Greeks, 24 Filipinos, four Romanians and one Ukrainian. The vessel, which was built at Santierul Naval Constanta of Romania in 1989, is flagged in St Vincent & the Grenadines, classed by Lloyd's Register and entered with the London Steamship Owners Mutual Insurance Association. In a statement, Lloyd's Register said the vessel's last special survey took place in 2004. "There are no outstanding surveys or overdue conditions of class. To the best of our knowledge, the vessel was in compliance with the relevant class and statutory requirements. "The ship's last port state control inspection took place in Fremantle in March 2005. There was no detention. "We await further information and will assist any investigation into the incident as required by the owner, the flag state administration or any other authority." Lloyd's Register confirmed yesterday that the vessel's No 1 aft bulkhead and double bottom was strengthened in October 2002 in accordance with 1998 requirements for evaluation and upgrading of the foremost hold structure under conditions of hold flooding for existing single side bulk carriers. *Alexandros T.*'s owners had been informed of new additional safety measures for bulk carriers under Solas Chapter XII, which are due to come into force on July 1 and which contain restrictions on sailing with any hold empty (or less than 10% full) when carrying heavy cargoes. The bulker was detained in November 2003 in the US for deficiencies which included numerous fractured brackets in No 3,4,5, 6, 8 and 9 cargo holds and an ISM inspection revealed that the vessel and company had failed to fully implement the requirements of the ISM Code through the Safety Management System.

London, May 5 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0835, UTC: Bulk *Alexandros T.*: Various vessels are on scene or being dispatched to assist in the search for the 26 crewmen still missing.

London, May 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescue officials said hopes were fading today for 26 crew missing for almost two days after a ship carrying iron ore sank off South Africa's east coast. "The possibility exists that there could be lives lost," Andre Botes, head of the search-and-rescue team said. "We did not see any of them last night, we had hoped any survivors would fire flares which could be visible to the searching plane. With hypothermia, and the length of time they have been in the water, there is likely to be loss of life." Six of 33 crew on board bulk *Alexandros T.* were rescued on Wednesday shortly after it sank off Port Alfred. It had been taking on water in strong winds. On Thursday, rescuers in a South African military plane spotted a seventh man in the water near the scene of the sinking,

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285 miles off shore and directed a ship to the spot. Of the crew vessel, 24 were Filipinos, four were Greeks, four were Romanians and one was Ukrainian. Another rescue worker who declined to be identified said the chances of finding any surviving crew members were remote. Botes said concern for the missing was heightened by worsening weather on Friday, with winds of up to 19 knots and waves of 3.5 metres. *Alexandros T.* was carrying 155,000 tonnes of iron ore from Brazil to China. Asked about the likelihood of pollution from the sunken vessel, Botes said its own oil had risen to the surface but it posed no danger. "The ship sank very far off shore, and there are very powerful currents between where it sank and the shore, so the little oil from the ship's engines is being broken up. We don't expect any big pollution threat," he said. "As for its iron ore cargo, it came from the ground and has gone back into the ground." He said the rescued crew were still at sea on board the *CSE Fortune Express*, which had helped rescue them. A salvage ship was heading to the site on Friday to help with the rescue work, he added. It was not clear why *Alexandros T.* began taking in water.

London, May 7 — A press report, dated May 6, states: Sea rescue teams today suspended their search for 26 sailors missing since they abandoned bulk *Alexandros T.* off South Africa's east coast on Wednesday night. Officials from the rescue mission today sited bad light as the reason for halting the search that has thus far involved bulk carriers sent to the vicinity of the ship, an air force craft and passing merchant ships. Speaking after the all day search today, a spokesman for the mission said that the search would resume only if new information were received or if there were sightings of survivors or a liferaft.

London, May 7 — Following statement issued by Overseas Marine Enterprises Inc, Managers of bulk *Alexandros T.*, in Durban at 1430, local time, today, following the safe return to land this morning of the seven survivors from bulk *Alexandros T.*, rescued by bulk *CSE Fortune Express*: The owners and managers would like to thank the South African Air Force for their assistance, their professionalism, and their bravery during this difficult situation. Their contribution cannot be overestimated. In particular, special appreciation needs to be given to the crew of the Air Force C-130 that flew several missions to locate survivors; and the helicopter crew of 15 Squadron, who with great skill in difficult conditions retrieved the seven surviving crew members from bulk *CSE Fortune Express* at sea about 50 nautical miles east of Durban this morning. We would also like to thank the owners and crew of bulk *CSE Fortune Express* for bringing and welcoming the survivors aboard — giving them dry clothing, food and comfort. In addition we would like to express our deep

appreciation to Lt. Col. Andre Bothes, the head of the South African Marine Rescue Co-ordination Centre that managed the around-the-clock search and rescue effort. With regard to the crew of bulk *Alexandros T.*, the seven who are safe here in Durban and the crew who are still missing, we are very thankful that the survivors are safe. They are now recovering from their ordeal. Since landing this morning, they have obtained new clothes, and other necessary items. They have rested, and they are being seen by doctors and are receiving counselling. Twenty-six crew members are still missing. We have not given up hope, nor have we stopped looking for them. Tug *Smit Amandla* remains in the vicinity of the sinking. At this time we do not know why the vessel sank. The crew will be interviewed, and their statements will be studied. Also, the radio communications with the vessel will be thoroughly examined and evaluated. This is a long process. As of now we do not have all of the answers and until we do we cannot speculate.

London, May 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The seven survivors from bulk *Alexandros T.* that sank off Port Alfred on Wednesday (May 3) are still recovering at a secret hideaway in Durban, while the search for their missing compatriots has been suspended pending further details of their whereabouts. A South African Air Force helicopter flew seven of the survivors into Durban yesterday morning. The search for the 26 missing crewmen will not resume unless new information is received or there are new sightings of liferafts. Search and rescue officials said tug *Smit Amandla* had searched for survivors all day yesterday to no avail.

London, May 10 — A press release from the managers of bulk *Alexandros T.*, dated today, states: The search for survivors continues, with salvage tug *Smit Amandla* still on station for the owner's account, but with no sightings of any more survivors. Since the tug began its search on May 5, it has covered an area of about 1,500 square miles. However since then, currents and winds have more than doubled the required search area and given the passage of time, there is now little hope that any more survivors will be found. The operation is being kept under review. A US Coast Guard inspection of the vessel in November, 2003, uncovered deficiencies that were promptly rectified. The vessel had at that stage been recently acquired by the owners and was in the process of being upgraded to their own very high standards. Since that 2003 inspection the vessel has passed through Special Survey and numerous Port State Control inspections without detention in states with extremely high levels of scrutiny such as Australia and South Africa, the most recent inspection being at the last load port when no material

deficiencies were noted. Regular class and statutory inspections found the vessel to have met all class and statutory requirements and to be ISM compliant. Lloyd's Register, the vessel's classification society issued a statement on May 4 confirming that the vessel was fully up to date with all classification and statutory inspections. Additional inspections by interested commercial parties, likewise, found nothing to question the structural integrity of the vessel. The managers are committed to doing everything in their power to identify the causes of the loss of *Alexandros T.*

ALFRED NEEDLER (Canada)

London, May 4 — Research *Alfred Needler* (958 gt, built 1982) reported a small fire in the engine-room at Halifax harbour, at 1538, UTC, May 2. Fire was extinguished without further incident.

London, May 10 — Research *Alfred Needler*, small fire in engine-room at Halifax May 2: Damage to vessel was reportedly very minor.

ALGOVILLE (Canada)

Toronto, May 11 — Understand from the Goderich Harbour-master that bulker *Algoville* has been undergoing repairs to a blown piston for the last two weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALICE (Malta)

See *Twin Star*.

ALLEGRO (Netherlands)

London, May 10 — General cargo *Allegro*, which sank in the River Rhine Mar 22 while discharging its cargo of aluminium blocks at Sturzelberg, was raised on May 9. Salvage was delayed by the high water levels and strong currents in the River Rhine over the past few weeks. The vessel's cargo was offloaded by a crane vessel during Week 17. Preparations to raise the vessel were made last week by the German salvage company Barthel & Sohn of Duisburg and the Dutch salvage company BTS of Schiedam, using their floating sheerlegs cranes *Grizzly* and *Amsterdam*. The cranes lifted the vessel May 9 and after pumping out, the vessel was delivered to the insurance company. No decision has been taken regarding what will be done with the damaged vessel.

AMADA (North Korea)

Piraeus, May 9 — General cargo *Amada* remains under arrest at Kalamata port, ETD unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

AMBAR

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

ANNTORO (Norway)

Trondheim, May 10 — There is no change in the situation of general cargo *Anntoro*. Kvernhusvik Shipyard have informed us that there has still been no decision taken regarding repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANTONIS A. (Panama)

Piraeus, May 5 — Chemical/oil carrier *Antonis A.* sailed from Eleusis on Apr 14 bound for Argentina. — Lloyd's Agents.

AQUAMARIN (Netherlands)

London, May 9 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: Triton-Yard in Duisburg have advised that the fire on non specific tanker *Aquamarin* only caused minor damage to some cables in the bow thruster room and has already been repaired. The cabin above the room was not damaged. The main issue was the thick smoke that rose from the rather small fire and this caused the Yard to call out the firefighters, who had the fire under control within 15 minutes.

ARAL WIND (Marshall Islands)

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

BALMUNG (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 4 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 2234, UTC: General cargo *Balmung* anchored in Yarmouth Roads in lat 52 33.45N, long 01 44.89E at 2217, UTC. Vessel about to undertake repairs to main engine. No estimated time for repairs.

London, May 5 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 2122, UTC: General cargo *Balmung*: Repairs completed and vessel soon heaving anchor to set off for final destination, Amsterdam.

London, May 7 — General cargo *Balmung* arrived at Amsterdam at 1325 hrs, May 6.

BALTIC FJORD (Norway)

London, May 5 — General cargo *Baltic Fjord* arrived at Tallinn on May 3.

BBC ARAMIS (Gibraltar)

Antwerp, May 11 — General cargo *BBC Aramis* (2542 gt, built 2004), bound Qingdao, and general cargo *Everbloom* (1139 gt, built 1984), Qingdao for Funabashi with fused ceramic in bulk, were in collision in the Yellow Sea, near Qingdao on May 5. *BBC Aramis* sustained damage to starboard side and *Everbloom* is believed to have sustained damage to port forepart. *BBC Aramis* continued its voyage to Qingdao, and *Everbloom* proceeded to a shipyard at Zhoushan for temporary repairs before resuming its voyage. — DPS Teamhead Surveyors.

BEAR COVE POINT (Canada)

London, May 4 — Fishing *Bear Cove Point* (206 gt, built 1987) with eight persons on board, reported a fire in the engine-room in lat 47 21N, long 52 40W at 1945, UTC, May 3. Fire was quickly extinguished and the vessel proceeded to St. John's without further incident.

BERMUDA ISLANDER (Netherlands)

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

BLACK SWAN (Bahamas)

Port Said, May 7 — Bulk *Black Swan* is still under arrest at Great Bitter Lakes. — Lloyd's Agents.

BORA (Venezuela)

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

BRO SINCERO (Sweden)

Maassluis, May 6 — At 1230 hrs, today, there was a collision at the Berendrechtsluis, Belgium, between chemical/oil carrier *Bro Sincero* (11855 gt, built 2002) and ro/ro *Elektron* (1628 gt, built 1969). While entering the Berendrechtsluis the *Bro Sincero* made a "manouvering failure" and hit the *Elektron* stern-post. It is unknown whether *Bro Sincero* is damaged. There is quite some damage to the *Elektron's*, "stern-post" on the starboard side. The vessel hit door No.4 of the lock and was from then on a dead-vessel. Tugs are underway to assist the *Elektron*. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, May 9 — Chemical/oil carrier *Bro Sincero* was reported arriving at Antwerp on May 6. The vessel departed on May 8, bound for Flushing, where it was reported arriving at 0230 hrs, May 8.

BRO TRANSPORTER (Sweden)

London, May 6 — Following received from Forth Navigation Service, timed 2230, UTC: Chem.tank *Bro Transporter* in tow of tug *Fairplay-23* cleared eastern limits at 1829, UTC, May 5 for Sweden.

London, May 7 — A press report, dated May 6, states: A ship-to-ship oil transfer in the Forth has sparked controversy after it emerged the port operator did not inform council officials. The operation was carried out after a Swedish ship (chem.tank *Bro Transporter*) had an engine failure on Sunday (Apr 30) after sailing from Grangemouth with its 13,500 ton cargo of light aircraft fuel kerosene. Officials anchored the ship at a berth four miles from Aberlady and offloaded the cargo on to another ship. But Forth Ports did not tell East Lothian council what it was planning to do and the local authority is now to investigate. Environmentalists fear a spill could endanger wildlife in the area, but Forth Ports has hailed yesterday's operation as proof of its success and safety. A spokesman for East Lothian Council said: "We were not informed that this would be taking place and this is something that we will be taking up with the Forth Ports authority to ask why there was no notification. We have a duty if there is a spill to provide emergency services so we need to know if these things are going on so we are aware there is a risk." A spokesman for Forth Ports said: "This was a normal, routine operation and there was no need to inform the local councils."

London, May 8 — According to LMIU AIS, chem.tank *Bro Transporter*, in tow of tug *Fairplay-23*, was located in lat 57 50 46.2N, long 09 44 10.2E, at

0731, UTC, May 8, course 077 deg, speed 7.9 knots. (See issue of May 9.)

London, May 9 — According to LMIU AIS chemical tanker *Bro Transporter* is moored at Falkenberg.

BUX I

London, May 6 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1302, UTC: Thirty-three metre fishing *BUX I*, JVGK3, Volos for Turkey, is adrift in lat 38 07.4N, long 24 44.8E, following engine breakdown. One crewman has been airlifted off the vessel. The remaining three crew are still onboard. Two warships and one cargo vessel are at the scene.

London, May 7 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1223, UTC: Fishing *BUX I* is currently at Gavrio, Andos Island. Vessel operates under the Mongolian flag.

London, May 8 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the afternoon of May 6, while fishing *BUX I*, Volos for Aliaga, was sailing eight nautical miles off Kafireas, it became in "a dangerous situation" due to engine damage, in winds of force seven. The vessel had four Greek crew members on board and was not carrying any cargo. Two Greek naval vessels, a Coastguard patrol vessel and a Super Puma helicopter immediately proceeded to the area. Nearby vessels were also requested to offer assistance. At about 1700 hrs, the vessel received engine oil from a naval vessel and succeeded in getting its engine back in operation. It then proceeded, accompanied by the naval vessel, to Gavriion Port, Andros Island, arriving around 2200 hrs.

C.P.34 (Thailand)

London, May 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The Alliance Refining Company Limited (ARC) was removing more than 15,000 litres of fuel oil spillage in the sea in front of Rayong port today. The oil spill leaked from product tanker *C.P.34* (1892 gt, built 1983), owned by C & P Company Limited, on Thursday as the oil was loaded into the tanker. Surachai Burapanonthachai, an official from the Marine Department, said the oil film already affected other nearby ports used by other companies. He said ARC officials were trying to remove all the oil spillage from an area in front of the ports by tomorrow. He said Marine Department's officials also helped in the cleaning operations. "So far, rain may delay the process," he added.

London, May 6 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 20 tonnes of bunker oil was spilled by product tanker *C.P.34* near a refinery plant in the Map Ta Phut industrial estate on Thursday (May 4), causing serious environmental damage. Surachai Burapanonthachai, the pier inspector from Rayong's Marine Office, rushed to an oil refinery owned by the Alliance Refining Co Ltd (ARC) after being alerted by reports of the spill at 2030 Thursday. Darkness, however, prevented the authorities

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from undertaking a clean-up operation which did not begin until yesterday morning. The marine officials said the oil was spilled while it was being unloaded (? being loaded) by the *C.P. 34* owned by the C&P Marine Co Ltd. The oil was to have been delivered to Bangkok for further refining. The office discovered a small crack on the ship's oil tank. When the oil was filled, its sheer volume widened the crack sending over 20 tonnes of the oil gushing out. Mr Surachai said a floating boom was thrown around the slick to contain its spread. The slick was then scooped up for disposal with a dissolver chemical. He added the situation was under control and expected the disposal operation would not take long to complete. Parties responsible for the leak will be prosecuted for causing environmental harm and obstructing sea transport. The offenders face a maximum one-year prison term and/or a fine of up to baht 60,000.

CANADIAN OLYMPIC (Canada)

London, May 8 — Bulk *Canadian Olympic* (22887 gt, built 1976) had small fire reportedly due to slag from welding falling on a plank of wood while transiting Lake Superior, in lat 47 31 42N, long 88 31 24W, at 0852, EDST, May 6.

CAPT. HENRY JACKMAN (Canada)

London, May 11 — Bulker *Capt. Henry Jackman* arrived Hamilton (Ont) Apr 24 and sailed Apr 25.

CHEMICAL SPRINTER (Malta)

London, May 9 — Chem.tank *Chemical Sprinter* sailed from Falmouth on May 3, bound for Skikda, and was subsequently reported passing through the Straits of Gibraltar at 1828 hrs, May 6.

CITIUS (Marshall Islands)

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

CP VALOUR (Bermuda)

Ponta Delgada, May 4 — C.c. *CP Valour*: The operations are now expected to commence at the end of next week after the arrival of several experts and material for the purpose. In the meantime the vessel *Jacomina* has started removing sands from the vicinities of the casualty. — Lloyd's Agents.

CRIMSON MARS (Singapore)

Melbourne, May 5 — Wood-chip *Crimson Mars* arrived at Bell Bay from Kaohsiung on Apr 27 to load a cargo of wood chips for discharge at Hualien. On departing on May 1, following the completion of cargo, the vessel struck rocks at Windmill Point whilst under pilotage in the Tamar River. Water has been reported to have entered the vessel's forepeak with a possible breach of the hull plating along the starboard side. The vessel diverted to the river anchorage but has now been brought alongside

No 6 berth for assessment. No course of action has yet been decided between the various parties. — Lloyd's Agents.

D.P.W. NO.69 (Canada)

London, May 4 — Barge *D.P.W. NO.69* (212 gt, built 1950) sank due to intake below waterline, while alongside at Section 64, Montreal at 1700, EDST, May 3.

DA BAK SOL (North Korea)

See "Germany" under "Port State Control".

DAL EAST LONDON (Italy)

London, May 10 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Container Carrier *DAL East London* (16803 gt, built 1997) ran aground on the Elbe off Blankenese at 0300, May 9. The vessel was coming from the builders yard Sietas in Cranz and was on the way to Blohm and Voss in Hamburg to be docked for painting work. It ran aground due to a strong east wind which caused the tide to be quite low. The vessel had a draught of 9,5 m. The crew of 15 remained unharmed. At about midday, vessel was towed free with the rising flood and proceeded to Hamburg.

London, May 10 — Container Carrier *DAL East London* arrived Hamburg at 1545, May 9.

DANIELLA NATIVIDAD (Philippines)

London, May 11 — Following received from Coast Guard Manila, timed 0220, UTC: Bunkering tanker *Daniella Natividad* (2692 gt, built 1996) has had a fire and explosion in a void tank while tank cleaning off Lamao. Vessel is still on fire. Coast Guard area commander is on scene assessing the situation.

Manila, May 11 — Understand bunkering tanker *Daniella Natividad* had an explosion about 0755 today in vicinity of Lamao, Bataan. Further reported, the explosion occurred while the vessel, in empty condition, was being inspected when one of the inspectors used a flashlight to check the cargo hold. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, May 11 — A small oil tanker (*Daniella Natividad*) exploded off the Philippine coastline, west of Manila, today but the ship was not carrying a cargo of fuel, the local governor said. Eric Locsin, a terminal operations officer, told DZRH radio that they were still investigating the cause of the explosion. "We heard the explosion and tugs here immediately went there. We do not know the exact cause of the explosion. We have not yet confirmed if somebody died," Locsin said. Enrique Garcia, governor of Bataan province, said the ship was on its way to the Philippines' largest oil refiner, Petron Corp, when the explosion occurred. "From what we've gathered, the multi-product hauler was on its way to Petron so it was not yet loaded," Garcia said. Media reports said two crew members were critically injured but the fire was under control. Locsin said the ship

was waiting to be loaded with oil which was going to be distributed to the central Philippines and the southern island of Mindanao. — Reuters.

London, May 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people were killed and another was badly burned when an explosion ripped through tanker *Daniella Natividad* near a refinery at the mouth of Manila Bay. The blast triggered a fire on board *Daniella Natividad*, which was anchored near the Petron Corp. refinery in Limay. Bataan provincial governor Enrique Garcia told ABS-CBN television the crew "were welding something and that was when the blast occurred," "Two died and one was badly burned," he said, adding that the fire had been fully extinguished. "There is no pollution because the vessel was empty when this accident happened," he said.

Manila, May 11 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that the fire from the explosion on board Product tanker *Daniella Natividad* was declared fire out at 1135, local time, today. Damage was confined to the tanker's void tank no. 5. This was confirmed by Shogun Ships, Inc. spokesperson Clare de la Pena who said that the rest of the vessel was unaffected by the explosion. She said that the vessel was operational and would be leaving on its own power for the company's terminal in Navotas, Manila tonight. The vessel will be docked in Navotas for a week for repairs and for further investigation. The vessel had originated from Jimenez, Misamis Occidental, where it had unloaded a cargo of diesel. From there it proceeded to the anchorage area of Lamao Port in the Bataan town of Limay, 50 kilometres west of Manila. The tanker, which was empty, was waiting to take on a cargo of fuel from the Petron Refinery at Limay. While waiting at anchorage, two contractual workers (not crew members as earlier reported) were hired to perform hotworks on void tank no. 5. At 0805, local time, today, an explosion occurred in the said tank, triggering a fire which injured the two workers. Two tugboats, the *Capella* and *Balintawak* immediately headed to the burning tanker to combat the fire. After three hours, the fire was finally extinguished. The two workers suffered second and third degree burns and were rushed to a local hospital. Shogun Ships officials suspect that diesel fumes in the tank, leftover from its previous cargo, may have caused the explosion and fire. — Correspondent.

DCI TUG VI (India)

London, May 7 — A press report, dated May 6, states: Tug *DCI Tug VI* (562 gt, built 1979) carrying scientists involved in environment studies in connection with the Sethusamudram Canal Project sank about 40 nautical miles off Kodiakarai Coast in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu at 0145 today. All 18 people, including the crew, on board the tug, belonging

to Dredging Corporation of India (DCI), managed to escape, a senior official of DCI said. The official said the Rs-100-crore ship was supposed to tow a dredger engaged in the Sethusamudram Project. "The accident occurred after an explosion, the reason for which is under investigation," he said. According to officials, the occupants of the tug, including three scientists from the Alagappa University, escaped using lifeboats. The vessel was very expensive as it had a lot of sensitive equipment used to monitor the environment pollution. "The loss of the ship is a set back to the Sethusamudram Ship Canal Project (SSCP), though not a major one, especially to the monitoring of the environment," an SSCP official said. "The scientists on the tug would monitor the sediments round-the-clock when the sea bed is being deepened and when the debris is unloaded," an Alagappa University official said. "The tug will follow the dredger which normally does five to six loads of dredging a day. The tug was anchored when the explosion took place and it sunk," the official said.

London, May 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Dredging Corporation of India has informed that there was an explosion on the port side of tug *DCI Tug VI 11* nautical miles South East of Pt. Calimere on May 6. The explosion caused damage to the underwater portion of the "pod side" and heavy flooding of the machinery space resulting in listing to the port side and subsequently capsizing of the vessel. The company added that there were no casualties and all the 19 personnel were safe without any injuries. The vessel was carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment for the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project. The company further stated accident was informed to underwriters.

DIMITRIS MANIOS (Cyprus)

London, May 11 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Bulker *Dimitris Manios* (22009 gt, built 1984) encountered a machinery black out May 10 (?) between the buoys Maas 2 and Maas 4 and had to deploy the anchor to avoid running aground on the Dutch river Maas. Two SMIT tugs connected up and brought the vessel back into safe waters. (Note — *Dimitris Manios* according to LMIU AIS in lat 51 52 55.38N, long 4 16 17.64E at 0925, today.)

DOHA I (Honduras)

See "India" under "Port State Control".

DONGTAI FORTUNE (Hong Kong)

Antwerp, May 11 — Container Carrier *Dongtai Fortune* (10524 gt, built 1985), Dalian for Keelung, and container Carrier *Easline Tianjin* (10649 gt, built 1985), bound Tianjin, were in collision in dense fog off the Shangdong Peninsula, in the north of

the Yellow Sea, at noon, Apr 27. *Easline Tianjin* sustained bow damage, and *Dongtai Fortune* sustained damage to the stern and containers. One container fell from *Dongtai Fortune* onto *Easline Tianjin*. Both vessels were ordered to berth alongside at Shidao port for Coast Guard investigation. *Dongtai Fortune* was ordered to effect temporary repairs at Shidao before proceeding to a shipyard at Ningbo for dry dock repairs. All the containers onboard were discharged at Shanghai before the vessel proceeded to Ningbo. — DPS Teamhead Surveyors.

EASLINE TIANJIN (Singapore)

See *Dongtai Fortune*.

ELEKTRON (Norway)

See *Bro Sincero*.

London, May 9 — Ro/ro *Elektron* arrived at Antwerp on May 6 and sailed at 2127 hrs, May 8, bound for Drammen.

ESMERALDA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 5 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 0503, UTC: General cargo *Esmeralda* (2834 gt, built 1998), bound Flushing, reported engine breakdown in lat 58 41.83N, long 02 57.2W. Tug *Anglian Sovereign* tasked at 0448, UTC.

London, May 5 — Following received from Coastguard Yarmouth MRCC, timed 0830, UTC: General cargo *Esmeralda*, Greenore for Gdynia, in ballast, completed repairs at 0654, UTC, and resumed voyage for Gdynia at 0726, UTC.

EUGENIA (Honduras)

Mumbai, May 3 — General cargo *Eugenia* is still detained by Mumbai police authorities. — Lloyd's Agents.

EVERBLOOM (Cambodia)

See *BBC Aramis*.

FAIRWEATHER (U.S.A.)

London, May 10 — A press report, dated May 9, states: Passenger ro/ro *Fairweather*, which was earlier expected to return to service in June, will be delayed until at least Jul 1, Alaska Marine Highway officials said yesterday. The *Fairweather* went to Ketchikan for a scheduled overhaul in January when workers found damage to its four diesel engines. Later investigation also found damage to two reduction gears, which was expected to delay the return of the *Fairweather* to revenue service some time after Jun 1. More recently, further investigation has identified more damage to components on all four-reduction gears. The engine and reduction gear manufacturers have been working with the shipbuilder, Derektor Shipyards, to determine the reason for the mechanical difficulties. The vessel is scheduled to receive new parts and undergo sea trials beginning Jun 21. The AMHS is attempting to identify possible

alternatives to service by the *Fairweather* and will make that announcement at a later date.

FEDERAL SAGUENAY (Barbados)

See *Persenk*.

GIOVANNA (Russia)

St.Petersburg, May 11 — According to the information produced by the Port Authorities of Kaliningrad chemical tanker *Giovanna* vessel is still at the ship repairing yard 'YANTAR'. The vessel sustained significant damage in the fire. Due to preliminary information there is no any danger of the vessel turning over. — Lloyd's Agents.

GIPSY MOTH IV (U.K.)

London, May 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Three Islanders on-board yacht *Gipsy Moth IV*, which ran aground on a reef in the South Pacific, are safe and well. She was on the 11th leg of the trip, from the South Pacific island Marquesas to Tahiti, when she hit a reef on Saturday (Apr 29). She suffered an eight-inch hole in her hull. David Green, chief executive of UKSA which owns her, said the next two legs, from Tahiti to Tonga and from Tonga to Auckland, were unlikely to go ahead although he did not think the rest of the voyage was in jeopardy. "Our aim is to sail into Sydney on schedule," he said. Salvage experts are assessing the best way to remove her. A local expert has recommended the vessel be lifted while repairs to make her water-tight are made. A French Navy tug was due on the scene this morning. "When the time is right the vessel will be moved into deep water and a tow will be effected, hopefully to take her to Tahiti for further repairs." Time continues to be a critical element in this rescue operation in preventing further damage to the hull. It is understood after a full assessment of the damage, a decision will be taken on whether to repair the vessel on Tahiti or to ship her to Auckland.

GRIGOROUSSA I (Liberia)

Port Said, May 7 — Crude oil tanker *Grigoroussa I* is still under arrest at Suez. — Lloyd's Agents.

HISTRIA SUN (Panama)

Buenos Aires, May 4 — Bulk *Histria Sun* was refloated at 0220, May 4, assisted by tug *Buni*. Channel was freed and navigation returned to normal. — Lloyd's Agents.

HORIZON PRODUCER (U.S.A.)

London, May 9 — C.c. *Horizon Producer* was reported arriving at New York at 1405 hrs, May 6 and sailing at 1320 hrs, May 7.

IRAN MADANI (Iran)

London, May 8 — According to LMIU AIS supply *Sandy Cape* with bulk *Iran Madani* were in lat 40 56 22.27N, long 28 51 27.8E at 2050, May 7.

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

IRKUTSK (Russia)

St. Petersburg, May 5 — According to information dated Oct 14, oil tanker *Irkutsk* was under repairs in Petrokrepost, Leningrad Region, at the Nevskiy shiprepairing yard. It was also reported that the tanker was going to sail shortly Oct 14 to Nizhnekamsk and Kavkaz. No other information is available. — Lloyd's Agents.

JAAMI (Bangladesh)

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes".

JIAN HUA (Hong Kong)

London, May 5 — Bulk *Jian Hua* was reported arriving at Keelung at 2120 hrs, May 4.

JOHN N. (U.S.A.)

London, May 6 — A press report, dated May 5, states: Twenty fire and rescue units were involved in fighting a fire which badly damaged dry-docked clam fishing *John N.* at Dorchester Shipyard Wednesday, but the damage was confined to the vessel and there were no serious injuries. Gordon Gross, the townships Emergency Management Coordinator, was the first on the scene and the last to leave. Despite the extensive damage to the \$4.5 million vessel, and the difficulty in fighting the fire inside the metal hull in a confined space, Gross said firefighting efforts went smoothly. Sparks from a welding operation are believed to have started the blaze, which Gross said burned all three levels of the structure, including the cabin and galley. The fire was reported at 1047 hrs. Once thought to be under control, it reignited. At 1622 hrs, a local fire state of emergency was declared, bringing in the Cumberland County Office of Emergency Management. All of the township's five fire companies responded. In addition to Leesburg, the district in which the shipyard is located, Port Elizabeth, Delmont, Heislerville and Cumberland assisted, as well as Cape May Court House, Dennisville, BVelleplain and Town Bank. Bellplain and Millville also sent rescue units and Underwood Hospital sent a Rehab unit. The U.S. Coast Guard from the Philadelphia base responded, prepared to install containment but the shipyard already had done so when they arrived. Gross said there was danger of pollution from run-off and later additional containment was installed. In spite of the damage, Gross said the vessel can be repaired. "The fire was so hot it melted the paint off the hull, but the motors, the hydraulics and the working area were sealed off" he said. Two shipyard workers were treated for smoke inhalation and one firefighter went to the hospital for a blood pressure problem but there were no other injuries.

KAPITAN BOLSUNOVSKIY (Russia)

Busan, May 8 — Fish factory *Kapitan Bolsunovskiy* is still under

repairs at Gamcheon harbour, Busan, which expected to complete by May 11. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

KARL (Bahamas)

London, May 8 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Karl* (12829 gt, built 1986) ran aground twice May 5 off Nakskov, Denmark. The vessel was being towed by the Berligan URS tug *Fighter*, which had arrived at Nakskov coming from Rotterdam May 3. The *Karl* is expected to come to Lenac Rijeka in about ten days to be rebuilt into an offshore ship (supplier or cable).

Copenhagen, May 9 — Passenger ro/ro *Karl* did not run aground, (as previously reported) more touched bottom. The vessel was leaving Nakskov Friday (May 5) morning. It was "swinging" while being towed out, and touched the side of the narrow channel, but only lightly. — Correspondent.

KEMPENAAR (Belgium)

London, May 10 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: At approximately noon, May 9, the Belgian inland water craft *Kempenaar*, length 51 metres, sank in the Hollands Diep, after a collision with a tug towing two coal barges. The crew of two jumped overboard, only one was rescued. The captain is missing and four Dutch police vessel, divers and other rescue units were searching for the man. Shipping has had to reduce speed at the position of the wreck where the Hollands Diep has a depth of 10 metres and a width of 300 metres.

London, May 10 — At about 1430 hrs, yesterday, there was a collision between a Belgian inland cargo vessel (*Kempenaar*), 51 metres in length, with a pushtug and two connected barges loaded with coal, off Strijensas near Moerdijk, in the fairway Hollands Diep. The Belgian vessel was loaded with 575 tons of copper. It's crew of the skipper/owner and his wife both jumped overboard after the collision. The wife was safely taken onboard another vessel, but the skipper remains missing. The river police and Rijkswaterstaat have been searching for him with five patrol boats and a helicopter. Divers went down to search for him in the sunken vessel, which is lying in a depth of five metres. An investigation into how this collision could have happened has been started, by the authorities. The search for the missing skipper has been called off, after Smit Tak divers did not find him in the sunken vessel and a search along the shores proved negative.

LASS SATURN (Germany)

London, May 8 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: General cargo *Lass Saturn* (1513 gt, built 1993) and passenger *Thor Heyerdahl* (229 gt, built 1931) were in collision off Kiel on May 4. *Thor Heyerdahl* was at anchor off Heikendorf when it was hit by *Lass Saturn*. The latter was

proceeding at a speed of nine knots, altered course to port side after having left Holtenu locks and was heading for "Jaegersberg fire". Both vessels were damaged, but were able to continue their respective voyages. The police were investigating the cause of the collision. (Note — *Lass Saturn* subsequently arrived Szczecin on May 5, departing later the same day, bound for Kaliningrad.)

London, May 9 — General cargo *Lass Saturn* sailed from Szczecin on May 5, bound for Kaliningrad.

London, May 9 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The sailing vessel *Roald Amundsen* was involved in the collision with general cargo *Lass Saturn*, not the *Thor Heyerdahl* as previously reported.

LINDSAY (South Africa)

See *Ouro do Brasil*.

MACARENA B (Canary Islands)

London, May 10 — Container carrier *Macarena B* was reported arriving at Puerto del Rosario, Canary Islands, at 0301 hrs, May 9 and sailing at 2201 hrs, the same day, bound for Marin.

MAERSK DRESDEN (Germany)

Yokohama, May 9 — C.c. *Maersk Dresden* is currently in dock at Yokohama undergoing repairs. However, the duration of repairs is not known. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAINE (Cambodia)

Piraeus, May 5 — General cargo *Maine* remains aground at Lemnos. Refloating operations have not started yet. Reportedly the discharging operation of her cargo is still in progress. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARIA A. ANGELICOUSI (Greece)

London, May 5 — Bulk *Maria A. Angelicoussi* was reported anchoring off Port Hedland on Apr 25.

MARIAM EXPRESS (Panama)

London, May 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Mariam Express* sank about 20 nautical miles from the coast while sailing from Hamriah Port to Iraq. It was reported that there was no loss of life after the UAE Coastguard rescued 14 crewmembers. The ship's Dubai operator, Hufoof Shipping, said the ship was carrying general cargo including vehicles and foodstuffs. While the causes of the accident are unclear at this time, reports suggest that the sinking was due to overloading of the ship, exacerbated by bad weather. The extent of any resultant pollution is not yet known, and the chairman of the Dubai-based Regional Clean Sea Organisation (Recso), Khamis J Bu Amim, could not comment on the situation because Recso was (as yet) not involved in the incident.

MARY KAY ECKSTEIN (U.S.A.)

London, May 11 — A Coast Guard Paducah press release, dated May 10,

states: The U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port Ohio Valley cancelled a safety zone and river closure on the Upper Mississippi River here today from mile marker 20 to mile marker 44 that resulted from tug *Mary Kay Eckstein*'s (929 gt, built 1982) allision with the Thebes Railroad Bridge at mile marker 43.7. The Coast Guard received the report at about 0030, Monday (May 8) at about that *Mary Kay Eckstein* allided with the Thebes Railroad Bridge while pushing 30 barges containing grain, coal, rock, and scrap metal. As a result, 22 barges broke away and drifted downriver coming to rest at various locations between mile marker 43.5 and mile marker 18 on the Upper Mississippi River. Shortly after the incident, a safety zone was implemented on the Upper Mississippi River between mile marker 20 and mile marker 44 to prevent potential vessel collisions with the barges that were set adrift. Throughout Monday and yesterday, multiple tow boats worked to recover the grounded barges. Salvage crews were mobilized to begin recovery operations of a grounded barge carrying rock at mile marker 26.0 located outside of the navigable channel, a grounded barge carrying scrap metal at mile marker 31 located outside of the navigable channel, and a sunken barge within the navigable channel at mile marker 37.2. The sunken barge is marked by two lighted wreck buoys. Salvage of the three barges is expected to commence today and be completed on or before May 18. At 1200 Tuesday, four tows were authorized to transit the Safety Zone northbound single file. At approximately 1600 hrs southbound vessels were authorized to transit the Safety Zone during daylight hours and northbound vessels were authorized to transit the Safety Zone during night time hours. As of 1400 today, 34 commercial tow boats have transited the Safety Zone alternating southbound and northbound traffic with over 700 total barges in tow. At 1400. today, the safety zone was cancelled after the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Chippewa* repositioned buoys near the sunken barge at mile marker 37.2 placing the barge approximately 50 yards outside of the navigable channel. A safety advisory was released advising mariners to favour the right descending bank and avoid meeting, passing, or overtaking in the vicinity of the sunken vessel. The safety advisory and repositioning of buoys will facilitate the safe navigation of commercial vessel traffic until the recovery of the sunken barge is complete. The staff of Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Paducah is working closely with the Captain of the Port Ohio Valley, the River Industry Action Committee (RIAC), and the crew of *Chippewa* facilitating the safe navigation of vessel traffic through the Upper Mississippi River. The incident is under investigation by MSU Paducah.

MAUNAKEA (Liberia)

Penang, May 9 — Ref *Maunakea* arrived at Penang port May 7 and left the same day for Port Klang. Understand there was some fire damage but no repairs were initiated at Penang. — Lloyd's Agents.

Penang, May 9 — Ref *Maunakea* arrived Penang in tow of tug *Smit-Lloyd 28* and is being towed to Port Klang by tugs *Salvanguard* and "*Khaul*". — Lloyd's Agents.

MOBBY DICK (Honduras)

Piraeus, May 8 — General cargo *Mobby Dick* renamed *Rodia Mare 3*, Honduras flag, new owners International Maritime Services, Delaware, U.S.A., new managers Sea Service Marine Company, 60, Australias Str., Rhodes, Greece. Vessel remains at Rhodes port and is expected to operate on the schedule Rhodes-Cyprus in due course. — Lloyd's Agents.

MSC YORKSHIRE (U.K.)

London, May 8 — A SvitserWijsmuller Salvage BV report, dated today, states: Underwriters have contracted SvitserWijsmuller Salvage to recover eight containers loaded with cars in the North Sea off Cuxhaven, Germany that were lost by *c.c. MSC Yorkshire* (9962 gt, built 2005) six months ago. The containers, seven of which are still loaded and one which has lost its load of cars — which now also need to be recovered separately — are lying around 30 to 35 metres deep. The containers need to be removed as per instructions from German authorities. The operation will involve utilising a special recovery vessel with remotely operated equipment. The recovered goods will be delivered ashore at the working base in Cuxhaven

NEERMOOR (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 5 — General cargo *Neermoor* sailed from Teignmouth on May 3 bound for Hansweert, where it arrived at 0915 hrs, today.

NORMANDIE (France)

London, May 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Ferry passengers were left screaming in terror as passenger ro/ro *Normandie* (27000 gt, built 1992) they were travelling on lurched dramatically to the side. The Brittany Ferries vessel had just left the French port of Caen and was making its way to Portsmouth when it suddenly rolled 15 degrees. Some of the 1,400 passengers travelling on the ferry feared the vessel was about to capsize. They screamed that the vessel was about to 'go over' as the horizon disappeared from view. Plates and glasses slid off tables and smashed on the floor as passengers and staff clung on to avoid falling over. Passengers today said the French crew failed to tell them what was wrong with the vessel. Moments after the incident a standard evacuation drill was played over the public address system. Nobody was injured. Brittany Ferries

said in a statement: 'This was due to a failure in the automatic steering system which momentarily over-compensated for a change in course. 'The ship has duplicate steering systems and the back-up was activated almost immediately. "Regrettably, the announcements following the incident were made neither as quickly, nor as comprehensively, as we would have wished."

London, May 5 — The 1,400 passengers on board Brittany Ferries passenger ro/ro *Normandie* had a serious fright when the vessel veered violently to starboard and took on a heavy list half an hour after leaving the French port of Caen-Ouistreham. Members of the crew of the 1992-built *Normandie* were reported to have told passengers that the vessel had taken on a 35 degree list at one point, causing cars and motorcycles to slide out of position and bottles and crockery to fall and smash in the restaurant and store. Brittany Ferries chief executive Jean-Michel Giguet told Lloyd's List yesterday that the incident was caused by an as yet unexplained breakdown in the vessel's automatic steering. He said the master reacted immediately, taking the vessel back under manual control and correcting its course. Passengers complained that they were given insufficient information about the incident, which took place on the 1700 Caen-Ouistreham to Portsmouth sailing on Monday (May 1). Mr Giguet acknowledged that the master had not addressed passengers until two hours after the incident but said he needed time to understand what had happened before doing so. Mr Giguet insisted that the vessel had at no time been in danger of capsizing, even if the list taken on had appeared impressive to passengers. "At no time was the security of passengers in danger," he added. He said there had been no reports of injuries to passengers and damage to vehicles had been limited to 12 motorcycles and one car. The company is conducting an internal investigation into the cause of the automatic steering failure, although Mr Giguet said that it was company policy to change this piece of equipment every two years.

NORWAY (Bahamas)

London, May 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Another asbestos-lined vessel is heading for the western Indian ship-breaking yard in Alang, the environmental group Greenpeace says. Passenger *Blue Lady*, ex *Norway*, with more than 900 tonnes of toxic waste on board, was banned from Bangladeshi breaking yards in February. The Indian government has not yet commented on the issue and a port officer at Alang said he had received no official information about the vessel.

OCEAN FRIEND (South Korea)

Buenos Aires, May 4 — Bulk *Ocean Friend* (29253 gt, built 1981), during

her anchoring manoeuvres, lost the portside anchor with four shackles in the Parana River, May 3. Vessel anchored with the starboard anchor, waiting for a tug as the coastguard authorities recommended that it should be escorted by a tug upto the common zone or even upto Recalada. The vessel is likely to resume its voyage this morning. — Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN PEACE (South Korea)

See "Australia" under "Port State Control."

OOCL FRANCE (Liberia)

Singapore, May 9 — Container carrier *OOCL France*, which arrived Singapore May 2, is currently in Tuas Temasek Dock. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *OOCL France* was previously reported planning to proceed to dock at Singapore for repairs after sustaining a crack in its hull at Amsterdam on Apr 1.)

ORNA (Greece)

London, May 5 — Bulk *Orna* (17065 gt, built 1984, lost its main engine while nearing the approach wall at Iroquois Lock, St. Lawrence Seaway at 1150, EDST, May 4.

London, May 5 — Following received from St Lawrence Alerting Network, timed 2055, UTC: *Orna* ran aground at 1321, today after sustaining engine failure. Two tugs are on scene and another is due at 2100, local time. Vessel has also lost its stern anchor. No pollution.

London, May 6 — Following received from St Lawrence Alerting Network, timed 2215, UTC: Bulk *Orna* was refloated at 1905, local time, May 5 and berthed alongside in Montreal harbour at 2250, local time, same day.

London, May 8 — Bulk *Orna* grounded after losing propulsion below Cote St Catherine, Montreal area, in lat 45 25 09N, long 73 30 25W, at 1321, EDST, May 5. Vessel refloated some six hours later and was taken to Montreal for further inspection. The seaway was suspended for about 14 hours. No pollution and injuries reported. (Note — According to LMIU AIS, *Orna* was subsequently reported in lat 46 03 41.82N, long 73 04 27.99W, at 2139, UTC, May 7, course 083 deg, speed 12.8 knots.)

Montreal, May 8 — Bulk *Orna*: According to Transport Canada Montreal, the cause of vessel's grounding was apparently poor capacity of main engine starting. Vessel has a fix-pitch propeller with reversing engine rotation; the main engine can only perform five starts instead of 12. Vessel was escorted to the port of Montreal, where a diver inspection was carried out and only small scores found. No apparent damages. Main engine maintenance was carried out; Transport Canada surveyor tested main engine and found it satisfactory. — Lloyd's Agents.

OURO DO BRASIL (Liberia)

London, May 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The families of 14 crewmen who died when fruit juice tanker *Ouro do Brasil* and trawler *Lindsay* were in collision between Mossel Bay and Port Elizabeth on May 8, 2005, are considering legal action against the companies who owned the vessels. Essa Bosch, a spokesperson for the families, says legal action will ensure the companies take responsibility for not adhering to collision safety precautions. A marine inquiry was instituted by the minister of environmental affairs late last year to determine the cause. The court has awarded no compensation for the families of the deceased. Only two people, including the master of one of the vessels, survived. The enquiry found that the collision occurred as a result of negligence by both vessels.

PACIFIC POLARIS (Panama)

London, May 5 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu 2150, UTC: Non specific tanker *Pacific Polaris* (28799 gt, built 2004) reported gas levels too high in cargo and thus a safety risk, while at Guam. Vessel escorted to sea and undergoing inspection. Vessel due to return to Guam later today.

London, May 6 — Following received from Coast Guard Guam, timed 0310, UTC: Non specific tanker *Pacific Polaris* was cleared to re-enter port following Coast Guard inspection and vessel is now in port discharging.

PANDION (Sweden)

Tallinn, May 8 — Repairs to asphalt tanker *Pandion* were completed on Apr 24, and the vessel sailed from Tallinn on Apr 25. — Lloyd's Agents.

PERSENK (Bulgaria)

London, May 5 — Bulk *Persenk* (10220 gt, built 1998), cargo steel, ran aground at Oshawa harbour entrance at 1223, May 1, while inbound to Oshawa. (Note — *Persenk* sailed Iskenderum Apr 12 for Sorel.)

Troy, Michigan, May 2 — Two bulkers arrived in Oshawa yesterday, bulk *Federal Saguenay* (20837 gt, built 1996) and bulk *Persenk*. Both ships grounded at the port entrance and had to be assisted by four tugs. The Ocean tugs *Omni Richelieu* and *Jerry G* and the McKeil tugs *Glenevis* and *Vigilant I*. It took a bit longer but both ships were docked successfully. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News. (Note — *Federal Saguenay* sailed Alexandria Mar 14, arrived Nemrut Bay Mar 16, sailed Apr 7 and passed Gibraltar Apr 13 for Sorel.)

London, May 11 — Bulker *Persenk* arrived Duluth May 9.

PHILIPP (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 10 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 1622, UTC: General cargo *Philipp* (2567 gt, built 1978), Greenock for Southampton with containers, reported drifting 5.4 nautical miles south of Portland Bill light, in lat 50 25.41N, long 02

28.49W, at 1540, UTC, to effect engine repairs. Estimated duration of repairs five to six hours.

London, May 11 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 0155, UTC: General cargo *Philipp* proceeded but had problems again and is now carrying out repairs. Two hours ago the vessel estimated the repairs would take one and a half hours.

London, May 11 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 0609, UTC: General cargo *Philipp*, anchored, has metal pipings in lubrication oil. ETC unknown.

London, May 11 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 0800, UTC: Tug *Kingston* is now on scene connecting tow to general cargo *Philipp* and will tow to Southampton, ETA unknown.

PINTAIL (Cyprus)

See *Twin Star*.

POLANA

London, May 8 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: On May 4, pusher tug *Polana* was still at Palenisko dock. On Dec 19, the vessel caught fire due to a electric short in the engine room, while on voyage from Novi Sad, Yugoslavia to Constantza. The five barges it was pushing were disengaged soon after the fire was observed, but the *Polana* sank the next day. The wreck was salvaged by Multraship and refloated on Jan 20. It was then towed to Bratislava and since laid-up in Palenisko dock. It is uncertain whether it is to be repaired. (See issue of Feb 16.)

QUEEN MARY 2 (U.K.)

London, May 9 — Passenger *Queen Mary 2* arrived Hamburg 2352, May 6. (See issue of Feb 16.)

RAJIV GANDHI (India)

London, May 8 — C.c. *Rajiv Gandhi* sailed Singapore 0340, May 2, for Shanghai and Busan. (See issues of May 2 and 4.)

SAN CAYETANO I (Argentina)

London, May 4 — Following notice to mariners issued May 3: Fishing *San Cayetano I* (109 gt, built 1965) adrift in lat 40 56S, long 64 35W.

SAN CHI 12 (Taiwan)

London, May 8 — A press report, dated May 4, states: The Member for South Fly Conrad Haoda yesterday alleged in parliament that damaged Taiwan fishing *San Chi 12* was leaking fuel into the sea, creating environment concerns in his electorate after running onto a reef. Mr Haoda said *San Chi 12*, was now grounded on Portlock Reef in the Western province after allegedly conducting illegal fishing activities in the area. Mr Haoda said the grounded vessel and the leak could pose a serious damage to the environment. He said the leaking fuel was drifting west to the wildlife reserve and may also spill into Australian waters.

SANDRA A. (Ghana)

London, May 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Drifting trawler *Sandra A.* (1220 gt, built 1967) has been rescued by Nigeria, off the coast of Bonny Island, along with its 19 crew members and 12 passengers, including a four-year-old child and four pregnant women. National Maritime Authority spokesperson Hajia Lami Tumaka said that the vessel was in lat 04 17N, long 07 20E, when its crew sent out a distress call which was received by the NMA's Port Harcourt Search and Rescue Office. Subsequently, a Search and Rescue team led by Capt S Olopoenia collaborated with the Shell Petroleum Development Company which immediately summoned Shell's supply *Viking Surf*, and successfully towed the vessel to shallow waters. The spokesperson said that the vessel had no water or food on board at the time of the incident, and a preliminary examination showed that the vessel's two lubricating-oil pumps had broken down. "The vessel has since been supplied with 15 tons of fresh water and foodstuffs, while repairs on the oil pumps are being supervised by the NMA," Hajis Tumaka further said.

SANDY CAPE**(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

See *Iran Madani*.

SEIYO MARU (Japan)

London, May 8 — Following navigation warning issued today: General cargo *Seiyo Maru*, 499 gt (built 1996), waterlogged and adrift in vicinity of lat 34 33.3N, long 138 12.7E, at 0903, UTC, today.

London, May 8 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 2110, UTC: *Seiyo Maru* has now been taken in tow, destination not yet decided.

SILVER STAR (Panama)

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

SOLANO (U.S.A.)

London, May 7 — A press report, dated May 6, states: Nine people suffered minor injuries when a San Francisco ferry (ferry *Solano* (74 gt, built 2004)) crashed into a pier in a bustling tourist area today, authorities said. The Baylink ferry, carrying 138 people, ploughed into Pier 43 in the city's Fisherman's Wharf district around 1620 hrs, according to city fire officials. The boat had just left Pier 41 and was heading to Vallejo when it apparently lost control of its steering and veered into the wood pilings of nearby Pier 43. "There was a mechanical problem when they were backing out," said Assistant Fire Chief Jim Barden. Nine people were taken to local hospitals with minor injuries. The exact cause of the crash remained under investigation. Fire officials used a tugboat to tow the ferry back to Pier 41, and passengers calmly disembarked, authorities said. No major damage to the boat was visible.

London, May 8 — A press report,

dated May 7, states: A passenger ferry (*Solano*) that crashed into a pier at bustling Fisherman's Wharf and sent nine people to hospitals with minor injuries, likely suffered a broken water jet control, authorities said today. Inspectors completed their initial examination of the Vallejo-bound Baylink ferry that struck the wood pilings of Pier 43 at about 1620 yesterday, according to U.S. Coast Guard Lt. John Fu. Investigators were awaiting the results of routine drug and alcohol tests performed on the master and crew members, Fu said. The master was not cited by the Coast Guard and it was unclear whether he was back at work today, Fu said. Preliminary tests indicated the crash was caused by a mechanical failure on one of the ferry's two water jet controls, which suck water in and push it out to power the vessel. The malfunction likely caused the master to lose control and hit the pier, said Baylink spokeswoman Teresa Booth. Engineers repaired the faulty equipment today and the ferry was steered back to Mare Island on its own power where it was docked for further tests, Booth said. It could be back in service as early as this week, she said. Carolyn Horgan, the vice president of operations for the Blue and Gold Fleet, which operates Baylink, said the injured passengers suffered whiplash, bumps and bruises. They all were treated and released from local hospitals.

London, May 9 — A press report, dated May 8, states: The Baylink ferry (*Solano*) that slammed into a San Francisco pier Saturday (May 6) near Fisherman's Wharf injuring nine people was due for its yearly safety inspection next week. The ferry has to be inspected once a year by the Coast Guard. It was last inspected in May 2005. It's not known how that inspection could have played a role in the accident Saturday in which the Vallejo bound ferry slammed into Pier 43 after the pilot lost control of the vessel because of mechanical problems. Lt. Tony Gilde of the Coast Guard Safety Office says the vessel won't be placed back into passenger service until there is an inspection and it's taken to sea for test runs. "Now what we're looking to see in this investigation is what caused the problem. Was it strictly a mechanical failure? Some mechanical failures you just can't anticipate. If it was something that we may have been able to catch, we're going to include that in the company's training and operations manual so that hopefully they catch it before it happens again," he said. The company that operates the ferry has said a mechanical failure resulted in Saturday's mishap.

London, May 10 — A press report, dated May 7, states: Ferry *Solano* that crashed into a pier at bustling Fisherman's Wharf yesterday, is heading to a former U.S. Navy shipyard today, as investigators look into what caused the accident. A spokeswoman for Baylink ferry service says the nine injured

passengers have been treated for minor injuries and released. The U.S. Coast Guard says it has completed an initial examination of the Vallejo-bound ferry that struck Pier 43 yesterday. The cause of the crash has not been determined, but fire officials initially said the vessel experienced mechanical problems. The Coast Guard also says investigators are awaiting the results of routine drug and alcohol tests performed on the captain and crew members. The captain was not cited by the Coast Guard, though it was unclear if he was back to work today.

STAR PRINCESS (Bermuda)

London, May 11 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: Redelivery of passenger *Star Princess* is now scheduled for 1100, May 13.

STAR SIRANGER (Singapore)

London, May 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire was reported today on board general cargo *Star Siranger* (11878 gt, built 1991) which was repairing at a yard in Scheldepoort, Flushing East. Extent of damage to vessel not known. (Note — *Star Siranger* had arrived Flushing 2220, Apr 28.)

London, May 8 — Following received from Kiel, dated today: On May 7, general cargo *Star Siranger* which was being repaired at a yard in Vlissingen/Middelburg, caught fire in the Scheldepoort in Vlissingen-Oost. Fire fighters from Oost-Souburg and Arnemuiden attended and succeeded in tackling the flames. Twenty-four persons were on board the burning vessel. The amount of damage is not yet known.

SUMMIT (Bahamas)

London, May 11 — A press report, dated May 10, states: Celebrity Cruises is said it is cancelling one Alaska sailing to repair the propulsion system on its passenger (cruise) *Summit* (90280 gt, built 2001). The Miami-based cruise line said *Summit* must enter dry dock to have its starboard thrust replaced. That means *Summit* can not make its May 20 sailing. Celebrity said it expects the cancelled cruise to have a 4-cents-a-share negative impact on parent company Royal Caribbean Cruises. Celebrity also said it expects the ship to return to its scheduled sailings on May 27. The cancelled sailing is a seven-night Alaska cruise from Vancouver to Seward. *Summit* is currently sailing a 13-night West Coast/Alaska cruise to end in Vancouver on May 20. Guests booked on the cancelled sailing are to receive a full refund and a free Celebrity cruise from North America for up to seven nights, departing on or before Sept 30, 2007, excluding holiday and Celebrity Xpedition sailings. Travel agents are to receive full commissions for the cancelled sailing, plus a \$50 rebooking fee per stateroom if clients reschedule their cruise. Celebrity Cruises President Dan Hanrahan said: "Although *Summit* continues to

operate safely, this is a matter that must be addressed now." Hanrahan said the company will do everything it can to help affected passengers board other sailings.

TAMAR F.I. (Falkland Islands)

London, May 9 — General cargo *Tamar F.I.* was reported arriving at Punta Arenas at 0020 hrs, May 8.

THE CALYPSO (Cyprus)

London, May 6 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0416, UTC: Passenger *The Calypso* (11162 gt, built 1967), with 462 passengers and 246 crew, broadcast Mayday requesting immediate assistance at 0252, UTC, in lat 50 28.9N, long 00 10.1E, approximately 16 miles south of Beachy Head, following fire in engine-room. Engine-room was flooded with carbon dioxide and fire now believed under control. A fire team is being landed on board to assess the situation. Numerous vessels responded to Mayday relay and are now being slowly released. The master of the vessel was going to evacuate the vessel and passengers were in the lifeboats but evacuation not now necessary. Coast Guard tug *Anglian Monarch* has been tasked and due on scene at approximately 0900 hrs. Two lifeboats on scene and four others en route. Wind NNW force 2 (light breeze). (Note — *The Calypso* sailed Tilbury 1805, May 5 for Channel Islands.)

London, May 6 — Coastguard Dover MRCC reported at 0505, UTC, that the fire in the engine-room of passenger *The Calypso* is now out and the fire team on board are now boundry cooling. When tug *Anglian Monarch* arrives on scene it will also carry out boundry cooling. The vessel will likely be towed into a UK port. The vessel was bound St. Peter Port.

London, May 6 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0721, UTC: A fire team are onboard passenger *The Calypso* and are assessing the situation for a possible start of the undamaged (port side) engine. Four RNLI lifeboats remain on scene. All merchant vessels that responded have been released. Coastguard helicopter IJ is being used to take fire teams and Coastguard personnel to the vessel. Coastguard tug *Anglian Monarch* is on scene.

London, May 6 — Following received from Louis Cruise Lines, date-line: Cyprus, today: At approx. 0400, UTC, a fire broke out in the casing of the starboard main engine of the Company's passenger *The Calypso*. The fire was contained within the engine-room and extinguished by the crew. The ship will now be towed to Southampton, where the passengers will disembark tomorrow morning. The vessel was on passage from Tilbury to St. Peter Port, Guernsey. On board are 462 passengers, 454 of which are Dutch, together with 246 crew members. No passenger or crew member suffered any injuries. Upon arrival of the vessel in Southampton, the Company will assess the situation

and will issue a new statement. The Company wishes to thank all the Authorities who responded so efficiently and speedily to this incident.

London, May 6 — Following release received, timed 1015, UTC: Passenger *The Calypso* is being towed by tug *Anglian Monarch* at 9.5 knots, in calm seas, giving an ETA in Southampton at approx 1700 hrs, today, assuming that the weather stays calm.

London, May 6 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1940, UTC: Passenger *The Calypso* arrived Southampton 1857, UTC, in tow of tug *Anglian Monarch*.

London, May 6 — Following received from Louis Cruise Lines, owners of passenger *The Calypso*, dateline Cyprus, today: Louis Cruise Lines announce that passenger *The Calypso* arrived in Southampton at approximately 2000 today, where Berth 38 was made available. Passengers disembarked and are being taken to local hotels for the evening. The Company has made arrangements to fly them back to the Netherlands tomorrow. Louis Cruise Lines confirm that there have been no injuries to passengers or to crew as a result of the incident and again wish to thank all the Authorities, the Captain and crew and others who responded so professionally throughout the day. Louis Cruise Lines apologises to all the passengers who had this special cruise disrupted and thanks them for their patience and co-operation.

London, May 8 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 400 tourists who had their cruise cut short after fire broke out on board passenger *The Calypso* flew back to home yesterday. The cause of the fire, which was tackled by East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, is not yet known.

London, May 9 — A fire on board passenger *The Calypso* at the weekend saw Britain activate its recently formed Maritime Incident Response Group for the first time. According to an official of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, everything went "pretty damn well" under the new collaboration arrangements. Firefighters, the Royal Air Force, coastguard, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the local authority were shown able to tackle fire in a co-ordinated manner. Those involved were yesterday due to conduct a debriefing to consider what can be learned from the case. The engine-room blaze broke out at 0347, Saturday. Firefighters from several country brigades and a team of paramedics were flown to the ship. Lifeboats from the UK and France were also in attendance, although no casualties were reported. The fire was put out before the need to order evacuation, after the engine-room was smothered with carbon dioxide. The vessel was towed to Southampton, where it arrived at 1940 hrs. The vessel is operated by Louis Tourist Agency. The casualty marked the first

deployment of MIRG, a specialised fire service to deal with fires at sea. The MCA's David Jardine-Smith said one key point of MIRG is to ensure that firefighters from different forces attending a maritime blazed work to the same procedures. "We did not have cover around the United Kingdom prior to MIRG," he said. "There were big, big gaps in the ability to get to fires in any meaningful timescale, if at all." A so-called "wash up" to discuss implications, in both positive and negative terms, took place yesterday. A Louis Cruises spokesman stressed there had been no injuries and no pollution and that the crew had acquitted itself well. "It's on berth 38 at the moment," he added. "The latest we have is that the ship is going to be there for 15 days and will be repaired in Southampton. They have got to check the engine and make sure the wiring is still safe, because it would appear that the fire broke out in the starboard engine casing. Then the vessel will get back on its cruise schedule."

London, May 11 — Two separate inspections of passenger *The Calypso* that caught fire in the Channel last weekend revealed multiple fire, safety and structural problems in the 10 days before the incident. Neither the UK's Maritime and Coastguard Agency nor its Spanish counterpart acted to detain the vessel as they were satisfied the problems had been put right. Shipping industry sources yesterday expressed concern that the MCA had bowed to commercial pressure to be more "customer-friendly", so compromising its safety watchdog role. But an MCA spokesman countered: "We would never dream of allowing a passengership to sail with the deficiencies that were found." "But we are satisfied they were put right." Lloyd's List has seen summary reports of two inspections. The MCA yesterday refused a request to release full versions immediately. The first inspection was carried out jointly by the MCA and the Direccion General de la Marina Mercante in Seville on Apr 26 and 27, at the owner's request. It found a total of 30 deficiencies, four of them under the heading of fire safety measures. These included fire prevention structure, fixed fire extinguishing installations, means of control in machinery spaces and the catch-all item "other". An alarming eight items were raised under the heading of structural safety. "Engine-room cleanliness" was also an issue. This may prove significant for the casualty investigation, as dirty engine-rooms are often a factor in engine fires. Another inspection, solely by the MCA, took place in Tilbury last Friday, the day before the ship departed, and discovered 13 deficiencies. Four were listed under fire safety measures, including fire doors, fire prevention structure, fire dampers and "other (fire safety)". "ISM [International Safety Management code] related

deficiencies, maintenance of the ship and equipment" was also given. MCA director of operations Alan Fairney said that the Seville inspection was of "some concern" to the agency. But the decision on detention rested with Direccion General de la Marina Mercante. The deficiencies that were found in Tilbury were not judged to warrant detention. A spokesman for Louis Cruise Lines said all major deficiencies had been before the ship's arrival in the UK, with the engine-room washed down and painted. "By the time the ship got to Tilbury, it was a very different ship inside than it was in Seville," he added. A spokeswoman for t Lloyd's Register, added: "None of the items were class-related and the integrity of the ship and machinery was considered to be in compliance with the rules and regulations when it sailed from Tilbury."

THOR FALCON (DIS)

Penang, May 5 — C.c. *Thor Falcon* (1964 gt, built 1992) arrived Penang May 3 in tow of tug *Greenville 16* due to engine failure. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Thor Falcon* was last reported to have sailed Singapore 2240, Apr 24.)

THOR HEYERDAHL (Germany)

See *Lass Saturn*.

TIDAN (Sweden)

Gothenburg, May 4 — Understand from Falkvarv Shipyard, Falkenberg, general cargo *Tidan* left the shipyard yesterday and has left the port of Falkenberg and is back in normal traffic. — Lloyd's Agents.

TIGER SPIRIT (Cyprus)

Kolkata, May 5 — General cargo *Tiger Spirit* (9974 gt, built 1989) sailed Singapore Port Apr 24 for Haldia, encountered heavy storm with wind force of more than 11. As a result the vessel suffered heavy pitching and rolling, upto 45 deg either side and two 40 ft containers have fallen into the sea and 16 containers damaged. Seawater entered and damaged 1 No 36 Kilowatt blower motor near Andaman Sea in lat 14 38.5N, long 92 33.7E, on Apr 28. Vessel berthed Haldia Port May 4 and the damaged motor is being repaired, ETS midnight May 7 for Kolkata port. — Lloyd's Agents.

TUGEN (Luxembourg)

Durban, May 10 — Product tanker *Tugen* is still under repair at Durban. — Lloyd's Agents.

TWIN STAR (Panama)

Lima, May 4 — Bulk *Twin Star* in collision with bulk/c.c. *Pintail* and general cargo *Alice*: Understand a Global Settlement has been reached between the three vessels, however at present this has not been pronounced or published. It is hoped, that within the next seven to 15 days *Pintail* and *Alice* will be released. — Lloyd's Agents.

UNIMAR (Gibraltar)

London, May 5 — General cargo *Unimar* was reported passing through the Kiel Canal, in an easterly direction, at 1410 hrs, Apr 28, bound for Tornio. It arrived there on May 2, departing the next day, destination Lulea.

VOLGO-BALT 211 (Russia)

London, May 9 — General cargo *Volgo-Balt 211* sailed from Rostock at 1225 hrs, Apr 20, bound for Kaliningrad, where it arrived on Apr 22.



SOMALIA

London, May 8 — A press report, dated May 7, states: Somali pirates have released a "cargo vessel" they seized off the coast of the Horn of Africa country after a businessman paid a \$25,000 ransom, a maritime official said today. The United Arab Emirates-flagged vessel *Al Taj*, which was heading to Kismayu carrying goods for businessmen there, was seized on Apr 27 by Somali gunmen and commandeered to a coastal town near Harardheere, 400 km north of the capital Mogadishu. One crew member was killed and two others seriously injured during the hijacking. The pirates freed the vessel, its Libyan captain and nine Indian crew, most of them from Mumbai, yesterday. "We are informed that the Kismayu businessman paid \$25,000 so that the gunmen could release the vessel and her crew," said Andrew Mwangura, of the Seafarers Assistance Programme, a Kenyan-based organisation representing sailors in the region. "She is now (sailing) back to Dubai with her cargo intact," he said in a statement.

London, May 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Vessel *Al Taj*, captured by Somalian pirates Apr 27 and released earlier this week, has not yet reached Dubai ports due to bad weather. The vessel, which was released after paying a ransom of US\$25,000, is somewhere off the Omani coast braving a violent storm, its owner Narandra Shial said. Shial, who contacted the crew over satellite phone, said that the *Al Taj* was expected to reach shore within three days.



AUSTRALIA

Melbourne, May 5 — Bulk *Ocean Peace* arrived at Geelong Apr 25 to load logs for Korea. During loading

operations on May 1 three stanchions adjacent to No 3 crane on the deck port side gave way resulting in several of the logs going into the harbour and spilling over the deck. A total of about 10 x 3 metre logs are report to have been involved. The log stow was discharged to enable the repairs to the stanchions to be carried out. One stanchion was sheered at the base and two others were bent. Repairs were completed and the vessel sailed for Inchon on May 2. — Lloyd's Agents.

GERMANY

Bremen, May 9 — General cargo *Da Bak Sol* is still in the repair yard of Motorenwerke Bremerhaven. — Lloyd's Agents.

INDIA

Kandla, May 11 — Cement carrier *Doha I* had reportedly arrived outer roads Kandla, O.T.B. at 2330, Apr 11 and was secured at Mooring buoy Nr. 2, inner anchorage, Kandla Port, Apr 12. The vessel is presently undergoing repairs and the repairs are expected to be completed on or after May 17. The next port of call is unknown as on date. — Lloyd's Agents.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 9 — An Aries Maritime Transportation Ltd press release, dated Athens May 8, states: Aries Maritime Transport Limited today announced that its Board of Directors has declared a dividend of \$0.14 per share for the three-month period ended Mar 31, 2006. The dividend will be payable on May 31, to shareholders of record as of May 19. Concurrent with the declaration of the first quarter dividend, the Board has established an additional reserve in anticipation of increased expenses related to additional repair, preventative maintenance work, and out of service time of product tanker *Citius*. Repair and preventative maintenance work is now, according to latest estimations by the vessel's managers and Classification Society, expected to be completed around the end of June 2006. Aries now expects the costs of the works and other associated costs including increased steel replacement and vessel dry-docking work, originally scheduled for 2007, to total approximately \$5.7 million. The loss of revenue from the *Citius* is expected to total approximately \$3.8 million. In addition, the vessel's charterers have presented a claim for approximately \$930,000 in alleged lost profits associated with the off-hire of *Citius* covering the period Dec 3, 2005 to Mar 8. Aries is rejecting this claim on the ground that the charterer's remedy is to add any off-hire period to the charter term in accordance with the terms of the charter contract and with shipping industry practice. The charterer also has the option to cancel the charter but to date no such declaration has been received. Under the management contract with Magnus Carriers, if actual operating

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expenses exceed the set budgeted amount, Magnus is responsible for 50% of the excess. The costs related to the repairs and preventive maintenance work will be included in the calculation of any such operating expenses overrun and Magnus will be responsible for 50% of any such excess over the period these expenses are accounted for. The additional reserve established by the Board for the first quarter also takes into consideration out of service time and repair costs of products tanker *Bora* that has experienced interruption to trading as a result of repairs to the vessel's cargo pumps. The relevant repairs have now been completed and the vessel is expected to return to service shortly. Mons S. Bolin, President and Chief Executive Officer, commented, "Unforeseen issues occurring in the quarter related to *Citius* and *Bora* and the necessity of establishing a related additional reserve resulted in the Company declaring a lower than expected dividend. While *Citius* has been out of service longer than expected, we are confident that the repair and preventative maintenance work completed will enhance the vessel's long-term viability and marketability. (Note — *Citius* arrived Piraeus Mar 13.)

UNITED STATES

London, May 7 — A press report, dated May 6, states: Ten Romanian crew members have been stuck on docked tug/supply *Silver Star* (1076 gt, built 1973) in Port Fourchon for three months while the vessel's owner and operator unhurriedly attempt to fix safety problems. *Silver Star* has been detained by the U.S. Coast Guard since Jan 28 for deficiencies found during an inspection. The problems must be fixed before authorities will allow the crew and the ship to leave the port, said Lt. j.g. Paul Steiner, with the Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit in Houma. Coast Guard officials said ship management also has not paid the supply bills, which left the crew without access to food, laundry detergent and other essentials until other ships and a supermarket stepped in to donate supplies. *Silver Star* performs various tasks for offshore oil companies in the Gulf of Mexico, including transferring fuel and general upkeep of the oil rigs, Steiner said. The ship is owned by Seanor Shipping and operated by UKSNOY & Co., a management company for offshore vessels and deep-sea fishing vessels in Norway. Crew members said they have no information about the problems and no idea how or when the deficiencies will be fixed. Steiner said he thinks progress is being made on some of *Silver Star's* licensing problems, but unpaid bills may keep the vessel detained longer.

London, May 8 — Product tanker *Aral Wind* was reported arriving at Tampa at 1140 hrs, May 4 and sailing at 0700 hrs, May.



AGIOS CONSTANTINOS (Cambodia)

Tenerife, May 105 — General cargo *Agios Constantinos* is still under arrest, with no date set for its release. — Lloyd's Agents.

AMADA (North Korea)

See under "Marine."

ANGELIKI M. (Honduras)

Port Said, May 7 — General cargo *Angeliki M.* is still under arrest at Port Said. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANJUM (North Korea)

Karachi, May 11 — General cargo *Anjum* (950 gt, built 1972) is currently under arrest at Karachi, due to "a dispute between owners". — Lloyd's Agents.

AUDREY

Bahrain, May 9 — Local agents of tug *Audrey* report that the vessel is still under detention and awaiting court order. — Lloyd's Agents.

BLACK SWAN (Bahamas)

See under "Marine."

DAMANIA-1 (India)

Mumbai, May 3 — Ferry *Damania-1* is still docked alongside No "G" PD Mumbai, arrested by order of the High Court. — Lloyd's Agents.

DEFIANT T (Slovakia)

London, May 11 — Consequent upon the order of the Admiralty Court of the Republic of Sri Lanka, in Colombo, in Action in Rem No.05-06/2004 general cargo *Defiant T*, 5987 gt, built 1979, now lying at Colombo will be sold "at it is" by public auction free of all encumbrances at 1400, May 30. (Note — *Defiant T* arrived Colombo Sept 8, 2004.)

DELOS (Bahamas)

Port Said, May 7 — Chem.tank *Delos* is still under arrest at Port Said. — Lloyd's Agents.

ELEN (Honduras)

Port Said, May 7 — General cargo *Elen* is still under arrest at Port Said. — Lloyd's Agents.

FARLEY MOWAT (Canada)

Cape Town, Apr 5 — Research *Farley Mowat* is still at Cape Town, according to information provided by port control. It has been detained by the SA Maritime Safety Authority for reasons of safe manning requirements and possibly other issues. Prospects of release are unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

Cape Town, May 10 — Research *Farley Mowat* is still at Cape Town, according to information provided by port control. It has been detained by the SA Maritime Safety Authority for reasons of safe manning requirements and possibly other issues. Prospects of release are unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

GLAROS (Panama)

La Spezia, May 9 — General cargo *Glaros* is still under arrest in La Spezia, moored at Calata Paita Berth No 8. We understand La Spezia Tribunal has been asked to release an authorisation to the master of the vessel in order that he may sell the vessel to recover crew wages and settle shipchangers' invoices. Court's decision is still pending. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

GOLDEN TAURUS (Bolivia)

London, May 6 — Fishing *Golden Taurus* is currently still at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under arrest.

HANKO I (Honduras)

Port Said, May 7 — Tug *Hanko I* is still under arrest at Port Said. — Lloyd's Agents.

JAVA BASSET (Singapore)

See *Java Beagle*.

JAVA BEAGLE (Singapore)

Karachi, May 9 — Understand from Karachi Port Trust (KPT) that anchor handling tug *Java Beagle* and anchor handling tug *Java Basset* are still under arrest at Karachi port, on the order of local court, since 1994. Both were hired by a local Bhoja Group in 1992 and rented to KPT. Later, the port authority demanded some charges on account of "berth hours" plus some dues owed to the Customs department. The local firm has reportedly avoided paying these dues and both tugs were therefore arrested. The physical condition of both tugs is very bad. The matter in the local court is proceeding very slowly and no early resolution is anticipated, port sources said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ORESTES (Panama)

Bari, May 4 — Passenger ro/ro *Orestes* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORIENTAL (Egypt)

Port Said, May 7 — Fishing *Oriental* is still under arrest at Port Said. — Lloyd's Agents.

PANIC (Greece)

London, May 11 — A report in the Apr 28 issue of "Newsfront", states: Passenger (cruise) *Panic* (292 gt, built 1962) has been seized by Nik.Biniari-Neometalliki AVEE in pursuit of a E2,445.90 claim against the registered owners. (Note — *Panic* arrived Perama prev Jun 14, 2003.)

PLAVA (Albania)

Bari, May 4 — General cargo *Plava* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

PROTON (North Korea)

Piraeus, May 5 — General cargo *Proton* remains in port under arrest. Prospects of release unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

QUEEN CONSTANTINA (Cyprus)

Limassol, May 11 — Passenger *Forest*, ex *Queen Constantina*, is still in port at Limassol, ETD not presently known. — Lloyd's Agents.

TALAVERA

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Venice, May 5 — General cargo *Talavera* continues to be under arrest in relation to a claim by her crew. Sources indicate she may be auctioned around September 2006. Responsible for the sale of the vessel is the court of Venice. — Lloyd's Agents.

THETIS

Port Said, May 7 — General cargo *Thetis* is still under arrest in the Great Bitter Lakes. — Lloyd's Agents.

UGO FOSCOLO (Greece)

Piraeus, May 5 — Passenger *ro/ro Ugo Foscolo* remains at Zakynthos port under arrest. Reportedly no new auction is set up to date. — Lloyd's Agents.



DEBE, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

London, May 9 — A bush fire set off a blaze on a Petrotrin crude oil pipeline in Debe yesterday, forcing the evacuation of children from a nearby school. But no one told villagers living closest to the ruptured line, which was continuing to spew natural gas condensate long after the fire was put out. Fire officers who found the source of the blaze ordered that the nearby Picton Presbyterian Primary School be evacuated. The burning line was first discovered by villager Persad Rampersad just after daybreak. He called the fire service to report that a bush fire had razed an area south of the M-2 Ring Road near Ragoo Village and that flames were still coming from a joint in the 12-inch line. The pipeline transports crude from Petrotrin's Barrackpore oil production facilities to the company's refinery at Pointe-a -Pierre. Officials of the state-owned oil company could not be contacted for comment up to late yesterday. The pipeline was repaired late yesterday by a Petrotrin maintenance crew, who locked off the line and worked with firemen on stand-by.



DELAWARE BAY, UNITED STATES

London, May 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Tests have confirmed that oil spilled in the Delaware Bay late in April came from c.c. *Bermuda Islander*, according to the U.S. Coast Guard. The 340-foot Netherlands-registered vessel, which transports container cargo from Salem to Bermuda, had been a "vessel of interest" as the probe into the spill began. A six-mile slick was first spotted floating on the upper bay early on April 25. Oil samples from the spill and the *Bermuda Islander* were sent to the Coast Guard Marine Safety Lab in Groton, Conn., for characteristic testing. Contracted workers have collected approximately 70 cubic yards of oily debris from the Delaware shoreline and approximately 200 gallons of product has been removed from the Delaware Bay by oil-skimming vessels. A total of 22 birds and one turtle have been reported to have had light oiling. There have been no reports of wildlife killed as a result of the spill, according to the Coast Guard. As a precautionary measure, about 70,400 acres of oyster beds in the Delaware Bay were shut down following the spill but reopened for harvests on May 2. Some of the oil washed ashore in Delaware and some tar balls were found on the New Jersey side of the bay at Gandy's Beach in Cumberland County, officials said.

RAYONG, THAILAND

See C.P.34 under "Marine."



ALGERIA

London, May 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Six people have been killed in floods and road accidents caused by heavy rain in northern Algeria, the country's news agency APS reported today. Four people drowned in floods in the regions of Tipaza, 70 km west of Algiers, and Naama, 600 km south of Algiers, following heavy rain, APS said, quoting police and emergency services. Another two were killed in road accidents caused by bad weather in Tizi Ouzou and in M'sila, 110 km east and 300 km south of Algiers respectively. The heavy rains that have fallen over the north-east of Algeria since Wednesday (May 3) have caused bridges to collapse and blocked several roads in Batna in the south-east, Chlef in the west and Biskra in the south.

CENTRAL EUROPE

London, May 9 — A press report, dated May 8, states: The British Red Cross is supporting an appeal to help 13,000 people who have lost their homes in the worst floods in Romania for over a century. As many as 27 villages and towns are under water after the Danube burst its banks due to heavy seasonal flooding. In Tulcea, close to the Ukrainian border, people have been living on rafts and are totally dependent on water and food aid. The British Red Cross is supporting a £1 million appeal by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies which is concerned the situation could deteriorate further. The relief operation is providing family tents, blankets and tarpaulins among other items, as well as improving sanitation. The British Red Cross' contribution will help improve water and sanitary conditions and provide hygiene equipment. The organization is also deploying an emergency public health delegate to minimise the risk of disease following the floods. "Over the past weeks, hundreds of Romanian Red Cross staff and volunteers have been distributing emergency relief, including blankets, clothing, food and bottled water to flood victims," said Anja Toivola, head of the Federation's Europe department in Geneva. "But we are particularly concerned about the bad sanitary conditions and the possible spread of disease, both for people living in makeshift camps, and for others, where latrines, wells and water networks are flooded out."

CHINA

Beijing, May 8 — Four days of rain and hail storms triggered mountain torrents and landslides in China's central province of Hunan, killing at least seven people, Xinhua news agency said today. Seven cities and 21 counties suffered the worst of the downpours which started on Thursday (May 4) and subsided early today, the provincial civil affairs department was quoted as saying. Flood waters and landslides destroyed 87,500 hectares (338 square miles) of farmland and brought down 3,500 houses, causing direct economic damage of 443 million yuan (\$55.30 million). "The disasters affected the normal life of 1.42 million people in the province, among whom 14,100 were relocated," the department was quoted as saying. — Reuters.

CYCLONE "MALA"

London, May 5 — A press report, dated May 4, states: Eighteen persons were drowned and 14 others went missing in massive flooding from torrential rains caused by cyclone Mala last Saturday night (Apr 29) in Chaung-son village, near the town of Kyankin, 192 kilometres northwest of Yangon, state-run newspapers in Yangon reported today. Cyclone "Mala" in the Bay of Bengal struck Rakhine State on Myanmar's western coast and the Aye-yawaddy delta region in the South, including Yangon.

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

HURRICANE "KATRINA"

London, May 8 — A press report, dated May 7, states: More than nine months after hurricane "Katrina", part of Alabama's gulf coast is just beginning to return to normal. "Katrina" blew ashore dozens of shrimp boats at Bayou La Batre. Many of them are still stranded to this day, but during a visit to the area today, Governor Bob Riley offered new insight into an upcoming recovery mission. The people of Bayou La Batre have been waiting for nine months to get stranded shrimp boats back in the water. Their insurance companies wouldn't pay for the project, so Governor Riley worked with local officials to secure money from the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund, which has agreed to pay the \$1.6 million bill. "We have finally got an agreement that on May 15th they are going to go ahead and start moving these (boats)," Riley said. About 22 of the original 50 boats that were stranded remain on land. The coast guard will be assisting with the recovery operation when it begins later this month.

IRAQ

London, May 11 — Berthing delays are being experienced at Basrah Oil Terminal, due to rough weather since yesterday morning.

KENYA

Nairobi, May 4 — Flooding caused by heavy rainfall in Kenya has displaced thousands, submerged homes and killed several people in various parts of the country during the past week, officials said today. The worst-affected areas were the Indian Ocean coastal region and Nyanza and Western provinces, according to Shem Amadi, director of the National Disaster Operations Centre in Nairobi, the capital. He said the government, as well as the Kenya Red Cross Society, were distributing food, shelter material and nonfood relief items to those in need. Eight drowning deaths have been reported since Apr 25. Most of them involved people being swept away when they tried to cross swollen rivers. Five of the deaths were reported in Migori District in the west, and three occurred in Samburu District in the north. In the port city of Mombasa, Kenya's second largest city, torrential rains over the past five days left hundreds of families homeless after their homes were submerged. Amadi blamed the flooding in Mombasa on poor drainage and the construction of homes in low-lying areas, which prevented the runoff from flowing into the sea. "Some of the problems of flash floods are being caused by failure to abide by the building code," he said. In Kilifi District, north of Mombasa, 3,000 people were displaced after flooding submerged their homes. Hundreds of people sought shelter in churches and schools. Flooding also hit Wajir District, one of the regions most severely affected by the recent drought. An estimated 10,000 people

in Wajir moved out of their dwellings when seasonal rivers breached their banks and flowed into villages following heavy rainfall. In Nyanza Province in western Kenya, the swollen Nyando River submerged villages in Nyakach and Miwani divisions, Amadi said. About 45 children had been admitted to hospital in Butere District, suffering from waterborne diseases and malaria. Such illnesses were spreading rapidly because of the rains. Hundreds of people in the Khwisero area of Butere had also been displaced by floodwaters. Other flood-affected districts included Siaya, Rachuonyo, Isiolo and Malindi. Some 3,000 people in the coastal district of Malindi still needed help to rebuild their homes, which were destroyed when the River Sabaki coursed into villages three weeks ago, according to Ruth Muriungi of the Kenya Red Cross Society. Flooding had also destroyed hundreds of hectares of food crops, especially in Kenya's western and coastal regions. — Reuters.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, May 11 — A freak tornado hit a farming area north of the Philippine capital Manila, killing a 50 year-old woman and leaving about 400 people homeless, a senior police official said today. Leonardo Espina, police chief in northern Pampanga province, said the tornado struck two farming villages in the area last night when residents were preparing to sleep. Espina said a woman died of a heart attack as strong winds uprooted trees and lifted galvanised iron roofs off houses in her village. Around 70 homes were destroyed and power was cut for three hours. Philippine meteorologists said the freak tornado was caused by severe thunderstorms due to abrupt temperature changes at the onset of the rainy season. — Reuters.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, May 8 — On May 6, the traffic during daytime between Sulina and Galatz was reopened. Sulina channel was closed again at 0650, today, due to bad weather, wind North-North-east, sea 5-6 feet. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, May 9 — The Sulina channel was re-opened at 1500 hrs, yesterday. — Lloyd's Agents.

RUSSIA

London, May 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A cyclone will bring squall and heavy precipitation to Kamchatka from Sakhalin. A storm warning is announced for all operational services in the region and vessels sailing off the coast of the peninsula, the Kamchatka meteorological center told Itar-Tass today. The impact of the cyclone will be felt on the south-western and south-eastern coasts of Kamchatka in the afternoon on May 11. The wind velocity will reach 15-20 metres. The impact of the cyclone will be strong on the peninsula till May 13, specialists believe.

Earthquakes**INDONESIA**

London, May 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful earthquake rocked the southern half of Indonesia's Sumatra Island today, the U.S. geological survey said, but there were no immediate reports of damage. The quake, which had a preliminary magnitude of six, struck around 30 kilometres south of Bengkulu city on Sumatra's southern tip, the survey said on its website. An Indonesian geological official said there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

PHILIPPINES

London, May 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An earthquake which damaged a transmission tower and shut down four power plants left more than 10 million people in the Central Philippines without electricity today, officials and residents said. The relatively mild quake, measuring 3.7 on the Richter scale, struck the island of Leyte at 0732, IST, the seismology office in Manila said, triggering a chain reaction of power generation units shutting down. One transmission tower in Ormoc city was toppled, said National Transmission Corp President Alan Ortiz. No casualties were reported, the civil defense office in Manila said. The civil defence office as well as residents said the quake blacked out Cebu city, the country's second largest, the rest of Cebu island, as well as the neighboring islands of Leyte, Negros, Panay and Samar islands. "Restoration efforts are now being undertaken to bring back power into the Visayas (central Philippines region) grid," Energy Undersecretary Melinda Ocampo said in a statement. Regional utilities have dispatched crews to inspect possible damage to distribution lines. "We hope to have the power restored within the day," Ortiz added. The quake's epicentre was near Ormoc and caused the tripping of the Tongonan, Palinpinon, Mahanandong and Malitbog Geothermal Power Stations on Leyte. These plants supply most of the generation capacity that supplies the central Philippines grid, the Energy Department said. — Reuters.

RUSSIA

London, May 9 — A report, dated today, states: A magnitude 5.7 earthquake near the coast of Koryakia, Russia, lat 60.80N, long 165.81E, depth 10 km, occurred at 1102, UTC, today.

London, May 10 — An earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale rocked the northern part of the Kamchatka peninsula in Russia's Far

East early today, emergency services told RIA Novosti news agency. The quake's epicenter was about 120 kilometres from the small town of Khailino in the sparsely-populated Koryak Autonomous Area. The vice-governor of the autonomous area, Zhanna Saksina, said that the quake had not brought damage even to the Khailino where it measured as high as seven points according to preliminary reports. No casualties have been reported.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

London, May 8 — Reported general cargo *Jaami* arrived at Chittagong on Apr 13, to be broken-up.

TONGA

London, May 5 — A report, dated today, states: A magnitude 5.7 earthquake has occurred in lat 20.21S, long 173.90W, depth 42 km, at 0419, UTC, today.

TYPHOON "CHANCHU"

Manila, May 11 — Some 2,000 passengers were stranded at the Matnog port in Sorsogon province, southern Luzon as authorities ordered all vessels to remain in port due to tropical storm "Chanchu". According to the weather bureau, "Chanchu" was estimated at 330 kilometres east south-east of Guiuan, Eastern Samar at 0200, today, with maximum sustained winds of 85 kilometres per hour near the centre. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, May 11 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Chanchu" located near lat 11.4N, long 126.8E at 0600, UTC. Movement past six hours 285 degrees at 10 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: 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 40 nautical miles northeast quadrant, 40 nautical miles southeast quadrant, 45 nautical miles southwest quadrant, 35 nautical miles northwest quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds: 100 nautical miles northeast quadrant, 105 nautical miles southeast quadrant, 120 nautical miles southwest quadrant over water, 85 nautical miles northwest quadrant. Forecast position for 0600, UTC, May 12, near lat 12.9N, long 122.7E with maximum sustained winds of 75 knots and gusts to 90 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 40 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 100 nautical miles. Typhoon 02W "Chanchu", located approximately 385 nautical miles east-southeast of Manila, Philippines, has tracked west-northwestward at 10 knots over the past six hours. Maximum significant wave height at 0600, UTC, today is 26 feet.

UNITED STATES

London, May 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Stormy weather brought high winds and flash flooding

to parts of Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas, sweeping a crowded van off a bridge and killing one of its passengers. Areas of Tulsa flooded early today, knocking out power for about 9,000 homes and businesses, Public Service Co. of Oklahoma spokesman Stan Whiteford said. Fire officials in Broken Arrow, which got up to 5 inches of rain, reported rescuing people from at least two vehicles. Northeastern Oklahoma was under a flash flood watch through tonight. Thunderstorms with wind gusts of up to 82 mph raked portions of West Texas for a second night yesterday, snapping limbs, blocking roadways and downing power and phone lines in Claremont and Jayton. Lightning ahead of the storms sparked wildfires near Peacock in Stonewall County, and wind damage was reported in Kent County and Anton, northwest of Lubbock, authorities said.

London, May 10 — Three people were killed and at least six injured when tornadoes moved through North Texas, a county official said today. At least one tornado touched down late yesterday near Anna, a town of about 6,500 residents about 40 miles north of Dallas, said Jamie Nicolay, of the Collin County homeland security and health care services department. Tornadoes were also reported in the Texas Panhandle town of Childress and in southeastern Oklahoma, but no injuries were reported. The North Texas victims included an elderly couple and a teenager, but their identities have not been released, Nicolay said. She did not know where they were when the tornado struck. Six people were transported to area hospitals, she said. Their conditions were not available. The storm destroyed at least six houses, Nicolay said, although full assessment of damage to the area was limited by darkness. Power was out to about 300 homes. Another tornado in the Texas Panhandle town of Childress knocked down a wall at the local high school, and broken power lines sparked treetop fires, officials said. Gas lines were broken and downed trees blocked roads, but there were no reports of injuries. Meanwhile, three tornadoes touched down in southeastern Oklahoma, along with baseball sized hail and street flooding, but no severe damage or injuries were immediately reported, officials said.

London, May 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Thunderstorms pounded the state of Arkansas for a second day Wednesday (May 10), ripping huge trees up from their roots, shredding roofs, causing power failures for more than 20, 000 people and touching off severe weather warnings across Arkansas. In the initial wave of storms Tuesday night and early Wednesday, winds hit 62 mph at Bentonville, bringing down trees. High winds also felled trees and power lines at Rogers. Mountain Home reported large limbs blown off trees, along with penny-sized hail, while wind damage was also reported

at Viola and Cushman. With the storms came straight-line winds of 60-80 mph, hail and about 2 inches of rain in some places. Agency employees still were trying yesterday to verify a report of a tornado in rural Dallas County. About 6, 400 people in Pine Bluff were without electricity Wednesday, said Entergy spokesman James Thompson. Power may not be restored until sometime today. Wally Hunt, coordinator of the county's Office of Emergency Management, said trees and power lines were down all across the county. He described damage as "quite extensive" and said the strong winds are believed to have caused the derailment of a few rail cars north of Wabaseka on the Union Pacific line and contributed to a tractor-trailer crash on Interstate 530 near Redfield. Buildings on the campus of Henderson State University in Arkadelphia sustained damage. Sheridan Public Schools cancelled classes after high winds knocked out power to district buildings. Some trees and power lines blocked roads. Many other counties in Arkansas, including Dallas, Garland and Pulaski, reported leveled trees.

Volcanic Activity



MOUNT BEZMYANNY, RUSSIA

London, May 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A volcano on the Kamchatka Peninsula, in Russia's Far East region, erupted late today, the geophysical service of the Russian Academy of Sciences announced. The eruption of the Bezmyanny volcano, located in the central area of the Kamchatka Peninsula, began at around 2121, local time (0821, UTCT), the Itar-Tass news agency reported. Bezmyanny, which is 2,900 metres tall, was belching out ash to an altitude of 13-15 km above sea level, and the trail of smoke and ash was spreading to the north and north-east. Bezmyanny is part of a group of volcanoes related to the Klyuchevskaya Sopka, the largest active volcano in Eurasia. Researchers closely watching the eruption said it did not pose any threat to residential areas. Kamchatka's regional department for emergency situations issued warnings to tourist groups and hunters to stay a minimum of 20 km from the volcano.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, May 6 — A U.S. military helicopter crashed while on combat

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operations in eastern Afghanistan, killing all 10 people on board, the U.S. military said today. The CH-47 Chinook crashed late yesterday evening near Asadabad, the capital of the eastern province of Kunar. The U.S. military said the crash was not a result of enemy fire although Taliban insurgents claimed they shot it down with a "new weapon". "The remains of 10 servicemen were found in the aircraft. There were no survivors," said U.S. military spokeswoman Lieutenant Tamara Lawrence. She declined to specify the nationality of the dead. U.S. forces work with Afghan troops and soldiers from other countries in a U.S.-led alliance. The cause of the crash was being investigated but there was "absolutely no indication" it had been brought down by hostile fire, she said. A Taliban commander, Mullah Dadullah, speaking by telephone from an undisclosed location, said Taliban fighters had shot down the helicopter yesterday with a "new weapon". The Taliban are known for making outlandish claims. In other developments, yesterday, a roadside bomb killed two Italian peacekeeping soldiers and wounded four near Kabul. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. Italy has some 1,400 troops in Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force. It handed over command of the force to Britain on Thursday (May 4). — Reuters.

Kabul, May 10 — Angry Afghan farmers clashed with anti-narcotics agents destroying opium fields and two farmers were killed and nine policemen wounded when shooting broke out, police said today. Afghanistan is the world's main producer of opium and its refined form, heroin. Despite government efforts to ban the crop, this year's harvest is expected to be bigger than last year's. The violence in the northern province of Sar-i-Pul erupted yesterday when anti-narcotics agents went to destroy fields where farmers were harvesting opium poppies for their milky sap. "Police faced resistance from armed people among the farmers," provincial police chief General Nadir Fahimi told Reuters. "Two farmers were killed while nine policemen were wounded, three of them critically," he said. Fahimi said an investigation had been launched to determine who was responsible for the violence, the most serious incident during government eradication efforts this year. The United Nations has said the country risks becoming a "narco-state" unless action is taken to suppress production and the trafficking gangs. — Reuters.

ALBANIA

Bari, May 4 — Product tanker *Ambar* is still under arrest at Bari. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALGERIA

Algiers, May 10 — Algerian troops stormed an Islamic rebel hideout today and killed 10 guerrillas, the

largest number shot dead by government forces since the country began an amnesty to end violence, state news agency APS said. Soldiers had besieged the rebels for a month in the rugged mountains of the Seddat area in Jijel province, some 230 km east of Algiers, before they took the hideout. APS did not say which rebel group the guerrillas belonged to but Algerian newspapers have said they were from the al Qaeda-linked Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC). — Reuters.

BANGLADESH

Dhaka, May 10 — At least 100 people were injured and many vehicles damaged in Bangladesh today as sporadic clashes erupted between police and opposition workers protesting against rising commodity prices, police and witnesses said. The protests were organised by the main opposition Awami League party and joined by thousands of its members and supporters, witnesses said. About 50 people were hurt when police fired rubber bullets and teargas shells to disperse protesters in the northern town of Netrokona, 200 km from Dhaka. At the time, thousands of activists were marching towards the office of the district administrator to protest against rises in prices of food, fuel and other essentials in recent weeks. More than 50 other people were hurt in similar violence in other towns. Separately, about 10,000 people led by leaders of a 14-party opposition alliance demonstrated in the capital Dhaka chanting: "We need water and power. Lower commodity prices or quit." Abdur Razzak, a senior leader of the Awami League, demanded that the government accepts proposals for electoral reforms, put forward by the Awami chief and ex-prime minister Sheikh Hasina. At least 20 people have been killed during protests in the country's north-west in recent months over demands for power, water and diesel to run irrigation pumps. Over the past five days, nearly 130 people have been injured during protests over power and water in the capital Dhaka. Of Bangladesh's nearly 60 power generation plants, 25 are out of operation due to mechanical faults. In Dhaka, a city of 10 million people, the Water and Sewerage Authority can supply only two-thirds of demand every day. — Reuters.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Kinshasa, May 8 — Close to 200 Mayi-Mayi fighters have surrendered with their weapons to United Nations peacekeeping troops in north and central Katanga Province, in the south-eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. They surrendered on Saturday (May 6) at Mitwaba, 700 km north of Lubumbashi, the capital of Katanga. Today the peacekeepers handed over some of the Mayi-Mayi to the regular army. "Only about another 200 Mayi-Mayi men are left, and they cannot hold out for much longer," said Jean-

Willy Mutombo, spokesman for the chief of general staff of the national army. — Reuters.

INDIA

London, May 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A top Kashmir separatist rebel was shot dead in a gunbattle with Indian troops today, the army said. "Mushtaq Ahmed Bhat was killed during a gunbattle after the army had laid multiple ambushes for him near the southern Kashmir town of Tral," army spokesman Vijay Batra said. Batra said that Bhat was a "district commander" of the region's most powerful rebel group, the Hizbul Mujahedin. "He was south Kashmir's most dreaded militant and responsible for many blasts."

INDONESIA

London, May 5 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 20,000 East Timorese, fearing renewed ethnic violence, have fled the riot-torn capital of Dili as the Government made desperate calls for calm yesterday. Trucks, taxis and people pushing handcarts streamed out of the city after reports military infighting was about to explode. At least 11 people are thought to have been killed since last Friday (Apr 28), and the toll is expected to grow. Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said yesterday he would support extending the mandate of the UN mission in Dili after a request from his East Timorese counterpart, Jose Ramos Horta. Australia has three military liaison officers and four civilian police attached to the peacekeeping operation in East Timor, known as the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste. Dili's port and airport were crowded with refugees yesterday, many shops were closed and there was panic buying at those that remained open. Petrol prices jumped from about US80c (\$1.04) a litre to more than \$US1 by midday. Suburbs and the city centre were practically empty by mid-afternoon as people responded to text messages warning that the civil war that followed the 1999 independence vote was about to restart. President Xanana Gusmao and Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri held a joint press conference at which they urged almost 600 military deserters who have fled to the hills around Dili to return to the negotiating table. They also tried to reassure the East Timorese there was no likelihood of war breaking out. Dozens of police from the country's western region have deserted their posts and escaped to join families in the mountains, the traditional refuge for Timorese in times of trouble. A Dili-based World Bank official said the police had joined several hundred rebel soldiers, creating a grave risk for the Government. Ethnic-based tensions between members of East Timor's police and defence force have intensified in recent months. Loromonu, or the nation's westerners, claim they are being passed over for promotion in favour of Lorosae, or people from the east. Similar tensions

boiled over in December 2003, when mobs rioted and shops were burnt. "Police from the western parts of East Timor have deserted their quarters and joined the petitioners in the mountains," one employee of an international body said. "As they left they took their guns and ammunition with them. "People are starting to panic. It reminds me of 1999." Minister for Labour and Humanitarian Affairs Arsenio Bano said his office was drawing up plans to care for up to 20,000 displaced people.

IRAQ

London, May 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A British helicopter crashed today in a wealthy residential neighborhood of Basrah, killing an undetermined number of British military personnel and Iraqi civilians and sparking clashes between residents and foreign troops, military and local officials said. A British military official in Basrah confirmed that the crash resulted in casualties but did not disclose figures or other details. A firefighter at the scene said four British soldiers and four Iraqi civilians were killed in the crash and ensuing fire. At least two British vehicles were burned in the melee that followed. Residents reported hearing a thundering explosion as smoke, fire and soot rose from the scene. British soldiers cordoned off the upscale Saiee district, an area of large single-family homes near the governor's office and several compounds housing British personnel.

London, May 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A number of car bomb attacks have killed more than 10 people in Baghdad and Iraq's holy city of Karbala. In Baghdad, two bombs killed at least nine people, mostly soldiers. A bomb near the provincial government in Karbala killed at least five people. Baghdad police also said they had found the bullet-riddled bodies of 43 men killed in apparent sectarian attacks. In Baghdad, the first explosion at 0900 hrs (0500, UTC) targeted an army patrol in the city's Adhamiya district. At least 15 people were injured, including civilians. A second blast - apparently aimed at a police patrol - followed immediately afterwards, killing one civilian and wounding five. The Karbala device went off at about 0915 hrs (0515, UTC) as employees returned to work after the weekend. Police at first said the bomb had killed 21 people and injured more than 50, but police and hospital reports later reduced the casualty figures. It is feared the attack is aimed at provoking further communal violence between Iraq's Shia and its minority Sunni Arab community, says our correspondent. In the southern city of Basra, British and Iraqi forces are looking into how events unfolded when troops clashed with locals after a UK helicopter crashed yesterday. Calm has been restored following the unrest, during which Iraqi police claimed five locals were shot dead.

London, May 7 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 30 people have been killed and dozens more injured in three separate car bomb attacks in Iraq. At least 21 people were killed and 52 wounded when a suicide bomber detonated a car on a crowded street in the Shia holy city of Kerbala, south of Baghdad. Almost simultaneously two car bombs went off in the capital Baghdad. A bomber hit an Iraqi army patrol in the Sunni district of Aadhamiya, killing eight people and wounding 15. Soldiers and civilians were among the casualties. Iraqi and US forces had conducted a sweep for Sunni guerrillas in the area yesterday. In north Baghdad, the third bomb exploded at a busy junction near the offices of a government-funded newspaper, killing one civilian and wounding five. Some Iraqi leaders have labelled the attacks as Sunni al-Qaeda attempts to further sectarian tensions with Shia factions. These bloody attacks came as political leaders were seeking a deal to form a national unity government.

Baghdad, May 8 — Seventeen people, including several policemen, were wounded today in a twin bomb attack in eastern Baghdad, police sources said. A roadside bomb detonated, wounding two civilians, and when a police patrol rushed to the scene on Palestine Street a car bomb went off, wounding four of the officers and 11 others. — Reuters.

London, May 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Insurgents bombed an Iraqi oil pipeline south of Baghdad, and a car bomb and a shooting in the capital killed two Iraqi policemen and the driver of bus carrying government employees to work today, police said. New information also emerged about a bomb-making factory hidden in the basement of a religious school near a major Sunni shrine in Baghdad that had exploded yesterday, killing one insurgent and wounding two, police said. The bombing of the pipeline occurred late yesterday near Mussayab city, about 30 miles south of Baghdad, sending up a large plume of black smoke. The pipeline carries oil from Dora refinery in Baghdad to Mussayab power station, and police Col. Ahmed Mijwal said the attack had closed the station. In Baghdad, a car bomb exploded near a police patrol on Palestine street in eastern Baghdad on Monday morning, killing two policemen and wounding 12 Iraqis: five policemen and seven civilians, said police Lt. Ahmed Qassim. In western Baghdad, suspected insurgents stopped a bus carrying Higher Education Ministry employees to work, fatally shooting the driver and wounding a policeman who was working on the bus as a guard, said police Capt. Jamil Hussein. Yesterday the U.S. military reported that one suspected insurgent was killed and one wounded that day when their bomb-making factory exploded in the basement of one of Baghdad's two more important Sunni

Arab shrines. But the U.S. command and Iraqi forces said today that their investigation found one insurgent died and two were wounded in the basement of the partially built al-Qadiriya religious school next door to the shrine when the roadside bombs they were making exploded. The framework of Iraq's new unity government was put in place last month with the selection of a president, vice presidents, prime minister and parliament speaker. Incoming Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a Shiite, hopes to present his Cabinet to parliament by Wednesday (May 10). However, a top Shiite official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the deliberations, said al-Maliki would probably not meet that target because of differences among the parties over who will run the ministries of interior and defense. Those posts control the police and army, and coalition officials have insisted that the new ministers have no ties to militias believed responsible for kidnappings and killings of civilians.

London, May 10 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 11 people have been killed when gunmen ambushed a bus outside the Iraqi city of Baquba, north of Baghdad, police have said. All the victims were reportedly employees of a state-run electricity company travelling to work. The attack comes a day after Iraqi PM-designate Nouri Maliki said he had nearly completed the task of forming a new government of national unity. Under the constitution, Mr Maliki has until May 22, to finish the task. His cabinet list has to go before the Iraqi parliament for approval. Today's attack took place at about 0900 hrs (0600, UTC) some 10km north of Baquba, police said. The gunmen ambushed the bus with employees of the local electricity firm and "sprayed it with bullets, killing 11 people," a police officer was quoted by the AFP news agency as saying. When police arrived at the scene to investigate "the bus exploded", the police officer added. At least three people were injured in the attack. The Baquba attack comes a day after at least 17 people were killed in a car bomb blast in the northern town of Talafar.

Tal Afar, Iraq, May 10 — The death toll from yesterday's suicide car bombing in the northern Iraqi city of Tal Afar has risen to 24 from 17, police said today. An Iraqi police official said 35 people were also wounded in the blast. A hospital source said the casualties included civilians as well as Iraqi police and troops. — Reuters.

ISRAEL

Gaza, May 5 — An Israeli air strike killed four Palestinians today targeting a training camp used by militants in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian medics and witnesses said. They said the air strike targeted a camp used by the Popular

Resistance Committees (PRC), an umbrella group of militants that often fires makeshift rockets into Israel. An Israeli army spokeswoman confirmed the air strike. "There was an aerial attack on a training compound of the PRC while terrorists were training there," the spokeswoman said. Palestinian medics and witnesses named one of the dead as Juma Doghmash, brother of Mumtaz Doghmash, a PRC commander sought by Israel. Mumtaz Doghmash was not among the dead, they said. Outside the hospital, where the dead men were taken, PRC gunmen fired their rifles into the air and chanted revenge against Israel. The Israeli army has recently stepped up air strikes against militants and well as artillery barrages against what it says are rocket launch sites used by militants. — Reuters.

Gaza, May 8 — Three gunmen were killed today when fighting erupted in the Gaza Strip between Fatah forces backing Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Hamas loyalists, in the most serious internal strife since Hamas came to power. The street battles in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis broke out after Abbas and Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas failed to resolve security disputes in talks at the weekend. Abbas and Haniyeh, whose militant Islamist group won a January 25 parliamentary election, are embroiled in a power struggle over control of the security forces which has intensified Palestinian fears of a civil war between the feuding factions. The Khan Younis clashes began overnight when, according to Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri, Fatah security men "kidnapped" three members of Hamas's armed wing, the Izz el-Deen al-Qassam brigades. Gunmen from the brigades then surrounded the area where their comrades were being held and captured four Fatah men, Abu Zuhri said. A Hamas gunman was shot dead in an initial round of fighting and two Fatah men were killed in a second clash, he added. At least 11 people, including a 16-year-old youth, were wounded. There was no immediate comment from Fatah. Rivalries between the two groups deepened after Abbas appointed a Fatah loyalist to a senior post in the Interior Ministry, which supervises the security forces, so that he could exert more influence — though Hamas runs the ministry. Hamas announced that it would form a new security force consisting of its own members, a move that Fatah viewed as a threat to its domination of the security forces. Adding to the tension is a financial crisis caused by the freezing of aid to the Palestinian Authority by major donor countries, and of tax revenue held by Israel, until Hamas renounces violence, recognizes Israel's right to exist and embraces existing peace deals. Compounding Hamas's fiscal problems, local, regional and international banks, fearful of being slapped with U.S. anti-terrorism

sanctions and lawsuits, have refused to deal with the Authority. As a result, the Hamas-led government has been unable to pay salaries to 165,000 public employees since March, prompting concern about a humanitarian crisis that could trigger an upsurge in Middle East violence. — Reuters.

London, May 9 — A press report, dated today, states: At least nine Palestinians have been wounded in a gun battle in Gaza City between rival Fatah and Hamas gunmen, witnesses and medics have said. Intense rivalries have been building between the two factions since Hamas defeated Fatah in elections in January. Talks over the weekend between Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah and Prime Minister Ismail Haniya of Hamas failed to reach any resolution. Today's clash began when Hamas gunmen opened fire at the house of a Fatah official in Gaza, witnesses said. Fatah gunmen returned fire, and the nine people were reportedly injured in the gun battle. At least four of the victims were schoolchildren on their way to school, medics said.

London, May 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The Israeli army has thwarted the transfer of 550 kilograms of TNT to Palestinian boats from an Egyptian boat, the army said today. Israeli navy vessels intercepted the Egyptian and Palestinian boats last Wednesday (May 3) as they were making the transfer along the Gaza Strip's maritime border with Egypt, the army spokesman said. The incident had been under military censorship until this afternoon. When the Palestinians on the boats saw the Israeli navy boats approaching, they dumped the bags of weapons-grade TNT into the sea, the army said. Israeli naval divers retrieved 11 bags from the sea floor at a depth of 30 meters and they would be displayed at an army press conference later today, the army said. The Egyptian boat escaped and five Palestinians were detained and questioned before they were released, the army said. The Israeli military believes that since Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip in September, there has been a steep increase in Palestinian militants smuggling weapons and explosives into the area by land and sea. Israel is especially concerned about weapons smuggling since the Islamic Hamas group was elected in January.

LEBANON

Beirut, May 10 — Tens of thousands of Lebanese marched through the streets of Beirut today condemning the anti-Syrian government and demanding it scrap economic reform plans that have split the country. A year after mass protests brought down a pro-Syrian government and helped end Syria's 29-year military presence in Lebanon, security officials said at least 100,000 people poured into downtown Beirut in a politically-charged labour protest to say "no to taxes, no to corruption." Anti-Syrian forces were absent from the protest

which drew state employees, students, schoolchildren and pro-Syrian Hizbollah and Amal loyalists, as well as supporters of Christian opposition leader Michel Aoun. Original plans by pro-Syrian politicians to push for the government to resign were set aside after it caved into the main trade union demand and dropped tentative plans to introduce shorter term contracts for public sector jobs, which would have cut the number of state "jobs for life" amid high unemployment. However, union bosses decided to go ahead with the protest, complaining that the reform package, drawn up by the government to help cut a public debt above \$36 billion, would harm working people through a series of tax increases. "We want the government to withdraw the entire reform plan and cancel the plan to grant state employees contracts with limited duration," Mahmoud Qomati, politburo member of the Shi'ite Muslim Hizbollah guerrilla group, said. The government, led by a former finance minister, hopes to present the reform package to international lenders at a debt aid conference it plans to hold in Beirut this year. However, the conference has been delayed as fractious Lebanese politicians squabble over reforms that include privatisation of the telecommunications and power sectors, increases in income and value-added tax and cuts in public sector spending. Anti-Syrian politicians say the protests are premature as the cabinet has yet to approve the proposals. — Reuters.

NEPAL

Kathmandu, May 10 — Maoist rebels in Nepal had seized seven people, including five policemen, the army said today, despite recently declaring a three-month truce. "Five personnel of the armed police force were taken captive by the Maoists yesterday from Nawalparasi," an army officer said. Nawalparasi is a Maoist stronghold about 200 km south-west of Kathmandu. Two civilians were also taken captive in neighbouring Rautahat district on Monday (May 8), he said. At least 13 people — among them soldiers, policemen and civilians — have been kidnapped by the rebels since the declaration of the truce. Yesterday, the Maoists said they were handing back land and houses seized during the decade-old revolt, a rebel spokesman said, as part of a deal with the main political parties who took power last month after weeks of anti-king protests. The properties were seized by the rebels in a bid to equally distribute assets among the people. However, they were rarely used though the owners were forced to flee the villages. "The process of returning the homes and properties unjustifiably captured has already started," rebel spokesman Krishna Bahadur Mahara said in a statement late yesterday. Mahara also urged the new multi-party cabinet, formed after King Gyanendra gave in to the street protests and restored parliament, to

free Maoist leaders and activists held in jails in Nepal and neighbouring India. He said this would help create an atmosphere for peace talks with the new government. Both sides have committed themselves to the talks but no date has been fixed. The government, however, has matched a ceasefire by the Maoists. The two sides are preparing for elections to an assembly that would write a new constitution and decide the fate of the monarchy in the Himalayan kingdom. — Reuters.

PAKISTAN

London, May 8 — The situation in Dera Bugti and Kohlu districts continue to be explosive and the rocket attacks, laying of landmines and the gas pipelines have become daily routine. The gas pipeline from Loti gas field supplying gas from well number one has been blown with a bomb blast disrupting supply to the main gas plant. There were the reports of clashes between the miscreants and law enforcing agencies. Three persons were killed Saturday (May 6) in broad daylight in Quetta in three incidents. Mohammad Naeem Kakar was killed by rival group in front of the court of judicial magistrate in the district courts. (See issue of Apr 27.)

Quetta, Pakistan, May 11 — At least six policemen were killed and 13 wounded today in five blasts at a police training school in Pakistan's troubled south-west, police and hospital sources said. The explosions occurred in the firing range of the police training school in the city of Quetta. There was still confusion over the nature of the explosive devices with some police saying they were remote-controlled bombs, while others said landmines caused the blasts. A hospital official said six bodies and 13 wounded had been received at the hospital. "More wounded persons are being brought to hospital," he said. The bombs went off in quick succession when commandoes of the police Anti-Terrorist Force were training. "It happened at around 0840 hrs. The blasts occurred one after another," Senior Superintendent of Police, Qazi Abdul Wahid, said. No one has claimed responsibility for the blasts. — Reuters.

PHILIPPINES

London, May 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Philippine government troops overran a suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebel camp in Ormoc City in the central Philippine province of Leyte Monday, a military spokesman said. Quoting reports reaching the military's Command Center, the Armed Forces spokesman Tristan Kison said the troops swooped down on the rebel camp at a village in Leyte province at around 1015 hrs. The firefight lasted 45 minutes, Kison said. Over the weekend, three government security troops were killed, while two others and a civilian were injured in separate ambushes by the NPA also in central Philippines.

SOMALIA

Mogadishu, May 7 — At least 11 Somalis were killed and 15 wounded in Mogadishu today in fresh clashes between rival militia groups responsible for the capital's worst violence in years, witnesses said. They said fighting was triggered when gunmen linked to the Mogadishu Anti-Terrorism Coalition, an alliance of powerful warlords, attacked a car belonging to forces allied to the Islamic courts. "A militia backing the anti-terror coalition attacked an Islamic court vehicle driving in SiiSii area of Mogadishu," said Siyad Mohamed, a militia leader linked to the Islamic courts. Residents said they saw at least 11 bodies on the streets, including a young child and a pregnant woman. They said three people had been hit by stray bullets near where the fighting took place. One resident said today's fighting followed an incident late yesterday, when one man was killed in the area. Nurses at a nearby clinic said 15 people were brought in wounded. Calm had returned later today but Mohamed said he expected more fighting this week. "The Islamic courts are moving their militia near SiiSii and are planning to attack these militias who are living there," he said. Somalia's President Abdullahi Yusuf expressed concern this week over U.S. support for the warlords fighting hardline Islamic militia as part of Washington's declared war on terrorism. U.S. officials have declined comment on the persistent reports from foreign and local sources in Somalia that Washington has funnelled large sums of money to the alliance since the start of the year. Many residents say the Islamic courts, which have created a semblance of order in lawless Mogadishu by providing justice under sharia law, want to fight any move to undermine their authority in the city. Reports that re-armed fighters from both sides have moved to strategic positions have fuelled fears of worse violence to come. — Reuters. (See issue of May 2.)

Mogadishu, May 8 — Islamic militia and fighters for a self-styled "anti-terrorism" alliance of warlords battled for a second day today in Somalia's lawless capital, bringing the death-toll to at least 19, residents said. Hospital sources and Mogadishu residents said a further eight people — including three civilians — had died in fighting today, adding to 11 yesterday. Nearly 30 people have been wounded, they said. Hussein Gutale Rage, a spokesman for the coalition, confirmed by telephone that fighting had begun again today. "We will continue fighting until they (the Islamic militia) stop shooting at us," he said, adding most casualties were civilians. — Reuters.

Nairobi, May 9 — The latest flare-up in fighting between Islamic militia and a self-styled "anti-terrorism" alliance of warlords in Somalia's capital Mogadishu has killed at least 35 people, sources on both sides said today. "By yesterday, 35 people have

died from both sides, including civilians, and over 70 are wounded," Ali Nur, an alliance militia member, told Reuters by telephone. Fighting was continuing for the third day today in the run-down Siisii district of the lawless coastal city. An Islamic militia leader, Siyad Mohamed, confirmed fighting had started again yesterday morning. "We have lost at least four today on our side, and three yesterday," he said by telephone. — Reuters.

London, May 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Islamic militiamen and their secular rivals today battled for control of Somalia's capital despite promises of a ceasefire, bringing the death toll from three days of fighting to at least 90. The sounds of heavy weapons echoed through the city, but the fighting was not as intense as it has been over the previous three days. The battle between gunmen loyal to Mogadishu's Islamic courts and secular militiamen has centered on the northern neighbourhood of Sii-Sii, with neither side gaining an advantage. Francois Lonseny Fall, the U.N. secretary general's special representative for Somalia, appealed for "leaders on both sides to step back from the brink and reconsider the damage they are inflicting on the population". "Whatever the allegiances, the intermittent conflict between heavily armed camps has resulted in indiscriminate loss of life and has created fear and chaos for those civilians trapped in the crossfire," he said. "The indiscriminate use of heavy machine guns, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and artillery in and between urban areas is unacceptable." At least 90 people have been killed and nearly 200 wounded since fighting flared up in the capital Sunday (May 7), said Dr. Mohamed Hassan of Ayaan Hospital, citing reports from Mogadishu's main hospitals. Islamic Court Union chairman Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed said yesterday that his group would observe a ceasefire in response to pleas from civilians caught in the crossfire. His rivals were suspicious of the plan and leaders said only that they would discuss the ceasefire offer. "The Islamists have ran out of ammunition, so they want to get breathing space for mobilization and rearming their militia," Hussein Gutaale, spokesman of the secular militias, said Tuesday.

London, May 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Fighters loyal to secular warlords and Islamic extremists fired artillery and mortars at each other early today in Mogadishu as hundreds of families fled violence that has killed at least 122 people over five days. The fighting has escalated steadily despite efforts by businessmen, clan elders and moderate religious leaders to broker a ceasefire. It started on Sunday (May 7) when extremists with alleged ties to al-Qaida tried to capture a strategic road through northern Mogadishu from the warlords. The battle between

the Islamic Court Union and the Alliance for the Restoration of Peace and Counterterrorism has centred on the northern neighborhood of Sii-Sii, with neither side gaining an advantage. While the alliance has held the road through Sii-Sii, the court union has controlled the neighborhoods on either side of it. Militias allied to the extremists and the warlords in other parts of the city have not joined in the fighting, but continue to man their defences amid rising tensions. Medical officials reported 26 people killed since nightfall yesterday. Most of the victims have been civilians caught in the crossfire. Doctors say more than 200 people have been wounded. The International Committee of the Red Cross said two hospitals had admitted 184 wounded people, including 20 women and 22 children, and expressed concerns about "the consequences in humanitarian terms of the intense armed clashes." Twelve shells missed their target overnight, landing on civilian homes far from the fighting, witnesses said. Islamic Court Union chairman Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed has repeatedly promised to observe a cease-fire, but so far none has taken hold. Late yesterday, civic leader Abdulahi Shir'wa said neutral groups were mediating talks between the leaders of the two militias. However, Abdinura Siad, a commander of the secular alliance, said he thought the mediators were biased. Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Gedi yesterday called on all sides to stop fighting from his government's headquarters in Baidoa, 150 miles west of Mogadishu. Although his government has UN backing, it has so far failed to assert itself outside of Baidoa.

SRI LANKA

Colombo, May 4 — Sri Lanka's army said it killed seven suspected Tamil Tigers after an attack on a checkpoint today, while the rebels raised new objections to a government plan aimed at ending the deadlock over peace talks. International truce monitors say around 200 people have died since early April in the bloodiest month since a 2002 truce halted two decades of civil war. Talks due to be held last month in Switzerland have been postponed indefinitely by the rebels. The army said two Home Guard troopers were shot dead in the morning in the northern Vavuniya district, while grenade and shooting attacks continued across the north. Seven people were killed after an attack on a checkpoint near the town of Jaffna. In what appeared to be an account of the same incident, pro-rebel website Tamilnet said six innocent civilians were shot dead by the army after an attack on a checkpoint. The army said one soldier was killed and another wounded in an evening grenade attack in Vavuniya. With Jaffna hospital reporting one Tamil civilian shot dead in a separate incident, that brought the day's death toll to at least 11. — Reuters.

London, May 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Sri Lanka's Navy destroyed what a military spokesman called a rebel suicide boat off the island nation's western coast today. According to the navy, the boat was to have rammed into a patrol raft in the Kudiramalai point area. Because of the incident, the Navy said it is using the Sri Lankan Air Force to track potential rebel sea movements in the area.

London, May 8 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 11 people have been killed in Sri Lankan factional fighting, defence officials said, as a Japanese envoy sought to salvage the island's faltering peace process. A breakaway faction of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) launched a pre-dawn attack against a base of the main guerrilla group in northeastern Trincomalee district today, killing 11 and wounding four, defence sources said. There was no immediate word from the Tigers or the faction led by V. Muralitharan, better known as Colonel Karuna, but official sources said the attack appeared to be a retaliatory strike after an LTTE attack on Karuna's forces last month. The defence ministry said they had no further details of the latest violence because the fighting occurred in rebel-held territory. The reports of violence emerged as Japanese envoy Yasushi Akashi met President Mahinda Rajapakse today after the government imposed a curfew yesterday in the northern Jaffna peninsula. Defence Ministry spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said the curfew would be lifted later today. The main entry and exit points to rebel-held territory in the island's north have also been closed since yesterday. "We hope to be able to open the entry and exit points very soon," Samarasinghe said without elaborating. Yesterday, security forces imposed the curfew in Jaffna ahead of protests over last week's killing of seven men the army said were suspected Tamil Tigers, but rebels described as civilians. The security measures also followed reports that eight men were missing in Jaffna yesterday. Following his talks with Rajapakse, Akashi was to meet with the leader of the LTTE's political wing, S.P. Thamilselvan, tomorrow, in a rebel-held northern town, the Tigers confirmed. Despite the truce signed in 2002, more than 200 people, mostly civilians, have died over the last month in tit-for-tat attacks by government and rebel forces. The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission that oversees the truce has said the violence is out of control and the only way to curb it is for the two sides to agree to talks.

London, May 10 — A press report, dated May 9, states: Sri Lanka today extended by another month the state of emergency imposed after the assassination of then Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar in August last year, despite protests by minority Tamil legislators. The tough laws giving sweeping powers to police

and security forces to arrest suspects were passed amid protests by the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) legislators, who staged a walkout from the Parliament and staged a sit-down. The TNA, a proxy of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), wanted the government to lift the emergency and open peace talks with the rebels. Meanwhile, the Tiger rebels asked Japanese peace envoy Yasushi Akashi to help bring foreign pressure on the Sri Lankan government to scale down violence and open talks. Colombo has blamed the Tigers for the increase in violence.

SUDAN

Abuja, May 5 — The government of Sudan and the main Darfur rebel faction signed a peace agreement today to end three years of fighting. Majzoub al-Khalifa, head of the government's negotiating team, and rebel Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) faction leader Minni Arcua Minnawi signed the deal in the Nigerian capital Abuja after days and nights of intense talks under global pressure. "We are reaffirming that the fighting ends now in Darfur ... We shall go ahead with peace and we shall be serious," Minnawi said at a signing ceremony at the Nigerian presidential complex. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he would press Sudan's government to let in U.N. planners to prepare for a peacekeeping mission in Darfur and urged donors to contribute humanitarian aid to people displaced by the conflict. The peace agreement, which covers security, wealth-sharing and power-sharing, is the result of two years of painstaking negotiations mediated by the African Union (AU). Two other rebel factions refused to sign, complaining that the document fell short of their basic expectations. Diplomats said this could pose problems in the implementation phase. "There will be tests because not all have shown courage and leadership today," said U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick at the signing ceremony. "Those parties are bound by the ceasefire as all are," he added. The rebels who refused to sign also risk U.N. sanctions such as travel bans or a freeze on assets. It is not clear the agreement will bring peace. A ceasefire has been in place since April 2004 but the AU, which has 7,000 peacekeepers in Darfur, says all sides have continued fighting. However, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo and all the other speakers at the signing event emphasised that implementation of the deal was the key. Western governments have called for the AU peacekeeping mission in Darfur to be turned over to the United Nations but the government in Khartoum has said it would consider U.N. troops only after a peace agreement. Annan, at the United Nations, said that to get a U.N. force into Darfur soon, the international community had to "really move very quickly to have the right impact on the ground." Zoellick said Washington had asked Rwanda to

send an extra 1,200 troops to Darfur immediately to strengthen the thinly stretched AU force until the arrival of U.N. troops. Annan also noted international donors had pledged just 20 percent of the \$648 million in humanitarian aid for Darfur and urged individuals and corporations to chip in. "...whoever can make a contribution, we would urge them to do it," he said. — Reuters.

THAILAND

London, May 11 — Two women were killed and 14 others injured when a bomb hidden in a motorcycle exploded near a market in restive southern Thailand on yesterday, police said. The blast occurred as a truck carrying soldiers to the market in Pattani Province's Mueang district pulled up to park next to the motorcycle.



NIGERIA

Lagos, May 11 — A group of foreign workers were kidnapped from a car under police escort in Nigeria's southern oil capital Port Harcourt today, an industry source said, a day after a US oil executive was shot dead in the same city. A police spokesman confirmed that at least one expatriate had been abducted but added that one suspected kidnapper had been arrested. — Reuters.



ELWOOD (Panama)

Maassluis, May 9 — General cargo *Elwood* remains under detention and there are no prospects of release in the near future. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

GREECE

London, May 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Transport services, including flights, are expected to be severely disrupted in Greece today as trade unions stage a 24-hour nationwide strike. The strike will also affect banks, courts, government offices and schools, while state hospitals will operate on a skeleton staff. The strike was called by Greece's largest umbrella union, the General Confederation of Greek Labor, or GSEE, and the Union of Greek Civil Servants. The strikers' demands include collective wage bargaining in banks and higher wages. The government "is seeking to overthrow and demolish workers' rights ... As long as this policy continues, our struggle will intensify,"

GSEE said in a statement. Flag carrier Olympic Airlines has announced the cancellation of 101 domestic and international flights today, but other airlines are not expected to be affected. In Athens, nearly all public transport will not operate today, while taxis will operate normally. Trains will have a very limited service yesterday and today. Strikers plan to march this morning in central Athens, adding to the expected transport congestion in and around the city centre.

ISRAEL

London, May 4 — A press report, dated today, states: All First International Bank of Israel branches were closed to the public today, due to a strike. The strike is part of the labour dispute between the bank's management and its workers committee. First International Bank's management said today that it would do its utmost to minimize inconvenience to customers. "The bank's 700 managers and authorized signatories will operate online services, dealing rooms, and the critical operating nodes, and will respond to customers' urgent requests." The reason for the labour dispute is the demand by First International Bank's employees for a bonus for 2004.

MEXICO

London, May 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Grupo Mexico closed its San Martin copper and zinc mine after the company failed to end a strike that has halted production since March, spokesman Juan Rebolledo said in a television interview. "It's impossible to even hope that this is going to be resolved," Rebolledo said today in an early-morning interview on TV Azteca. "That's why we closed it." Lost production from San Martin and Grupo Mexico's La Cardidad mine have helped curb global copper supplies. The metal traded today at a record on the London Metal Exchange as some analysts forecast production this year will lag behind demand. Mexican state governments have refused to break up strikes at company mines. Federal authorities and Mexico City-based Grupo Mexico have declared the protests illegal. "The company expects the law be applied," said Xavier Garcia de Quevedo, Chief Operating Officer of the company's Southern Copper Corp. unit. Grupo Mexico's Minera Mexico unit is producing 10 percent less because of strikes. Grupo Mexico is trying to meet customer demand by purchasing raw concentrates, a raw material, and refining it at plants with spare capacity, Garcia also said on TV Azteca. "Given the scarcity of copper at the world level, it's affecting the productive chain," Garcia said. Grupo Mexico may forgo making investments while the strikes continue, Rebolledo said. The company had plans to invest more

than \$600 million in Mexico this year. "When the conditions improve, then the investment will flow," Rebolledo said. La Cardidad, the company's second largest mine, employs 1,800 miners. San Martin employs more than 700, Garcia said. Mining families had to move out of the neighbourhood nearest to San Martin over concerns of "insecurity" in the area, Rebolledo said. Garcia said the union was using about 20 armed people to block the mine.

NIGERIA

London, May 10 — Staff of the Brass Terminal operators (NAOC) started a 'work-to-rule' action May 8. By yesterday, one vessel had been affected as her scheduled berthing could not be carried out due to the action. Union Executives and Management are understood to be holding meetings to resolve the issues.

London, May 10 — Normal work has resumed at Brass Terminal after a work-to-rule action by terminal staff was called off last night. Staff of the terminal operators (NAOC) had started their action on Monday (May 8).

SOUTH AFRICA

London, May 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of commuters were left stranded today as hundreds of taxi operators embarked on a provincial strike due to last until the end of the week. Workers and school pupils were up early today waiting at bus stops from as early as 0500 hrs to ensure that they made it to work and school on time. The strike, called by the KwaZulu-Natal Transport Alliance (KZNTA), is part of the ongoing protest against the government's taxi recapitalisation programme and the conversion of taxi permits to licences. KZNTA chairperson Eugene Hadebe said the alliance would stage a blockade outside the provincial legislature in Pietermaritzburg tomorrow and hand over a memorandum to Premier S'bu Ndebele. Although the alliance has instructed all taxi operators around the province to stay away, other taxi operators aligned to the KwaZulu-Natal Taxi Council have vowed to continue operating. In a statement yesterday, council spokesperson Bhungane Hadebe said taxi operators were still engaging the government on all issues that the taxi industry was unhappy about. The African National Congress also distanced itself from the strike in a statement sent out yesterday. Provincial spokesperson Mtholephi Mthimkhulu said that while the ANC acknowledged that taxi operators had a right to strike, they appealed to them to consider the effect the strike would have on poor people who rely on public transport.

London, May 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of taxi commuters were left stranded yesterday when taxi operators

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embarked on a week-long strike, forcing school pupils and workers to find alternative transport. Alliance Chairperson Eugene Hadebe said a decision would be made today in Pietermaritzburg, where alliance members are also expected to march, on whether the taxis would return to the roads. Transport MEC Bheki Cele said the department would wait until the alliance met today to discuss a way forward. Durban Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Officer Bonke Dumisa said the strike had not severely affected the business sector, although several businesses had reported employees arriving late for work. Road Traffic Inspectorate Provincial Chief John Schnell said taxis aligned to the alliance had remained parked in depots, mainly in Durban and along the coast. He said a similar situation had persisted in Pietermaritzburg.

UNITED KINGDOM/France

London, May 4 — Hundreds of ferry passengers due to sail from Portsmouth to France on Brittany Ferries have been hit by an unofficial strike. Crossings on the high-speed *Normandy Express* to Cherbourg were cancelled today due to action by the vessel's catering staff. Passengers were transferred to services from Poole, which were not affected. The company said the wildcat strike, which was over changes to working hours, was resolved quickly.

Awards & Settlements



ASBESTOS SETTLEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, May 11 — Building products maker Owens Corning has agreed to a \$US5.2 billion settlement of long-running claims for illnesses linked to asbestos, the company and a lawyer for plaintiffs said. The deal is likely to be the biggest asbestos settlement in history, according to John Cooney, a lawyer who was appointed to represent plaintiffs after Owens Corning filed for bankruptcy protection in 2000. Owens Corning confirmed the deal today, saying it "represents a significant milestone" that will allow the group to emerge from bankruptcy by the end of 2006. The agreement calls for the Ohio-based company to make an initial cash payment of \$US2.9 billion in cash into a trust for asbestos victims. A further payment of \$US1.39 billion would be made later this year and 28.6 million shares of equity in the reorganised company would be included as well. The value of these payments and equity totals in excess of \$US5.2 billion and would allow Owens Corning to emerge from bankruptcy without any liability for asbestos claims, the lawyer said.

PATENT INFRINGEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, May 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A federal jury ruled that Eli Lilly & Co. infringed the patent of Ariad Pharmaceuticals with its drugs Evista and Xigris, and ordered the drugmaker to pay the Massachusetts biotech firm \$65.2 million, the companies said. In U.S. District Court in Boston, the jury ruled unanimously that Lilly infringed a patent that covers methods of treating disease by regulating cell activity with two of its drugs. Ariad licensed the patent from the co-plaintiffs, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, and the Fellows of Harvard College. The case involved the osteoporosis treatment Evista, which totalled \$242 million in sales in the first quarter, and Xigris, a treatment for sepsis. In addition to back royalties, Lilly is required to pay 2.3 percent royalty on future sales of Evista and Xigris until the patent expiration in 2019, said Lilly.

London, May 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Conexant Systems Inc is to pay Texas Instruments Inc a lump sum of \$70 million to settle a long-running dispute over patent rights and licensing deals for ADSL technology. Under the terms of the agreement, TI will grant Conexant a licence to essential patents relating to DSL technology. In addition, the companies have extended the deal to include a fully paid license for VDSL products. Both companies have also withdrawn litigation against each other in the federal courts, and a second trial that was scheduled to begin in October has been called off. The dispute goes back to the 2004 acquisition by Conexant of GlobespanVirata. In June, 2003, GlobespanVirata filed a complaint against TI for violation of US antitrust laws by creating an illegal patent pool, manipulating the patent process and abusing the process for setting standards related to ADSL technology. Two months later, TI filed counterclaims alleging that GlobespanVirata infringed its ADSL patents. "Today's agreement puts behind us a very complex dispute that most likely would have required considerable attention and expense for several more years. From the perspective of our customers, not only have we now reaffirmed our ADSL license with Texas Instruments, we have extended this license to our current and future VDSL products," Dwight Decker, Conexant chairman and CEO, said in a statement. The trial jury concluded in February that GlobespanVirata infringed three patents related to ADSL technology and awarded TI \$112 million in damages.

PERSONAL INJURY, CANADA

London, May 5 — A press report, dated May 4, states: Three more families have settled lawsuits against the Canadian Pacific Railway over a

2002 derailment and chemical spill. Hennepin County District Court in Minneapolis did not release the settlement amounts. The lawsuits that were settled were scheduled to be part of the third wave of cases to go to trial. The court said eight other cases were still scheduled for arguments, starting next week. One of the cases settled involved a family whose home was damaged in the derailment. The home where Carmel and Lee Wieland and their son, Jacob, lived was hit by a tank car carrying anhydrous ammonia early in the morning of Jan 18, 2002. The car had travelled about 300 m from the derailment site on the west edge of Minot. It smashed into the bedroom where Carmel and Lee Wieland were sleeping, coming to rest only a few feet from their bed. The Wielands cited medical bills and health problems from the anhydrous spill in their lawsuit. A Minneapolis jury in February awarded four people nearly \$1.86 million US for injuries they suffered in the 2002 wreck. Six other lawsuits have been settled out of court. More than 200 lawsuits are still pending before Judge Tony Leung in Minneapolis, where Calgary-based Canadian Pacific has its U.S. headquarters.

WRONGFUL DEATH, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, May 4 — A Dutchess County jury today awarded \$42 million in civil damages to the family of a slain New York City police officer and his partner, who survived the 1981 shooting. The jurors deliberated for about eight hours yesterday and today before deciding Green Haven prison inmate Abdul Majid should pay the money to the family of Officer John Scarangella and to retired Officer Richard Rainey. Rainey was awarded \$13.6 million in lost earnings and other losses and for the pain he has suffered since he was injured, and an additional \$25 million in punitive damages. The Scarangella family was awarded \$3,504,413 in damages for lost earnings and other expenses. The jury was barred by law from awarding the family punitive damages because Scarangella died in the attack. Majid, who acted as his own attorney during the trial, told Judge Thomas J. Dolan he intended to appeal the verdict. The wrongful death trial began Monday in state Supreme Court in Poughkeepsie, 25 years to the day after Scarangella died of gunshot wounds to the head. Rainey, who was forced to retire on a disability pension after receiving eight bullet wounds in the attack, testified Tuesday. The shooting occurred in the St. Albans section of Queens on April 16, 1981. Majid, then known as Anthony LaBorde, and another man, James Dixon York, were later convicted of murder and attempted murder and are serving state prison terms.

WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT, UNITED STATES

London, May 8 — A press report, dated May 7, states: The City of

Detroit and other officials are finalizing a \$4 million settlement to a lawsuit brought by the family of a man who spent 17 years in prison for a rape and murder he did not commit. Family members of Eddie Joe Lloyd will receive \$2.6 million, and lawyers in the case will receive \$1.3 million in fees and about \$100,000 to recover costs spent prosecuting the case, according to a proposed settlement agreement filed last week in federal court in Detroit. As part of the settlement, the Detroit Police Department soon will begin videotaping interrogations of suspects who could face life imprisonment without parole, one of the lawyers for the Lloyd family said. Lloyd, who died in 2004, was a psychiatric patient in 1984 when he confessed to the rape and murder of 16-year-old Michelle Jackson — a crime DNA evidence later showed he did not commit. Under the proposed settlement, Detroit would pay \$3.25 million, the state of Michigan would pay \$600,000 on behalf of the Detroit Psychiatric Institute, and Wayne County would pay about \$200,000. Lloyd's daughter Tia Glenn would receive \$1.2 million; daughter Nona Dennard would receive \$1.1 million; his sister, Ruth Harlin, would receive \$200,000; and his brother, William Lloyd, would receive \$100,000. The proposed settlement must be approved by U.S. District Judge Gerald Rosen and the Detroit City Council, among other parties.

Railway Accidents



AKRON, OHIO, UNITED STATES

London, May 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Vandalism is suspected as the cause of the derailment of a CSX freight train carrying coal in Akron near the Barberton line early yesterday, police and CSX officials said. No one was injured, but the damage was extensive. The train derailed about 0120 hrs, yesterday at 31st Street Southwest and Welsh Avenue. Lt. Rick Edwards said it appears that vandals set two railroad ties along the track. The heavy wooden ties had been lying around the site because they were to be added to the base of the tracks as replacements for old ties, Edwards said. When the train struck the railroad ties, it derailed, Edwards said. CSX spokesman Bob Sullivan in Philadelphia said 10 of the train's 103 rail cars and both locomotives were derailed. It was unclear how many of the cars overturned, but both locomotives remained upright, Sullivan said. Three cars were destroyed, along with a shed containing electrical wiring that controls signals on the tracks, Edwards said. Damage to the train and shed was estimated at \$600,000.

The engineer and the conductor were not injured, Sullivan said. Tons of coal spilled during the accident. CSX crews spent hours cleaning up the debris, but trains were to resume running by 2100 or 2200 hrs, yesterday, Sullivan said. The train was traveling from Chicago to Brunswick, Md., Sullivan said. The track that runs through the Akron area normally carries 15 to 20 trains a day. CSX is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of whoever was responsible, Sullivan said.

BELLE PLAINE, KANSAS, UNITED STATES

London, May 10 — A press report, dated May 9, states: A train derailment in Sumner County (Kansas) early today has shut down several intersections as clean-up continues. About 40 Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway cars derailed near 100th Avenue and Oliver, about one mile north of Belle Plaine at about 0500 hrs, said Sumner County Sheriff Gerald Gilkey. There were no known injuries due to the derailment. Gilkey said the cause of the derailment has not yet been determined.

London, May 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Strong winds caused a train derailment about two miles north of Belle Plaine yesterday. Sixteen of 30 cars of a Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway train derailed when a thunderstorm hit the area, said Steve Forsberg, a company spokesman. The cars that left the tracks were carrying empty freight containers stacked too high, he said. The train was travelling from the Chicago area to Texas. No injuries were reported, according to the Sumner County sheriff's office. At the time of the derailment, about 0330 hrs, wind speeds of about 60 miles per hour were reported in that area, according to the National Weather Service. The cleanup is expected to be complete today.

London, May 11 — A press report, dated May 10, states: A section of Burlington Northern Santa Fe track in south central Kansas is back open after a derailment caused by a thunderstorm. Powerful winds knocked 16 cars of a BNSF freight train off the tracks Monday night (May 8). The accident near Belle Plaine closed the tracks and a nearby road. The cars that left the tracks were carrying empty freight containers.

DERAILMENT BETWEEN KOPRIVSHITSA AND ANTON, BULGARIA

London, May 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A wagon of a goods train derailed between the stations Koprivshitsa and Anton last night thus blocking traffic through one of Bulgaria's main railway sections. The accident took place around midnight. No one was injured in the accident. The causes for the

accident are still being investigated. The express trains connecting Sofia and Bourgas are redirected through Plovdiv's station.

WABAMUN, ALBERTA, CANADA

London, May 9 — A press report, dated May 8, states: The Canadian National Railway Co. is offering Can\$7.5-million to compensate residents of lakeside property in northern Alberta that was affected when thousands of litres of oil spilled from a train derailment last summer. According to a release by CN at the weekend, the compensation offer is being made to about 1,600 households on Lake Wabamun, and is Can\$2.5-million higher than an offer the company made in March. Doug Goss of the Lake Wabamun Residents Committee said the offer got a favourable reception from members during a meeting Saturday (May 6).

WHITBY, ONTARIO, CANADA

London, May 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The Transportation Safety Board of Canada today released its final report into the Jan 14, 2004, derailment of Canadian Pacific Railway train 239-13, just east of the Garden Street overpass in Whitby, Ontario. Rail car platforms and containers fell onto the roadway below, striking a southbound vehicle and fatally injuring the two occupants. Several safety actions have been taken as a result of the TSB investigation. Transport Canada issued an order changing the procedures on how CPR operates when an unidentified track occupancy occurs. The TSB issued two safety communications, the first concerning inspection and reporting of damaged or broken rail, and the second concerning shattered rim defects in wheels manufactured by ABC Rail, formerly Abex Southern Corporation. CPR has instituted procedures to address both issues. It has also instituted rail traffic control software enhancements to visually alert the rail traffic controller when a second UTO occurs behind a train, and has improved documentation procedures to better identify track anomalies. During its investigation into this fatal accident, the TSB noted that insufficient measures were in place to address very high workload situations. In its report, the Board has recommended that Transport Canada work with the Railway Association of Canada to implement rail traffic control protocols and training that will recognise periods of high workload and make safety paramount. A damaged wheel on the front truck of the 39th car behind the locomotives of the westbound train fractured the south rail at Mile 178.20 of the Belleville Subdivision, leading to the derailment of the following cars.

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Miscellaneous



OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, May 8 — A press report, dated May 7, states: Officials in the Ivory Coast began slaughtering poultry in markets in Abidjan today after the deadly H5N1 bird flu was confirmed in the west African country. The state television broadcast footage of the economic capital's Marcory and Treichville markets culling and incinerating poultry, with cages being disinfected. The massive slaughter came after neighbouring Ghana on Wednesday (May 3) banned the importation of live birds, poultry and poultry products as well as poultry feed from Ivory Coast, which on the same day confirmed several outbreaks in wild birds and poultry. The Ivory Coast also vowed to quarantine the infected area and restrict poultry movements in the country, after the Paris-based World Organization for Animal Health announced last week that it had detected the first bird flu case in Abidjan.

Fires & Explosions



BUSH, AUSTRALIA

London, May 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulldozers have been used to extend fire breaks on North Stradbroke Island, off south-east Queensland, where a bushfire has been burning for almost a week. Andrew Berkman, from the Fire and Rescue Service, says the blaze remains under control, despite several flare-ups today. "We've had fairly good conditions as far as wind is concerned," Mr Berkman said. "The helicopter has been on stand-by today. It's certainly seen plenty of work over the last three or four days with various bombing runs, but it's on stand-by today. It wasn't required."

BUSH, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

London, May 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A Petrotrin gas line running along the M2 Ring Road caught fire yesterday. The gas line, which runs from Barrackpore to the Pointe-a-Pierre oil refinery, was ignited by a bush fire at Harripaul Village, Picton Settlement, near San Fernando. The incident occurred at 0730 hrs, according to a report from the Fire Services. Firemen responded and immediately extinguished the blaze. There were no injuries, but pupils of the nearby Picton Presbyterian Primary School were sent home because of the intense heat. Residents of Harripaul Village

and Ragoo villagers were also forced to take evasive action from the intense heat. No one was injured.

FOREST, CHINA

London, May 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters and forest policemen are continuing fighting forest fires in the Greater Khingan Range, a major base of virgin forest reserve in north China. By 1800 today, the fire was basically put out in Jiwen forest bureau, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. But the fire at the woods under the jurisdiction of the Dayangshu forestry bureau in Oroqen Autonomous Banner, Inner Mongolia, was still out of control, according to the local fire-fighting headquarters. The two sites feature mix forests of coniferous and broadleaf trees, sources with the headquarters said. At noon yesterday, fires broke out at the Dayangshu forest bureau and last night, fire was reported at the Jiwen bureau. Currently, nearly 2,000 people are fighting the fire, the sources said. Investigation into the case of the fire is under way. Local authorities believed longtime drought and relatively high temperature might have led to the forest fires.

London, May 7 — A press report, dated today, states: The forest fire in the Great Khingan Range, in northeast China, was extinguished this morning, after lasting for two days. Nearly 2,000 forest police and fire fighters, as well as 300 armed police fought the blaze. The fire broke out at the woods under the jurisdiction of the Dayangshu Forestry Bureau in Oroqen Autonomous Banner in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at noon on Friday (May 5). Satellite observation spotted no scattered fire in the area this morning, said an official with the forestry bureau. Air patrols are monitoring the area to prevent possible fire resurging, the official said. The fire fighters are expected to withdraw this afternoon.

FORMER SEAFOOD CANNERY, BATH, MAINE, UNITED STATES

London, May 6 — A press report, dated May 4, states: A fire early today swept through the former Stinson Seafood cannery, a sardine plant along the Kennebec River that closed a year ago and was sold to a developer who hoped to convert it into condominiums. There were no reports of injury in the blaze that was spotted by a neighbour at about 0230 hrs and drew firefighters from a dozen communities. Bath Fire Chief Steve Hinds said the damage will exceed \$1 million. "It was a four-alarm fire — I'd say the biggest fire I've seen in Bath. It was huge," he said. The fire was raging and the walls had collapsed when firefighters arrived, Hinds said. The heat was so great that at one point firefighters directed all hoses at nearby houses to keep them from catching fire. The state fire marshal's office was seeking the cause of the fire, and Hinds suggested that

the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms may be called in to assist. Bruce Poliquin purchased the property in March with plans to build about 40 townhouse-style homes and a marina, but city officials denied his request to rezone the site from commercial to residential.

HANGAR, BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, BELGIUM

London, May 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Two Airbus A-320 of the Armenian airline Armavia burned down in a hangar of Brussels international airport Zaventem, airline deputy commercial director Andrei Agadzhanov said today. He said the aircraft was receiving technical maintenance by Sabena Technics. According to the preliminary information, the jet cannot be restored, Agadzhanov said. The fire has been put down. No one is dead, but four technicians were injured. One of them is in hospital. There is still smoke in the airport building, and a number of flights have been delayed.

HANGAR, BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, BELGIUM F/UP

London, May 6 — A approximately 0005, May 5 a fire broke out in Hangar 40 at Brussels International Airport. The fire brigade had the fire under control by 0300 hrs but ultimately the roof collapsed. The hangar was used for maintenance work by Sabena Technics. Four aircraft were inside the hangar at the time of the fire: Belgium Air Force C-130 Hercules, CH-02, a Volare Airlines Airbus A.320, SX-BVB, an Armavia Airbus A.320, EK-32010, and an Armenian International Airways Airbus A.320, EK-32001. All four were presumably damaged beyond repair.

MUNITIONS FACTORY, GLADSTONE AREA, AUSTRALIA

London, May 9 — A press report, dated today, states: At least one person is dead, two injured and two remain missing in an explosion at a South Australian munitions factory. The explosion at the Quin munitions factory, about 10 km north of Gladstone, in SA's mid-north occurred shortly after midday, CST, today. A SA Ambulance spokeswoman said at least one person died in the blast. She said two other people had been taken to the nearby Crystal Brook hospital with minor injuries. She said a further two people remained unaccounted for. A police spokesman said the blast had destroyed the factory. The area around the factory had been declared a danger zone and access had been restricted. Restrictions also applied to the flight area over the factory, a police spokesman said. A spokeswoman for the factory said up to 20 people were working at the site at any one time but declined to say how many were there when the explosion happened.

The blast is believed to have occurred in one of about five buildings at the site.

OFFICE COMPLEX, RICHLAND TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

London, May 8 — A press report, dated May 7, states: A fire yesterday night in an office complex resulted in nearly \$1 million in damages. The fire took place at the True Position Machine Shop on Chessrown Road in Richland Township. The fire was first spotted by a police officer and part of the building exploded before firefighters arrived on the scene. The fire chief believes the blast was caused by propane tanks or oil. Firefighters were on the scene for more than two hours. No one was injured in the blaze.

OIL DEPOT, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 9 — Investigators probing last year's explosion at the Buncefield oil depot said today the blast was probably caused by the ignition of a vapour cloud after a storage tank overflowed. An automatic safety system should have prevented the overflow but had failed to cut off the fuel supply, they added. A series of explosions at the depot in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, early on Dec 11 spawned a three-day inferno which became one of the country's biggest-ever peacetime fires. The Buncefield Major Investigation Board said in a report that the tank — number 912 — had been overflowing for more than 40 minutes before the blast. However, the extensive damage from the blast meant it had not been possible to identify what sparked the cloud of fuel vapour that would have formed. Possible candidates were a nearby emergency generator, a fire pump-house or even a spark from a passing car. Unleaded fuel was being piped into the tank for 11 hours before the blast and it would have been full by 0520 hrs, some 41 minutes before the explosion, the report said. The tank's rising level and subsequent overflow failed to trigger alarms in the depot's control room. The report said gauges monitoring the level in the tank had stuck, showing it to be only two-thirds full, even as more fuel was being pumped in. A high-level automatic override designed to stop any overflow then failed to cut off the supply. "At the time of the incident, automatic shutdown did not take place," the report added. "Tank 912 would have been completely full at approximately 0520 hrs, overflowing thereafter. This timing is entirely consistent with CCTV evidence and eyewitness accounts reporting on a dense vapour cloud at various times between 0538 and 0600 hrs." The report said over 300 tonnes of fuel would have overflowed through eight breather holes in the roof of the tank. Seismological evidence showed the main explosion occurred at precisely 32 seconds after 6:01 a.m. Eyewitness

accounts described the main blast being followed by a number of smaller explosions, probably some minutes later. The report said the subsequent blasts were probably internal tank explosions or further release of fuel from damaged tanks and pipework. The report is the third by the investigation board on the causes of the blast at Buncefield, the fifth-biggest depot in Britain, jointly owned by Total SA and Texaco Inc. Officials from the Health and Safety Executive are leading the joint investigation into the blast with the Environment Agency. The Health and Safety Commission, the HSE's governing body, appointed the independent Buncefield investigation board in January to direct the inquiry and publish its findings. Today's report stops short of considering blame, to avoid prejudicing an ongoing and separate criminal investigation. — Reuters.

OIL REFINERY, SICILY

Messina, May 8 — A fire has been reported at about 1200, today at Exxon Refinery at Augusta. Refinery's own emergency teams and Augusta fire-fighters promptly intervened and extinguished the flames. Origins of the fire believed to be unknown but we understand that flames may have originated in an underground duct near the railway line. Authorities have not yet commented on the origin of the fire which bears similarities to the bigger fire at ERG Refinery in nearby Priolo on Apr 30. — Lloyd's Agents.

WAREHOUSE, GUANGZHOU, CHINA

Beijing, May 11 — More than 7,000 people, mostly students, were evacuated in a southern China city this evening after chemicals at a warehouse leaked and caught fire, Xinhua news agency said today. Xinhua said 49 people had been hospitalised because of the accident in a central district of Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province. The fire had been put out by midnight, Xinhua said, without identifying the chemicals. "The local environmental protection department is monitoring local air quality, and the cause of the accident is under investigation," Xinhua said. — Reuters.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, May 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Smouldering brush fires kept about 1,000 people from their homes early today, and the heavy smoke shut down parts of Interstate 95 between Daytona Beach and the Cape Canaveral area. At least one home was destroyed and about 8,000 acres scorched by the fires that began on Friday (May 5) and flared up through the weekend, officials said. "The state as a whole is just extremely dry right now," said Jim Brenner, fire management administrator for the state Division of Forestry. "These fires are consuming everything. And it's not over by any

stretch of the imagination." Smoke from the fires blended with fog early today and blanketed I-95 in Brevard County, forcing the closure for several hours of a 20-mile stretch of highway. Another 12 miles remained shut down late this morning because of the smoke. Authorities blamed the low visibility for a five-vehicle crash that killed two people yesterday.

London, May 8 — A press report, dated today, states: About 1,000 people in New Smyrna Beach were ordered to evacuate yesterday as strong winds pushed a brush fire across Interstate 95 toward their homes, authorities said. More than 100 firefighters were working to contain the blaze that had consumed about 1,000 acres and destroyed at least one home, Volusia County officials said. One firefighter was treated for smoke inhalation, authorities said. A seven-mile stretch of I-95 shut down yesterday afternoon because of smoke from other fires that began Friday (May 5) would remain closed until at least midmorning today, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

London, May 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire that consumed almost 2,000 acres of George Washington National Forest land is completely contained, officials said yesterday. The week-long fire on Massanutten Mountain, 7 miles west of Luray, burned 1,935 acres of land before it was completely contained. "Crews will now work from the outside of the break and perform mop-up duty until everything is done," said National Park Service fire specialist Barb Stewart. Stewart said the number of firefighters reached 280 yesterday. That number will decrease in the next few days. Firefighters came from numerous state and federal agencies. The fire threatened the Shenandoah and Massanutten subdivisions, which combined have 266 homes.

Miami, May 9 — Florida Governor Jeb Bush declared a state of emergency and put the National Guard on alert to fight wildfires that have scorched thousands of acres and caused deadly traffic accidents, officials said today. Firefighters battled three major fires and nearly 20 smaller ones that were burning brush, grass and trees throughout the state. While rainstorms were moving across the parched state today, Florida is typically very dry in May, raising the risk of wildfires until the summer afternoon downpours begin in June. "This is our 'normal' fire season," said John Saddler, a fire manager for the Florida Division of Forestry. Saddler said conditions were so dry that it would take a significant amount of rain to make a difference. At least four people have been killed in smoke- and fog-related highway crashes — two in a five-car pile-up on Interstate 95 in Brevard County on Sunday (May 7) and two in accidents in Palm Beach County yesterday, the Florida Highway Patrol said. Bush declared a state of emergency last

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night and put the National Guard on stand-by alert. National Guard crews prepared three helicopters with giant water buckets to join the fight against the fires. "We haven't been called up. We have been given the be-prepared signal," said Jon Myatt, spokesman for the Florida Department of Military Affairs, which runs the Florida National Guard for deployments on wildfires and other emergencies. On Florida's east central coast, a 6,000-acre fire has burnt for nearly two weeks in Brevard County, some 60 miles north of the Kennedy Space Centre. That one destroyed a home in New Smyrna Beach. Farther north in Volusia County, 1,000 homes were evacuated near a 1,400-acre fire. Billowing smoke from those two fires forced periodic shutdowns of Interstate 95, a major north-south artery. The highway was reopened today but the troopers were keeping close watch. "There's still smoke up in that area," Florida Highway Patrol spokeswoman Kim Miller said. "The median was on fire, that was the problem there." On the west side of the state near Tampa, smoke from a 450-acre fire ignited by a power line forced the shutdown of Interstate 75 for part of yesterday. — Reuters.

London, May 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Falling trees caused by brush fires have shut down a 12-mile stretch of Interstate 95 indefinitely, authorities said. Smoke from the fires has caused periodic road closures for the past week, but the falling trees are now likely to keep I-95 closed at least several days between Port Orange and Edgewater as crews clear the debris, Florida Highway Patrol trooper Kim Miller said yesterday. "What's happened is that the root bulbs have burned so that the trees are now unstable and are falling into the roadway," Miller said. Miller said it was too early to tell how long the work could take, and it was complicated by still-smouldering trees in the area. Eighty-four wildfires were still burning in the state this morning on more than 36,800 acres, according to the state Division of Forestry. The fires along I-95 south of Daytona Beach have burned at least three homes and been blamed for dozens of accidents, including four car wreck deaths.



5N-BCF

London, May 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A Chanchangi Airlines Abuja-bound flight with 122 passengers yesterday returned to Lagos following the breakdown of one of the cabin cooling systems. The aircraft, a Boeing 727-200 series, took off at the Lagos Airport at 1022 hrs, but 15 minutes into the flight it was discovered that the air-conditioning

system had broken down. Although the aircraft, registration number 5N-BCF, could have continued the journey with the alternative cooling system, the Yugoslav pilot, conforming with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) safety standards, returned the aircraft back to base. As soon as the aircraft landed at Lagos Airport, the passengers were immediately evacuated and moved into another aircraft, Boeing 737-200, for continuation of their journey. Coordinator and Public Relations Manager of the airline, Alhaji Mohammed Tukur, said those who could not be accommodated on the smaller airliner had their money refunded. According to him, the aircraft had been certified airworthy by both the airline engineers and aviation authorities at the time of departure. Explaining the circumstances for the return, Alhaji Tukur said: "Since the flight was only a few minutes out of Lagos, the captain judiciously decided to return to base in the interest of the comfort of the passengers onboard and for the malfunction to be corrected. The aircraft landed safely in Lagos and passengers were transferred to another aircraft to resume their journey."

AIRCRAFT STRUCK BY LIGHTNING WHILE FLYING FROM SOUTHAMPTON TO GLASGOW, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A plane has landed safely at Bournemouth Airport after it was hit by lightning in bad weather. The British Airways flight from Southampton to Glasgow was carrying 41 passengers and four crew when it was redirected to Bournemouth today. One witness said there was a burning smell in the cabin. No one is believed to have been injured. A BA spokesman said engineers were on their way to the scene to check the plane, an Embraer, as a precaution. If given the all-clear the flight would resume to Scotland as normal, he said. Emergency crews attended the scene but were stood down soon after arriving.

C-GARN

London, May 9 — Piper PA-28-161 C-GARN, flown by a rental pilot, was carrying out a cross-wind landing on runway 24 at Hamilton at 1430, EDT, but during the flare the aircraft drifted left and landed on the grass beside the runway. Aircraft then struck a hold short sign and was substantially damaged. There were no injuries.

C-GIFH

London, May 9 — The float equipped DeHavilland DHC-2 Mk.1 Beaver C-GIFH was conducting a dolly take-off when the engine lost power at prince George, BC, at 0820, PDT. Aircraft landed in the grass near the threshold of runway 26. There were no injuries, but the aircraft sustained substantial damage.

C-GKLT

London, May 8 — Piper PA-18-150 (Super Cub) C-GKLT had a hard landing resulting in substantial damage to the aircraft on approach to Canim Lake Resort, British Columbia, at 0700, PDT, May 4. There were no injuries and the aircraft did not sink. At the time of the accident the weather was clear (sunny) with no wind. The lake surface was reported to be wave-free (glassy).

C-GWOK

London, May 9 — During the landing at Qualicum Beach Airport, BC, the KD Air Cessna 172M C-GWOK landed hard and bounced several times at 1745, PDT. There were no injuries but the aircraft sustained substantial damage.

COLLISION NEAR ASCHAFFENBURG, GERMANY

London, May 8 — A press report, dated May 7, states: Two people were killed after their glider collided with a small plane near the Bavarian city of Aschaffenburg today, the German news agency DPA reported. The collision occurred when the two small aircraft were landing at an airfield near Aschaffenburg, police said. The motorised glider crashed into a forest and both people inside were killed, but the small plane managed to land safely at the airport, and none of the three people onboard were injured. Aviation authorities were investigating the cause of the collision.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF REUNION ISLAND

Reunion, May 5 — At about 2000, local time, yesterday, a Piper Aztec (small private aircraft) crashed at sea a few minutes after take-off from Pierrefond airport, Saint Pierre, in the south of the island. — Lloyd's Agents.

CRASH, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, May 6 — A press report, dated May 5, states: Rescuers have found the bodies of three people in the wreckage of a South African registered plane that crashed in Uganda last week, the World Food Programme (WFP) said. On board the single-engined Cessna were the South African pilot, his wife, and the copilot, a dual French and Canadian citizen. The plane lost radio contact on April 28 during a flight in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. It was travelling from Goma to Bunia. Rescuers aboard a UN search helicopter sighted the wreckage on April 30. They were unable to land near the crash site, which is at 3,600m altitude. Local guides and park rangers accompanied the team on the gruelling trip into the mountains at the request of the Ugandan Civil Aviation Authority. The WFP and the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo were providing logistical support for the team. An investigation is being set up

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to determine the cause of the crash. The Department of Foreign Affairs said arrangements were being made for the bodies of the two South Africans to be repatriated.

CRASH, MARATHON, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

See N988GM.

EK-IYY

London, May 11 — Piper PA34—220T, EC-IYY, registered to Flight Training Europe, and operated by a private individual as a personal flight, struck an agricultural building during a forced landing following a reported failure of one engine, near San Javier, Spain, at 0850, UTC, Apr 29. The pilot received fatal injuries, two passengers received serious injuries and two passengers received minor injuries. The airplane sustained substantial damage. The flight departed from Robledo del Mohedano Airport, Guadalajara, enroute to San Javier, Murcia.

EK-32001

See "Hangar, Brussels International Airport, Belgium" under "Fires & Explosions."

EK-32009

London, May 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Grief-stricken relatives of the 113 victims of a Black Sea aircraft crash scrutinised photographs of bodies pulled from the water today in hopes of identifying their loved ones, as rescue boats searched the waters offshore. Russian Transport Minister Igor Levitin, meanwhile, said searchers had detected a radio signal from what was believed to be a large portion of the aircraft's fuselage containing one of the flight data recorders. He said that military deep-sea equipment would be brought in to try to retrieve the so-called black box, but warned the process would take time. Russian news agencies, citing the Emergency Situations Ministry, reported that the signal was picked up by French specialists who joined the search today, using sonar to scan the sea floor. The aircraft went down in heavy rain and poor visibility as it was approaching the airport in Adler, about 12 miles south of Sochi. The aircraft slammed into the water nearly four miles offshore. Boats continued to search for bodies and debris from the Armenian Airbus A320-211 (EK-32009), which originated in the Armenian capital of Yerevan. So far, 47 bodies had been brought in, and 22 of them identified, according to emergency officials. President Vladimir Putin urged Prosecutor General Vladimir Ustinov to ensure that everything possible be done to quickly investigate the causes of the crash, Russian news agencies reported. The transport minister said it was too soon to say what happened. "We are not considering any working theory until we get a better understanding of the events that took place, and that will require

deciphering the black boxes," he said. A spokeswoman for the Prosecutor General's office, Nataliya Vishnyakova, however, dismissed the possibility of terrorism and other officials pointed to the rough weather or pilot error as the likely cause. The head of the Georgian air control agency, which oversaw 90% of the Armavia jet's final flight, said the aircraft's crew had begun to return to Yerevan because of weather conditions but decided to turn around again when Russian air controllers announced that the weather at Adler Airport had improved as it was over the western Georgian city of Kutaisi. "And since they had enough fuel, the pilot decided to fly back to Adler," Georgian agency chief Georgy Karbelashvili said.

London, May 5 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Two black boxes of Armenia's Airbus A-320 which crashed off the Russian Black Sea coast yesterday morning have been spotted by French experts, an official from Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry said today. "French experts finished their work by finding black boxes. They claim to have spotted two black boxes at a depth of 680 metres not far away from each other," Lieut. Gen. Sergei Kudinov, chief of the Emergency Situations Ministry's southern branch, was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying. The Airbus A-320 of the Armenian airline belonging to the air company Armavia crashed into the Black Sea near the southern Russian resort town of Sochi on Tuesday, killing all 113 people onboard, including six children and eight crew. "As of today 28 bodies out of 48 withdrawn from water have been identified," Kudinov said. At the same time, rescuers have gathered three trucks of recovered items and pieces of the aircraft on the surface. "It is remarkable that among all the seat parts there were no safety belts," Kudinov said. "As far as black boxes are concerned, taking into consideration world experience, no one has ever raised them from such a depth. Moreover, the harsh environment, hydrogen sulfide, should be taken into consideration as well," the official said. In addition, there is nothing in the search zone at a depth from 60 to 200 metres, while sound locator is detecting "certain metal elements, probably, of the airliner's fuselage at a depth of 600 metres," Kudinov said.

London, May 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The Russian government will pay 100,000 rubles (\$3,700) to the families of 113 people killed in a Black Sea air crash a week ago, the Russian health minister said today. An Airbus (EK-32009) owned by Armenia's Armavia airline crashed in stormy weather near the Russian resort of Sochi on May 3. On May 4, the head of Armavia said all passengers had been insured and their families would receive \$20,000 each, and the Armenian government promised compensation worth \$3,400.

EK-32010

See "Hangar, Brussels International Airport, Belgium" under "Fires & Explosions."

EMERGENCY LANDING, ANTALYA AREA, TURKEY

London, May 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Crew members of a Moldovan freight plane which made an emergency landing on an open field in the southern Turkish city of Antalya today, were rescued by Turkish gendarmerie teams. According to the semi-official Anatolia news agency, pilot Sergei Cepren and four crew members were hospitalized in Alanya town of Antalya. The plane which was bound from the western city of Izmir to the southern city of Adana, was forced to land on a field near the town of Alanya. The cause for emergency landing was under investigation, the report said.

London, May 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A Moldovan Antonov-2 passenger aircraft crash-landed in an open field near the south-eastern Turkish town of Mersin. The five crew members on board the aircraft survived the landing though injured, and sought shelter in a gendarmerie station, according to reporters. Around 2200 hrs, a private-owned aircraft was heard making an emergency landing near the village of Goktepe, said Gunhan Sarikaya, the district governor of Alanya, adding that he had reports of five people being injured. At the time of the emergency landing, Sarikaya gave orders for a group of ambulances escorted by gendarmerie officers to be present at the scene. According to State Airport Administration officials, the Moldovan Antonov-2 type with 10-seat capacity landed on Friday (May 5) in Izmir. After its take-off from Izmir, the aircraft afterwards made a crash-landing near the Goktepe village of Mersin while it was expected to arrive in Adana.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BAGOTVILLE MILITARY BASE, CANADA

London, May 8 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A United Airlines Boeing 767 flying between London and Washington made an emergency landing at the Bagotville military base in eastern Canada today after reporting smoke in the pilot's cabin, Radio Canada said. The jet, carrying 125 passengers, landed without incident or injuries, and the airline sent another jet to pick up the passengers, Radio Canada said. There was no immediate information on the cause of the incident.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BOURNEMOUTH AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency services at Bournemouth Airport were put on full alert when a Boeing 737 carrying 88 passengers reported difficulties trying to land. Air crew said a warning light indicated an

electrical fault in a gear box. Firefighters were scrambled when the situation was declared a stage two emergency which refers to any aircraft carrying more than 20 people. "Luckily, the plane landed safely", said a Dorset Fire Service spokeswoman. No-one is thought to have been injured.

EMERGENCY LANDING, KANSAS CITY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, May 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A Trans-State Airlines commuter aircraft made an emergency landing at Kansas City International airport yesterday afternoon. The aircraft had just taken off for San Antonio, Texas, when a warning light told the pilot an engine was on fire. It turned out that there never was a fire. It was probably just a malfunctioning indicator light. The aircraft was grounded and its 30 passengers had to find another flight to San Antonio.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MOORABBIN AIRPORT, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

London, May 8 — Three passengers in a light aircraft escaped injury during an emergency landing at Moorabbin Airport when part of their landing gear failed. Metropolitan Fire Brigade southern zone operations commander Dave Miller said the twin-engined Piper Seminole aircraft was struck by lightning shortly after 1900, AEST, yesterday. The aircraft was under the control of a student pilot at the time of the incident, Mr Miller said. A pilot and a passenger were also on board, when the aircraft landed at the airport, 16 kilometres south-east of Melbourne. The landing gear in the nose cone failed to lower and the pilot had limited communications, Mr Miller said. Police, fire and ambulance crews gathered at the airport as the aircraft landed about 1940 hrs, he said. "The nose hit the tarmac because there was no front wheel," Mr Miller said. "From what I could see it looked like a textbook landing. There was damage to the nose cone and the propellers but it looked like a pretty good landing. "There were no injuries and no fuel spill."

EMERGENCY LANDING, PHUKET, BANGKOK

London, May 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Engine trouble forced a Nok Air plane bound for Trang to make an emergency landing in Phuket province yesterday morning. There were no reports of casualties. Tipwan Na-kwan, Phuket-based Nok Air airline manager, said the aircraft left Bangkok at 0925am with 148 passengers on board. It made an emergency landing at Phuket International Airport at 1130 hrs after its second engine had developed technical problems.

EMERGENCY LANDING, WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

London, May 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators say a faulty fuse in a windshield heater caused a scare in the sky this morning. A aircraft bound for the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport was forced to land at a rural airport in Western Pennsylvania. That's because the cockpit filled with smoke. Eight passengers and three crew members were on board.

INCIDENT AT LA GUARDIA AIRPORT, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, May 9 — A press report, dated May 8, states: A fuel truck bumped a North Carolina-bound plane at LaGuardia Airport today in a low-speed incident that resulted in no injuries, a Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman said. American Airlines flight 4724 was carrying 36 passengers and three crew members when it was hit at around 0640 hrs, spokeswoman Holly Baker said. The aircraft, which was on its way to Raleigh, N.C., was just starting to back out from an airport ramp, Baker said. The flight was cancelled and authorities were examining the plane, Baker said. Minor damages to the aircraft would likely be found, she said.

N4732Q

London, May 7 — A press report, dated May 6, states: A small plane crashed in Northumberland County this morning. The aircraft went down around 1100 hrs at the Northumberland County Airport in Ralpho Township, near Elysburg. The pilot, a 36-year-old woman, was the only person on the plane. She was injured and flown to Geisinger Medical Centre. Officials have not yet released her name or condition. The plane ended up upside-down in some trees just off the airport's runway. There was no fire. Emergency medical personnel were able to get the pilot out of the wreckage quickly. Police said the Federal Aviation Administration will investigate the crash.

London, May 8 — Cessna 152 N4732Q crashed near Shamokin, Pennsylvania, at 1530, May 6. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The one person on board was seriously injured.

N988GM

London, May 9 — A press report, dated May 8, states: Two men hospitalized after their small plane crashed into a canal in Marathon today owe their lives to workers from a welding company who jumped in to help. Pilot Ramiro Rivera, 34, of Coral Springs and co-pilot Jaevon G. Cooper, 20, of Fort Lauderdale were picked up out of the canal they crashed into in Marathon by nearby construction workers who witnessed the crash. Their twin engine Cessna was trying to land at Marathon

Airport around 0800 hrs, today, and lost power, according Lt. Pat Santangelo, of the Florida Highway Patrol. The aircraft hit two utility poles near 109th Street and 5th Avenue, snapping the tops off, then crashed nose down into a canal off of 5th Avenue in Marathon, near mile marker 52. Welders Butch Knapp and Kenny Matlock, along with the help of others on scene, were the ones that jumped into the canal to help pull the victims out just minutes before the plane sunk to the bottom of the canal. The Cessna 421B is registered to BCL, LLC, based out of Pompano Beach at 2660 NE 7th Avenue. CBS4 learned Rivera and Cooper are corporate pilots who worked for a private company. There were no other passengers on the plane. Dee Anne Harmon, a customer service employee at Marathon Jet Service, said the plane had taken off from Pompano Beach Air Center and was scheduled to land at Marathon about 0800 hrs, to pick up a passenger. She said the plane is owned by a drywall company in Pompano Beach that had flown into the airport before, but not in about a year. "Something happened with their gears," Harmon said. "They announced they were going to try to make an emergency landing. They tried to make a second pass, but it failed." The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the crash.

London, May 9 — Cessna 421B (Golden Eagle) N988GM crashed near Marathon, Florida, at 1242, May 8, while on a flight from Pompano Beach, FL, to Marathon. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were seriously injured.

SX-BVB

See "Hangar, Brussels International Airport, Belgium" under "Fires & Explosions."

Port Conditions



AUSTRALIA

London, May 4 — The upgrade to the RG Tanna coal terminal, due for completion in July, is now expected to be delayed. The third shiploader and third rail loop are now expected to be completed by the end of 2006. Queues for Gladstone had been reduced from 28 vessels in early March to 17 in early April, with the port exporting around 1 million tonnes of coal per week. The terminal is due to increase from 40 million to 65 million tonnes per year by 2007, as part of a \$600 million expansion programme.

BANGLADESH

Karachi, May 11 — The Chittagong Port of Bangladesh has been facing

congestion problems due to increased shipping activities for the couple of months. As a result of which, all feeder operators have decided to impose surcharges on containers lying at the port from June 5 next. Separately, main line operators were also planning to impose Chittagong Port Congestion surcharges at the rate of 120 US dollars per container if the situation is not improved. Meanwhile, according to local media, in order to ease the congestion, the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has decided to keep in suspension the penal rent, imposed on the containers that remained stockpiled in the CPA yard, till May 25 next so that the importers could expedite the delivery of their cargo from the CPA area. It is said, more than 15000 TEUs of containers are stockpiled in the CPA yard having a storage capacity 14000

TEUs of containers. According to CPA sources, a total of 8 container vessels were in operation at the CPA jetties while, twelve container-carrying vessels are now waiting at the outer anchorage. Moreover, a total of 25 container vessels are expected to arrive at the port during the next week. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ITALY

Genoa, May 8 — Port situation May 8: Genoa: One container vessel and one tanker awaiting berth. Average delay in 12 to 24 hrs. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berth. Savona: No vessels awaiting berth. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Apr 25.)

NIGERIA

See "Nigeria" under "Labour Disputes".

PANAMA CANAL

London, May 9 — A press report, dated today, states: There are positive signs of improvement in the Panama Canal backlog, with delays for vessels under 91 feet now down to about one day. Panamax and restricted vessels, however, still face delays of approximately three days. Recent auctioned booking slots have realised the following premiums: May 8: \$30,600 - southbound Panamax tanker. May 9: \$50,100 - northbound Panamax product tanker and May 10: \$30,600 - northbound Panamax bulker.

SYRIA

Aleppo, May 6 — Waiting time is presently twenty-four hours at Lattakia and three days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

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

Australia

Esperance	10-May-2006	Grain: 1 vessel berthed to load wheat; 2 vessels due by 30/5, both to load unknown grain cargoes; no delays expected.
Geraldton	10-May-2006	1 vessel waiting to load unknown grain cargo, 1 waiting to load wheat; 1 vessel due 18/5 to load wheat; no delays expected.
Newcastle	10-May-2006	Six vessels due by 26/5, all to load wheat; no delays expected.

Azerbaijan

Apsheron	15-May-2006	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 3 vessels berthed, of which 1 discharging crude oil, 1 gasoil, 1 waiting to discharge crude oil; 1 vessel anchored in roads to discharge crude oil.
Baku	15-May-2006	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; Azerteftiyag terminal: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: 2 vessels berthed, of which 1 discharging crude oil, 1 waiting to discharge crude oil; 1 vessel in roads to discharge crude oil; Sangachal district: no vessels.

Bulgaria

Bourgas	15-May-2006	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 copper anodes, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 gasoil), 5 discharging (1 billets, 1 salt, 1 gasoil, 1 copper concentrate, 1 iron ore); 2 vessels in roads, both to load, of which 1 coils, 1 chemicals; 14 vessels due, of which 7 to load (4 coils, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 steel sheets), 4 to discharge (2 reinforced concrete, 1 gasoil, 1 coal), 3 passenger vessels.
Varna	15-May-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 8-14 May: Forty-one vessels in port operating of which 24 loading (4 scrap, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 2 bulk clinker, 7 soda, 1 TSP, 1 hydrochloric acid, 1 bulk silica sand, 1 bulk STPP/miscellaneous cargo, 1 containers, 1 bulk cement, 1 equipment in packing cases, 1 kaolin, 1 kaolin/chamotte, 1 sunflower seeds), 11 discharging (1 bagged rice, 3 raw phosphate, 2 bulk copper concentrate, 4 coal, 1 containers), 6 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.

Cyprus

Larnaca	16-May-2006	Three conventional vessels discharging at berth; 1 conventional vessel due 17/5; no delays expected.
Limassol	16-May-2006	Three container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 3 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 3 container vessels, 3 conventional vessel, 3 passenger vessels due 17/5; no delays expected.

Egypt

Adabiya	15-May-2006	Five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), all general cargo.
Alexandria	15-May-2006	Twenty-eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 21 general cargo, 1 bulker carrier, 3 tankers, 3 container vessels; 7 vessels at inner anchorage, 7 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	15-May-2006	Sixteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 10 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier, 1 livestock, 4 container vessels; 2 vessels at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	15-May-2006	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 5 bulkcarriers, 1 container vessel; 2 vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	15-May-2006	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 4 container vessels.
Suez	15-May-2006	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 4 passenger vessels; 3 tugs, 3 vessels dry-docked.
Suez Canal	15-May-2006	Twenty-four vessels transiting Northbound, 30 Southbound.

Estonia

Tallin	15-May-2006	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): no vessels berthed, none waiting at anchorage; no vessels due; 10 days berthing delay expected.
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India

Kolkata	15-May-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Containers-2, General Cargo), 3 vessels discharging (E. Oil-2, Logs), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel under dry docked; 4 vessels under repair; 3 vessels due (Containers-2, LDO).
Haldia	15-May-2006	12 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading (Iron Ore-3, Butaline, Thermal Coal), 5 vessels discharging (Crude, Coke, Lime, Steel, Fertilizer), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (1 to discharge, 3 to load), 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 6 vessels due (LPG, POL. Crude, Palm, Net Coal, Containers).
Paradip	15-May-2006	8 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Iron Ore-2, Chrome Ore, Fe Chrome), 4 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, Sulpher, Hard Coke); 4 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to load, 1 to discharge); 17 vessels due.

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Port Conditions

Visakhapatnam	15-May-2006	19 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Iron Illuminate Sand, BF Slag, Thermal Coal, Product Tanker), 12 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, Trasp/crude-2, Crude Oil, Timber, Rockphosphate-2, Antrasite Coal, Met Coke, Stream Coal, Pot Coke, Caustic Soda), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 5 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (4 to discharge, 1 to load); 28 vessels due (Iron Ore-5, Steel Cargo, Thermal Coal, BF Slag-2, CP Coke, Alumina, Food Grain, Rockphosphate, L Ammonia, Sulphur, Coking Coal & Steam Coal-7, Containers-2, Steel Pipes, Met Coke, POL& Crude Tankers).
Chennai	15-May-2006	18 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (Granite Block-3, IOL, Steel Slab, F. Oil, General Cargo), 7 vessels discharging (C.P. Oil, Wheat, Log, Steel Coal-2, Coking Oil, Steel Plate), 4 vessels loading and discharging (Projection/ Projection, Granite Block/ Projection, Containers-2); 1 vessel awaiting at anchorage to load, 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 1 to load); 9 vessels due (Research-2, Projection, C.P. Oil-3, Iron Ore, F.Oil. T. Coal).
Tuticorin	15-May-2006	8 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Ilmenite, 6 vessels discharging (Timber Logs, Coal, Cu. Concentrate, Soda Ash, Wheat, Thermal Coal), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to load, 1 to load and discharge), 1 vessel waiting to anchorage bunker.
Cochin	15-May-2006	8 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels discharging (Rock Phosphate, Logs, Scrap, POL), 3 vessels loading and discharging Containers, 1 vessel waiting to load General Cargo.
New Mangalore	15-May-2006	5 vessels discharging at berth (Urea, Timber, Bentonite, LPG, POL Crude); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to discharge, 2 to load); 12 vessels due (Iron Ore (F), POL Product-4, Crude Palm Oil, Container, LPG, Coal-2, Granite, POL Crude).
Mormugao	15-May-2006	3 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Iron Ore, 1 vessel discharging Motor Spirit, 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers, 5 vessels working at midstream and loading Iron Ore; 1 vessel awaiting at anchorage to load, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load Iron Ore; 8 vessels due (Coal, Coking Coal, R.P. Coke, Iron Ore).
Mumbai	15-May-2006	20 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (Bagged Sugar-4, Steel Cargo, SBM, POL), 7 vessels discharging (Rock Phosphate-2, Steel Cargo-2, Calcite Carbonate, Steel Coils), 6 vessels loading and discharging (Steel Cargo-2, Containers/Steel, Container/Veh/General/Steel/Projection, Pulses /Logs/ Sugar, Steel/General/Projection/Container); 7 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (6 to discharge, 1 to load), 3 vessels waiting at anchorage (1 to load , 6 to discharge); 7 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 6 vessels under arrest; 1 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 32 vessels due (Contaners-6, General Cargo-26).
J.N.P.T.	15-May-2006	9 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels discharging (Naptha, High Speed Diesel, Cement), 6 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 7 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (6 to load and discharge, 1 to discharge); 7 vessels due (Contaners-6, High Speed Diesel & MS).
Kandla	15-May-2006	13 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Agri. Product-2, Cement-1, Rice-2), 7 vessels discharging (Other Liquid-2, Rock Phosphate, Timber Logs-3, HR Coils), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers ; 5 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (4 to discharge, 1 to load); 3 vessels under repair (1 Repair, 1 Maintenance, Dredger).
Ennore	15-May-2006	3 vessels due (MV Pretty Beijiang (Thermal Coal) , MV Apj Sri Devi (Thermal Coal), MV Tamil Anna (Thermal Coal).
Israel		
Ashdod	16-May-2006	No labour problems. Three general cargo vessels loading at berth, 13 vessels discharging at berth (9 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 4 vessels loading/discharging at berth (3 containers, 1 tanker); 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 general cargo, 3 bulkers); 1 vessel awaiting orders; 20 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	16-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; 2 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	16-May-2006	No labour problems. Six vessels discharging at berth (2 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 9 vessels loading/ discharging at berth (4 containers, 1 car carrier, 4 tankers); 1 bulker waiting at anchorage to discharge, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (3 containers, 1 tanker); 4 vessels under repairs/ dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 22 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	15-May-2006	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, all loading crude oil; 4 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargoes; 6 vessels due by 16/5, all to load unknown cargoes.
Pakistan		
Karachi	16-May-2006	Three vessels loading at berth (1 ethanol, 2 rice), 3 discharging at berth (1 cement, 1 sugar, 1 crude oil), 4 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 coal, 1 general cargo); 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 4 vessels due (2 containers, 1 general cargo, 1 vehicles), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	16-May-2006	One rice vessel loading at berth, 1 canola vessel discharging at berth, 1 container vessel loading/ discharging at QICT berth; 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 fuel oil, 1 palm oil).

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Port Conditions

Russia

Novorossiysk	16-May-2006	Sixteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (1 HBI, 1 bulk cement, 1 bulk NPK, 1 scrap, 3 steel billets, 1 pipes/copper, 1 copper, 1 slabs, 1 vegetable oil, 1 diesel oil), 3 discharging bulk sugar, 1 discharging/loading containers; 5 vessels waiting in roads, of which 2 to load (1 scrap, 1 steel billets), 3 to discharge bulk sugar; 50 vessels due, of which 48 to load (5 copper, 6 slabs, 10 steel billets, 1 DRI, 2 UAN solution, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 HBI, 2 wheat, 3 pipes, 1 wire rods/steel sheets, 7 coils, 4 aluminium, 1 lead, 1 cellulose, 1 WRIC, 1 H-beams), 2 to discharge (1 vegetable oil, 1 non-ferrous metals); Oil terminal: 2 tankers berthed, both loading, of which 1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 5 tankers in roads, all to load, of which 4 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 4 tankers due, all to load, of which 3 crude oil, 1 diesel oil.
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Slovenia

Koper	16-May-2006	Port working normally. Six vessels berthed of which 2 discharging/loading containers, 2 car carriers discharging/loading vehicles, 1 vessel loading sawn timber, 1 loading bulk cargo; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage, of which 1 to load sawn timber, 1 to discharge general cargo, 1 to discharge bulk cargo; 20 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 4 to discharge/load containers, 1 car carrier to discharge/load vehicles, 1 car carrier to discharge vehicles, 1 passenger vessel, 5 vessels to discharge bulk cargo, 2 to load bulk cargo, 5 to load sawn timber/general cargo, 1 tanker to discharge liquid cargo
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Spain

Bilbao	16-May-2006	Thirty-four vessels operating (7 tankers, 27 other vessels), of which 10 loading, 16 discharging, 8 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	16-May-2006	Twenty-six vessels in port operating, of which 1 loading steel coils, 23 discharging (18 steel products, 1 fruit, 1 gas, 1 vehicles, 1 machinery, 1 logs), 2 loading/discharging (1 steel coils, 1 general cargo); 1 inoperative vessel berthed; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

Sri Lanka

Colombo	16-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. Seven vessels loading at berth (6 containers/feeders, 1 Ro/Ro), 16 vessels discharging at berth (9 containers/feeders, 2 bagged fertiliser, 1 steel cargo, 2 bulk palm oil, 1 Ro/Ro, 1 bulk cement); 1 container/feeder vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 2 container/feeder vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 4 vessels dry-docked; 6 vessels due (5 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement), with no delays expected.
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Turkmenistan

Aladja	16-May-2006	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, completed loading crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	16-May-2006	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, of which 1 discharging crude oil, 1 to load gasoil, 1 completed loading gasoil; 1 vessel in roads; 1 vessel due 15/5 to discharge crude oil.

Ukraine

Illichevsk	15-May-2006	Ten vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (4 steel products, 1 grain, 1 sunflower seed oil, 1 sulphur, 1 equipment, 1 ferro nickel), 1 loading/discharging containers; 3 vessel in roads, all to load, of which 2 steel products, 1 sunflower seed oil; 21 vessels due, of which 9 to load (7 steel products, 2 sunflower oil), 2 to discharge nickel ore, 10 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol	16-May-2006	Fifteen vessels in port operating, all to load, of which 5 steel, 2 fire-clay, 2 wheat, 3 coal, 1 equipment, 1 ammonium saltpetre, 1 sulphur; 14 vessels in roads, of which 13 to load (7 steel, 2 coal, 1 fire-clay, 1 heavy lift cargo, 1 coke, 1 wheat), 1 to discharge/load equipment/fire-clay; 42 vessels due, of which 38 to load (19 steel, 8 coal, 9 fire-clay, 1 pitch, 1 coke), 2 to discharge (1 containers, 1 bauxite), 2 to discharge/load (1 containers, 1 containers/clay).
Odessa	16-May-2006	Fifteen vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (1 scrap, 7 metal, 1 timber), 5 discharging (2 luggage, 2 general cargo, 1 sand), 1 loading/discharging containers; 8 vessels in roads, of which 5 to load (3 metal, 1 wheat, 1 pig-iron), 1 to discharge sugar, 2 to load/discharge containers; 53 vessels due, of which 23 to load (17 metal, 3 pig-iron, 2 timber, 1 general cargo), 6 to discharge (1 bananas, 1 ore, 1 sugar, 2 oil, 1 luggage), 24 to discharge/load containers.

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