

Owners to miss security deadline

Many could be in breach, writes Felicity Landon, Lloyd's List

SECURITY experts have warned that despite the deadline for compulsory Ship Security Alert Systems expiring in less than a month, many owners remain unaware of the implications.

"The significance of the July deadline and the crucial point for many shipowners, is that the implementation of SSAS will no longer be an optional choice, rather a requirement under Solas Chapter XI-2 regulation 6," said Paul Singer, president of maritime security services provider Securewest.

"As the days slip by we are convinced that the deadline will arrive and many companies will find that time has run out, leaving them in breach of Solas regulations and placing people and resources at legal and financial risk."

Final deadline

The last and final deadline for installation of SSAS on cargo vessels over 500 gt and mobile offshore drilling units constructed before July, 2004, is at the first survey of radio installation after July 1 this year. All other classes of vessels over 500 gt should already have SSAS equipment installed as their deadline was the first survey of radio installation after July 1, 2004.

Essentially a silent alarm system

designed to indicate vessel distress due to a threat or compromise of security, SSAS is activated by pushing a concealed button on the vessel. A signal is then transmitted by satellite to a land-based service provider.

Pirates

"In the wake of continued and ever more sophisticated attacks by pirates on shipping, the perceived threat from terrorists and the perennial problems associated with stowaways, we believe that SSAS is even more important today than when it was first conceived," said Mr Singer.

He said companies should be aware that the problems regarding compliance did not stop with the installation of SSAS hardware. The standards require that a designated authority, usually the company security officer, is responsible for monitoring all vessels under his charge and SSAS monitoring should be accomplished all round the clock.

Closer inspection revealed plenty more "potential banana skins" for the under-prepared, he added.

He went on: "For example, in the event of an SSAS alert being raised — accidentally or a false alarm — on a US-flagged vessel, the US Coast Guard now requests that contact with them must be

made within just five minutes and in the case of the British Coastguard that time is only marginally increased to 15 minutes. Even 15 minutes is not a long time.

"Add such time restraints to the Solas requirement, and suddenly compliance does not seem so easy."

Would you like casualty information as it happens ?

Lloyd's
Casualty
REPORTING SERVICE

For further information contact:

Andrew Luxton, Key Account Manager

Tel: +44 (0)20 7017 4625

Fax: +44 (0)20 7017 4763

Email: andrew.luxton@lloydsmiu.com

www.lloydsmiu.com/lcrs

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>ACHILLEAS</i>	tug	GRC	—	153	—	1981	Contacted by mv <i>Aghia Aikaterini I</i> while latter vessel was being launched from repair yard at Volos May 26. Hull cracked, water ingress. Grounded on sand. Investigation. Temporary repairs effected & refloating in progress May 31.
<i>CEC CRISTOBAL</i>	general	BHS	NV	6,714	8,734	1999	Arrived Fredericia May 27 in tow following rudder problems. To repair at Fredericia. Sailed 29 May.
<i>GLOBAL CARRIER</i>	ro-ro	ATG	GL	7,591	9,864	1982	Grounded in River St.Lawrence, in about lat 45 24N, long 73 47W, May 29. Refloated with assistance from two tugs May 30. Diver's survey in hand.
<i>HAN</i>	general	PAN	LR	2,453	3,750	1978	Sank following collision with chemical/oil tanker <i>Alios Artemis</i> off Hydra, in lat 37 10N, long 23 49E, Jun 1. Seven of the 13 crew rescued.
<i>KARIM I</i>	general	KHM	LR	1,500	2,704	1971	In collision with chemical tanker <i>Zoppun</i> at Constantza May 19.
<i>OCEAN SERAYA</i>	bulker	PAN	NK	38,906	73,652	2001	Struck rocks in bad weather off Karwar coast, Karnataka, May 30. Twenty-one of the 22 crew rescued. Still aground Jun 1. LOF signed with Smit. Some oil spillage.
<i>PLACENTIA PILOT</i>	—	CAN	—	53	—	2000	Grounded and partially submerged in Placentia Bay, NF, May 29. To be towed to Southern Harbour.
<i>PORTLAND</i>	general	PAN	BV	1,829	3,117	1978	Sank between Santa Cruz de Tenerife and Gran Canaria May 25. 11 crew, 1 dead, 1 missing, 9 rescued.
<i>PORTUNUS</i>	fishing	GBR	—	46	—	—	Vandalised at Alexandra Dock, King's Lynn, May 21. Engine and electronic equipment destroyed. Vessel expected to be out of action for about 1 month.
<i>SCF 9222</i>	barge	USA	—	687	—	1992	Sank at Mile 37, Mobile Ship Channel, while being pushed by tug <i>River Eagle</i> May 23. Barge dragged to side of channel, which partially open as of May 30.
<i>WESTPORT</i>	fishing	USA	—	196	—	1980	Disabled with engine problems in lat 40 49N, long 67 36W, May 28. Towed to New Bedford May 29.

CONTENTS

Reports appear in alphabetical order under the following headings and relevant page number:

Marine, including Overdue & Missing Vessels	1
Piracy	10
Port State Control	11
Seizures & Arrests	11
Pipeline Accidents	11
Pollution	11
Weather & Navigation	12
Earthquakes	13
Volcanic Activity	15
Political & Civil Unrest	16
Labour Disputes	24
Awards & Settlements	25
Railway Accidents	26
Miscellaneous	27
Fires & Explosions	28
Aviation	31
Product Recalls	32
Port Conditions	33
Port Conditions charts	33

© Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit 2005
These reports may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photographic, recorded or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.



The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List

Marine



ACHILLEAS (Greece)

London, May 26 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Tug *Achilleas* (153 gt, built 1961) and Greece flagged general cargo *Aghia Aikaterini I*, port of registry Mytilene, Official No. 105, were in collision during the launching of the *Aghia Aikaterini I* from the repair yard in the area of Amaliapolis, Volos. The port side of the *Achilleas* was cracked, resulting in water ingress into the engine-room. The tug grounded on sandy bottom, while the vessel sustained minor damages. All crew members are in good health and there was no pollution, although oil booms were placed as a precaution. The Port Authority of Volos is carrying out an investigation and has prohibited the sailing of both vessels until seaworthiness certificates have been issued.

Piraeus, May 31 — Tug *Achilleas* sustained a crack at starboard side and ingress of water was ascertained into engine-room. The crack was temporarily repaired and refloating operation is in progress. No damages were reported to barge *Aghia Aikaterini I*. Both vessels remain at Amaliapolis. — Lloyd's Agents.

ADELE (Greece)

London, May 26 — Following received from the managers of combined chemical and oil tank *Adele*, dated today: *Adele*, grounded off Thessaloniki at approximately 1200, May 24; Transhipment of around 700 tons of the vessel's cargo of gasoil to another fuel tanker got under way at 1200 yesterday. While aground, divers inspection revealed that the vessel had sustained no damage to her double bottom. The transhipment was completed during the afternoon yesterday and the *Adele* refloated safely. Further bottom inspection, which was carried out by Class, confirmed that no hull damage occurred during and after grounding. There was no pollution and all crew members are safe, with the vessel resuming its voyage to the discharge port.

Piraeus, May 29 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Adele* stranded at the sea area "Tussla" of Thermaikos Gulf on May 24. The vessel was refloated and berthed safely at Thessaloniki port on May 26. No information regarding damages was available. Vessel's sailing was prohibited by the local port authorities until class inspection. — Lloyd's Agents.

AGHIA AIKATERINI I (Greece)

See *Achilleas*.

AL SALAM BOCCACCIO 98 (Panama)

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The owner of a ferry which capsized in the Red Sea killing more than 1,000 people was being hunted by police in Britain last night. Mamdouh Ismail and his son Amr, an executive in the ferry company, fled to London from Egypt straight after the disaster. An international arrest warrant has been issued for them. They and four officers of passenger ro/ro *Al Salam Boccaccio 98* face charges of corruption, criminal negligence and failure to take steps to help the passengers. The ferry sank in February on a journey between Daba, Saudi Arabia, and Safaga, Egypt. A fire broke out on the car deck after the ship left Daba. But instead of returning to port, the crew sailed further out and took no steps to evacuate the passengers. An Egyptian report into the disaster said the ferry had forged safety certificates. Liferrafts and fire extinguishers were unfit for use, there were not enough winches to lower rafts into the sea and the ship was carrying 1,400 - more than 200 above capacity.

ALGOLAKE (Canada)

London, May 25 — Bulker *Algolake* arrived at Thunder Bay on May 23, sailing later the same day, for Detroit.

ALIOS ARTEMIS (Greece)

Piraeus, Jun 1 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Alios Artemis* (2150 gt, built 2005), Agioi Theodoroi for Iraklion, and general cargo *Han* (2453 gt, built 1978), Turkey for Casablanca, were in collision 16 nautical miles south-east of Hydra island at noon today. *Han* sank following the collision. Seven of the vessel's crew were rescued, one was found dead and five are missing. A rescue operation is under way, involving Coast Guard vessels and helicopters. *Alios Artemis* only sustained minor damage. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 1 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Combined chemical and oil tank *Alios Artemis* and general cargo *Han* were in collision off Hydra Island at around 1400, Jun 1. *Han* sank following the collision. Understood one Turkish crew member from *Han* was killed, seven were rescued and another five are missing. The rescued crew members will be transported to Eleusis and then taken to hospital. Coast Guard patrol vessels and three Super Puma helicopters have proceeded to the scene.

ALMUDAINA (Madeira)

London, May 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Keppel Shipyard has been fined \$30,000 and its safety assessor \$150,000 for safety lapses that caused a shipboard flash fire that killed seven people. The accident two years ago came in the wake of major mishaps at the Nicoll Highway and Fusionpolis. Seven workers went eight

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

storeys below deck on the crude oil tanker *Almudaina* to carry out welding work. Sparks from the work apparently ignited some crude oil sludge, causing a flash fire that took all seven lives. Keppel's safety assessor Lim Yee Chien was charged with failing to ensure the area was adequately cleaned of such sludge during his inspection, before endorsing the work permit. Keppel was also charged with failing to ensure the vessel was free from crude oil sludge before the permit was issued. In mitigation yesterday, their lawyer, senior counsel Steven Chong, said this was an isolated case and an inadvertent slip. He added that Lim had a clean record, and that Keppel had not cut any corners and had acted in compliance with regulations. In passing the verdict, the judge said this was a tragic case and the sentence should reflect the public interest in, and the gravity of the situation. He imposed high fines but no jail term, reflecting the trend set in earlier workplace accident cases, such as the Nicoll Highway case, in which only fines were imposed. Lim could have been fined up to \$200,000 and jailed for a year, while Keppel could have been fined up to \$35,000. The judge added that it was the duty of the occupier of the worksite to ensure the safety of its workers. He added that although Keppel had a safety programme in place, it had failed to ensure the site was free of hazardous materials before hot work commenced.

ANG PANGULO (Philippines)

Manila, Jun 1 — Yacht *Ang Pangulo* is still moored unrepaired at Keppel Shipyard, Batangas. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARCTIC CIRCLE (U.S.A.)

See *Arctic Sun No.1*.

ARCTIC SUN NO.1

Freeport, May 30 — Barge *Arctic Sun No.1* and its tug *Arctic Circle* are still at Freeport. The barge still remains "as-is" with no work of any description having been commenced. — Lloyd's Agents.

ATLIXCO (Panama)

London, May 31 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1051, UTC: Vehicle carrier *Atlixco* (41697 gt, built 1982), Emden for Davisville with car parts, reported it was not under command off the northern Netherlands at 0343, UTC, May 31, due to trouble with the No 3 main engine cylinder. The vessel later reported that it was proceeding but has now anchored in lat 53 04N, long 04 38E, to effect repairs.

London, May 31 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1229, UTC: Vehicle carrier *Atlixco* has completed repairs and is proceeding on voyage.

BANGLAR MONI (Bangladesh)

See *Liberty Eagle*.

BEVER (Antigua & Barbuda)

Taranto, May 30 — General cargo *Bever* (1943 gt, built 1986) was due to load some heat exchangers in Taranto. Vessel is presently reported to have sustained, apparently minor, engine troubles, possibly due to lack of fuel feeding, while off Crotone coast, which crew have so far been unable to mend. Vessel is now awaiting to be kept under tow by Crotone's tug Company who will tow vessel to Taranto. Vessel will then have to be towed in roads by local tugs, who will take the line off at the port entrance, as per local rules. Vessel will probably be anchored at roads, decision by local Harbour Master still pending, awaiting for final report and eventually only once cause of breakdown clarified and investigated, vessel could be allowed alongside to eventually load its cargo if applicable. Convoy's ETA at Taranto is approximately 1330, local time, May 31. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Bever* sailed Naples May 26 for Taranto.)

Taranto, May 31 — General cargo *Bever* was originally due in Taranto, to load 18 heat exchangers, at 1500, local time, May 28. Yesterday master called to confirm that vessel was awaiting tow in lat 39 21N, long 17 16E. Vessel unable to restart engine allegedly due to bad fuel quality. Crew unable to fix problems. Owners negotiating assistance. At about 1600, May 30, tug *Capo Lacinio* took the line abt 20 nautical miles off Crotone and 60 from Taranto, where vessel is to be towed. ETA Taranto around 1430, today. Agent is trying to obtain vessel to be moored at its original mooring place, Calata 2 merchant port, to have it loaded while problem solved. — Lloyd's Agents.

BOW FORTUNE (NIS)

See *Stolt Zulu*.

BOW PANTHER (Singapore)

Honolulu, May 31 — It is reported that combined chemical and oil tank *Bow Panther* (22714 gt, built 1986) has sustained turbo-charger damage and is on reduced speed to Honolulu. She is anticipated to arrive in Honolulu on or about Jun 1. — Lloyd's Agents.

CEC CRISTOBAL (Bahamas)

London, May 29 — Information received from Copenhagen, dated today, states: General cargo *CEC Cristobal* (6714 gt, built 1999) had rudder problems on voyage from Bremerhaven to Kaliningrad. Vessel stopped at Skagen roads and was taken in tow to Fredericia for docking. It arrived at Fredericia late in the afternoon May 27 for repairs. (Note — *CEC Cristobal* sailed Bremerhaven May 23 for Fredericia.)

London, May 30 — General cargo *CEC Cristobal* sailed from Fredericia on May 29.

CHRISTY M. (U.K.)

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: A fishing boat from Peterhead with three crew has

been towed to harbour in Montrose after rudder problems. Montrose lifeboat was called out to assist fishing *Christy M.* (21 gt, built 1970) on Wednesday afternoon about eight miles off the north east coast. Weather in the area was described as good and the crew were not in any danger despite the mechanical failure. Forth Coastguard said the 50ft *Christy M.* arrived in Montrose harbour under the lifeboat tow at about 1500 BST.

COLLARROY (Australia)

Sydney, May 31 — Understand ferry *Collaroy* is now fully operational, and returned to service on May 22. — Lloyd's Agents.

CONCEL PRIDE (Nigeria)

Cadiz, May 26 — Product tanker *Concel Pride* remains at Algeciras, with payment for repairs still outstanding. — Lloyd's Agents.

CORUIK (U.K.)

London, May 29 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1452, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Coruisk* (1599 gt, built 2003), Mallaig for Armadale, Isle of Skye, 108 passengers, 10 crew, reported running on one engine and with restricted manoeuvrability while attempting to berth at Armadale in lat 57 03.6N, long 05 53.6W. Local tug *Inverie* attending to assist vessel in berthing at Armadale Pier at approximately 1400, UTC. Mallaig RNLI lifeboat launched to standby until arrival of tug. Vessel safely berthed without assistance from Mallaig RNLI lifeboat or *Inverie*. Vessel running on one engine due to failure of forward engine turbo-charger. In agreement of MCA surveyor *Coruisk* taken out of passenger service until repairs effected.

Glasgow, May 31 — Following completion of temporary repairs, passenger ro/ro *Coruisk* resumed a limited service May 31. — Lloyd's Agents.

CP VALOUR (Bermuda)

Ponta Delgada, May 31 — Container Carrier *CP Valour* is still aground in the same position. The removal operations have not yet commenced and it is presently unknown when they are likely to begin. — Lloyd's Agents.

CSL NIAGARA (Canada)

London, May 29 — Bulker *CSL Niagara* (23983 gt, built 1972), while downbound in the Canadian Channel, struck bottom/object while reportedly in the middle of the Canadian Channel, Sault Ste Marie, in lat 46 37N, long 84 23W, at 0430, local time, May 6. Minor damage reported. (Note — *CSL Niagara* arrived Thunder Bay May 6 and sailed May 8, vessel subsequently sailed Hamilton, Ontario, May 15.)

Toronto, May 31 — Bulker *CSL Niagara* departed Hamilton on May 29. — Lloyd's Agents.

DANIELLA NATIVIDAD (Philippines)

Manila, May 29 — Repairs to product tanker *Daniella Natividad* were completed today, Shogun Ships Inc reported. Shogun, owners and operators of the vessel, said that it would undergo sea trials off the Navotas Fishport in Manila tomorrow. This would be followed by an inspection by Bureau Veritas surveyors. The tanker is docked at Pier No 3 of the Navotas Fishport where repairs were carried out on its deck, void tank and railings. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, May 31 — The resumption of normal trading operations by tanker *Daniella Natividad* had to be postponed after class surveyors recommended that additional work be undertaken on its recently repaired void tank. The nature of the additional repairs was not disclosed. Bureau Veritas surveyors made the recommendations Tuesday (May 30) after inspecting the recently concluded repair work performed on the vessel. The survey focused on the work done on void tank no.5 which sustained the most damage from the explosion which hit the vessel May 11. Shogun Ships, owner and operator of the vessel, said that following the recommendations of the surveyors, work had resumed on the vessel's void tank. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

DINISH (Republic of Ireland)

Ponta Delgada, May 26 — Fishing (general) *Dinish* with 10 crew members on board sunk off the Azores area yesterday in a reported position of about 170 miles from the Isles of Scilly. One crew member is dead and the corpse has been rescued and transported by helicopter to Cork, two are missing, six have been rescued by the vessel *Stena Contest*, which is now proceeding to Wilhelmshaven, and one crew member has been rescued by the vessel *Stolt Capability*, which is now proceeding to Horta, Azores. As far as we can understand all the crew members are of Spanish nationality and the rescue operation has been coordinated by Falmouth Coastguard. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A sea tragedy was reported during the week when an Irish-registered fishing vessel *Dinish* sank about 170 miles south of Cork, leaving one crew member dead and two missing and feared dead. According to a spokesman for the Department of Transport, the body of a Spanish man was recovered from the water early on Thursday (May 25). Two missing crewmembers were from Spain and Guinea-Bissau. Seven crewmembers were rescued. The *Dinish*, based in Castletownbere, was crewed by Spanish and African nationals. According to the coastguard, the trawler sent out a mayday call about 2130 on Wednesday after taking on water; it had been sailing from Spain to Ireland.

DONGTAI FORTUNE (Hong Kong)

London, May 29 — Container Carrier *Dongtai Fortune* was reported arriving at Keelung at 1414 hrs, May 28 and sailing at 0854 hrs, today. Container Carrier *Easline Tianjin* was reported arriving at Busan on May 23 and sailing the next day, destination Xingang.

E.PILLARS (Malaysia)

London, May 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Tug *E.Pillars* (122 gt, built 2004) scheduled for a stop at Kota Kinabalu went missing while on its journey from Lahad Datu recently. The vessel which was towing an empty barge, was supposed to reach the State capital and collect scrap metal on May 18 and ship the items to Penang. All nine crew, aged between 20 and 45, comprising five Myanmar nationals and four Indonesians were also reported missing. The vessel left Bintulu in Sarawak on May 2 enroute to the Lahad Datu port with a stopover in Kota Kinabalu before heading to Penang. Shah Gzali said a search and rescue operations involving the marine police and police air unit had begun and the Royal Malaysian Navy had been informed. City Police Chief, ACP Shah Gzali Khan Shahadad said the skipper of the vessel last contacted the owner, a 54-year-old local Chinese, who is the director of a Sibubased shipping company in Sarawak at about 0830, last Monday (May 15). "The skipper told him that everything was fine and that they expect to reach Kota Kinabalu about three days later. "But until May 19 the tugboat had not reached the port and all efforts to locate and contact the vessel failed," he said.

EASLINE TIANJIN (Singapore)

See *Dongtai Fortune*.

ELEKTRON (Norway)

London, May 25 — Ro/ro *Elektron* was reported arriving at Drammen on May 11.

EMERALD QUEEN (Panama)

Sydney, May 26 — Crude oil tanker *Emerald Queen* (57943 gt, built 1997) inbound to Geelong's Refinery Pier, grounded briefly on the edge of the Corio Channel last Friday (May 19). According to Geelong harbour master Captain Dilip Abraham, the laden 107,000 dwt vessel came to rest at a location near the City Bend. The vessel, which was under pilotage, is understood to have been proceeding at a lower than usual manoeuvring speed due to the morning fog conditions which existed at the time. The vessel had connected its attending tugs when the incident occurred, Captain Abraham said. The vessel subsequently berthed at Refinery Pier without further incident. No environmental pollution was reported and surveyors later examined the vessel for possible structural damage. The *Emerald Queen* sailed from Geelong May 23 after completing cargo operations. Marine Safety

Victoria will be conducting an investigation into the circumstances of the incident. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

ETERNAL GRACE (Panama)

London, May 27 — Bulker *Eternal Grace* arrived at Ghent at 0259 hrs, May 26.

London, May 29 — Bulker *Eternal Grace* sailed from Ghent at 2324 hrs, May 28, bound for Argentina.

FAR GRIP (NIS)

Melbourne, May 30 — Understand from the local representatives of tug/supply *Far Grip* that a fire occurred in the vessel's accommodation on May 21. A mattress and carpet were burnt and have subsequently been replaced. One crew member suffered burns and required hospitalisation. The incident is still under investigation, and the vessel is currently back in service in Bass Strait. — Lloyd's Agents.

FILIPINA PRINCESS (Philippines)

Manila, May 29 — Repairs to passenger ro/ro *Filipina Princess* were completed Saturday (May 27) at Keppel Cebu Shipyard, Sulpicio Lines reported. Replating on portions of its bottom hull and replacement of its starboard propeller blades were carried out. Sulpicio Lines, owners and operators of the vessel, said that it was undocked Saturday and transferred to Cebu port. Successful sea trials were conducted this morning off Cebu port. The vessel has been cleared for normal operations and is at Cebu port awaiting instructions on its next port of destination. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, May 30 — Passenger ro/ro *Filipina Princess* resumed normal operations yesterday afternoon with the vessel leaving Cebu port at 1552 hrs bound for Davao port in southern Philippines. Sulpicio Lines, owner and operator of the vessel said that its estimated time of arrival at Davao port is 2130 hrs, today. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

FLYINGCAT 3 (Greece)

Piraeus, May 30 — Ferry *Flyingcat 3* (613 gt, built 1998) sustained mechanical failure of the starboard main engine at 0900, May 29, while sailing east of Aegina island. At the time, the vessel was operating the Piraeus-Hydra-Spetses-Portoheli service. The vessel proceeded to Hydra with one operational engine, arriving at 1120 hrs, and returned to Piraeus the same day for inspection/repairs. — Lloyd's Agents. London, May 30 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Ferry *Flyingcat 3* experienced vibrations in the starboard main engine at about 0900, May 29, due to an object entering the turbine while on voyage from Piraeus for Hydra, Spetses and Portoheli with 118 passengers on board. At about 0958 hrs, following unsuccessful efforts by the crew to remove the object, the

vessel continued its voyage and arrived Hydra at 1120 hrs on one engine, accompanied by Coast Guard craft. On arrival, the vessel was prohibited from departing pending inspection of repairs. The passengers for Spetses and Portoheli were forwarded to their destinations on another vessel.

FPSO DALIA (Panama)

London, June 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Floating production tanker *FPSO Dalia* (190217 gt, built 2006), which is on its delivery voyage from South Korea to the Dalia block 17 site off northern Angola and being towed by two tugs, was expected off Cape Town this week after what is proving to be an eventful journey. *FPSO Dalia* is intended as a second production pole on Angola's block 17. However by all accounts the site is not ready and *FPSO Dalia* will be laying up at Cape Town where maintenance and some repairs will be carried out. Its delivery voyage has not been without incident, towed by tugs *Fairmount Sherpa* and *Fairmount Summit*, with a third tug *Sea Tiger* accompanying them as escort, *FPSO Dalia* nevertheless managed to "get free" while off the East African coast, fortunately well out to sea, during some rough sea conditions both sets of tow wires parted, leaving *FPSO Dalia* drifting free for over 24 hours. (Note — *Fairmount Sherpa* subsequently arrived Cape Town May 30.)

FREDERIC ERIC JACKIE

London, May 28 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 1838, UTC: Fishing *Frederic Eric Jackie* 24.9 meters in length has a large unidentified metal object entangled in its fishing nets in lat 50 33.20N, long 002 39.88W at 1417, UTC. There are six non English speaking crew onboard and a commercial dive company is being consulted with a view to identifying the object.

London, May 28 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 2200, UTC: Fishing (general) *Frederic Eric Jackie* which has a large unidentified metal object in its nets has now anchored safely alongside Portland harbour.

London, May 30 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 1106, UTC: Fishing (general) *Frederic Eric Jackie* cleared its propeller and sailed Portland at 1030, UTC, May 29.

FRONT SUNDA (Marshall Islands)

See "Barbers Point, Hawaii" under "Pollution."

GAVIALIS (Netherlands)

Mannheim, Jun 1 — Non specific tanker *Gavialis*, loaded with 1,500 tonnes of fuel oil, struck the "Steinheimer Brucke" bridge at Hanau last night, reportedly due to an unsuccessful turning manoeuvre on the River Main. At present,

navigation has been halted in the relevant area of the River Main. The bridge is also closed, presumably until at least this evening. Understand the intention is to lighten *Gavialis*. — *Lloyd's Agents*.

Frankfurt, Jun 1 — Non specific tanker *Gavialis*, carrying 1,500 tonnes of diesel, collided with a bridge over the River Main in the town of Hanau, just east of Frankfurt today, a Frankfurt river police spokesman said. Nobody was injured and no oil spill has been detected from the 90-metre-long vessel, spokesman Norbert Huebscher said. The bridge has been closed to traffic and shipping along the Main has come to standstill, he said, adding that tugs were in place to tow the vessel away. — *Lloyd's Agents*.

GIPSY MOTH IV (U.K.)

Auckland, Jun 1 — Yacht *Gipsy Moth IV* is under repair in part of the shed of the Grant Dalton New Zealand Challenger for the Americas Cup, Emerites Team New Zealand. The vessel sustained severe hull damage and had to be shipped back from Tahiti to Auckland. She has had to have a large section of one side substantially built back up in her six skins, plus replacement keel bolts and associated work. There are two shifts working on her hoping to be completed in three weeks. — *Lloyd's Agents*.

GLOBAL CARRIER (Antigua & Barbuda)

Montreal, May 29 — Roll On Roll Off *Global Carrier* (7591 gt, built 1982) was in Montreal last week undergoing main engine repairs and departed May 28 for several ports in the Great Lakes to discharge steel cargo as planned. At 0400, local time, May 29, vessel had main engine failure and grounded 30 km upriver from Montreal in Lac St. Louis which is part of the St. Lawrence river. No pollution and no water ingress. We expect that the vessel will be refloated with tug assistance and then a diver's inspection will be carried out before it can proceed. — *Lloyd's Agents*. (Note — *Global Carrier* sailed Bilbao May 5 for Burns Harbour and according to LMIU AIS was stationary in 45 23 52.99N, long 73 46 38.66W at 1712, UTC, 15 nautical miles from Montreal.)

London, May 29 — Following received from St Lawrence Seaway VTS, Montreal, timed 1715, UTC: Roll On Roll Off *Global Carrier*, Montreal for Hamilton, with general cargo, grounded in the St. Lawrence River at 0358, local time, this morning. The vessel is still aground. An inspector from the Transport Safety Board is currently on board assessing the situation. No reports of damage or pollution.

Montreal, May 30 — Roll On Roll Off *Global Carrier* was refloated with the assistance of two tugs at noon May 30. Diver's survey in hand now and we doubt there is any damage. There is no leakage in and no pollution. We

expect the vessel will continue on its scheduled voyage into the Great Lakes. — *Lloyd's Agents*.

HAN (Panama)

See *Alios Artemis*.

HANSA VISBY (Liberia)

See "Seizure Of Drugs On Liberian Vessel At Uraba, Colombia" under "Miscellaneous".

HISTRIA SUN (Panama)

London, May 27 — Bulker *Histria Sun* was reported arriving at Paranagua at 1435 hrs, May 10. It departed at 1130 hrs, May 11, bound for Ancona, where ETA Jun 2.

IERAPETRA L. (Greece)

London, May 30 — Ro/ro *Ierapetra L.* was reported arriving at Samos on May 26. The vessel departed later the same day.

IRAN MADANI (Iran)

London, May 31 — Bulker *Iran Madani* arrived Mangalia May 14.

JADRANKA (Croatia)

Rijeka, May 26 — Informed by Punat shipyard that ferry *Jadranka* is still under repair. Completion of works is expected for around Jun 30. — *Lloyd's Agents*.

JUN LING (Panama)

London, May 30 — General cargo *Jun Ling* (3784 gt, built 1984), which arrived at Hong Kong at 0300 hrs, May 28, is today reported at South West Lamma Anchorage, Hong Kong, under arrest.

JUNO

Gothenburg, May 26 — Passenger *Juno* (254 gt, built 1874), routing the Gota River, owned by the Stromma Tourism and Sjöfart, caught in the mud beside main channel about 0900 today. Around 50 passengers on board at the time and to be assisted ashore, and divers checking vessel and planning to get it all safe and sound for tonight. After passengers departed the 10-person crew remained on board to assist as the vessel caught in the mud beside the main channel. First attempts to pull her afloat failed and assistance called. Vessel got assistance to refloat from mud and soft bottom. No damages expected. — Westax Marine Services AB.

KALININ EXPRESS (U.S.A.)

London, June 1 — A Coast Guard Anchorage press release, dated May 31, states: The Coast Guard is investigating a marine casualty onboard passenger (cruise) *Kalinin Express* (27 gt, built 1993), an Allen Marine Tours vessel, near Ketchikan today. The vessel struck a submerged object causing the vessel to jolt at about 1721 hrs near California Head in the vicinity of Ketchikan. The 64-foot vessel was carrying 52 people. The Coast Guard responded by launching a 47-foot rescue boat from Coast Guard Station Ketchikan with two Ketchikan EMTs on board. They

arrived on scene and transferred the EMTs to *Kalinin Express* to assess the situation. The Coast Guard boat escorted *Kalinin Express* back to Ketchikan. Seventeen people were reported to have minor injuries. Two of the 17 were crewmen. One passenger was transferred to emergency medical personnel immediately following the vessel's arrival in Ketchikan due to a possible injured arm at about 1741 hrs. No pollution was reported. Personnel from Marine Safety Detachment Ketchikan are investigating the incident to determine the cause of the jolt.

KARIM I (Cambodia)

Bucharest, May 30 — General cargo *Karim I* (1500 gt, built 1971) sank at Constantza about 2100, May 29. At that time, the vessel had its starboard side "in double banking" with a floating dock of Sorena Constantza, undergoing damage repairs, subsequent to a collision with chemical tanker *Zoppun* (3541 gt, built 1980) on May 19. About 2050, May 29, the vessel's master alerted the Constantza Port Control / VTS that the vessel had started to list towards the floating dock and it sank shortly thereafter. Various craft, divers, firemen and ambulances deployed to the site by the port authorities to provide assistance attended, and an anti-pollution barrier was laid. At the time of the casualty *Karim I* was manned with 12 crew members, all of whom were safely rescued. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Karim I* was reported arriving at Constantza on May 11. *Zoppun* arrived Constantza May 8 and sailed May 23.)

KELLY LEE (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 31 — A press report, dated today, states: On Monday (May 29) and yesterday, crews righted and removed a stray barge that crashed into the K&I Railroad bridge on the Ohio River near Louisville while being pushed by tug *Kelly Lee* on Jan 26, surveyor Bob Mallette said. It has been pulled a short distance downriver and, following a Coast Guard inspection, it will be sandwiched between other barges for support and towed to a Magnolia Marine Transport dock in Mississippi. Tug *Gilda Shurden* would depart within three to five days, Mallette said. "The barge is heavier than we had anticipated but we made allowances for unknown contingencies," Mallette said. The craft still has some dried asphalt on board. Magnolia Marine will have to determine if it makes sense financially to repair the barge. It was bent and full of holes, Mallette said. Coast Guard inspectors will verify that the craft is rigged correctly and does not take on water when it is pulled.

KIM JACOB (Liberia)

London, May 31 — Crude oil tanker *Kim Jacob* sailed from Setubal on

May 26, bound for Jose Ignacio Terminal, Uruguay.

KONEMU (New Caledonia)

Noumea, May 30 — Product tanker *Konemu* is still afloat. The vessel will be sunk by dynamite as soon as the government gives authorisation. — Lloyd's Agents.

KOTUKU (New Zealand)

London, May 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A salvage team is struggling to stabilize fishing *Kotuku*, which sank in Foveaux Strait on May 13, killing six people. The vessel was towed to shore on Wednesday (May 24) and is currently in Port William on Stewart Island. The Transport Accident Investigation Commission's John Mockett says the salvage team tried to float the vessel late into the night, but struggled to stabilize it. He says work will continue today to get it to float. Mr Mockett says the trawler will be inspected on Stewart Island, before a decision is made about where to take it for further inspections. (See issue of May 26.)

Wellington, May 30 — The ill-fated fishing *Kotuku* will not make a return to Bluff Harbour out of respect for the families of the six people who died when it sank in Foveaux Strait. Transport Accident Investigation Commission chief investigator John Mockett said salvors were still working to stabilise the trawler after it was refloated last Thursday at Port William, near Stewart Island. Since then the salvage team has tried to float the trawler but had struggled to stabilise it, Mr Mockett said. "We're having to caulk it (the hull of the *Kotuku*) slowly and gently in between tides," he said. "We've got airbags attached to the vessel to stabilise it." Work to stabilise the trawler was painstaking and designed to make the hull watertight without significantly altering the structure of the trawler, Mr Mockett said. The trawler would be examined on Stewart Island before a decision was made about where to take it for further inspections. However, he confirmed none of those inspections would be carried out in Bluff. "The families and the community have expressed a wish that it doesn't go into Bluff," Mr Mockett said. "We respect that and completely understand that." — Lloyd's Agents.

LIBERTY EAGLE (U.S.A.)

Chittagong, May 29 — Bulker *Liberty Eagle* (28762 gt, built 2004) and lightering vessel, general cargo *Banglar Moni* (10383 gt, built 1983), were in contact at Kutubdia anchorage at 0100, May 26. *Liberty Eagle* had arrived at Kutubdia anchorage with 35,000 tonnes of bulk wheat May 25, while *Banglar Moni* reached alongside with vacuumator machines for taking cargo delivery from mother vessel around 1800, May 25. Reportedly, both the vessels have sustained damages and are presently lying at Kutubdia. — Lloyd's Agents.

Karachi, Jun 1 — Understand from Bangladesh Shipping Corporation that their general cargo *Banglar Moni* is good and no significant damage caused due collision with bulker *Liberty Eagle* on May 25. bulker *Liberty Eagle* is scheduled to sail next week. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

LIN I (Panama)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

LNG ABUJA (Bahamas)

Cadiz, May 26 — Liquid Natural Gas Carrier *LNG Abuja* is still in shipyard at Cadiz. The vessel's agents reported a couple of days ago that it was likely to sail this weekend (May 27-28) for Bonny. — Lloyd's Agents.

LONG HAI (Panama)

Colombo, May 30 — Bulker *Long Hai* is still at anchorage awaiting spares/repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

LOWLANDS MAINE (Panama)

London, May 31 — Following received from Portland Port Authority, dated today: A survey of bulker *Lowlands Maine* revealed only paint scrapings, and the vessel sailed Apr 27.

LUCKY STAR (Bolivia)

Taipei, May 29 — Non specific tanker *Lucky Star*. Following received from the Kaohsiung Harbor Bureau: A salvage company, Seagreen Enterprise Co Ltd, was appointed by vessel's owners to conduct the towage/salvage operation. An oil disposal company cleaned the leaked oil and relaid the oil booms around the vessel to prevent oil pollution. On May 24, the shore generator and ventilator were stood by at the scene and the repair work was conducted by the diver. The vessel's owner decided to pump out the seawater, while the fuel and lubricating oil remained on board. The vessel was then righted. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAERSK DRESDEN (Germany)

Yokohama, May 30 — Container Carrier *Maersk Dresden* sailed from Yokohama on May 11 for Balboa. — Lloyd's Agents.

MALITAM (Philippines)

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

MAUNAKEA (Liberia)

Port Klang, May 31 — Refrigerated general cargo *Maunakea* is currently under the control of the Smit Salvage Master. Discharging of Squid is in progress and estimated to complete whole consignment approximately two to three weeks time. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAX JACOB (Germany)

See "Slops Tanks, Corpus Christi, Texas, United States" under "Fires & Explosions".

MOANA C. (Panama)

Brisbane, May 31 — Product tanker *Moana C.* (680 gt, built 1995), which

arrived at Brisbane on Dec 16, is currently under repair in the port and is scheduled to depart for Noumea on Jun 20. — Lloyd's Agents.

NANTUCKET CLIPPER (U.S.A.)

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Nantucket Clipper* (1471 gt, built 1984) arrived Bangor, Maine, yesterday evening with mechanical problems, forcing the cancellation of a celebration of its inaugural visit scheduled for today. The ship's owner, Cruise West of Seattle, did not provide details of the mechanical problems but informed city officials that the trips scheduled for June have been cancelled, according to Paul Hilchey-Chandler, Greater Bangor Convention & Visitors Bureau marketing manager. Passengers are being discharged this morning. The ship will head out later today to Portsmouth, NH, for repairs. The ship should be seaworthy in time for its October schedule, Hilchey-Chandler said yesterday. The 2007 season should be unaffected, he said. *Nantucket Clipper* was operated by Clipper Cruise Line until this January when it was sold to Cruise West. It was announced in January that the ship will begin using Bangor as its homeport.

NGANHURRA (Australia)

London, May 29 — A press report, dated May 30, states: Plans to accelerate first production from the \$1.48 billion Enfield oil field off North West Cape have collapsed following an accident to floating production tanker *Nganhurra* (88584 gt, built 2006). Woodside, which has 60 per cent of the field and is the operator, confirmed yesterday the Korean-built FPSO would have to be sent overseas for assessment and repairs. In 2004, giant Japanese group Mitsui paid Woodside \$US464.5 million for a 40 per cent stake in the field which is estimated to contain recoverable reserves of around 300 million barrels. The original plan was to have the field begin producing in the fourth quarter of this year. This was brought forward to the third quarter and then chief executive officer Don Voelte told Woodside's AGM it was possible Enfield could be in production by the end of this financial year. Production from Enfield is planned to stabilise at 100,000 barrels a day, making it one of Woodside's biggest earners. The brand new 142,000-tonne *Nganhurra* can store 900,000 barrels. The vessel arrived off Dampier early this month and anchored in King Bay while taking on supplies and equipment in preparation for testing. *Nganhurra* went on location at Enfield, about 40km north of NW Cape, on May 21 and proceeded to connect with its mooring on May 24. It disconnected on May 25 and was in the process of reconnecting when the wire used to lift the riser column from the sea surface to the rigid arm of the turret on the FPSO snapped. There was a 2m swell but it is understood a 4m

wave put pressure on the connection. "Woodside is seeking specialised shipyard and expertise to undertake the assessment and repairs, with Keppel shipyard in Singapore being selected," a Woodside spokesman said yesterday. He said this program was expected to take at least a month. (Note — *Nganhurra* arrived Dampier May 10.)

NICOBAR (India)

Kolkata, May 26 — Passenger (cruise) *Nicobar* is still at Kolkata for repairs. It is expected that the repairs will be completed by Jun 30. — Lloyd's Agents.

NORWAY (Bahamas)

London, May 31 — A press report, dated May 23, states: passenger (cruise) *Norway* now named *Blue Lady*, is on its way to Alang in Gujarat for dismantling, but it's still not sure whether the ship will be allowed to dock there. Environmental activists are petitioning the Supreme Court to prevent the ship from entering Indian waters. The ship is rumoured to have 900 tonnes of asbestos. The buyer of the vessel, Rajiv Reniwal, has also approached the court for help. "We have made our case in front of the Supreme Court's technical committee and are awaiting their decision," says Rajiv. When asked about reports of depleting food and fuel reserves on the ship, he said, "I don't have accurate information on that, so will not be able to say anything." The *Blue Lady* is being towed by two vessels and is manned by an all-Indian crew of 33. It has already been turned away from Bangladesh, one of the world's cheapest shipping yards. The Gujarat Pollution Control Board has also withheld permission for the ship to enter its waters until it is cleared by the technical committee set up by the Supreme Court.

NOVA (Comoros)

London, May 30 — General cargo *Nova* was reported arriving at Aliaga on May 26, to be broken up.

OCEAN SERAYA (Panama)

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Fourteen persons from bulker *Ocean Seraya* (38906 gt, built 2001) have been rescued after the vessel hit rocks off Karwar coast in Karnataka, India, early this morning, Coast Guard officials said here. The *Ocean Seraya* hit the rocks due to rough sea conditions, they said, adding that rescue operations had been intensified as the condition of the vessel had deteriorated. "The vessel is reported to be in danger. We hope nothing happens to the vessel," Deputy Inspector General of Coast Guard, Commandant R.M.Sharma said, adding that all the crew members were Indian nationals. "The vessel's second officer, Azi Juvale, is missing as he jumped overboard after the vessel hit the rocks. Search operations to locate him are on," he said. Officials said rescue operations

were stopped for a brief period due to bad weather and refuelling of the Chetak helicopter engaged in the operations. Up until now, 14 crew members, including the master's wife, had been rescued and had disembarked at Karwar port, they added.

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Twenty-one Indian crew members of bulker *Ocean Seraya*, carrying iron ore, were rescued by the Coast Guard and one died after the vessel hit an oyster rock and started sinking at Karwar port, a senior Coast Guard official said. The vessel, with 22 crew members, was coming to the port for anchoring when it hit the rock, the Deputy Commandant of the Coast Guard said. Noticing the sinking cargo vessel, the Coast Guard lifted 21 crew members while one jumped to the sea to save himself before the rescue operation began and died, the Deputy Commandant said.

Mormugao, May 31 — One sailor was feared drowned while 20 others rescued when bulker *Ocean Seraya*, carrying 700 tonnes of fuel drifted away from its anchorage and hit an oyster rock following gusty winds and tidal waves. "The ship that was anchored since May 26, at Karwar, near Devgad Island, was stranded between the rocks at 0230, local time, on Tuesday," Karwar Port officer Capt C. Swamy said. According to officials, Azim Mansoor Juvale (28), second officer of the ship was missing, while 20 other members including the master, Ram Sevak Sharma and his wife Ganga Sharma were rescued by the Goa Coast Guard helicopter. According to Capt. Swamy, *Ocean Seraya* had sailed from China to Karachi, before proceeding on its return voyage, with iron ore, to China when it anchored off Karwar. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Singapore-registered bulker *Ocean Seraya* sank off the Karwar coast early on Tuesday after its hull hit rocks in the choppy Arabian Sea, a Coast Guard official said. "While 21 of the 22-member crew were rescued in a seven-hour operation, one of them, second officer Azi Juvale, 29, from Thane was washed away in the rough sea while he was getting into a lifeboat that was lowered to take the crew to the shore," Coast Guard deputy inspector general R. M. Sharma said. The Coast Guard made several sorties looking for Juvale, but could not find him. The 230-metre merchant vessel, weighing about 75,000 tonnes, was on its way to the Karwar port late on Monday to load manganese ore for export. As heavy rains and rough sea prevented the crew from sighting the lighthouse on the coast, the ship dropped anchor in the mid-sea, about three nautical miles from the shore. "The two-deck ship, however, started drifting in a different direction and ran aground after hitting the rocks. Even as the ill-fated ship began to gradually sink, a distress call from the crew helped us

in rushing the rescue teams from Panaji by one Chetak helicopter and six patrol boats," Sharma said. Sharma added that despite 60km per hour winds, the helicopter carried out several sorties to rescue the crew that included Captain Ram Sevak Sharma and his wife. Of the rescued, 14 have been admitted to the Karwar Port Trust hospital and the remaining nine are being treated on board the INS Kadamba of the Navy. A majority of the crewmembers were mainly from the states of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Kerala. "Though we did not encounter any problem until we sailed to the Indian shores, we were caught off guard by the surging sea, strong winds and incessant rains due to the vigorous south-west monsoon that hit coastal Karnataka two days in advance," one of the crew said.

London, May 31 — Following received from the managers of bulker *Ocean Seraya*, dated today: Reports stating that *Ocean Seraya* has sunk are incorrect. *Ocean Seraya* is currently aground off Karwar. The managers have contracted Smit Salvage on a Lloyds Open Form basis. Smit personnel are proceeding to the scene and will evaluate the position on arrival at Karwar tonight.

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The authorities today noticed a "thin streak of oil" from bulker *Ocean Seraya* that had drifted on oyster rocks yesterday after being swept by powerful gales and high sea currents off Karwar coast in the Arabian Sea. "No cause for concern," was the comment of Deputy Inspector General of Police R M Sharma commanding the Goa Coast Guard which rescued 20 crew members in a daring operation. He said the authorities were asked to soak oil absorbants besides immediately taking measures to plug the leakage, if any, and decanting the oil from the ship even as tugs from Mumbai were on their way to tow the brand new vessel back into the sea for carrying iron ore from Karwar. The search for tracing the second sailor who reportedly leapt into the sea fearing the submersion of the vessel early yesterday was still on with two helicopters. (See issue of Jun 1.)

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The Indian Coast Guard is reportedly working round-the-clock to contain an oil spill near the grounded bulker *Ocean Seraya* in a bid to limit damage to the pristine and as yet untouched Karwar coast in Northern Karnataka. The vessel hit a rock off the Karwar coast on Tuesday (May 30). Commandant M.D. Prasad, Coast Guard Public Relations Officer, Goa Headquarters, said yesterday that at present the oil spill had spread over a distance of three kilometres and added that the current situation was not all that alarming. While admitting that the vessel had around 650 tonnes of furnace oil and around 40 tonnes of diesel, Prasad said all precautions were being taken to ensure pollution control. Meanwhile, helicopters are continuing

with their searches in the affected area in the hope of locating one of the sailors who went missing today and was feared to have died at sea.

ODD LUNDBERG (Norway)

Bergen, Jun 1 — Owners of fishing (general) *Odd Lundberg* advise that it is currently trawling in the North Sea. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ORUBA (Panama)

London, May 29 — Chemical tanker *Oruba* sailed Tuzla May 16 for Ilchevsk. (Note — *Oruba* was towed into Corunna Jun 7, 2005, with main engine trouble and was subsequently towed to Corunna for repairs.)

OTTON (Panama)

Bilbao, Jun 1 — Firefighting tug *Otton* is still under repair at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

OVERSEAS CAPEMAR (Marshall Islands)

Kochi, May 30 — Product tanker *Overseas Capemar* (23127 gt, built 1987), which arrived Kochi May 27 and loaded about 27,500 tonnes of naphtha, sailed May 29 for Fujairah and grounded near Kochi outer harbour at 1715 same day, due to bad weather. The vessel was refloated by tugs and moved to an anchorage at Kochi outer roads for a detailed survey. — Lloyd's Agents.

PACIFIC STAR (U.K.)

London, May 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Pacific Star* (35265 gt, built 1981), Noumea to New Zealand with hundreds of passengers on board, was held up for about three hours as repairs were carried out to a damaged water pump which services the engine's boilers. The vessel did not lose power at any stage.

PANAM SERENA (Bahamas)

Copenhagen, May 31 — Reported that chemical tanker *Panam Serena* is currently at Drapetzona, undergoing repairs. — Correspondent. (Note — *Panam Serena* was seriously damaged by an explosion/fire while unloading at Porto Torres on January 1, 2004.)

PHILIPP (Antigua & Barbuda)

Falmouth, May 29 — General cargo *Philipp* arrived Falmouth at 1630, May 28, in tow of tug *Kingston* and entered No 4 Drydock at 1810 same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

PIETER PAUL RUBENS (Belgium)

London, May 27 — Support *Pieter Paul Rubens* (72 gt, built 2004) yesterday evening had an engine room fire at koopmanshaven at Flushing. At 2050 hrs yesterday the local fire brigade got a message that there was a fire on the vessel. On arrival it was found that a hydraulic hose was leaking oil onto the isolation material of the exhaust of the main engine, which caught fire and was extinguished by the crew of the vessel. The fire brigade was still needed, while it was still

smouldering. The firemen went into the engine room with air masks on and a heat detector was found the smouldering place. The smouldering material had been removed and the engine room has been ventilated. The vessel could go into service again after the leaking hydraulic hose had been repaired.

PILGRIM 2 (Cambodia)

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

PLACENTIA PILOT (Canada)

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Crews have refloated a \$3-million pilot boat that ran aground in Placentia Bay earlier this week, while authorities hope to resume normal service for tanker traffic today. *Placentia Pilot* ran aground on Monday (May 29) near an island in the middle of the bay, and had been partially submerged. The Atlantic Pilotage Authority hopes to have a normal complement of two pilot boats in service today. Divers began temporary patching of the boat in Harbour Buffett yesterday. An official with the Atlantic Pilotage Authority said the 18-metre vessel will be towed to Southern Harbour today. A more thorough assessment of the vessel's damage will be done once it is in drydock. Meanwhile, a replacement boat was expected to arrive in Placentia Bay today. Since Monday, the bay has been served by just one pilot boat. A crew member who was injured when the boat ran aground has since been released from hospital.

PONT-AVEN (France)

London, May 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Pont-Aven* returned to service today with refurbishment still under way. The vessel was damaged during a voyage from Plymouth to Santander during the night of May 21-22 when a 40-ft wave off the French coast broke windows and flooded cabins. The ferry diverted to Roscoff to let passengers off before sailing for repairs at Brest. It arrived in Plymouth this morning ready for the scheduled afternoon voyage to Roscoff. The wave smashed a number of windows on the vessel and seawater damage affected 170 cabins, Brittany Ferries spokesman Stephen Tuckwell said. Most of them are back in service but work will continue during today's voyage on drying some out and laying new carpets.

PORTLAND (Panama)

Tenerife, May 26 — General cargo *Portland* (1829 gt, built 1978) has sunk between the islands of Santa Cruz de Tenerife and Gran Canaria. The vessel left the port of Santa Cruz de Tenerife yesterday at 1225 bound for Las Palmas. The traffic control tower lost communication with the vessel at approximately 12 miles off Tenerife. As the vessel did not reach Las Palmas, the local shipagent alerted the authorities of this unusual

delay. The vessel had 11 crew members (6 Ukrainian, 4 Egyptian and 1 Rumanian) of which 9 have been rescued from dinghies by sea-rescue helicopters at Punta Abona, Tenerife South. They are still searching for the two missing crew members. — Lloyd's Agents.

Tenerife, May 26 — General cargo *Portland*: Sea-rescue helicopters are still looking for signs of the missing crew-members, some news say there are three missing now not two. The nine crew-members that were rescued have all been having medical check-ups at local hospital and all but one have been given the OK. Vessel was loaded with 2,700 tons of cement in bulk. Understood vessel could have sunk due to the very bad condition of the sea with waves from 6 to 8 meters combined with force 8 winds. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Three crewmen are still missing after a Panamanian owned ship transporting 2,000 tonnes of cement sank yesterday morning around twelve miles from Santa Cruz de Tenerife. Nine others have been rescued. General cargo *Portland* left Santa Cruz port at 2300 hrs, on Thursday night and was heading for Puerto de La Luz in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. It is thought that a storm may have caused the cargo to shift, in turning causing the boat to sink. Of the nine crewmen rescued, one suffered a dislocated shoulder while the rest were unharmed. Two planes, a helicopter and two high-speed patrol boats are taking part in the search operation. It appears that *Portland*, which was built in 1978, underwent a routine inspection recently during which a number of problems were detected, that had since been remedied.

Tenerife, May 31 — The final number of crew members missing from general cargo *Portland* is one, after the corpse of one of them was found near to the coast of Guimar, 20 kms. south of Santa Cruz, last Saturday (May 27). Reports inform of the deficiencies of the *Portland*, apparently the vessel was not registered in any Classification Society because it did not have the minimum standards required, although they say it was registered by the Hellenic Register of Shipping. The vessel left the port of Santa Cruz de Tenerife with 11 crew-members and 2,200 tons of cement in bulk with destination to the port of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria at 1230, Thursday (May 25). At 1430 the Master of the vessel tries to weather the adverse navigation conditions. The wind is very violent and the vessel overturns. At 1500 two pneumatic dinghies are opened and nine crew members manage to get into them, another stays floating in the water with a life-jacket, but there is no sign of another Ukrainian crew-member who was last seen on the bridge before the order to abandon ship was made. At 0130, May 26, the ship agents at Gran Canaria give the alarm signal as the vessel

has not arrived at its destination. At 0930, May 26, the nine crew-members in the dinghies are seen and rescued. At 1730, May 27, the corpse of one crew-member appears floating near the coast of Guimar. — Lloyd's Agents.

PORTUNUS (U.K.)

London, May 26 — A press report, dated May 23, states: A fisherman last night condemned vandals who ransacked fishing (general) *Portunus* (46 gt, built 1983) in a hammer attack. Steven Williamson said jobs had caused £75,000-worth of damage after they destroyed his vessel's engine and electronic equipment at the weekend. The vessel, a 17m beam trawler moored in Alexandra Dock, King's Lynn, is expected to be out of action for about a month. Mr Williamson, managing director of Lynn Shellfish, said: "It was a vicious attack because there was nothing taken but everything had been voluntarily destroyed. "They have destroyed all the electronic safety equipment, they kicked paint everywhere and they deliberately blew the engine." Police have appealing for information on the attack and Mr Williamson has offered a £1,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of those responsible. Vandals gained entry to the vessel and smashed all the electrical items in the wheel house, including navigational equipment, the auto pilot and warning devices.

PRIDE OF ALOHA (U.S.A.)

Honolulu, May 30 — Passenger (cruise) *Pride of Aloha* has returned to normal trading in Hawaiian waters. — Lloyd's Agents.

QUEEN OF SAANICH (Canada)

London, May 29 — Roll On Roll Off *Queen of Saanich* (9302 gt, built 1963) reported a small fire in the galley near Georgina Point in Active Pass, BC, in lat 48 54N, long 123 18W, at 1040, local time, May 22.

RAMOS III

See "Tropical Cyclone "Jim" under "Weather & Navigation."

RIVER EAGLE (U.S.A.)

London, May 30 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, dated May 25: A report from Mobile states: A barge carrying crushed limestone rock sank eight miles north of Fort Morgan in the vicinity of Mile 37, Mobile Ship Channel, approximately 1945, May 23. The US Army Corps of Engineers survey vessel *Irvington* and a marine surveyor have surveyed the vessel's position and depth. The following information applies: As of 1700, May 24: Divers have completed damage assessment and buoy placement. United States Coast Guard has requested USACE to give recommendation for depth for reopening the waterway. USACE and Coast Guard agree that a controlling depth of 28 ft can be established for

the east side of the channel with the following restrictions for navigation. One-way traffic in Mobile Ship Channel from gated Nos 33/34 to Nos 41/42, depth restriction of 28 ft, mariners are to be advised to stay to the red side when transiting this area. Sunken barge is reported to be from the green buoy line to centre line of the channel. The barge is marked by following buoys: On the north and south ends centreline of the barge there are lighted orange and white cylindrical buoys with a triangle that states "Submerged Wreck." On each corner of the barge there is a orange round buoy which is not lit. Anticipate these restrictions to be in place until 0900, May 26; at that time there will be another closure, due to divers in the water and salvage operations, until completion of salvage. The duration of the closure is not known at this time, Coast Guard will update projected opening of channel pending further developments. Due to some confliction of the orientation of the barge the Coast Guard is not prepared to open up to deep draught traffic but will reconsider as new information is received. As of this time Coast Guard has opened the effected portion of the waterway and issued a broadcast Notice to Mariners identifying the restrictions in transiting the area.

London, May 30 — A press report, dated May 27, states: After a more than 24-hour delay, the Mobile Ship Channel is scheduled to close by noon today to begin efforts to raise a barge that sank Tuesday night (May 23) in Mobile Bay about seven miles north of Fort Morgan, US Coast Guard officials said. Salvage experts from New Orleans, who had been expected to begin raising the barge yesterday, were delayed a full day by what was described as "personnel issues," said Russ Painter, insurance and claims manager for Excell Corporation, the company responsible for recovering the barge. Coast Guard Lt Jonathan Mangum, chief of the Waterways Management Branch, said yesterday that the channel would remain closed until the salvage was complete, which is expected to be Monday. "We're very cognisant of the fact that dollars are being lost every day, and we are doing everything we can to expedite the recovery," said Mangum, who reported no injuries in the waterway accident. Vessels anchored outside Mobile Bay unable to enter the channel cost owners or charterers about \$20,000 a day, said Jimmy Lyons, director and chief executive officer of the Alabama State Port Authority. Lyons added that the port was losing about \$400,000 to \$600,000 in dockage and wharfage fees. He said he expected to recover those funds when the vessels finally arrived. The waterway had remained open with restrictions since Tuesday's accident but prohibited vessels drafting 28 feet or more to enter the bay, Mangum said. Two tankers, the *Nordic Discovery* and the *Kuban*, have been anchored south of Mobile Bay since Tuesday, according

to the Harbour-master's Daily Report of Shipping. The Coast Guard is making special provisions for the approved four vessels, all drawing less than 30 feet, to enter the bay this morning, Lyons said. US Army Corps of Engineers officials said the agency approved a permit Friday afternoon allowing Excell Corp to use air pressure to raise the barge rather than shackles and cables. An air compressor will jettison the cargo — 1,600 tons of limestone — onto the channel bottom, which is where it will stay until the US Army Corps of Engineers can remove the sedimentary rock at a yet-to-be decided date, said Pat Robbins, chief of public affairs. The limestone would have no hazardous effects on underwater life, said David Hobbie, chief of the corps' regulatory division. Once the barge, which is 195 feet long by 35 feet wide, is emptied, air will then be pumped inside the vessel, giving it the buoyancy needed for it to rise to the surface, Hobbie said. The cause of the accident was still under investigation, Mangum said. Speaking of the lost revenue and strain that certain companies are facing by not receiving their cargo, Lyons said, "If it takes much longer than Monday to get these vessels in port, we'll be in serious trouble."

London, May 30 — Following received from New Orleans, timed 1000, UTC: The barge which sank was the lead barge in a convoy being pushed by tug *River Eagle* (580 gt, built 1957). The barge, which measures 90 ft by 35 ft, remains sunk at present but salvage operations may be completed today. The channel has been reopened for vessel's of up to 40 ft draught.

London, May 30 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1510, UTC: The barge which sank while being pushed by tug *River Eagle* May 23 was barge *SCF 9222*.

Mobile, May 30 — Tug *River Eagle*/barge *SCF 9222*: Reported by local agent that the submerged barge (*SCF 9222*) has been "drug" (dragged) to the side of the channel. Today the Corps of Engineers are inspecting the channel bottom. Currently the channel is open to vessels with less than 40ft draught. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Divers finished removing a sunken barge (*SCF 9222*) being pushed by tug *River Eagle* from the Mobile Ship Channel early yesterday, and vessels began sailing in and out of port around dawn, according to the Alabama state docks. The barge carrying about 1,600 tons of limestone went down in the middle of the channel late Tuesday of last week (May 23), blocking deep draught ships leaving or entering the Port of Mobile. The U.S. Coast Guard is investigating the cause of the incident. Over the weekend and Memorial Day, about a dozen ships had stacked up in the Gulf of Mexico waiting to access the port while half a

dozen were stuck inside, according to docks officials. Eleven bar pilots, about twice the number of pilots normally working in one shift, guided the ships in and out of port yesterday, docks Director Jimmy Lyons said. The channel was almost fully open by yesterday afternoon — ships were restricted at a draught of no deeper than 44 feet and six inches until the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers could give the all-clear, Lyons said. It was unclear yesterday whether the sunken barge could ever sail again, according to Russ Painter, a spokesman for Cincinnati-based Excell Marine Corp., which was towing the barge when it went under. Excell Marine hired salvage experts at a cost of "several hundred thousand dollars," he said. The company did salvage about 90% of the limestone, he said. Painter said his company is still trying to determine who is to blame for the incident. I

ROMI

Zeebrugge, May 31 — Inland vessel *Romi*, which capsized at the "Steen" in Antwerp near the city centre drowning two people, is still lying under repair at the Mexicobrug in Antwerp. Investigations are still in hand. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

SALZGITTER (Panama)

Miami, May 31 — A small fire broke out on board vehicle carrier *Salzgitter* at approximately 1030, May 18, while welding work was being carried out in the bow area. The vessel's crew dealt with the fire and no injuries were reported. The Miami Dade County Fire Department were called but the fire was out when they arrived. No further damage was reported. The vessel was inspected and was allowed to depart for Freeport at 1600 same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

SC BALTIC (DIS)

Trondheim, May 29 — General cargo *SC Baltic*: Temporary repairs were completed at Myklebust Verft AS near Aalesund on 27 May. Vessel left yard at 1430 hrs for Aalesund to reload the cargo discharged there prior to yard repairs. The *SC Baltic* then left Aalesund 1700, May 28, for Terneuzen, where this cargo will be discharged. The vessel will then be permanently repaired but it has not yet been decided where. — Lloyd's Agents.

SCF 9222 (U.S.A.)

See *River Eagle*.

SEA PRINCESS (Bermuda)

See "Outbreak Of Virus On Bermuda-Flagged Vessel" under "Miscellaneous".

SELENDANG AYU (Malaysia)

London, May 30 — A press report, dated May 29, states: Crews in Unalaska have resumed cleaning up oil residue from bulker *Selendang Ayu*, a freighter that spilled hundreds of thousands of gallons of oil into waters off the Aleutian islands in

2004 after grounding during winter storms. State officials on Monday said they believe a hard summer of bagging tar balls and using backhoes to break up larger coats of oil will bring operations to a close. "Things are actually going pretty well, but there's still some work to be done," said Gary Folley an on-scene coordinator for the state Department of Environmental Conservation. *Selendang Ayu* was carrying 60,000 tons of soybeans from Tacoma, Wash., to China when it encountered engine trouble and grounded off Unalaska, the hub of a prolific commercial fishery about 800 miles south-west of Anchorage. More than 335,700 gallons of oil and diesel and tons of soybeans spilled from the ship after it split in half on a rocky shelf. The state team arrived on Unalaska on May 15 to start surveying 6.5 miles of beach that did not pass an assessment test during the state's last visit in September. Folley on Monday said about two more miles of beach still need to be cleaned, while the rest no longer need treatment. Waves and storm surges over the winter washed away much of the oil, or broke it into small particles that will eventually dissipate, Folley said in a phone interview from Unalaska. A crew of 22, mostly local residents, is involved in the shoreline clean-up work, said Unalaska Mayor Shirley Marquardt. On most beaches, they are using shovels, rakes and other hand tools to collect oil attached to seaweed or vegetation. Beaches with more oil will be tilled with a backhoe to break up the oil and make it easier for waves to wash it away, Folley said. Some beaches are being left alone because state officials anticipate wave action will scour them clean. Others are considered too dangerous for clean-up crews to access. Marquardt said the community has not noticed any negative effects from the spill in the last year. "Oddly enough it's as if it never happened," she said. "It could have been so much worse with different tides and currents. We don't feel lucky that it happened, but we realise we dodged a pretty big one." The state has approved a wreck removal plan from Magone Marine Service, Inc., based in Dutch Harbor, to continue salvage operations this summer on the 738-foot vessel. The company is waiting for an extended forecast of good weather before beginning. *Selendang Ayu's* owner last summer had proposed leaving the wreckage to break up and settle in the Bering Sea. The plan, which was rejected by the state, would have saved the company a significant amount of money. No health problems have been reported from people consuming seafood harvested in the vicinity of the spill. However, more than 1,600 birds and six sea otters were found dead after the spill. The state team will retest shellfish, such as clams and chitons, to make sure they are safe for humans to eat. In April, the state said mussels and other shellfish collected last summer

from the grounding site are safe for human consumption. Singapore-based IMC Group, which owns *Selendang Ayu*, is responsible under state law for fully funding the clean-up and has paid about \$100 million to efforts so far. The DEC is still working with the Department of Law on possible civil penalties for IMC, Folley said. *Selendang Ayu* grounded and broke apart Dec 8, 2004. A Coast Guard helicopter carrying crew members from the tanker crashed during rescue operations, and six of the 10 freighter crew on board died. The Coast Guard personnel survived.

SOUMYA (India)

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The State Government has served an ultimatum of two days to the owners of barge *Soumya*, which grounded around 150-200 metres from Miramar beach while on its way to Mormugao with a cargo of iron ore two days ago. Nine crew members who had to spend Monday night (May 29) on board the vessel reached the shore yesterday morning during low tide. It is not known whether the barge went into trouble due to engine failure. Chief Secretary J.P.Singh said that the Captain of Ports Capt A.Mascarenhas yesterday evening issued a notice to Delhi-based Bukari & Bukari Co Pvt Ltd directing them to remove the vessel within two days or face "strict action."

SPAR ORION (NIS)

London, May 31 — Bulker *Spar Orion*: Understood Lloyd's Standard Form salvage contract was signed with Donjon Smit on May 17.

STARFLYTE (New Zealand)

Auckland, May 29 — The accident between ferry *Starflyte* and ferry *Kea* was quite minor and neither was out of service for repairs. The work was done within their timetable and maintenance periods. The casualty did not give rise to an insurance claim on either policy. — Lloyd's Agents.

STOLT ZULU (Singapore)

London, June 1 — A Coast Guard New Orleans press release, dated May 31, states: The Coast Guard is scheduled to convene a one-person formal investigation tomorrow to look into events leading up and contributing to the collision between chemical tanker *Stolt Zulu* combined chemical and oil tank *Bow Fortune* at mile 178 of the Lower Mississippi River near Donaldsonville, La. The collision occurred at 0445, May 19 when the crews of the southbound *Stolt Zulu* and the northbound *Bow Fortune* tried to pass each other at 81 Mile Bend, a sharp curve in the river. As a result of the collision, *Bow Fortune* sustained a 28-foot gash in the port bow while *Stolt Zulu* sustained inset side shell and damaged guard rails to the port side. "This was a significant accident that could have been avoided," said Capt. Frank Paskewich, commander of Coast Guard Sector New Orleans.

"After the collision, we were very glad that there were no associated injuries, pollution or significant impact to the waterway and flow of maritime traffic, but the incident could have turned out far worse than it did. My investigators are committed to looking at all the factors to see what could be done to try to prevent a similar incident from occurring in the future." The formal investigation will take place in room B431 on the 4th floor of the Hale Boggs Federal Building at 0900 hrs.

London, May 29 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Bow Fortune* was reported arriving at Houston at 2230 hrs, May 25.

SUMMIT (Bahamas)

London, May 31 — Following received from the operators of passenger (cruise) *Summit*, dated today: *Summit* was taken out of service on May 20 and drydocked at Victoria, British Columbia. The vessel completed repairs and returned to service May 27, beginning a cruise from Seward.

SUPER JET (Greece)

Piraeus, May 29 — Ferry *Super Jet* (499 gt, built 1995) sustained mechanical failure of ventilation/air condition system at Tinos port on May 26. After completion of repairs and class inspection the vessel returned to service on May 28. — Lloyd's Agents. .

THE CALYPSO (Cyprus)

London, May 31 — Following received from Associated British Ports Southampton, dated today: Passenger *The Calypso* is still at Berth 102, Western Docks, Southampton, and is expected to remain there for two to three weeks.

THOR FALCON (DIS)

Penang, May 30 — Container Carrier *Thor Falcon* sailed from Penang at 0700 hrs, May 26 to Karachi. — Lloyd's Agents.

VAN GOGH (Marshall Islands)

See "Outbreak of Virus on Marshall Islands Vessel" under "Miscellaneous."

VENETICO BREEZE (Hong Kong)

London, May 30 — Bulker *Venetico Breeze*, which sailed from Antwerp at 0702 hrs, Apr 22, bound for Sepetiba Terminal, arrived at its destination in Brazil on May 8.

VERTIGO (Jamaica)

Poznan, May 31 — Bulker *Vertigo* left our port at 0800 today, final destination St. Petersburg. — Lloyd's Agents.

WESTPORT (U.S.A.)

London, May 29 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1230, UTC: Fishing (general) *Westport* (196 gt, built 1980) was reported disabled with engine problems in lat 40 49N, long 67 36W, at 0030, UTC, May 28. Vessel is currently being towed to its home port

of New Bedford.

London, Jun 1 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1336, UTC: Fishing (general) *Westport* arrived New Bedford May 29. (See issue of May 31.)

YUNG CHANG (Taiwan)

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

ZOPPUN (Turkey)

See *Karim I*.



BANGLADESH

Karachi, May 27 — Armed pirates attacked 10 fishing trawlers in the Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh on Thursday (May 25) and looted fish, fishing nets and money from the trawlers after throwing 13 fishermen overboard into the water. The fishermen, who were rescued by another trawler in the area, said the pirates attacked their fishing trawlers in the deep sea. When the fishermen tried to resist, the pirates threw fishermen overboard into the water and also took away four trawlers and abducted five fishermen. — Lloyd's List Correspondent

SOMALIA

Manila, Jun 1 — The wives of 19 Filipino crew of product tanker *Lin I* have broken their silence and gone on national radio to appeal to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to help secure the release of their husbands. The public appeal was made despite apparent efforts by the government and the ship's crewing agent to hush-up the incident. *Lin I*, which is operated by UAE-based Akron Trade and Transport, was seized close to Mogadishu, Somalia, by gun-wielding pirates on Mar 29. The tankers and its crew are being held off the coast of Somalia. When news broke out about the hijacking, Philippine charge d'affaires to Nairobi Bernadette Muller, was quoted as saying that the report was false. The ship's Manila crewing agent, Jayphil, Inc., also initially denied that the hijacking occurred. It was only forced to admit the hijacking took place when one of the seafarers contacted his wife to tell her they had been kidnapped. Authorities claimed, however, that there was no intention to conceal the incident. There was a need, however to conduct negotiations away from the glare of media publicity to protect the hostages, it was explained. Frustrated by the lack of progress, however, six of the Filipino crewmen's wives have gone public about their ordeal, today. One woman said she called up the pirates in Somalia last week to beg them to allow her to talk to her husband. She was able to talk to her husband who told her that that water

and food supplies were fast running out. The seafarer also said that they were allowed to eat only once a day. — Lloyd's List Correspondent. The women said the pirates initially demanded \$450,000 dollars from the seafarers' crewing agency. The amount was raised to \$1 million dollars and later reduced to \$500,000 dollars. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port State Control



INDIA

Kandla, May 27 — Bulk cement carrier *Doha I* completed repair works on May 26 and sailed for Port Pipavav in ballast same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 26 — A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated May 25, states: Container Carrier *Pilgrim 2* (1551 gt, built 1988), was on May 23 at Shoreham. The Port State Control Officer (PSCO) from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency found twelve deficiencies, two of which were major non conformities under the ISM Code. The PSCO noticed a heavily corroded extinguisher at the gangway, and found several more CO2 extinguishers with the horns missing. An accommodation fire damper was found lying on the deck. The PSCO had clear grounds to request the crew to carry out a fire drill. It took considerable effort for the crew to understand, as the master and officers spoke almost no English.

London, June 1 — Passenger (cruise) *Vistamar* sailed Tilbury May 26.

Seizures & Arrests



ALALAA 1 (North Korea)

Bucharest, May 26 — General cargo *Alalaa 1* (1537 gt, built 1972) was arrested at Constantza Mar 1. Claimants, Zeebrugge Drydock M.V. and Soenen B.V.B.A., both Belgian companies, for unpaid invoices regarding repairs/drydocking. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Alalaa 1* arrived Constantza Feb 10.)

BAKUR (Canada)

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The RCMP said yesterday they expect to find a huge stash of illegal drugs as they comb through fishing (general) *Bakur*, seized off Vancouver Island Tuesday (May 23). Police had been tracking it since it left Halifax in December, travelling down the East Coast, through the Panama Canal, then up to Canada. Five men have been charged with drug trafficking.

London, May 27 — A press report, dated May 26, states: fishing (general) Police say they have found 1,600 kilograms of marijuana aboard a ship seized Monday (May 22) in Ucluelet, a small town on the west coast of British Columbia's Vancouver Island. The RCMP say 142 bales of the Mexican pot were found in a hold and another 23 bales were behind a false wall at the forward end of the 47-metre fishing vessel *Bakur*. Insp. Paul Nadeau says the search continues, but authorities believe they have most of the drugs. The registered owner of the *Bakur* is Limar Fishing Ltd., and two of the company's directors, 52-year-old Phil Stirling of Adams Lake and Ralph Harris, 66, of Ladysmith, are among those charged with importing drugs. The third director is Phil's wife, Marlene Stirling, who is not facing charges. The couple live in Adams Lake, near Chase. Also charged are John Edward Corbin, 46, of Chase, 36-year-old Sean Michael Cochrane of Waham, Alta, and Walberto Armenta-Ruelas, 40, of Sonora, Mexico. All five, arrested Monday, appeared in Victoria provincial court Wednesday (May 24). The *Bakur* left Halifax in December and travelled through the Panama Canal before coming north to Vancouver Island. The drugs are believed to have originated in South America. At 0230 hrs, Monday, the vessel pulled into Ucluelet to be greeted by the RCMP and officials from the Canadian Border Services Agency.

BIGA (Canary Islands)

Bilbao, Jun 1 — General cargo *Biga* is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

BOREAS (Cyprus)

Bilbao, Jun 1 — General cargo *Boreas* is still under embargo at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

CHUAN FA SHENG NO.128 (Taiwan)

Honolulu, May 30 — Fishing *Chuan Fa Sheng No.128* has been released after the owner paid a sizeable fine. — Lloyd's Agents.

EMSLAND (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 25 — Following received from Wicklow Port Company, dated May 23: General cargo *Emsland* (1857 gt, built 1984) was prevented from leaving Wicklow May 23 for its scheduled trip to Bremen.

London, May 30 — General cargo *Emsland* was reported arriving at Brunsbittel at 1234 hrs, May 29, from Wicklow.

GOLDEN TAURUS (Bolivia)

London, Jun 1 — Fishing (general) *Golden Taurus* is today reported at Tung Lung Chau East, Hong Kong. It is also reported that the vessel is now no longer under arrest. (See issue of May 23.)

RA NAM (North Korea)

London, May 26 — General cargo *Ra Nam* (9112 gt, built 1982), which

arrived at Hong Kong at 2200 hrs, May 25, is today reported at Kellett Anchorage No.3, Hong Kong, under arrest.

London, May 30 — General cargo *Ra Nam* is currently still at Kellett Anchorage, Hong Kong, under arrest.

THESEUS (Greece)

London, May 30 — Ro-ro *Theseus*, which reported under seizure in Piraeus since July 1997, sailed from Piraeus on May 27, in tow of tug *Aegean Pelagos*, bound for Aliaga, to be broken-up.. — Lloyd's Agents.

VOLGA 44 (Malta)

London, May 30 — General cargo *Volga 44* arrived at Flushing, from Liverpool, at 1235 hrs, May 29.

London, May 31 — General cargo *Volga 44* sailed from Flushing at 2325 hrs, May 30, bound for St. Petersburg.

Pipeline Accidents



ASSAM, INDIA

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

PUNJAB-BALUCHISTAN BORDER AREA, PAKISTAN

Karachi, May 26 — Pakistan's biggest gas utility, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Ltd (SNGPL) said 24-inch diameter main gas pipeline was blown up near the Goth Mazari in the Punjab-Balochistan border area suspending supply of gas to some parts of Punjab yesterday. Repair work is going on to restore supply, Company's official said. Earlier, separately, a huge fire broke out in Sui in Balochistan, after two pipelines supplying gas to the Sui purification plant, exploded on last night. As a result, at least 60 shops, Sui grid station and local levies police station were gutted. Officials said there was no immediate threat to the main gas plant but supply from many wells to the plant may have to be stopped and added the affected pipelines were supplying gas to the main purification plant from 20 to 30 gas wells that would affect the functioning of the plant and compressor. — Lloyd's List Correspondent

Pollution



BARBERS POINT, HAWAII, UNITED STATES

Honolulu, May 30 — It was reported that when the hose became uncoupled on crude oil tanker *Front Sunda*, alarms triggered an automatic shut down which blew all of the seals and gaskets on board the vessel. his has

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

now been repaired, but apparently there was a problem on the refinery end. The vessel is currently at the mooring offloading its cargo and is expected to sail tomorrow. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jun 1 — Crude oil tanker *Front Sunda* sailed from Barbers Point on May 31, bound for the United Arab Emirates.

KARWAR, KARNATAKA, INDIA

See *Ocean Seraya* under "Marine."

PORT ANGELES, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Crews in Port Angeles have completed repairs on a broken sewer main that forced the city to release untreated sewage into the harbor for two days. Workers replaced a broken 10-ft transition pipe by working through the early morning hours and all day yesterday. Parts for the repair were found yesterday in the Seattle area. An estimated three to four million gallons of untreated sewage a day leaked into Port Angeles Harbour. Last night, the city lifted its voluntary restrictions on sewer use as crews got the system normalized again. But there are still beach closures State and county health officials closed Strait of Juan de Fuca beaches from Crescent Beach to Dungeness Spit due to sewage contamination. They want people to avoid swimming, wading or harvesting shellfish. Officials say pets should be restrained from going into the water as well. The affected beaches will remain closed until water quality testing confirms that the water is safe for human contact.



INDIA

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: With the death of one more person today, torrential monsoon rains have now claimed at least six lives in Kerala and destroyed nearly 600 hectares of land under cultivation. The latest death was reported from Kannur district, said the Natural Calamities Control Room at the state secretariat. According to rough estimates, the damage caused by the monsoon has crossed Rs.50 million. "More than 300 houses have been affected, of which 40 have been fully damaged. The destruction has been the worst in the coastal areas of Kollam, Ernakulam, Thiruvananthapuram and Alappuzha," said a spokesperson in the Control Room. The other affected districts include Kozhikode, Kottayam, Trissur, Wayanad and Idukki. What is worrying the authorities is that close to 14,000 people in Kollam alone are suffering from viral fever with the onset of the

rains. Close to 30 hectares of paddy cultivation has been damaged in Wayanad in north Kerala. The government has announced Rs.60 million for relief and rehabilitation of those affected by the monsoon. The state government has opened temporary shelters in affected districts. Even though the monsoon was expected in Kerala June 1, it arrived a few days ahead around May 25, especially lashing out at the coastal districts.

Goa, May 31 — Heavy rain accompanied by cyclonic winds lashed South Goa last night forcing the authorities to move 300 persons to safer areas following flooding. The rain also disrupted 160 electricity poles, disrupted power supply, uprooting a number of trees right from Margao up to Canacona causing damage estimated to run into crores of rupees. High velocity winds which accompanied the rain started at around 0100 and stayed on throughout the night. With the rising water flooding several houses in Fakir Bandh, Tollebandh and Azad Nagar over 300 residents were shifted to the rescue shelter at the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium by the district authorities. A KSRTC bus bound for Vasco from Bijapur skidded and went off the road at Raia in the early hours of the day injuring twenty in the process. Four, all from Karnataka, were injured seriously. A falling tree brought down two houses close to the landslide area in Dicarpale. In the South Goa district, 160 poles were damaged sending the entire district into darkness. Thirty high tension poles were also damaged. In Margao, alone 30 poles were damaged by the falling trees. Of these seven were high tension lines and three poles with associated high tension lines near the Kadamba bus terminus came down. The power Minister, Mr. Digamber Kamat, who personally toured the area camping at various areas, said that the 33KV feeders of Nessai, Raia, Benaulim and Cuncolim were being restored on a war footing. All the 33 KV feeders affected in South Goa were restored by 2100 and according to Mr. Kamat the scene had shifted to making the secondary feeders and low tension lines operational. Power to Margao city was restored after 1700. Mr. Kamat informed that since 25 to 30 poles and nearly 100 spans of wiring had been damaged along the coastal belt and Canacona it would take at least two to three days to restore complete power supply. The Power Minister informed that he would depute additional gangs of workers to both the coastal belt of Salcete and Canacona to restore power supply. At Fakir Bandh where the water levels rose to precarious levels affecting 50 to 60 houses, around 250 persons were shifted to the stadium at Fatorda, 50 others were shifted from Tolleband. The Margao-Cuncolim stretch of the National Highway 17 was blocked after falling trees brought down power lines and electric poles along. The fire service

personnel led by sub-divisional fire officer, Mr. Ashok Menon were on their throughout the day. The wind also resulted in a short circuit near Kamat Hotel at Colva circle. Services of trains plying on Konkan Railway route were hampered following flooding of tracks and minor landslides at various places. Most of the trains were running behind schedule, while some were held up at stations like Chiplum and Sangameshwar in Maharashtra. Normal services resumed only after 2200. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

THAILAND

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: The State Railway of Thailand has evaluated that the damage of its lines is worth approximately 92 million baht, and it has expected that the railway will be operational by June 15. Mr. Jitsanti Thanasopon, the Governor of the State Railway of Thailand, revealed that from primary inspection of state rails in Uttaradit and Phrae provinces on May 27, it has been estimated that all aspects of the state rail in these areas have been damaged from rail lines, rail bridges, paving, and machinery, estimated at 66.5 million baht, while the locomotive and bogeys have sustained damage worth 22.7 million baht. The rail governor expects repairs to be completed by June 15th.

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: The confirmed death toll in northern Thailand from floods and mudslides has risen to 77 and 38 people remain missing, the Government said last night. Flash floods swept through five northern provinces last week, triggering mudslides that buried homes after torrential rains hit the region the weekend before. At least 500 houses were destroyed and 3000 damaged. The Interior Ministry said the disaster had affected at least 170,600 people, with 1240 evacuated. A spokesman added that floodwaters had receded in four provinces, leaving only one province with high levels.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "JIM"

London, May 30 — A press report, dated May 20, states: Passenger *Ramos III* is still on the Ranadi beachfront.

TROPICAL STORM "ALETTA"

London, May 28 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Aletta": At 0900, UTC, a tropical storm warning was in effect for the south-central Pacific coast of Mexico from Punta Maldonado, westward to Tecpan de Galeana. A tropical storm watch is in effect for the Pacific coast of Mexico from east of Punta Maldonado eastward to Puerto Escondido and from west of Tecpan de Galeana westward to Zihuatanejo. At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Aletta" was located near lat 15.4N, long 101.0W. The

position is accurate to within 50 nautical miles. Present movement is stationary. The estimated minimum central pressure is 1002 mb. The maximum sustained winds: 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. The radius of 34 knot winds: 50 nautical miles in the north-east & south-east quadrants and zero nautical miles in the south-west & north-west quadrants. At 0600, UTC, May 29, the centre is predicted to be near lat 15.9N, long 100.9W, with maximum winds of 45 knots and gusts to 55 knots.

London, May 29 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Aletta": At 0900, UTC, a tropical storm warning was in effect for the Pacific coast of Mexico from Punta Maldonado westwards to Zihuatanejo. At 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Aletta" was located near lat 16.2N, long 101W. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles. Present movement towards the north, or 360 deg, at two knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 1002 mb. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 40 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants and zero nautical miles in the south-west and north-west quadrants. At 0600, UTC, May 30, the centre is predicted to be near lat 16.4N, long 102W, with maximum winds of 50 knots and gusts to 60 knots.

London, May 30 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical depression "Aletta": Depression centre located near lat 16.0N, long 102.8W, at 0900, UTC, May 30. Position accurate to within 30 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west, or 270 deg, at four knots. Maximum sustained winds 30 knots with gusts to 40 knots. Forecast for 0600, UTC, May 31: Position lat 15.8N, long 104.2. Maximum sustained winds 25 knots with gusts to 35 knots.

TYPHOON "CHANCHU"

Manila, May 29 — The offloading of the remaining 300,000 litres of bunker fuel from product tanker *Malitam* was completed today, Batangas Bay Carriers Inc, the vessel's owners and operators, reported. The *Malitam*, which is moored alongside the repair barge *Talaba* along Manila's Pasig River, began transferring its cargo to self-propelled petrol barge *Bangungon* yesterday. The offloading was completed this morning and the *Bangungon* will deliver the bunker fuel to the Petron Corp depot in Manila's Pandacan district, along the Pasig River. About 800,000 litres of bunker fuel was offloaded into the *Bangungon* during refloating operations, this being the maximum carrying capacity of the *Bangungon*. The *Malitam* continued to carry the remaining 300,000 litres of bunker fuel as it was pulled by tug to the Pasig River. — Lloyd's List Correspondent. (See issue of May 30.)

Manila, May 30 — Tank cleaning is now being carried out on product tanker *Malitam*, which is moored off the del Pan area along Manila's Pasig River. The vessel's owners reported that cleaning began May 29 and is expected to be completed within seven days. The vessel will then be inspected by insurance surveyors after which it will be drydocked. The owners said that a shipyard has not yet been picked, as repair quotations are still being gathered. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, May 26 — The scheduled offloading of product tanker *Malitam*'s remaining cargo of 300,000 litres of bunker fuel failed to take place on Friday. The original plan was for the cargo to be transferred to self-propelled petrol barge *Kuhol*. The barge did not arrive, however at the del Pan area of the Pasig River where *Malitam* is moored. Officials of Batangas Bay Carriers, Inc., owner and operator of *Malitam*, did not give any explanation for the failure of the barge to arrive. They said, however, that petrol barge *Bangungon* would offload *Malitam* instead. *Bangungon* is expected to arrive Sunday and offloading will take place on Monday, officials said. Officials also reported that a laboratory analysis of *Malitam*'s cargo of bunker fuel performed by Petron Corp. indicated that the cargo was "uncontaminated" thus paving the way for the acceptance of the cargo by Petron Corp. Local petroleum refiner and distributor, Petron Corp., is the owner of *Malitam*'s cargo of 1.1 million litres of bunker fuel. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TYPHOON "HAITANG"

Taipei, May 31 — Unknown *Yung Chang* remains at Pier No.11, Kaohsiung, scheduled to be shifted to the drydock. ETD unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

VIETNAM

London, May 26 — Two men were reported missing when flash floods caused by torrential rain occurred in Bach Thong district of northern mountainous Bac Kan province in the morning of May 25. The flash floods also completely destroyed 121 ha of rice, 15 ha of maize and 24 houses in the district. In addition, dozens of houses were damaged and dozens of electrical poles collapsed. Local authorities and soldiers have taken urgent measures to help affected people overcome the aftermath and search for the two victims.



INDONESIA

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 100 people were killed and hundreds

injured when an earthquake shook the area around Indonesia's ancient royal city and tourist centre Yogyakarta today, hospital staff said. Yogyakarta is on Indonesia's main island of Java and near Mount Merapi, a volcano that has been on top alert for a major eruption this month. A volcanologist in Yogyakarta said the quake was tectonic and not caused by the volcano, but the quake's impact could increase Merapi's activity. The epicentre of the quake, which happened just before 0600, local time, had a magnitude of 6.2, according to the US Geological Survey, was offshore. Jakarta earthquake centre official Fauzi said it did not cause a tsunami. Yogyakarta is about 25 km north of the Indian Ocean coast and 440 km east of Jakarta. "Until 1030 hrs, 56 people were recorded killed at Bethesda (hospital)" in Yogyakarta, Subandi, an official at the hospital's morgue, said. Most of the dead had suffered head injuries and broken bones from collapsing buildings. Officials at three other hospitals in and around Yogyakarta had earlier given figures for the dead totalling 51. Witnesses said hundreds of houses had collapsed in the quake. Office and government buildings were also in ruins. Hospital patients had been moved outside due to fears of aftershocks. Jakarta earthquake centre official Fauzi put the quake's strength at 5.8 and said the epicentre was in the sea about 50 km south of Yogyakarta at a depth of 33 km. There was widespread panic in Bantul, where at least 10 people were killed and hundreds hurt, and a desperate need for more doctors and nurses to treat the injured, said Kardi, the information officer for the hospital there. A witness in Yogyakarta said many people there had fled their homes while thousands of others from areas near the city were trying to get into it to take refuge, many fearing a tsunami. One Yogyakarta resident, Nani Kasidjo, said: "I was having a morning walk and suddenly I felt dizzy and then people ran out of their houses screaming 'Earthquake!'" Yogyakarta's airport was closed due to damage to the runway, Hatta Rajasa, transportation minister, told Elshinta news radio. Roads leading to the coast were cracked and power was off in some areas, witnesses said. Telephone communication was erratic. Yogyakarta's royal palaces and the nearby Borobudur temple complex are prime attractions for domestic and foreign tourists, and many foreigners study the Indonesian language at schools in the city which offer intensive courses.

London, May 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful earthquake destroyed entire towns and villages in central Indonesia yesterday, killing more than 3,000 people, injuring thousands and sparking a tsunami scare which sowed mass panic. The 6.2 magnitude quake struck at dawn near the densely-populated ancient city of Yogyakarta

on the main island of Java, rattling an area that had been on edge for weeks amid fears that nearby Mount Merapi volcano would erupt. Thousands of families fled their homes in panic as buildings shuddered and collapsed, many of them running for higher ground amid false rumours of a tsunami like the one that devastated the country in December 2004. Many could not escape and were buried under the rubble of collapsed buildings or struck by flying rocks and debris as the quake devastated towns and villages across the south of the island. One of the worst-hit areas was the Bantul district south of Yogyakarta, which was flattened. "There is only one house remaining standing here, that of the head of the hamlet, but even that is not safe any more as the walls are cracked," said Ngadiyo, 63, crouching in front of the rubble of his house in central Bantul. "I have never gone through an earthquake this strong during my life," said his brother, Jodi Riwono, 46, who was trapped unconscious under rubble before being rescued by a grandson. An official at the ministry's disaster relief centre in Jakarta, Ginta, said at least 3,000 were killed, and more than 2,500 people seriously injured. Thousands were also left homeless, with more than 3,800 houses destroyed in Yogyakarta and Central Java provinces, Ginta said. Emergency rescue and medical crews rushed to the worst-hit areas as officials said the death toll may rise. Heru Nugroho, spokesman for the state-run Sardjito hospital in Yogyakarta, said 1,500 victims were being treated, many of them in the hallways. People of all ages with broken arms and legs and bruised faces lay out on tiled floors covered in blood waiting for attention. Bodies were covered with bedsheets. Aid agencies were sending tents and food to the area to help those left homeless, while an appeal for blood donors was launched. Rescue workers and survivors pulled hundreds of bodies hourly from the rubble. The earthquake forced the closure of Adisucipto airport in Yogyakarta, Detikcom news portal said, with buildings damaged and cracks in the runway. Flights have been diverted to the nearby city of Solo. Meteorologists said the quake measured 5.9 on the Richter scale, but both US and Hong Kong monitors registered it at 6.2. Seismologists said the quake would not increase the likelihood of an eruption at Merapi. The tsunami scare started when Yogyakarta province police chief Bambang Hari Sampurnojati told local radio that the earthquake was to be followed by tidal waves. "We panicked when we heard that there was a tsunami. We were ready to flee," Yogyakarta resident Clemon Cilik told the state Antara news agency. As several aftershocks shook the region, many residents were afraid to return home, wandering dazed and confused in the streets, many in tears. More than 20,000

residents living in the shadow of Mount Merapi are staying in emergency shelters after being evacuated from the slopes. Unicef spokesman John Budd in Jakarta said it had been geared up for relief operations in the event of an eruption, so it already had response teams in the area.

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescue workers dug more bodies from rubble Sunday, a day after a powerful earthquake flattened thousands of houses in Indonesia's densely populated Java island, bringing the death toll over 4,600, with tens of thousands left homeless. Rain began falling again Sunday night, adding to the distress of tens of thousands of frightened survivors across the disaster area who spent Saturday night in the rainy, darkness under emergency plastic tents on streets, in rice fields and in backyards, as well as at graveyards, for fear of aftershocks. Many of them living without tents. "We have opted to stay overnight outside. We're scared of more quakes, and we will remain outside until the situation is said to be safe for us to return inside," said a traumatized Winarso, a farmer from the hardest-hit region of Bantul. "We're in extreme need of medicines and proper tents because these tents aren't water-proof, they leak when it rains," said Achmad Zauhari, another survivor and head of Dukuh village. "Ninety per cent of homes here have been totally destroyed. Many of the survivors have to live without tents on roadsides or open fields," he said. Many survivors were digging through their devastated homes looking for food, clothes and other essential belongings, while military soldiers removed more bodies, some of them hit by collapsed walls. Officials at the social affairs ministry's disaster relief centre confirmed the death toll Sunday evening was 4,611, with over 3,300 injured. "The death toll continues rising. Rescue operation are continuing as there are still some people reportedly trapped beneath the debris," said Hendro, an official at the ministry of social affairs' disaster relief centre. The 6.2-magnitude quake struck at 5:53 a.m. Saturday (2253 GMT Friday), collapsing thousands of homes in Yogyakarta and neighbouring districts. It was the largest tremor to jolt Indonesia since the one that sparked the deadly Asian tsunami in December 2004. A massive 9.0-magnitude tremor triggered that tsunami, which devastated the coastal areas of Aceh on the northern end of Sumatra, leaving some 168,000 people dead or missing in the province. In the town of Bantul, the worst-hit region after Saturday's quake, more than 2,300 people were killed and around 2,000 others injured. Up to 80 per cent of homes in the town were destroyed. "At this stage, we're in bad need of many additional tents to protect thousands of survivors from rain and sunshine. Many of the survivors are living under poor plastic tents put up by the

people themselves," said Agus, an official at the disaster command post. A similar request for more tents came from Klaten district in Central Java, where tens of thousands of homeless people are staying in open fields and on roadsides with makeshift plastic tents, officials said. More paramedics and rescue workers poured into the affected region to help existing personnel already on the ground, but thousands of survivors in Bantul complained of having received no assistance. Officials said, in addition to plastic tents, blankets, sleeping sheets, drinking water, and food supplies, in particular instant food, were very essential for the quake victims as many have not eaten since the quake struck on Saturday morning. Medical teams have combed the affected region in an attempt to assist the injured, many of whom sustained bone fractures. Emergency field hospitals were also being set up in Bantul and Klaten district in Central Java. Hundreds of wounded people were lying on plastic sheets, straw mats and even newspapers outside the overcrowded hospitals, some hooked to intravenous drips dangling from trees. "Up to 2,000 injured people have been treated at Dr Sardjito Hospital. This is extreme overload," Bambang Susanto, secretary of the Yogyakarta region, told Elshinta private radio. "We are short of surgeons and there are still so many critically injured people here," Susanto said as more injured persons keep coming to the hospital. Yogyakarta Governor Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono X ordered some of the wounded survivors to be sent for treatment out of the city, including to the Indonesian capital Jakarta, as all hospitals in the quake-hit area were overwhelmed and no longer able to treat new arrivals. Saturday's quake struck close to Mount Merapi volcano, sparking an avalanche and large burst of hot clouds and debris 3.5 kilometres down the mountain's western flank. Experts have said the quake had no direct links with Merapi's rising activity. The tremor could either trigger a larger eruption, particularly with the collapse of the lava dome, or make the crater less active. While the quake did not affect the famed Borobudur Buddhist temple one of Indonesia's most popular tourist spots - it did cause damage to nearby Praban, a spectacular Hindu temple in the south-east, officials said. The airport of Yogyakarta, which was shut down after the quake cracked the runway and heavily damaged the waiting lounge, was reopened Sunday afternoon, but only for aircraft carrying emergency aid and other assistance.

Yogyakarta, Indonesia, May 29 — Aid was trickling in today for survivors of an earthquake that killed more than 5,000 people on Indonesia's Java island and left tens of thousands of homeless foraging for food and shelter. Many survivors who were injured or whose homes were

destroyed by the quake spent last night in the open on the grounds of hospitals and mosques or in makeshift shelters beside the rubble of their houses. The 6.3 magnitude quake's official death toll reached 5,136. The tremor early on Saturday (May 27) was centred just off the Indian Ocean coast near Yogyakarta, the former Javanese royal capital. Government figures put the number of injured at 2,155 but the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said there were 20,000 injured and more than 130,000 homeless. Government and private aid agencies agree shelter in the form of tents is a top aid priority, along with clean water supplies. Yogyakarta's provincial secretary, Bambang Susanto Priyohadi, said the pace of aid needed to be stepped up. "The aid has come since last night from the UN but when I checked this morning, the amount is very minimal," he said. "For such a large number of victims, we at least need 5,000 tents. At the moment we only have less than 100." Priyohadi said evacuating the dead was another priority. "It has been two days and those bodies probably have decomposed and if we do not move them away from the pockets of population, they could turn into sources of disease." Up to 35,000 homes and buildings in and around Yogyakarta were reduced to rubble. Although the aid was arriving slower than some on the ground wished, the international community has rallied to help, pledging tens of millions of dollars and offering medical relief teams, disaster experts and emergency supplies. Clean water has been another priority need. Emergency supplies, consisting of health and hygiene kits for tens of thousands of people as well as water supply carriages, had reached the hardest-hit area of Bantul, John Budd, UNICEF spokesman in Jakarta, said. The World Food Programme said it has begun distributing 30 tonnes of vitamin-enriched biscuits, sufficient to feed 20,000 people for seven days. After a cabinet meeting late yesterday, Vice President Jusuf Kalla put relief and rebuilding costs at around 1 trillion rupiah (\$107 million) and said the government aimed to complete reconstruction within a year. Kalla said the quake had badly damaged power facilities and deprived tens of thousands of people of electricity. Authorities were struggling to deliver aid to a disaster zone that encompassed hundreds of square miles of verdant rice paddies, hills and mountains, and densely populated villages. Flights of supplies including body bags were coming into the airport of Yogyakarta. — Reuters.

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from Saturday's (May 27) major earthquake on Indonesia's Java island reached 5,427 as of this morning as international relief assistance began pouring into the devastated provinces. Data at the Social Affairs Ministry

showed that of the dead victims, 3,310 were found in Bantul Regency of Yogyakarta Special Region. As the death toll keeps increasing, international assistance has started to pour into the affected areas. Presidential Spokesman Dino Patti Djalal said at least 34 countries have offered help. UNICEF's Emergency Relief Coordinator, Edouard Beigbeder said UNICEF has commenced tracing of separated children, but added that he anticipates that trauma will be the bigger issue. (See issue of May 30.)

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: US Marines joined an international effort to deliver aid and medical care to nearly 650,000 Indonesians displaced by a devastating earthquake, as hopes faded of finding more survivors. Two US Marine cargo aircraft carrying a mobile field hospital landed yesterday in Yogyakarta, closest to the quake area in central Java, after cracks in the airport runway were patched. A disaster assistance response team from the US Agency for International Development is being readied and the amphibious assault ship USS *Essex*, which has extensive medical facilities, is en route to the area, White House deputy press secretary Dana Perino said. The United States also increased its aid contribution to \$5 million. The United Nations said at least 21 other countries have joined the effort to help those left homeless by the quake, which killed more than 5,800 people. An estimated 647,000 people were displaced by the quake, nearly a third of them homeless and the rest staying with relatives, said Bambang Priyohadi, a senior provincial government official. The government said today the temblor destroyed more than 135,000 homes, reducing them to piles of bricks, tiles and wood in less than a minute. Priyohadi based the displaced figure on the number of homes destroyed and a family index of 4.8 people per house. The main hospital in hardest-hit Bantul district was still overwhelmed, with 400 patients for just over 100 beds, and doctors complained of a lack of supplies. "We are short of splints, gauze, even beds," said Dr. Hidayat, the hospital's earthquake emergency coordinator, adding that 90 percent of the victims had bone fractures. But conditions improved at several other hospitals, where parking lots and hallways that had been filled with hundreds of victims in the days after the quake were clear, with most patients now being treated in beds. Workers removed a tent outside Yogyakarta's largest hospital, Sardjito, that had been used to shelter the injured. The government's Social Affairs Ministry said the official death toll rose today to 5,846. Most survivors were still living in improvised shacks or group shelters erected in rice fields. Groups of families cooked together, each contributing scavenged food. Despite government promises of aid, shortages of food and fresh water remained a pressing concern, and thousands of

people used cardboard boxes to beg for cash and supplies from passing drivers. The head of a Malaysia search and rescue team said hope had faded of finding more survivors or bodies, and his group had turned to clearing rubble from streets instead. A 44-member team of Chinese doctors, search and rescue workers and seismologists also arrived with five tons of supplies, including a field hospital, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported. Thailand said it would send 48 military medical personnel, medicine and equipment. Teams from Malaysia, Singapore, Norway and other nations already are working in the area. The Asian Development Bank announced a total of \$60 million in grants and low-interest loans to rebuild the earthquake zone.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, May 28 — A press report, dated today, states: A magnitude-6.2 earthquake struck off the coast of Papua New Guinea, the U.S. Geological survey said today. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. The quake hit at 0112 hrs, approximately 117 miles northeast of Papua New Guinea's New Britain region and 1,500 miles north of Brisbane, Australia. The quake posed no risk of a Pacific-wide tsunami, said Barry Hirshorn, a geophysicist at the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre at Ewa Beach, Hawaii.

TONGA

London, May 30 — A report, dated May 28, states: A magnitude 6.7 earthquake in lat 20.05S, long 174.52W, in Tonga, occurred at 0336, UTC, today.



MOUNT KARTHALA, COMOROS ISLANDS

London, May 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Lava spewed from a volcano on the Indian Ocean island of Grande Comore on Sunday, lighting up the sky and sending scores of frightened residents onto the streets. Residents of Moroni, the capital of the Comoros islands, said they could see lava at the top of 2,361-metre (7,746-ft) Mount Karthala, one of the world's largest active volcanoes. "When I saw Karthala glowing we came out to see what was going on but I really don't know, I'm worried," said 35-year-old Houmadu Saindou. Karthala last erupted in April 2005, affecting as many as 40,000 residents and forcing thousands to flee in fear of poisonous gas and a possible magma flow. It was the volcano's first eruption in more than decade on the archipelago nation, 300 km (190 miles) off the coast of east Africa. Volcano scientist Hamidou Nassor said Sunday's activity also

amounted to an eruption but it was too soon to tell how dangerous this one would be. "Effectively there is an eruption but we don't know yet if there will be any gas," he said. "There is a risk of a lava flow but we don't know yet which direction. It is urgent that we get a helicopter there to assess what is going on." African Union troops, who were in Comoros for the May 14 election, were expected to fly over the volcano on Monday morning to try to determine the direction of the lava flow in case evacuations are needed along its path. Karthala's majestic crag and its fertile slopes covered in vanilla vine plantations form most of Grande Comore, the main island in the Comoros chain. The islands have largely escaped major destruction from the volcano, which has erupted every 11 years on average over the last 200 years, but has had several close calls. In November, Mount Karthala sent clouds of ash and sparks over the island, blanketing the capital Moroni and other villages in grey dust. Moroni is about 15 km (9 miles) from Karthala's crater. The Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros covers three small volcanic islands — Grande Comore, Anjouan and Moheli — in the Mozambique channel 300 km (190 miles) northwest of Madagascar.

MOUNT MERAPI, INDONESIA

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A volcanologist warned yesterday that Mt. Merapi's activity level had tripled in the wake of Saturday's (May 27) catastrophic earthquake in Yogyakarta and Central Java. A. Ratdomopurbo said an eruption was still possible following the quake after the volcano expelled more hot clouds of ash and gas which reached farther distances. "The quake in Bantul clearly affected Merapi's activities. Since the quake, the volcano has discharged hot clouds three times more than usual," the chief of the Yogyakarta-based Volcanological Research and Technology Development Centre said.

MOUNT ST. HELENS, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Mount St. Helens shot a steam and ash plume at least 16,000 feet into the air yesterday after a large rockfall from the lava dome in the Southwest Washington volcano's crater, scientists said. Pilots reported the plume rose between 16,000 and 20,000 feet in the air, said scientists at the Cascades Volcano Observatory. The rockfall coincided with a magnitude 3.1 earthquake shortly after 0900 Monday at the mountain, scientists said, adding such events are expected during growth of the lava dome. "There is no evidence of an explosion associated with this event," the observatory said in a statement. Clouds obscured the crater at the time.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, May 29 — More than 50 Taliban guerrillas were killed in a US-led air strike on a mosque in Afghanistan's southern province of Helmand today, a provincial official said. Several "Taliban leaders" were among those killed in the pre-dawn attack in Kajaki district of province, Amir Mohammad Akhundzada, deputy provincial governor said. Spokesmen for the US-led forces in Afghanistan could not be contacted immediately for comment. "The Taliban were meeting in a mosque when the bombardment took place," Akhundzada said from Helmand. "More than 50 of them have been killed." — Reuters.

Kabul, May 29 — Several Afghans were killed and at least 20 were wounded today when firing erupted during a violent protest over a traffic accident involving a US military convoy in the capital, Kabul, Afghan officials said. There was further sporadic small arms fire by police and Afghan army soldiers as demonstrators marched towards a neighbourhood housing several embassies as protests grew in size around the city, and helicopters circled overhead. It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the initial shooting that broke out as Afghan police came to the assistance of a US convoy when it came under attack from a crowd hurling stones and smashing vehicle windows. Some eyewitnesses blamed the US troops, others blamed the police and some said both had opened fire. Police said some people had been killed but were unable to be more specific. A government doctor said at least 20 people had been admitted to hospitals with gunshot wounds but no dead bodies had been received as yet. Earlier, the crowd had blocked the US convoy after one of its vehicles hit a taxi, killing at least one person, on the northern outskirts of Kabul during the morning rush hour. Rioters set two police vehicles on fire and damaged a vehicle belonging to an Afghan television station. After the initial riot was quelled, more gunfire crackled as some 2,000 demonstrators marched toward the city centre, tearing down a billboard poster of President Hamid Karzai, smashing windows and looting shops as they went. — Reuters.

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A deadly traffic accident today involving US troops sparked the worst rioting in the Afghan capital since the fall of the Taliban regime, with hundreds of protesters looting shops and shouting "Death to America!" At least eight people were killed and 107 injured, an

official said. Hundreds of Afghan army troops and NATO peacekeepers in tanks were deployed around the city, as chanting protesters marched on the presidential palace and rioters smashed police guard boxes, set fire to police cars and ransacked buildings, including the compound of aid group CARE International. Computers were set on fire and smoke billowed from the buildings. Witnesses said that Afghan and US troops opened fire to quell protesters. The spokesman for the US-led coalition expressed regret for any deaths and injuries, and said there would be an investigation. Afghan President Hamid Karzai appealed for calm, branding rioters "agitators" and saying in a national address that Afghans must stand against those who loot and destroy property. "We will recognize as the enemy of Afghanistan these people who do these things," he said in the televised speech. "Again, you should stand up against these agitators and not let them destroy our country again." The government imposed a 2200-to-0400 curfew in the capital, the Interior Ministry announced. The unrest started after three US Humvee vehicles coming into the city from the outskirts rammed into a rush-hour traffic jam, hitting several civilian cars, witnesses said. The coalition said at least one person was killed and six injured in the crash, but police said at least three people were killed and 16 injured. A Kabul police chief, Sher Shah Usafi, said another person was killed when US troops fired into a crowd of stone-throwing protesters soon after the crash. Col. Thomas Collins, a coalition spokesman, confirmed there was gunfire at the scene, but said coalition personnel in one military vehicle only fired over the crowd. He said a large cargo truck in a coalition convoy had suffered a mechanical failure and hit as many as 12 civilian vehicles at a busy intersection. He said the coalition was investigating.

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Afghan troops patrolled the streets of the capital of Kabul on Tuesday after the worst anti-U.S. riots since the fall of the Taliban in 2001 killed at least eight people. "It is peaceful, there is no violence," said Mohammad Shafiq Fazli, Kabul's deputy police chief of Kabul, as the city awoke from a night-long curfew. Monday's unrest was triggered by a U.S. soldier who lost control of his truck and smashed into a dozen vehicles killing at least five Afghans. Furious residents stoned the convoy the truck was travelling in, prompting at least one of the U.S. vehicles to fire warning shots in the air, according to the U.S. military. The situation deteriorated further as Afghan police also opened fire to assist the convoy. An Afghan health ministry official said at least eight people were killed in the clashes, though he said the figure could be higher. On Tuesday morning, there were two Afghan army tanks on the road leading to the city centre from

the site of the incident on the northern outskirts of Kabul. Heavily armed soldiers and armoured personnel carriers were stationed at key crossroads, and there were fewer people and vehicles on the streets. NATO peacekeepers were coordinating closely with the Afghan authorities, but were less in evident in the city. "We are patrolling, but we are adopting a lower profile at the request of the government," Major Luke Knittig, a spokesman for the International Security Assistance Force, told Reuters. Protesters vilified the United States, marching through the streets of the city to the gates of the National Assembly and U.S. embassy. President Hamid Karzai was also criticised. There was rioting and looting in the downtown area, cars were set on fire, shops' and banks' windows smashed, and the offices of international aid groups ransacked. The office of U.S.-based Care International was set ablaze during the chaos. Karzai, in a televised address to the nation, called the rioters "opportunists and agitators" who could not be allowed to destroy a country still trying to emerge from conflict that has gripped it since 1979. Karzai won an election in late 2004, winning more than 50 percent of the vote, but he has been unable to shake off the perception that he owes his position to U.S. backing. Seen as a force for peace and stability and a guarantor of Western financial support for the reconstruction of the economy, Karzai is going through a difficult time. A Taliban insurgency raging in the south and east has endured its bloodiest period in the past five years, with 350 people killed in the last couple of weeks alone. Karzai's critics call him the "mayor of Kabul", because of the instability in the rural provinces, but Monday's unrest showed the fragility of the situation in the capital, as people are frustrated by the lack of improvement in their daily lives.

Kabul, May 31 — Taliban guerrillas have killed at least a dozen Afghan police and abducted up to 40 others in two separate attacks in the south of the country, officials said today. In the southern province of Zabul, a senior police official, Mohammad Rasoul, was killed and four other people, including two senior provincial officials, were wounded after the Taliban hit their car with a rocket last night. "They were part of a reinforcement sent to help a group of highway police who had come under Taliban attack on a road of Zabul," Yousuf Stanizai, the Interior Ministry spokesman, said. An official in Zabul said more than 10 policemen were killed in the Taliban assault. The raid in Zabul came hours after the Taliban attacked a police base in the Chora district of neighbouring Uruzgan province and abducted up to 40 policemen, an official in Kabul said. Meanwhile, Kabul was calm this morning following anti-US riots two days earlier, in which seven Afghans were killed. The riots were sparked by

the crash of a US military vehicle which killed five civilians. A night curfew has been in operation in the city, and Afghan troops were patrolling the streets. The violence in Zabul and Uruzgan comes amid a series of operations by US-led coalition forces in the south in the past two weeks. Some 350 people have been killed, many of them in air strikes. Most of those killed were militants, but the toll also includes dozens of police, at least 17 civilians and four foreign troops. It is the bloodiest period in the insurgency since coalition troops overthrew the Taliban government in 2001 for refusing to hand over al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. The Taliban and their Islamist allies are mostly active in the southern and eastern areas. Some 23,000 coalition troops are hunting the militants while a NATO-led force has begun expanding its mission into the south. — Reuters.

Kabul, Jun 1 — US troops fired into a crowd of stone-throwing rioters, killing at least three Afghans, as their convoy left the scene of an accident that triggered anti-American riots, Kabul's chief of highway police said today. General Amanullah Gozar said he had witnessed the incident Monday (May 29), from the point when a US military truck ran out of control down a hill, crashing into vehicles and killing at least five people, to the clashes afterwards, and when US troops opened fire. "As a result of their firing, one young boy and two other people were killed," Gozar said. The US military says small-arms fire was heard coming from the crowd, and the crowd overpowered a police line formed to protect the convoy as they tended to injured and collected the damaged vehicle before withdrawing. "Our soldiers thought they were being fired on from the crowd and they fired their weapons in self defence," said Lieutenant Tamara Lawrence, a spokeswoman at the US-led coalition headquarters in Kabul. She said an investigation was still in its early stages. At a news conference a day earlier, Colonel Tom Collins said video footage showed troops fired a machine-gun mounted on one of the 12 vehicles in the convoy but aimed over the heads of the crowd. He said he did not know whether soldiers at any time fired directly into the crowd. "People converged on the site with high emotions. Some began throwing stones at the convoy." — Reuters.

BANGLADESH

Dhaka, May 26 — Paramilitary troops and an elite rapid action unit were deployed at garment factories around Dhaka today to increase security after one person was killed and nearly 150 injured in violent protests earlier this week. Most of the nearly 300 garment factories vandalized during the violence, triggered by pay disputes, have resumed production but at least half a dozen factories torched in the protests were still shut, textile industry officials said. Abdus Salam Murshedi,

acting president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, told reporters late yesterday most factories had resumed normal work shifts "amid a sense of insecurity and fears of more troubles." The BGMEA has said it would discuss pay issues with workers' leaders and meet their demands as soon as possible. The demands include raising wages and timely payment of overtime money as well as medical leave with pay. Garment workers do not have a trade union or bargaining agent as such. "Mostly we have to rely on employers' mercy," said Abdus Shakur, a worker at a Dhaka factory. "But as exports picked up through the years, some factory owners now pay good salary and overtime to their employees. Others are not good pay masters at all," he said. — Reuters.

BURUNDI

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Long-delayed peace talks between Burundi's Government and its last rebel group has started in Tanzania, with calls for the rebels to agree to join President Pierre Nkurunziza's government. "The decision as to how you end the conflict is yours," Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete said in comments directed at Hutu Forces for National Liberation (FNL) rebels at the start of the talks. "You may choose to take the path to triumphalism, or you can choose to recognise the need for an inclusive peace." Burundi, backed by African governments and the international community, has said the FNL must follow the country's United Nations-backed peace plan to end 12 years of conflict that has killed 300,000 people in ethnic clashes. That would mean the rebels, like other insurgents that have signed the deal, join the new army and police force. The FNL have refused, saying they will not have a position forced upon them. As yesterday's session was about to begin, the two sides seemed divided even on what they would discuss, a harbinger of more trouble for talks that have failed time and again to remove one of the last barriers to true peace in Burundi. "We want freedom of opinion, so that more people can give their views, and for our group to be recognised and be allowed to undertake political activity," Agathon Rwasa, the FNL leader said. "For the peace to hold, we need the police, army and intelligence not to break the law."

Bujumbura, May 31 — Burundi's remaining rebel group fired mortar shells from the hills surrounding the capital Bujumbura, injuring one person and damaging houses today, one day after they joined peace talks with the government in neighbouring Tanzania, the Burundi army said. "Last night the Forces for National Liberation (FNL) rebels shelled five mortar bombs on Mutanga and Gihosha suburbs," army spokesman Major Adolphe Manirakiza said today. Manirakiza said the rebel attack was

aimed at putting pressure on the government at the peace talks. Long-delayed peace talks between the government and the FNL started in Tanzania on Monday (May 29), with calls for the rebels to agree to join President Pierre Nkurunziza's government. "They want to show to the international community that they are strong but we consider this as a way of seeking publicity," Manirakiza said. Burundi, backed by African governments and the international community, has said the FNL must follow the country's UN-backed peace plan to end 12 years of conflict that has killed 300,000 people in ethnic clashes. Witnesses said the residence of Burundi's second Vice President Alice Nzomukunda had been attacked. "One shell hit my house, fortunately there were no casualties," said Steve Nzigamasabo a resident in Gihosha. "But the residence of my neighbour who is the second Vice President was damaged after another shell hit the fence of her house." — Reuters.

EAST TIMOR

Dili, May 26 — Fierce fighting eased in East Timor after Australian commandos landed and the foreign minister of the tiny country said he hoped for peace talks on the weekend. Nine people were killed and 27 wounded yesterday in clashes sparked by the East Timor government's decision to sack almost half the country's military after they went on strike to protest against poor conditions. Most of those killed were shot when rebel army elements opened fire on unarmed police being escorted out of Dili police headquarters after a negotiated ceasefire, officials said. At least six people had already been killed in Dili, the capital, before yesterday as protests by many of the almost 600 dismissed soldiers spiraled into violent clashes with government troops and police. Australian officials and East Timor's ambassador to Indonesia said the fighting appeared to have quieted down after Australia's first troop contingents landed yesterday. An Australian Associated Press report from Dili said automatic weapons fire and grenade blasts could be heard around the presidential palace this morning, but a Reuters witness in Dili said there had been no fresh fighting. Australian Defense Force Chief Angus Houston told a briefing in Canberra: "The current situation in Timor Leste is much calmer so far today." East Timor Foreign Minister Jose Ramos-Horta told New Zealand Radio the warring parties might be brought together for talks over the weekend. "By Sunday I hope for a round table chaired by the President, Xanana Gusmao." Australian forces would move into key sites in Dili to separate fighting factions, Ramos-Horta said. The factions had agreed to leave the city. "The East Timorese defense force has agreed to move completely out of the city, to the east of the capital to their

normal barracks." Houston said: "The best way to proceed is to get everybody who's been involved in the unfortunate clashes back into the barracks." Australian Prime Minister John Howard was critical of the way East Timor has been run. "There is a significant governance problem inside East Timor. There's no point in beating about the bush, the country has not been well governed," he told Australian Radio today. Tens of thousands have been displaced by the violence, aid agencies said today. Oxfam Australia programme manager in Dili, Keryn Clark, said: "We think in Dili we have probably got 30,000 (displaced people) at the moment, it's very hard for us to get the numbers." Aid group World Vision said in a statement that gangs of armed youths were threatening to attack at least two compounds containing thousands of internally displaced people. Jean-Marie Guehenno, the U.N.'s undersecretary-general for peacekeeping, said the national police force was reported to be in total disarray. Elements of the army and police have split from the government to join rebel factions, Guehenno said in a briefing to the U.N. Security Council in New York. The Security Council backed the deployment of foreign troops. Australia is sending 1,300 troops into Dili. New Zealand is sending two military aircraft and some troops to the northern city of Darwin to assist with evacuations and troop transport. Portugal is sending 120 military police. Malaysia had said yesterday it was postponing deployment of 500 military and police personnel while seeking clarification about the mission, but a Reuters witness said Malaysian troops — possibly from a small advance contingent — were on the streets wearing flak jackets and carrying automatic rifles. Canberra has offered an initial A\$1 million (\$757,000) for relief and medical assistance to victims of the unrest. — Reuters.

Dili, May 26 — The streets of Dili were quiet and nearly deserted this afternoon, a day after violent clashes between rival East Timorese factions, with no local police or military presence seen. Foreign Minister Jose Ramos-Horta told New Zealand Radio that the warring parties in the tiny nation might be brought together for talks over the weekend (May 27-28) and that in the meantime government forces and the fighting factions had agreed to leave the city. One hospital official said 10 people were killed and around 30 wounded yesterday in clashes sparked by a government decision to sack almost half the country's military after they protested against poor conditions. Most of those killed were shot when rebel army elements opened fire on unarmed police being escorted out of Dili police headquarters after a negotiated ceasefire, officials said. At least six people had already been killed in Dili, the capital, before yesterday as protests by many of the almost 600 dismissed soldiers spiraled into

violent clashes. Officials said the fighting appeared to have quieted down after commandos from Australia, one of several countries asked to help, landed yesterday. The Australian military presence at the airport was strong today and more troops were arriving. Those already there appeared relaxed, smoking and lounging in the shade of trees. President Gusmao made a radio announcement today saying he is now in total charge of security conditions including local military and police as well as international forces. East Timor requested international help on Wednesday. Jean-Marie Guehenno, the UN's undersecretary-general for peacekeeping, said in a briefing to the UN Security Council in New York that East Timor's national police force was reported to be in total disarray. The Security Council backed the deployment of foreign troops. Australia is sending 1,300 troops. New Zealand is sending two military aircraft and some soldiers to the northern city of Darwin to assist with evacuations and troop transport. Portugal is sending 120 military police. Malaysia plans an eventual combined team of 500. Meanwhile tens of thousands of Timorese have been displaced by the violence, aid agencies say. Oxfam Australia programme manager in Dili, Keryn Clark, said: "We think in Dili we have probably got 30,000 at the moment. It's very hard for us to get the numbers." Aid group World Vision said in a statement that gangs of armed youths were threatening to attack at least two compounds containing thousands of internally displaced people. World Vision is working in three compounds with up to 25,000 internally displaced people.

Dili, May 27 — Gangs of youths allied to feuding East Timor police or army units went on the rampage in parts of the capital today, torching houses and vehicles as Australian and Malaysian peacekeeping troops stepped up patrols. Youths armed with machetes, swords and knives patrolled neighbourhoods near government buildings against what they said were rogue army elements planning to return from the hills surrounding the capital of the world's newest independent nation. Black smoke billowed above the city in the morning, but residents were generally calm, gathering on street corners to hear gossip and news about the situation. By mid-afternoon the clashes appeared to have ended, although Australian helicopters circled the city and three navy ships cruised along the waterfront. Residents say a rebellion by soldiers angry about being sacked has turned into a protest against the government of Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri, who they say has failed to deliver any economic or social development since East Timor became an independent state in 2002. An election is scheduled for early next year, but some diplomats say the government cannot last that long. Earlier this week the

government asked Australia, New Zealand, Portugal and Malaysia to send troops to help restore order. Today, those foreign military patrols were the only sign of any real authority. A foreign ministry official said the cabinet had met today and repeated a call for rebellious troops and police to lay down their arms and return to barracks. An ailing President Xanana Gusmao was trying to broker peace talks. — Reuters.

Dili, May 28 — Gangs allied to feuding police or army units continued to rampage through Dili today, evading foreign peacekeeping troops and torching homes and vehicles. Smoke was still billowing above several neighbourhoods in Dili in the afternoon as the gangs, which identify with army factions from either the east or west of East Timor, marked out their territories with makeshift barricades and roadblocks and took revenge on rivals. Australian troops, part of a 2,000-strong multinational deployment following the East Timor government's appeal for help, stepped up patrols in the capital but appeared to hold back from directly engaging the rampaging gangs. They were backed by small patrols of Malaysian and New Zealand troops. Individual soldiers said they were under instructions not to intervene unless they were threatened themselves. East Timor's police force has virtually disintegrated. — Reuters.

Dili, May 29 — East Timor's government met for crisis talks today as foreign troops patrolled a tense but largely peaceful capital after a weekend of violence by gangs allied to feuding factions of the country's armed forces. The government of the world's newest independent state, which last week appealed for international peacekeepers to quell a rebellion by almost half its army, was meeting amid talk of major differences between the president and prime minister. Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri and President Xanana Gusmao — a hero of the country's independence war with Indonesia — met the cabinet for the first time since the violence began. "They have been communicating but have not met face-to-face," said a Gusmao aide. The Red Cross says more than 40,000 people have been displaced by the fighting, and food and fuel supplies are running out. Some petrol stations opened for business today for the first time in nearly a week but prices went up and long queues swiftly formed. "As long as the Australians are patrolling, we'll open," said Asveido Alamar, a pump attendant. The past three days have seen Dili's ramshackle suburbs turn into a battleground for gangs of youths loosely allied to factions of the police or army, who embarked on an arson and looting spree that continued until last night. — Reuters.

Dili, May 30 — Gangs loosely allied to factions of East Timor's armed forces defied foreign peacekeepers today, torching cars and buildings in the capital as the government met to decide "inevitable changes" following

a week of violence. At least 20 people have been killed, thousands displaced and dozens of homes and businesses burnt in the violence, sparked by last month's dismissal of around 600 soldiers after they protested against discrimination in the 1,400-strong army. Foreign Minister Jose Ramos-Horta admitted today that the government had failed the people and that cabinet changes would likely follow. — Reuters.

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: East Timor's rebel leader rejected an agreement designed to end the chaos that has engulfed the tiny nation and demanded the sacking of the country's embattled prime minister. Major Alfredo Reinado said President Xanana Gusmao had made a "mistake" when he took emergency control of the police and military but resisted calls to sack Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri. "This it's not a solution, he (Alkatiri) is a criminal and should not be allowed to stay as prime minister," Reinado told AFP, as sporadic arson attacks continued in the capital. "That is the mistake that the president has made." Reinado was speaking by mobile phone from his base outside the capital Dili, where he is holed up with nearly half the country's 1,400-strong military sacked by Alkatiri after going on strike over alleged ethnic discrimination. Clashes between government and rebel forces quickly descended into gang warfare between rival groups from the east and west of the country who went on a burning and looting rampage in the capital. After two days of crisis talks on the capital, as mobs battled with swords and machetes nearby, the hugely popular Gusmao yesterday announced 30 days of emergency rule and the sacking of the defence and interior ministers. In a statement he said he was "implementing the necessary measures to prevent the violence and avoid further fatalities" as well as for the "rapid re-establishment of public order." Reinado would not comment on whether the rebels were ready to surrender their weapons to the 2,250 troops from Australia, Malaysia and New Zealand. Some 120 Portuguese paramilitaries will arrive on Thursday (Jun 1). But Alkatiri denied that Gusmao, a former guerrilla leader regarded as a national hero, had full control of the military. The prime minister insisted he still commanded wide support. The US renewed its travel advisory after a day of fresh running battles between gangs of masked youths yesterday. The situation appeared calmer early today with no sign of the ethnic gangs who have roamed the streets fighting with rocks, ceremonial swords and other home-made weapons. Before dawn, unidentified attackers set ablaze at least two kiosks believed to be owned by those from the east of the country in the capital's dangerous eastern district of Becora, local residents said. The fires, which sent huge columns of smoke rising into the air, were only about 900 metres from a building used

by a group of Australian soldiers as a guard post. Australian soldiers patrolling the area did not immediately respond to douse the flames.

FRANCE

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: An arrest reignited violence in a tough suburb of Paris, with youths taking to streets with baseball bats, hurling gasoline bombs at public buildings, and attacking police, authorities said today. National police said nine officers suffered slight injuries, mostly from thrown debris, in the three hours of unrest in Montfermeil, about 10 miles east of such landmarks as the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre. Police said they made three arrests and fired rubber pellets to try to disperse the roughly 100 youths. The unrest was triggered by the arrest yesterday of a suspect in the beating of a bus driver earlier this month, the mayor's office said. The clashes were a stark reminder of the anger that smolders in depressed French suburbs, despite new government efforts to tackle high youth unemployment and racial inequalities following three weeks of rioting last fall that shook the country. Mayor Xavier Lemoine said he witnessed that first attack on the driver and had interceded to stop it. He said that about 100 people headed toward his house shouting insults, but police interceded. He said gasoline bombs were thrown at city hall and that a separate municipal storeroom was partially burned. City hall also suffered two broken windows. Police said they were deploying reinforcements to the neighbourhood tonight.

INDIA

Srinagar, May 31 — At least 21 people were wounded in Indian Kashmir today when suspected Islamist militants lobbed a grenade at a tourist bus, police said, in the second attack on tourists in a week. The attack took place near the famous mountain-ringed Dal Lake in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital and a bustling tourist centre. Witnesses said the wounded, many of whom were bleeding, were being ferried to hospitals in ambulances and police vehicles. Women and children were among the wounded, police said. Last week four Indian tourists, including a child and a woman, were killed and six wounded when a grenade was thrown at their bus in Srinagar. The militants are normally not known to attack tourists and last week's attack was not claimed by any militant outfit. It was also condemned by frontline rebel group Hizbul Mujahideen. There have been a string of attacks in Kashmir since last week when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited the strife-torn region and held a peace roundtable with Kashmiris. The conference was boycotted by the region's main political separatists and threatened by the militants. — Reuters.

IRAQ

Baghdad, May 26 — A car bomb exploded in Baghdad today, killing at least nine people, police said. Hospital sources said 31 people were wounded in the blast, near a bridge in central Baghdad. The explosion underlined security challenges facing Iraq's new Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, who has vowed to use maximum force to crush insurgent violence. — Reuters.

London, May 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Two roadside bombs exploded in quick succession in central Baghdad on Sunday, killing at least two people, police sources said. The sources said at least 17 people were also wounded. One bomb exploded and then another was detonated as a crowd gathered to inspect the damage, a tactic that has often been used by insurgents in a campaign designed to topple the government.

London, May 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Attacks claimed three lives and injured 21 people just after dawn when a pair of bombs ripped through central Baghdad. The bombs, designed to kill the maximum number of people, were planted next to each other and were detonated in succession in Baghdad's Tahariyat Square, police 1st Lt. Tha'er Mahmoud said. Many of the injured were people who had rushed to the scene of the first explosion. The head of the provincial council in Diyala, a province north of Baghdad, escaped an assassination attempt that killed one of his bodyguards and injured six others. Ibrahim Bajlan was uninjured when a car bomb detonated next to his convoy in the Imam Weis area, 44 miles north of the provincial capital Baqouba. There was no word on the fate of the two missing crew members of a US Marine AH-1 Cobra helicopter which crashed yesterday in western Al-Anbar province. Hostile fire was not suspected as the cause of the crash, the US military said.

London, May 29 — Two British soldiers have been killed in a suspected roadside bomb attack in Basra, southern Iraq, a spokesman for Britain's Ministry of Defence said today. The two soldiers were from the Queen's Dragoon Guards regiment. Two others from the same regiment suffered minor injuries in the blast yesterday evening. "The incident took place in North West Basra City and appears to be an improvised explosive device," Defence Minister Des Browne said in a statement. The deaths bring the British death toll in Iraq to 113. — Reuters.

Baghdad, May 29 — A roadside bomb killed at least seven people in a Shi'ite district of northern Baghdad today, police sources said. The sources described as inaccurate a report on Iraqiya state television that said 30 people were killed in what appeared to have been the same blast, which targeted a bus in the Kadhimiya district. The blast wounded nine people, police said. — Reuters.

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 46 people

died today in a series of bombings and ambushes in Iraq, police and the military said. Today's deadliest attack was near Khalis, about 50 miles north of Baghdad. A roadside bomb ripped through a minibus carrying Iraqis employed by a group opposed to the Iranian regime, killing 13 and wounding 15 others, some critically, according to a statement from the opposition group, the People's Mojahedin of Iran. The bus was loaded with at least 40 passengers, according to an official with the Diyala Joint Coordination Centre. People's Mojahedin of Iran blamed "mercenary terrorists of the Iranian regime" for the bombing. The group says it has been the target of 150 terrorist operations in Iraq, carried out "by the terrorists sent by the fascist regime ruling Iran." Most of the other attacks today happened in Baghdad. In the most recent attacks in Baghdad, two car bombs detonated in the Sunni neighbourhood of Adhamiya, one targeting a mosque the other an Iraqi army patrol. The blasts happened 30 minutes apart. The first blast, targeting the army patrol, detonated at 1300, killing 12 and wounding 24 others, a Baghdad police official said. Five civilians were killed and seven others wounded outside the Abu Hanifa mosque in Adhamiya, according to a police official. Earlier, a minibus was hit by a roadside bomb as it drove down a street in a Shiite neighbourhood in northern Baghdad, killing seven civilians and wounding nine others, police said. Two people died and one was wounded when a roadside bomb struck a minibus in southeastern Baghdad, Baghdad police said. Another roadside bomb explosion killed an Iraqi police officer and wounded three others in central Baghdad, police said. Another car bomb hit an Iraqi police patrol near the German Embassy in central Baghdad. Three people were killed and five wounded, police said. In other violence, gunmen ambushed an Iraqi police patrol in western Baghdad, killing three police officers this morning, police said.

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: A parked car packed with explosives hit a police patrol in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul today, killing at least five policemen and wounding 14, including a senior officer, as violence continued unabated after one of the bloodiest days in recent weeks. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, meanwhile, arrived in Basra in a bid to stem escalating violence in the southern city. Sectarian tensions have been worsening in the Shiite-dominated area, where Britain has about 8,000 soldiers and other countries also have troops. Al-Maliki, who was meeting with religious leaders, city officials and others, said his trip was an effort to "heal the rift and find a solution for what caused the latest events in Basra." Elsewhere, Jamal Kadhim Hassoun al-Zamili, former governor of Diwaniyah city south of Baghdad, was

killed in a drive-by shooting late yesterday that also wounded two of his guards, police Capt. Ali Hussein said. A bomb hidden in an air conditioner exploded in the mayor's office in Muqdadiah, about 60 miles north of Baghdad, killing the mayor, Sheik Allaywi Farhan al-Dulaimi, a member of the Sunni Iraqi Islamic Party, and wounding three of his guards, police said. Provincial Gov. Raad Rashid al-Mula Jawad imposed a curfew on the city and deployed Iraqi army forces there. Gunmen killed a Shiite muazzin, the man who calls for the five daily prayers, as he was leaving his house to go to the Imam Ali Mosque in southwestern Baghdad, Hussein said. A roadside bomb also hit a joint US-Iraqi patrol on the highway near the Dora Refinery in southern Baghdad and the area was blocked off, police Capt. Firas Geiti said. No casualties were immediately reported. Another roadside bomb struck a Japanese-Australian patrol in northern Samawah, on the Euphrates River about 230 miles southeast of Baghdad, damaging the last vehicle of the convoy and slightly wounding an Iraqi man who was selling ice. It wasn't clear if there were any casualties among the troops. At least 17 bodies were found in separate locations in Baghdad, many blindfolded and handcuffed, apparent victims of sectarian killings often blamed on militias. The new violence came a day after car bombs targeting Shiite areas tore through a car dealership in southern Iraq and a bustling outdoor market north of Baghdad as attacks nationwide killed 54 people and wounded 120. Iraqi officials also said yesterday that a key terror suspect who allegedly confessed to hundreds of beheadings was captured in a raid that netted documents, cell phones and computers containing information on other wanted terrorists and Islamic extremist groups. An Emirati diplomat held hostage in Iraq after being abducted more than two weeks ago was released without ransom, Emirati authorities said yesterday. Yesterday's worst bombing hit the market as Iraqis were doing their evening shopping in the Shiite area of Husseiniyah, about 60 miles north of Baghdad. At least 25 people were killed and 65 were wounded, Interior Ministry spokesman Lt. Colonel Falah Al-Mohamedawi said. That attack came hours after a car packed with explosives blew up at a dealership in the largely Shiite city of Hillah, about 60 miles south of Baghdad, killing at least 12 people and wounding 32, Capt. Muthana Khalid said. A bomb hidden in a plastic bag also detonated outside a bakery in Baghdad, killing at least nine people and injuring 10, police Lt. Col. Falah al-Mohammedawi said.

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Iraq's new prime minister declared a state of emergency today in Basra, vowing to crack down with an "iron fist" on rival

gangs battling each other for power. A car bomb in the northern city of Mosul, meanwhile, killed five policemen, the latest in an especially bloody week of attacks. Violence has been escalating in Shiite-dominated Basra, with a wave of kidnappings and the slaying of nearly 140 people, mostly Sunnis but also Shiites and police, in May alone, police said. The tension has been brewing largely due to the growing influence of anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and his Mahdi Army, and the armed Badr organization, both Shiite groups. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, himself a Shiite, declared the month-long state of emergency during a visit to the oil-rich region, said Syed Muhammad al-Haidari, a top Shiite official traveling with him. Al-Maliki gave a strong denunciation of the violence that Sunni religious leaders have blamed on Shiite death squads. At least 19 bodies were found in separate locations in Baghdad, many blindfolded and handcuffed, apparent victims of sectarian killings often blamed on militias.

ISRAEL

London, May 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Israeli jets have attacked the base of a Palestinian militant group in east Lebanon and near Beirut, reports say. Lebanese officials said missiles were fired at camps run by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). The attacks came hours after an Israeli soldier was injured when rockets were fired into Israel from Lebanon. The missiles hit an army base near the town of Safed, further south than rockets from Lebanon are thought to have landed before. Israeli officials blamed Lebanon's government for the missile strikes, and are preparing an official complaint to the UN Security Council, the Associated Press reported. No militant group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack on the Israeli army base, which is located 20km from the Lebanese border. In the past, the Lebanese group Hezbollah and Palestinian militants based in Lebanon have claimed such attacks. Hours after the strike, air force jets flew at least two sorties against the PFLP's headquarters close to Lebanon's border with Syria, Lebanese officials said. There were reports that the planes fired up to eight missiles, but there were no indications of any casualties.

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Israeli soldiers, acting on intelligence reports, prevented two Palestinian militants today from carrying out a suicide bombing inside Israel, the military said. The militants were spotted carrying a suspicious bag near the West Bank city of Nablus and tried to flee, said Lt. Col. Arik Chen, a battalion commander in the Nablus region. They threw away the bag, then led troops on a three-hour foot chase, until they were cornered and gave themselves up, he said. The men

surrendered only after troops fired in the air. Inside the bag, soldiers found a bomb weighing 15 pounds, packed with nails and pieces of small metal, which heighten the deadly effect, Chen said. Sappers later blew it up. Security forces had been tipped off late yesterday that militants in the Nablus area were planning an attack inside Israel, and deployed a large number of soldiers around the West Bank town, a militant stronghold, Chen said. The militants were taken into custody, and in initial questioning, they admitted they planned to blow themselves up in Israel, but did not say where, the army said. They belonged to a cell of activists from the Islamic Jihad, Fatah and Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine militant groups, the military said. In other news, Israeli soldiers killed an armed Palestinian near the fence separating the Gaza Strip from Israel, the military said. Soldiers identified three men near the fence, and fired at them, suspecting they intended to carry out an attack, the military said. At least one of the men was hit, and was later evacuated by Palestinian rescue services, it said. The Popular Resistance Committees, a small Palestinian militant group, identified the man as Abdel Moati Shukri, a group member. Meanwhile, Hamas' representative did not show up for a second day of talks among Palestinian factions meant to resolve critical differences and avoid a divisive national referendum over whether to recognize Israel's right to exist.

Gaza, May 30 — Israeli soldiers shot dead three members of a Palestinian rocket squad today in the army's first ground raid into the Gaza Strip since an Israeli pullout last year. A Palestinian policeman, who witnesses said went to the scene with medics, was also killed by the troops in the brief operation marking a new Israeli military response to frequent cross-border rocket barrages that have caused few casualties. In the occupied West Bank, soldiers killed at least two Palestinian gunmen in separate operations. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who has called for the rocket strikes to stop, condemned the Israeli raids as "unjustified escalation that will lead the region into further deterioration and instability". Witnesses to the Israeli raid in the northern Gaza Strip said commandos backed by a helicopter gunship killed members of a rocket launching crew as they were about to fire at Israel. At least three of the dead were identified as gunmen from the militant Islamic Jihad group and the fourth man belonged to the Force 17 presidential guard. "The fighters were firing rockets into Israel in retaliation for the continued Israeli crimes and the assassination of Abu Hamza al-Majzoub in Lebanon," an Islamic Jihad statement said, referring to a car bombing that killed a senior official of the group in south Lebanon on Friday (May 26). An Israeli government source said at the

time that Israel had nothing to do with the killing. An Israeli army spokeswoman said the overnight fighting marked the first ground combat in Gaza since Israel withdrew its troops and dismantled 21 Jewish settlements there in August and September. Israeli troops have on occasion ventured across the border fence to dismantle bombs, the army spokeswoman said. An Islamic Jihad member was killed and three other militants wounded in the northern West Bank village of Qabatia. In a Palestinian refugee camp near the city of Nablus, a wanted militant was shot dead and another wounded. Witnesses said a third militant was killed by troops in the town of Anabta. But the army denied operating in the area. — Reuters.

LEBANON

London, May 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Skirmishes have broken out across the border between Israel and Lebanon, following rocket attacks on a northern Israeli army base. Israel responded to the attack on a base near Safed by launching bombing sorties against Palestinian militants operating in Lebanon. Lebanon's Hezbollah guerrillas then opened fire across the Israeli border. Israelis in border areas were told to head to bomb shelters. Israel's prime minister warned of a tough response. Israeli officials said they would hold the Lebanese government responsible for any attack originating from its territory. In Jerusalem, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said militants based in Lebanon "will receive a clear and harsh response with no hesitation if they do not stop". Hezbollah denounced Israel's air strikes "part of Israel's targeting of security and stability in Lebanon". The opening salvo came when Katyusha rockets were fired across Israel's border towards a base on Mount Miron, some 12 miles from the Lebanese border. The rockets were thought to have travelled further into Israel than any previous attacks. In the past, the Lebanese group Hezbollah and Palestinian militants based in Lebanon have claimed such attacks. Israel has often responded by launching air strikes inside Lebanon. Lebanese officials said Israeli missiles were fired at camps run by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. There were reports that the planes fired up to eight missiles, but there were no indications of any casualties. Skirmishes then broke out between Hezbollah guerrillas and Israeli troops on opposite sides of the border. Residents of the Israeli towns of Kiryat Shemona and Nahariya were ordered to take cover, and there were reports that at least one Hezbollah fighter was killed.

NEPAL

Kathmandu, May 26 — Nepal's new government and Maoist insurgents, who have been waging a 10-year war against the state, are set to begin much anticipated peace talks this

afternoon in the capital, Kathmandu, according to senior government officials. The first round of talks is expected to focus on preliminary discussions in preparation for the main dialogue scheduled for Sunday (May 28). The new government — which was formed in April by democratic parties after the Nepalese monarch King Gyanendra gave up his direct rule following mass protests — has agreed to most of the Maoists demands and conditions before sitting for peace talks. Maoists demands include removing the terrorist tag from them, release of all their cadres from prisons and investigation into the whereabouts of thousands of disappeared people, who had been arrested or detained by the security forces. On Wednesday, Home Minister Krishna Prasad Sitaula, who will be heading the government's three-member talk committee, announced that all Maoist workers would be released from prisons and detention and that the government would start investigations into cases of disappearances. — Reuters.

Kathmandu, May 28 — Nepal's new multi-party government and Maoist rebels said today they may request the United Nations to monitor a ceasefire in the Himalayan nation after holding further talks. The government, formed after last month's violent pro-democracy protests that forced King Gyanendra to hand back power to political parties, matched a ceasefire this month declared earlier by the Maoist guerrillas. On Friday (May 26), government and rebel negotiators held their first meeting since 2003, and agreed to a 25-point code of conduct vowing to push the peace process forward including a commitment to end provocations and stop using arms to intimidate people. Pradip Gyanwali, a government negotiator, said a formal ceasefire agreement and a human rights accord were expected to be signed with the rebels soon. Maoist negotiator Dinanath Sharma said both sides had agreed in principle to engage a third party, possibly the United Nations, to monitor the truce. Both sides have agreed to hold early elections for an assembly to draft a new constitution and decide the future of the monarchy, a key rebel demand to end the insurgency. The initial talks are also expected to prepare for a meeting between rebel chief Prachanda and Prime Minister Giri Prasad Koirala. — Reuters.

NIGER

Niamey, Niger, May 31 — Protesters set up barricades of flaming tyres in a town in southern Niger today as security forces tried to clamp down on street sellers hawking fuel smuggled over the border from Nigeria. Police used tear-gas to break through the protesters' ranks, arresting around 20 of them before raiding smugglers' warehouses and seizing kegs of fuel in the town of Birnin-Konni on the border between the two West African countries. Pump prices at fuel

stations in Niger are beyond the reach of most consumers, who instead buy petrol smuggled over the border in old liquor bottles. The government ordered the clampdown on illegal fuel sellers after a series of deadly accidents in the country in which warehouses of smuggled petrol exploded. — Reuters.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, May 29 — Three gunmen riding a motorcycle shot dead a Philippine communist leader facing rebellion charges for his role in an alleged plot to oust President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, officials said today. Sotero Llamas, 55, was attacked in the central town of Tabaco, 550 km south-east of the capital, Manila, and was declared dead on arrival at a nearby hospital, a senior regional police official said. — Reuters.

SOMALIA

London, May 26 — A press report, dated May 25, states: Islamic militiamen have taken key points in Somalia's capital, Mogadiscio, as fighting intensifies with their rivals, a secular grouping of warlords. Militiamen loyal to the Islamic Courts have isolated the warlords in the north and south of the city in fighting that claimed at least 30 lives today. The latest upsurge in violence comes despite a truce agreement between the two groups 10 days ago. More than 140 people died in eight days of fighting earlier this month. The Islamic Courts grouping has gradually been gaining the upper hand. Civilians have been hiding in their homes or fleeing the fighting. Its fighters have now cut the north-south road along the coast, taking a key crossroads known as K4 and an important nearby hotel, the Sahafi. In earlier fighting the Islamic Courts also took an airstrip north of the capital and a road to the port. This has left the warlords of the Anti-Terrorism Alliance with only a small pocket of support in the centre of the city, correspondents say. In the latest fighting, the two sides pounded each other with heavy machine-gun fire, rockets, artillery and mortars as fighting spread from the north of the city to the south. "There are so many people dead, I saw nearly 30 dead and over 40 wounded," K4 resident Abdifatah Abdikadir told Reuters news agency. Anti-Terrorism Alliance member Ibrahim Maalim told Reuters: "The fighting is very heavy... I have never seen such a heavy exchange. Mogadiscio is blazing with fire." Much of the fighting yesterday was around the CC neighbourhood in north Mogadiscio. Despite the truce brokered by local elders on 14 May both sides had amassed troops there, believing they had a right to control the area. Elders said they had tried to contact commanders with a view to a new truce but reported neither side willing to relent. The Anti-Terrorism Alliance includes eight warlords, among them four ministers in the

current government. Correspondents say the fighting has been fuelled by a belief that the US is backing the warlords. The US merely says it will support those trying to stop "terrorists" setting up but stresses its commitment to the country's transitional government, which functions from Baidoa, 250 km north-west of the capital. Several ministers involved in the fighting are reported to have resigned from the transitional government, saying that others in the administration had not been doing enough to stem the unrest. Reports say their resignations came as they failed to meet a government ultimatum to join the rest of the ministers in Baidoa. But Security Minister Mohammed Qanyare Afrah later denied he had resigned.

Nairobi, May 26 — Somalia's capital, Mogadiscio, was quiet but tense today following two days of heavy fighting between militia allied to the city's Islamic courts and those loyal to a group of faction leaders, residents said. "Today, the situation is calm but there are no (ceasefire) negotiations going on," said Abdullahi Ali Hassan, executive director of the Centre for Education and Development, a Mogadiscio-based nongovernmental organisation. Local media reports said at least 30 people were killed on Tuesday (May 23). An estimated 100 people were wounded in the fighting, which began on Tuesday night. Thousands of people have fled the city. Hassan said militia loyal to the Islamic coalition appeared to be in control of much of south Mogadiscio and had even captured the Sahafi Hotel in the Kilometre 4 area. The hotel is owned by Abdurashid Ilqayte, who is part of the newly created Alliance for Peace and the Fight Against International Terrorism. "Displaced people are still out of their homes because they fear that more fighting will happen," Hassan said, adding that some people had sought refuge in the suburbs of Mogadiscio, while others had headed south towards the Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle regions. — Reuters.

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: Clashes between militias in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, have left 13 people dead, days after some of the heaviest fighting seen in the city for years. The latest violence has been centred in the Daynile and Galgalato districts. Today's violence comes after a brief lull yesterday. "The two sides are regrouping and concentrating on attack rather than on defence," a retired military officer told the AFP news agency. "According to my experience, these people are planning to continue with the violence for the days to come," he said. Roadblocks had been set up by the rival militias in the Daynile district and both sides were reportedly using machine guns and mortars against each other. The UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, has called on all the sides to work towards a ceasefire and respect human rights. Recent efforts by

Somali clan elders to mediate between the rivals have failed to establish a lasting truce. Thousands of civilians have been fleeing their homes to avoid being struck by rockets, shells and bullets. The Prime Minister, Ali Mohamed Gedi, has meanwhile ordered four cabinet ministers who are also warlords in Mogadishu to return to Baidoa. According to the Associated Press news agency, Mr Gedi has written a letter warning the four ministers they face legal action if they fail to follow his orders.

Mogadishu, May 31 — A new outbreak of fighting between rival militias in Mogadishu killed at least six people including two civilians early today, residents said. “We woke up to the noises of the mortars and other guns used by both sides,” resident Ahmed Dige said. Islamist militiamen attacked early in the morning in north-eastern Mogadishu, and seized several positions previously held by fighters loyal to an alliance of warlords who say they have banded together to fight terrorism, residents said. The fighting broke three days of relative peace in the city, as the militias re-armed and gird for new turf wars. The two sides have been battling for control of Mogadishu in fighting that has killed at least 326 people since February, among the worst ever seen in Somalia. — Reuters.

SRI LANKA

London, May 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Six local tourists and their guide — among them an award-winning author — were killed by suspected Tamil Tiger landmines while tracking wild elephants in northwest Sri Lanka, officials said on Sunday. A separate group of Sri Lankan tourists in Wilpattu National Park in northwest Sri Lanka heard a large explosion in the sanctuary on Saturday and discovered their jeep in a ditch and the body parts of the seven people strewn across the road. The Army suspects the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), whose de facto state begins 40 miles (65 km) from the site of the blast, planted the pressure mines. “We have only been able to identify four of them from their remains. All the bodies are in pieces,” said military spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe. “There were three landmines connected to each other so that they all went off together.” “We suspect it was the Tamil Tigers,” he added. “There’s no one else operating in those areas. It is close to LTTE-controlled areas.” It was the first time tourists have been killed by landmines inside a Sri Lankan national park, and comes amid a surge in attacks and clashes between the military and the rebels that some fear could spiral into all-out war. Samarasinghe said renowned Sri Lankan author Nihal de Silva, who wrote award-winning novel “The Road From Elephant Pass”, which is set during the island’s civil war, was among the dead. “The LTTE has no involvement in this

whatsoever,” S. Puleedevan, head of the rebels’ Peace Secretariat, said by satellite telephone from the northern rebel stronghold of Kilinochchi. “This is a baseless accusation by the army,” he added. “This happened in government-controlled territory, not in our homeland.” Wildlife Department Director General Dayananda Kariyawasam believes the mines were newly laid, because they were on a main road through the park that has been used regularly since it reopened in 2003, the year after a ceasefire halted a two-decade civil war that has killed more than 64,000. The park had been shut for 17 years because of the war. Samarasinghe said 18 trucks crossing from rebel to government-held territory were impounded further north on Sunday in a separate incident after small quantities of plastic explosives were found hidden in their bodywork. Analysts say the Tigers have focused recent attacks on the military and government officials, and have not traditionally targeted tourists during their armed struggle for a separate homeland for ethnic Tamils in the north and east. Norwegian International Development Minister Erik Solheim, who brokered Sri Lanka’s ceasefire and oversees mediation between the government and the Tigers, said on Friday he feared Sri Lanka could slide deeper into violence unless both sides start to make concessions. More than 270 soldiers, police, civilians and rebels have been killed in a rash of attacks from suicide bombings to naval clashes since February in what the truce monitors and Tigers now call a “low intensity war.” The European Union is poised to ban the Tigers as a terrorist group, and was expected to officially announce the proscription as early by Tuesday. The United States, Britain, India and Canada have already outlawed the rebels.

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels lined up and shot dead 12 construction workers in an execution style massacre in the island’s restive eastern province, the military said today. A total of 14 construction workers from the majority Sinhalese community had been taken away by suspected Tamil Tiger rebels and shot yesterday, a military official in the nearby Polonnaruwa district said. “The 12 bodies were found this afternoon,” the officer said adding that the victims had been shot through their heads. The attackers had also torched a tractor a motorcycle used by the workers. A military spokesman here, Prasad Samarasinghe, said two men escaped with gunshot injuries and reported the shooting to police. The report of the massacre came as the EU banned the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Government forces and Tamil Tiger rebels exchanged artillery fire and mortar bomb attacks along a de facto front

line in northern Sri Lanka, the two sides said. The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the military exchanged long-range attacks along the Muhamalai front line in the Jaffna peninsula, the pro-rebel Tamilnet.com website said today. It said the military had retreated from some of their frontline positions and the Tigers had advanced a “significant distance.” However, the military spokesman here Prasad Samarasinghe denied any rebel advance. “We have not moved back an inch,” Samarasinghe said adding that security forces had successfully repulsed a dawn attack by the Tigers. Samarasinghe said the main entry and exit point for civilians going to the government-held part of the Jaffna peninsula remained open despite the early morning fighting. There were no immediate reports of casualties on either side.

SUDAN

Nairobi, Jun 1 — Last-ditch diplomatic efforts were continuing in a bid to persuade the two remaining Darfur rebel groups to sign a peace deal for the troubled western Sudanese region, after a May 31 African Union (AU) deadline passed with no new signatories. Abdelwahid Mohamed al-Nur, leader of one faction of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement/Army, and Khalil Ibrahim, leader of the Justice and Equality Movement, refused to sign the May 5 Darfur Peace Agreement yesterday, claiming it did not address their key political and security demands. In a last effort to salvage the deal, Sudanese First Vice-President Salva Kiir will now meet SLM/A faction leaders in the town of Yei in southern Sudan. Nouredine Mezni, AU spokesman in Sudan, said the meeting would take place “in the immediate future” and that AU representatives would be present. A local source in Yei confirmed today that both al-Nur and Minni Minnawi, the leader of the main SLM/A wing, had confirmed their participation. A series of preparatory meetings is to start tomorrow. The Darfur negotiations have involved the rebels’ political leaders but various field commanders have expressed different opinions, indicating the increasingly fragmented nature of many of the rebel groups in the region. “Some commanders of the JEM and the SLM/A are already in Addis Ababa and we are trying to create a mechanism to allow them to join the agreement,” Mezni said. “The DPA was negotiated among their leaders and was not designed for them to sign.” The Chairman of the AU Commission, Alpha Oumar Konare, would today “indicate the next steps to be taken,” Mezni added. Minnawi’s wing of the SLM/A signed the AU-brokered agreement in May but the two rebel factions refused to accept it during talks in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, prompting the international community to give them until the end of May to sign up. — Reuters.

TURKEY

Diyarbakir, May 29 — A Turkish soldier was killed and four other members of the security forces injured during a clash with Kurdish guerrillas in Turkey's troubled southeast, officials said today. The incident occurred yesterday evening in a rural area north of Diyarbakir, the biggest city of the mainly Kurdish region. Members of the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) opened fire on the security forces when ordered to put down their weapons, the officials said. A sergeant was killed and three village guards and one member of the gendarmerie — a paramilitary force responsible for security in rural areas — were hurt and taken to a military hospital in Diyarbakir. "The operation against the PKK is continuing in the Hazro district," an official said. — Reuters.



CANADA

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A strike shut down most of Toronto's public transport yesterday, filling the streets with cars and forcing some 700,000 commuters to find different ways to get to work. Subway, bus and streetcar services were all out of service because of the wildcat strike, which centres on a dispute over working hours for maintenance workers. Commuters shared cars, struggled to find taxis or walked or biked to work. "This strike is illegal," Toronto Mayor David Miller told CBC television. "This strike was unlawful right from the beginning and we are hoping they will go back to work without any further ado." The Ontario Labour Board issued a cease and desist order in response to what it called an "unlawful strike" and "illegal picket line activity," and it said the strikers should return to work immediately. The extra car traffic is bound to exacerbate what was already billed as one of Toronto's first days with high smog levels this summer. Temperatures are forecast to rise to around 30 degrees and are expected to stay high for the next couple of days. The Toronto Transit Commission operates a network of subway, streetcar and bus lines across the city of more than 2.5 million people, serving some 700,000 passengers a day. GO Transit, which commuter train and bus services from the suburbs to downtown, was working as normal.

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Service resumed on Toronto's transit system late yesterday afternoon following a wildcat strike condemned by politicians and even some members of the TTC's union as illegal and unnecessary. The strike by

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 113 members began before dawn yesterday and its effects were still evident during the afternoon rush hour. The TTC slowly restored service beginning at 1700 hrs with buses and one subway line. The other subway line did not begin running until an hour later, and service remained spotty throughout the evening. A "return to work" order issued by the Ontario Labour Relations Board at 0700 hrs was ignored by the union as its lawyers appealed the decision. Union president Bob Kinnear only conceded defeat yesterday afternoon after the labour board issued a second back-to-work order. In its decision, the labour board said the strike was "untimely and unlawful" given the existence of a collective agreement negotiated last year. Even some TTC employees expressed anger at their union's actions yesterday.

CHILE

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Police fired water cannons and tear gas at protesters supporting a nation-wide strike by high school students to demand reforms in Chile's education law, including a federal takeover to reduce inequality between rich and poor schools. The government said at least 12 people were injured in the clashes yesterday, including two police officers and three reporters, and nearly 400 demonstrators were arrested. Protest leaders had urged students to remain inside their schools without attending classes, a decision supported by many teachers, parents and politicians. But shortly after noon, hundreds of students attempted to march downtown. Masked young men threw rocks and erected barricades at some key intersections, and police responded with water cannons and tear gas. The clashes lasted until dusk, as police dispersed demonstrators who repeatedly regrouped. The protests spread to several other cities, but by nightfall calm had been restored, Deputy Interior Minister Felipe Harboe said. Nearly 600,000 public high school students joined the stoppage, which also won support from students at many private schools, including the one attended by the younger daughter of President Michelle Bachelet. By the end of the day yesterday, talks between the government and students had progressed, Education Minister Martin Zilic said. He said talks would resume today, but did not elaborate. Several students confirmed the talks. They demanded that three hours recently added to the school day be dedicated to sports, the arts or other activities. The movement spread from Santiago to the provinces and the demands expanded to include deep reforms of the country's education law.

FINLAND

Helsinki, May 31 — A local press report, dated today, states: Finnish

Seamen's Union (FSMU) has declared a boycott against the vessels operated by Tallink-owned Superfast ferries on Hanko-Rostock route. The boycott is supported by the Finnish Transport Workers' Union. As a result of this supportive action the stevedores do not load or discharge the boycotted vessels. *Superfast VIII* arrived at Hanko today at 0700 and all passengers and their vehicles were disembarked as usual but no cargo was discharged. According to Tallink Finland the boycott is not legal and the spokesman for Tallink, Managing Director Keijo Mehtonen, has stated that the ferry shall depart from Hanko today at 2200 hrs as scheduled and its cargo will be discharged. At the moment 40 trailers destined for Hanko are still on board the *Superfast VIII*. Tallink bought Superfast's three ferries earlier this year and ever since there has been a dispute over the terms and conditions of the crew contracts. Before the sale the ferries were under the Greek-flag and crews consisted of Greek, German and Finnish seafarers who were then replaced by Estonian crews as the ships are now flying the Estonian flag. — Lloyd's Agents.

INDIA

London, May 26 — Contract workers of an Indian oil company set ablaze a pipeline yesterday only two days after workers set a fourth treatment pit on fire. Workers set fire to an Oil India Ltd. gas pipeline in Assam causing even further disruptions in several oilfields across Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts, The Telegraph newspaper reported. Protesters ignited the gas pipeline connecting well number 310 to Kathalguri oil-collecting station, adjacent to North East Electric Power Corp. plant. A senior official from the Dibrugarh district administration said the situation was under control and that both sides had been "instructed" to resolve the issue amicably. "We have also told the OIL management to review and strengthen its internal security system," said the senior official. Contract workers have been demanding higher wages. They threatened to go on strike in the wake of the kidnapping of a drilling engineer, who was found dead in a roadside ditch the next morning. "A truce has to be announced soon because work has been affected. Both sides stand to lose if the impasse continues," an OIL official said. The company has invited the contract workers for negotiations on wages and services conditions.

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: The nation-wide indefinite strike of oil sector officers starting tomorrow is likely to hit the operations Kochi Refineries Limited and may thus choke the supply of petroleum products in the State. The strike, called by the Oil Sector Officers Association, is to press for its demand for revision of salaries and other compensation of the officers. It follows the failure of talks between

the OSOA and the Union Department of Public Enterprises on Friday (May 26). There are roughly 45,000 officers in the public sector oil companies such as Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum and ONGC and the oil refineries. Sivakumar G.S, president of the Cochin Refineries Officers Association, and C. Jayaraman, general secretary, said KRL would have to shut down all its units from tomorrow as the officers, who ran the control rooms of production, would be on strike. They said the immediate impact of the strike would be on the availability of aviation fuel and hence flight schedules could be affected. Since KRL is the only oil refining facility in the State, its shutdown would mean a squeeze on the availability of petrol, diesel, cooking gas and a range of other petroleum products.

NEW CALEDONIA

Noumea, May 30 — MSC (Mediterranean Shipping Company) set up an agency in Noumea last month and the first vessel named *MSC Caledonia* called at Noumea terminal on May 22. As this company had decided to work with SATO society stevedoring company, one other stevedoring company named MANUTRANS society which is owned by the union founder of USTKE union started a strike and blocked the terminal as they do not want MSC Company on the shipping market of New Caledonia. After negotiation with all parties involved during past weekend (20 & 21/05/2006) all vessels could unload their cargoes (except *MSC Caledonia*) but no goods could be delivered. Since this morning, all cargoes unloaded from vessels and stored into Noumea terminal could be now delivered (all entries are free of blocking containers) but *MSC Caledonia* cannot be unloaded, as blocked with containers put all along its starboard side. Last night MSC representatives left the meeting organised with USTKE union and French authorities and said, as radio reported, "We don't want to provide any union rackets". Until now *MSC Caledonia* is still on the quay but if she is not under seizure by USTKE union she cannot be unloaded. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of May 23.)

Noumea, May 31 — This morning the stevedores of SATO society tried to force the barrage of MANUTRANS stevedores (USTKE union) with the result of damaged forklift elevators and cars. Two stevedores of SATO society were also injured by dockers of MANUTRANS society. Following this action Noumea terminal is once again blocked by USTKE union. — Lloyd's Agents.

PAY DISPUTE ON UKRAINE FLAGGED VESSEL, LYTTTELTON, NEW ZEALAND

Christchurch, May 31 — The Maritime Union yesterday threw its weight behind a Ukrainian fishing vessel crew on hunger strike in Lyttelton Port. The union's general

secretary Trevor Hanson said the men's protest for wages they claim is owed to them under New Zealand law is a "symptom of the disease of exploitation in the fishing industry". Four crew members on board fish factory *Malakhov Kurgan* this week locked themselves in a cabin and said they are going on an indefinite hunger strike. Mr Hanson said the union was concerned for the men's well-being as they were "becoming desperate". He said he also had concerns for their safety if they returned home. The fishing vessel has been laid up in Lyttelton with mechanical problems. Other crew members have returned home after accepting payments, but Mr Hanson said deals brokered by the Department of Labour are being investigated by the union. "All crew should be paid at least the minimum wage and we don't believe they have been, and we have not yet seen anything from the Department to change our mind." The men were recruited by a Ukrainian company in partnership with Christchurch company United Fisheries after being promised they would earn the minimum New Zealand wage of \$10.23 an hour. Mr Hanson said the situation was a shameful reflection of New Zealand's treatment of overseas workers. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, May 26 — A press report, dated today, states: UNI's South Africa affiliate SATAWU is stepping up its strike of security workers following the collapse of mediation moves on May 19. A one-day sympathy strike by transport workers is planned for next week and the South African trade union centre Cosatu has set up a strike fund. Cosatu's General secretary Zwelinzima Vavi yesterday joined hundreds of security guards on the picket line at Stallion Security in Doornfontein, Johannesburg. In a statement Cosatu said it planned pickets, demonstrations and marches against security employers and pointed out that SATAWU's 11% claim would mean just over R100 a month for the guards. The smaller unions have settled for 8.3%. The employers have tried to tarnish the strikers with accusations of violence and intimidation. Cosatu has condemned the police handling of the strike, saying the police seem "far too ready to use violence".

London, May 30 — A press report, dated May 29, states: Metrorail says it has been severely affected by the ongoing strike by security guards who are Satawu members. Thandi Mlangeni, a metrorail spokesperson, says there has been an increase of violence in train stations nationally. Mlangeni says although there have been no official reports of increased criminal incidents in KwaZulu-Natal, they are working together with police to ensure safety on trains. She says they have experienced an increase of violence, particularly in Johannesburg where commuters have

died being thrown out of trains. KwaZulu-Natal have not experienced many problems. Mlangeni says police have committed to assist whenever there is a need. She says if its members of the striking unions are behind this they must know that they are breaking the law.

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The SA Transport and Allied Workers' Union security guards strike is gearing up to roll over into other industries. Satawu national general secretary Randall Howard said Satawu had issued notices in terms of the Labour Relations Act to all employer associations, as well as Transnet, which would allow them to embark on an all-out strike tomorrow. "This now puts Satawu in position to take all other sectors out on strike, starting with the first shift tomorrow between 0400 and 0600 hrs," he said. The sectors which would be affected included trucks, buses, rail (freight and commuter transport), ports (port operations and port authority), all Transnet businesses, tollgates and contract cleaning. Howard said Satawu was planning to call a one-day general secondary strike next week, pulling out all its sectors across the country, with the support of Cosatu and its affiliates "in order to induce a settlement favourable to its members through negotiations." Most companies have outsourced security to private security companies on a contract basis and unions like Numsa, Satawu, Saccawu, Sactwu, Nehawu, Denosa, Sattu, Cepwawu and CWU would collect the names of those security companies to be targeted. Cosatu and Satawu are scheduled to meet to work out a list of all the security firms to be forced out of the security industry and denied any contracts.

Awards & Settlements



DEATH DUE NATURAL GAS EXPLOSION, DUPAGE, UNITED STATES

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A DuPage civil suit was settled for \$5 million yesterday in a 1996 natural gas explosion that killed a mother and son, leveled the woman's home in unincorporated Downers Grove, and injured her son's fiance. Kim Bowen, 57, and her son, Paul, 33, were killed Nov 30, 1996, in an explosion in the home at 6127 Chase Ave. Paul Bowen of Charlotte, N.C., was visiting with his fiance, Molly Wong, 28, who received numerous injuries. DuPage Judge Stephen Culliton agreed to a \$2.53 million settlement against Professional Plumbing, \$2.25 million against Smykal & Associates, \$175,000 against Nicor Gas and \$50,000 against West Chicago Komfort, said David Wise, attorney

with the Chicago firm of Burke, Mahoney & Wise. The lawsuit, filed by Elizabeth Bowen of California and Wendy Bloechle of Colorado, daughters and sisters of the victims, claimed negligence in the construction of the home and the installation of the gas line and appliances.

UNDERPAYMENT OF CLAIMS, UNITED STATES

London, May 28 — A press report, dated May 27, states: An Oklahoma couple was awarded nearly \$13 million in a class-action lawsuit after a jury ruled that State Farm Fire & Casualty Co. intentionally underpaid claims from families whose homes were damaged by tornadoes seven years ago. Donald and Bridget Watkins were among 71 policyholders who sued the insurance company. The Watkins' attorney, Jeff Marr, said Thursday's jury award suggests that the entire class of plaintiffs deserves nearly \$280 million in punitive damages. He filed a motion yesterday requesting trial dates for the remaining class members. In February 2003, a judge certified the class as all policyholders whose structural damage claims after the tornadoes were adjusted or denied by State Farm while using the opinion of Haag Engineering Co. The lawsuit alleged in July 2001 that the insurance company "engaged in a wrongful scheme to delay, deny or underpay claims ... by repeatedly and unilaterally engaging the services of Haag Engineering Co. to inspect brick and other structural damage to policyholders' homes." State Farm knew that Haag was "predetermined" to dispute losses claimed by policyholders, the lawsuit argued. State Farm spokesman Phil Supple said Saturday that the company "fairly and properly" handled the claims of its Oklahoma policyholders. An appeal is planned, he said. After five weeks of testimony, a jury in Grady County, Okla., awarded the Watkinses \$9.9 million in punitive damages and \$3 million in actual damages.

Railway Accidents



BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, May 28 — A press report, dated May 27, states: Dozens of firefighters, HAZ-MAT crew team members and police officers are still on the scene of a train derailment, which sent four train cars off the tracks. Union Pacific Railroad said the two slow-moving trains hit on tracks near Loop 410 and Quintana Road, in Southwest Bexar County around 1800 hrs, today. As many as four crew members were hurt, but Union Pacific said they were hurt

when they jumped from the train; one man was taken to the hospital for an arm injury. Union Pacific investigators are looking into what caused the wreck. San Antonio Firefighters are also helping with the investigation and clean up, that could take a while because of the contents of the four derailed train cars. Three of those cars contained sand, the other car is empty and purged, so there is no content in them, says SAFD District Chief Randy Jenkins. One train was carrying chlorine and sulfuric acid, but Arbona says those train cars did not derail. My understanding is that there was no hazardous material in the actual derailment part, says Arbona. A Union Pacific clean up crew is now on the scene, working to lift and clean up the derailed train cars.

CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

London, May 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Two members of the Chester County hazardous materials team started a walk to the derailed train tanker car. A tree fell onto the tracks and derailed at least two tanker rail cars. The track is owned by the L&C Railway. The L&C was apparently in the process of coupling the trains. The Synsil and rail cars had been attached to two engines. The engines uncoupled after the derailment and backed down the track to the other side of Beltline Road at Ecology Lane.

LISMORE AREA, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Sydney, May 26 — Rail freight services between Adelaide and Melbourne will remain closed until the middle of next week after a truck caused the derailment of a freight train in Victoria yesterday morning, killing the truck driver. The truck hit the side of the Pacific National freight train at a level crossing near Lismore, 170 kms south-west of Melbourne. The collision derailed two locomotives and 44 wagons, cutting the Great Southern Railway, which operates freight and passenger services between Adelaide and Melbourne. Pan Australia Shipping's managing director Paull Van Oost said this morning that it was considering a request to move freight in the interim "if required. Pan Australia shipping has confirmed that it has been contacted by Dubai Ports (DP World) and numerous shippers seeking a coastal solution out of Adelaide," Mr Van Oost said. A spokesperson for Pacific National said it had been a significant derailment for the operator. A Victoria Police spokesperson said the body of the driver could take days to retrieve. The train driver and his observer were not injured. The Australian Transport and Safety Bureau (ATSB) has begun an investigation into the accident. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

PATERSON AREA, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, May 31 — A press report, dated Paterson, NY, today, states: Several cars of a freight train derailed yesterday evening, extensively damaging a commercial building near the tracks, authorities said. No one was injured. The derailment occurred at about 2115 hrs along East 18th Street in the city. Seven cars of a 66-car New York, Susquehanna & Western Railway train left the tracks, said Nathan Fenno, a spokesman for the railroad. The train was en route from Ridgefield Park to Binghamton, N.Y. The cars that derailed were carrying construction debris, Fenno said. At least one of the derailed cars struck a car wash building, causing it to partially collapse and damaging a natural gas line. Some nearby residents were evacuated while utility crews worked to repair the gas leak. The tracks are used only for freight trains, so the accident did not disrupt passenger rail service.

PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, May 26 — A press report, dated May 25, states: A train derailment in Port Arthur caused some traffic problems this afternoon. Police say the train derailed on the tracks near the 2300 block South Gulfway Drive. Police say the railroad tracks somehow "gave way," which caused the train to shift. Police shut down one lane Highway 87, which slowed down road traffic considerably while crews worked to correct the problem. The road was back open two hours later. No injuries were reported during the incident.

ROGERS PASS AREA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Six cars from a luxury tourist train carrying 563 passengers and crew members derailed near Rogers Pass, authorities said. All six cars from the Rocky Mountaineer train remained upright, no one was injured and there was no environmental damage, said a spokesman for Rocky Mountaineer Vacations. The train was heading west toward Kamloops from Calgary, Alberta, when the derailment occurred between Golden and Revelstoke about noon Sunday (May 28). Passengers were taken by bus about 50 miles to Golden to board another train yesterday.

SUGARLIMB, TENNESSEE, UNITED STATES

London, May 26 — A Norfolk-Southern train leaving Staley's Loudon plant collided with a second locomotive in Sugarlimb Industrial Park on Monday (May 22), rupturing a tanker car carrying 25,000 gallons of corn syrup and spilling a small amount of diesel fuel, officials said. Steve Johnson of the Loudon Fire Department said the two trains were both moving at the time. He estimated the train leaving the Staley plant was

travelling approximately three mph, while the second train was estimated at 14 mph. Johnson added keeping the corn syrup out of the Tennessee River "is our primary concern." While the locomotive leaking diesel fuel can hold approximately 3,000 gallons, Johnson said it was believed it only had about 1,500 gallons of fuel on board at the time of the accident. Officials on scene had dyked up all tributaries into Tennessee shortly after the wreck to contain any spillage. Johnson said Norfolk-Southern would likely bring in several cranes in order to move the derailed engine. There were no injuries in the crash.

TEHACHAPI, AREA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency crews are working to clean up the derailment of 17 train cars just east of the Tehachapi Loop. A spokesman for the Kern County Fire Department said that 11 of the cars, filled with flammable liquid petroleum gas, derailed at about 2045 yesterday. None of the gas leaked from any of the cars. At about 0400 today, while crews were working to clean up the mess, six more cars derailed. Gas began leaking from the cars, and fire crews began working to clean up the entire area. No injuries have been reported.



Miscellaneous

BLOCKADE OF NOUMEA PORT BY UNION

Sydney, May 26 — Talks are expected to start today between the Government of New Caledonia and labour unions in Noumea who have been operating a partial blockade of the port facilities for a week. The unions have told local media they are protesting at a threat posed by MSC's new weekly service from Australia, to local jobs at rival shipping companies and their stevedores. They claim that MSC's - 592-teu weekly capacity will overwhelm the rest of the market. The *MSC Caledonien* has now been at anchor for a week, waiting for the blockade to lift so it can discharge the small volume of cargo loaded for its maiden voyage. Last weekend, the *Maersk Asia Decimo* skipped Noumea and went onto her next call in Suva. The Maersk vessel is due back tomorrow and could be a test of the blockade. The MSC vessel has no gear and will have to rely on shore operated cranes to unload. Workers this week erected a wall of containers along the quayside at Noumea to make their point, though several other vessels have been allowed to berth and work cargo. Local shipping agents said the unions had been letting reefer and medical supply cargoes out of the port area, but there were still 400 containers blockaded

there. Local sources have suggested that behind the dispute is a struggle between local stevedoring companies for work. Cosco is due to start a new semi-container service into Noumea from Singapore and Hong Kong from next month. This is to be stevedored by one of the labour forces which is protesting at the arrival of MSC. The key export cargo from Noumea is nickel, where French line CMA-CGM has a large share of liftings directly to Asia and Europe. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

EXPORT OF CONTAINERS DELAYED DUE IMPOSITION OF EXPORT DUTY, KARACHI, PAKISTAN

Karachi, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Some 25 containers of yellow split peas, worth \$200,000, have been stuck up at Karachi port due to sudden imposition of 35% regulatory duty on export of pulses, sources said yesterday. They said that some 25 containers holding around 625 tonnes of pulses were stuck up suddenly when the said consignment reached Karachi port on May 18 for examination and shipment to different countries, as the government had slapped 35% regulatory duty on their export. "We had already signed contracts of yellow split peas of approximately 15,000 tons, worth nearly \$4.5 million, with different countries, including United Arab Emirates (UAE), India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka," said an exporter. The exporters are perplexed over the situation in which the containers are stuck up at the port, as some of the exporters have received advance payment and some have already shipped 50% of the orders and their payments would be cleared only when the remaining consignments would be dispatched. "We have also received Letters of Credit from our buyers and now we are bound to dispatch the already booked consignments," he added. Another exporter whose containers are also piled up at the port, said, "If we do not ship the commodity, then the orders would not be cancelled, but we would have to pay additional Rs 6 per kg." The people associated with export of pulses are confused over the situation as they believe that the government should have informed them prior to any imposition and should have allowed exporters to ship their already booked orders. "In our trade, orders are not cancelled," said an exporter, adding that the exporters have to send the consignments at any cost and, in the current scenario, they (exporters) fear that they would have to pay additional amount for getting the consignments dispatched. He regrettably said that the image of the country would also be portrayed as 'bad' if anyone does not fulfil the export orders within the specified time. Karachi Wholesale Grocers' Group (KWGG) has also argued with the government over the regulatory duty issue and has demanded that the government should allow exporters to

ship their already booked orders. "Whenever any policy is announced, it must have 'flexibility' and 'cushion'. Nevertheless, this time the government issued an SRO and slapped 35% regulatory duty on export of pulses with immediate effect which has badly affected those who had committed their buyers for the supply pulses," said Anis Majeed, advisor to KWGG. He dispelled the impression that prices of pulses in the country have touched the peak and in this situation exporters are unfair with the masses by exporting the commodity to other countries. "Actually, we used to import whole yellow peas from Canada and then by passing it through different processes; we prepare yellow split peas for export to different countries. Therefore, the allegation of exporting precious commodity is baseless," he said. "Whole yellow peas is the product of Canada and it is not produced in our country," he said and added: "We used to import whole yellow peas at the rate of \$200 per ton to \$225 per ton and then exported to other countries at \$325 per ton. In this way, we contributed a handsome value-addition to the national exchequer." Exporters have claimed that 95% of the pulses export is of yellow split peas, and other pulses, which are commonly used in the country, are hardly 5%, which may not be allowed to be exported. While giving reference to the international conference on pulses 'CICILS/IPTIC', held in Mormugao on May 18-19, Anis Majeed said that production of pulses had declined not only in Pakistan but also in other countries around the globe. "Non-availability of water and untimely downpour mainly hit the crop this year all over the world," he said, adding that: "Pakistan is now importing moong pulse, which it has been exporting for the last five years." — Lloyd's Agents.

OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON BERMUDA-FLAGGED VESSEL

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Two hundred passengers on board passenger (cruise) *Sea Princess* (77499 gt, built 1998) have been struck down with a vomiting virus, forcing their £1,000, seven-day cruise to end a day early. The vessel will return to Southampton on Friday (Jun 2) and miss out the intended destination of Lisbon, to allow extra time to disinfect the vessel. A 30% refund has been offered to the 2,258 passengers and Princess Cruises says only 15 people are still sick.

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 200 passengers fell ill with a viral infection on passenger (cruise) *Sea Princess* that docked today in north-west Spain, officials said. These passengers — mainly Britons — were isolated in their rooms on board the Princess Cruises vessel as it anchored in the port of Vigo. It has cancelled plans to visit Lisbon as the last leg of its cruise and was to leave later today

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

for Southampton, where the cruise began on Saturday (May 27), Princess Cruises said in a statement. The vessel arrived in Vigo from Le Havre. The symptoms of the bug, which is believed to be the Norovirus — are nausea and diarrhoea and tend to last 24-48 hours. As of this afternoon only about 15 people were still ill, the company said.

OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON MARSHALL ISLANDS VESSEL

London, May 28 — Passenger (cruise) *Van Gogh* (15402 gt, built 1975) was detained by Maritime & Coastguard Agency surveyors at Harwich at 1900 today on the advice of the local Director of Public Health after a severe viral infection was reported to be rife on board the vessel during its previous cruise. The vessel, which can carry up to 795 passengers, was due to leave Harwich at 1700 today for a seven-day trip to Norway. The vessel was due to visit Bergen, Flam, Gudvangen & Rosendal. Earlier it had been reported that over 100 people were infected, including 16 of the 250 crew, during its earlier voyage, and when the vessel docked earlier today 14 passengers were still suffering from the same symptoms. Two passengers were taken by ambulance to Colchester Hospital's accident and emergency unit after being taken off the vessel by stretcher. Five hundred passengers who were on the dockside and waiting for the cruise to begin were advised to return home. The vessel is likely to be in dock for at least 48 hours while it and its crew are monitored for the further outbreaks. Captain Andy Rudge of the MCA: "We have been in close discussion with both the local port health inspectors and the Director of Public Health during the day examining all the options for the well being of future passengers on board this vessel. We have also been in contact with the owners of the vessel and the charter company who have been made aware of our deliberations this afternoon. It is with regret that we have had to take this action, in detaining the vessel on health advice but clearly passenger's health is the first priority for all concerned."

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A cruise company today agreed to offer refunds to hundreds of people whose holidays were wrecked owing to a virus outbreak on board passenger (cruise) *Van Gogh*. More than 70 of 500 passengers and 15 of the 250-strong crew were struck down by gastroenteritis on the second day of the *Van Gogh's* tour of Norway's fjords last week. When the vessel docked at Harwich in Essex last night it was detained by health officers and the coastguard and refused leave to sail. Fourteen people were still suffering symptoms including vomiting and diarrhoea. Two passengers in their eighties were carried from the vessel on stretchers and taken to hospital. They were later discharged. Many of

the 500 people who had booked places on this week's tour, organised by the Travelscope company, waited on the dockside for several hours before a decision was taken not to set sail. The operator said that it was likely the ship would now remain at Harwich until Saturday (Jun 3) for observation and disinfection. It is not yet clear what caused the outbreak, believed to be the Norwalk virus, a norovirus that causes diarrhoea and sickness. The vessel was detained by the Maritime Coastguard Agency at the advice of the local Director of Public Health.

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Van Gogh*, detained in port after a major outbreak of sickness, has been given the go-ahead to sail on Saturday (Jun 3). Coastguards at Harwich in Essex found more than 100 passengers and crew on the liner were suffering from vomiting and diarrhoea last week. The ship was detained and 500 new passengers were turned away on Sunday. The ship has now been disinfected and, after an inspection by the port health authority and Maritime Coastguard Agency, can now leave. Cruise operator Travelscope has promised refunds to disappointed passengers.

SEIZURE OF DRUGS ON LIBERIAN VESSEL AT URABA, COLOMBIA

London, May 31 — Refrigerated general cargo *Hansa Visby* arrived Antwerp May 30.



AIRPORT BUILDING, ATATURK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Police increased security at Istanbul's Ataturk International airport today as authorities and companies began to assess the huge damages caused by a raging fire and tried to determine what caused it. A hard-line Kurdish militant group has claimed responsibility in an e-mail to a pro-Kurdish news agency in The Netherlands, but authorities would not comment on the claim, saying an investigation is under way. The blaze quickly burned much of the airport's cargo section to the ground, and officials said they are working on contingency plans, including taking on freight at the city's other airport on the Asian side of the city, and in the town of Corlu, about 90 km to the west. The fire destroyed cargo including textile products and gold shipments, officials said. They said they will need more time to estimate the damage, but that it will total millions of dollars. The cargo operation of Turkish Airlines, which

was in a separate section of the airport, was unaffected by the blaze. Most other airlines and carriers will be affected. Workers said the entire structure, about 150 000 square metres, was in flames within five minutes.

Istanbul, May 30 — Fire broke out at Havas bonded warehouse at Terminal C of Ataturk Airport where all cargo transported by air is stored at 1530, May 24. In a very short time the fire spread to the other warehouses which were located at the terminal, such as Sistem Logistic, Mng Cargo and Celebi Cargo. By intense fire extinguishing operations by land and air the fire was brought under control about 1730, local time, same day. It total, it affected an area of 22,000 square metres. Fortunately there was no loss of life and only slight injuries to three people occurred. Aircraft were not affected by the fire due to prompt actions, precautions and some of the new landings directed to the Sabiha Gokcen Airport. With regards to the cause of fire, investigations by the public prosecutor have not yet been completed. However, it has been announced that the cause was definitely not a terrorist attack; short-circuit and/or welding was the alleged cause of the fire. The exact situation will be clarified upon completion of all formal enquires and investigations by authorities. Upon the first checking after the cooling operations, it has been reported that the roof of Havas and some of the other warehouses collapsed. Reportedly, at the time of the first investigations, US\$14 million were found sound/intact inside fireproof safes. Also 300 kilos of gold ingot were found safe and US\$35 million worth of foreign currency, precious stones, cheques etc, were also found intact. Although at the moment the exact extent of loss is unknown, due to high volume of cargo transactions it is expected to be around US\$1 billion. Due to danger of collapse, authorities up to now have not been allowed to enter the incident site for the formal investigations. Reportedly this afternoon they should have access to the area. — Lloyd's Agents.

AMRISTAR RAILWAY STATION, INDIA

London, May 30 — A press report, dated May 28, states: A major fire broke out early today at the railway station here causing heavy damage to infrastructure, official sources said. The blaze, which broke out at 0400 hrs at the ticket counter of the railway station, was brought under control by fire tenders but it had already rendered the entire communication system out of order. Details of any casualties were not immediately known. Short circuit is believed to be the reason for the fire, the sources said adding that tickets are being issued manually after severe damage caused to the computers in the blaze.

BRUSH, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews worked today to control a 1,000-acre brush fire that led to the closing overnight of Interstate 95. The highway was reopened early today in Brevard County and Memorial Day weekend traffic moved smoothly, but firefighters were concerned about the weather. "We're still trying to gain the upper hand on it before the wind kicks in," Brevard Fire Rescue spokesman Orlando Dominguez said. The fire started yesterday afternoon, likely caused by lightning, said Dennis Neterer, Brevard Fire Rescue assistant chief. No damage or injuries were reported but several residents voluntarily evacuated their homes to escape the smoke in the area of east-central Florida.

CHEMICAL PLANT, BILLINGHAM, TEESIDE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire caused by a massive explosion at a chemical plant has been brought under control, police said. The blast happened at the Terra Nitrogen UK site in an industrial area off Haverton Hill Road, Billingham, Teesside. It caused a fire involving mixed gases and prompted the police to declare a major emergency. Firefighters and ambulance crews were called to the scene and by 0245 hrs, the blaze had been put out. Two people working at the site were treated for cuts and bruises. Nearby roads were closed and residents were advised to keep their windows and doors shut as a precaution. The plant, which produces ammonia and was previously owned by ICI, was shut down. The cause of the blast is not clear but police said an investigation would be carried out by the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency. Residents reported hearing the huge blast and seeing a massive ball of flame. A Terra Nitrogen UK spokesman confirmed the explosion had led to a fire involving "mixed gases". He said: "The fire has now been extinguished and the incident is under control. At no stage was there any danger to the public. Two employees received first aid treatment on site for cuts and bruises following the incident. The plant has now been safely shut down and an investigation is underway. The company will co-operate with any separate investigations carried out by the regulatory authorities".

COAL MINE, SHANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, May 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Two Chinese county officials have been sacked, 19 mine and banking officials detained and a manager arrested after a coal mine flood trapped 56 people, Xinhua news agency said. The 10-day-old accident, the latest in a series of grim statistics in the world's deadliest mining industry, happened at the Xinjiang mine in Zuoyun county,

north Shanxi province. "The latest check results show that 56 miners are still trapped in the flooded pit," Xinhua said late on Saturday. "Rescuers are still pumping although hope of finding any of the trapped miners alive is slim." The number was revised from 57 to 56 after it was discovered one miner had left the mine before the May 18 accident. An initial investigation found the flooding was due to water pouring in from a worked-out section of a neighbouring mine. "Preliminary analysis indicates that miners accidentally dug into the disused, water-filled section and flooded the shaft in which they were working," Li Yizhong, director of the State Administration of Work Safety, was quoted as saying. Two local government officials were sacked, one as deputy secretary of the Zuoyun county committee of the Communist Party of China, and one as a committee member. The only arrest so far has been of a manager in charge of safety who was discovered in remote neighbouring Inner Mongolia. Xinhua did not say what charges he faced, nor why two bank officials had been detained. Rescuers at the mine had said that hush money had been offered to families of trapped victims to allow the case to be handled "privately", state media said on Friday. "Police say local authorities had tried to cover up the accident by reporting that only five miners were trapped," Xinhua said. "Mine managers are alleged to have rented taxis to transfer relatives of the trapped miners to neighbouring Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region to prevent them from speaking to the media."

FOREST, HEILONGJIANG PROVINCE, CHINA

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A forest fire raging for more than eight days in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province have engulfed 150 square km of forest, local forestry sources said today. The fire broke out at the Galashan Forest Farm in Nenjiang County of Heihe City on May 21 due to light strikes and had spread days before to the city's Aihui District. After days' efforts of more than 5,000 police and firemen, the western and southwestern line of the fire have been put out, said fire-fighting headquarters in Heihe. A source with the headquarters said they were dispatching 1,500 to 2,000 fire fighters to put out the eastern line of the fire and expected to put the fire under control in three to five days. Thirty-five police got injured in the fire-fighting campaign and have been sent to the nation's capital of Beijing for better medical treatment. The high winds, thick bushes and hot, dry weather conditions made it more difficult to contain the blaze. Over 10,000 firemen are still struggling to control another fire at the Kanduhe Forest Farm in the country's largest virgin forest of Greater Hinggan

Mountains. Two forest fires at Xirite Banner and Hexi Forest Farm in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region have been brought under control today. No casualties have been reported so far.

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: A forest fire raging for 10 days in Galashan area of Heihe City, north-east China's Heilongjiang Province was extinguished, the local fire fighting headquarters said this morning. The Galashan Forest Farm in Nenjiang County of Heihe City caught fire on May 21, due to lightning strikes. More than 4,300 armed policemen joined the fight. The fire was finally put out at 0420 today, the headquarters said. Earlier report said that 35 armed policemen got injured in the fire-fighting campaign and were sent to the nation's capital of Beijing for better medical treatment. The Galashan Forest Farm has been blockaded for fear of the fire's spreading to the Dahinggan Mountains, home to one of the country's major forests. Fire fighters remained alert to prevent the fire from resurging, the headquarters said.

MEDICAL CENTRE, MERCED, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A large scale fire broke out in the 3300 block of M Street in Merced at Mercy Surgical & Diagnostic Center on Sunday night (May 28) around 1930. The fire took about an hour and a half to put out and was so intense that firefighters were still finding hot spots in the building 16 hours later. The fire to the 10,000 square foot building was contained to the ceiling and attic area and burned approximately 40% of the building. Initial fire damage is estimated at over \$1 million.

PETROL TANKER, TANGUIETA, BENIN

Cotonou, May 26 — Doctors in Benin battled today to save dozens of people badly burnt in a petrol tanker blast after more died overnight, pushing the death toll past 50. More than 100 people were burnt to death or badly injured in the explosion late on Wednesday (May 24) as they tried to gather fuel pouring from a petrol tanker which plunged off the road into a ditch. Reinforcement doctors and extra medical supplies were dispatched north from the main city Cotonou, around 500 km from Tanguieta, where overstretched hospital staff have battled round the clock since Wednesday to treat the injured. "Twenty-nine people have died here at the hospital and 23 more died at the scene," Florent Priili, a doctor and hospital coordinator at the St Jean de Dieu hospital, said. "Today we have to operate on some of the injured. Their burns are severe and there are people who will die if we don't operate. We will have at least 50 operations to do today. I ask people to pray for us and for these people."

Priili said. The tanker was transporting gasoline to nearby Mali when it plunged into a ravine on Wednesday evening near the town of Porga on Benin's border with Burkina Faso. Local people started collecting gasoline from the damaged tanker but the heat from the engine ignited the fuel and caused the explosion, local police said. — Reuters.

POWER STATION, NIUE, NEW ZEALAND

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Niueans have been told to stay home and conserve water after a blaze at the South Pacific nation's only power station last night left the island without electricity. A spokesman from Niue Broadcasting Corporation said people were particularly concerned about water supply as the pumps were electric. "The water is actually being pumped up by power and because there is no power we are only going by whatever's in the reservoirs at the moment," he told National Radio. He said he was not sure how long that would last, but probably for another day or so. Engineers were looking at ways to get the pumps going without the main generator. Emergency generators were being used to provide power to essential services like the island's only hospital. "The whole island is affected by this. There is no power except for essential services such as Broadcasting House, the airport, and Telecom who have their own generators." The National Disaster Council was meeting this morning to discuss the next move which may involve calling on New Zealand for help.

PREMISES, ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Istanbul, Jun 1 — A gas leak triggered an explosion in a five-storey building in Istanbul today, injuring a number of people, police sources said. Separately, NTV private television blamed a fire for the blast, which occurred at lunchtime in the Uskudar district on the Asian side of Turkey's largest city. NTV said 14 people had been hurt in the blast. Television showed people covered in blood being treated outside the building or being carried to ambulances. CNN Turk television said the explosion occurred at a firing range located in the basement of the building. — Reuters.

PREMISES, JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA

Jeddah, Jun 1 — A huge fire broke out yesterday in the Aljomaih Automotive Company dealership near the Tahliah intersection of Madinah Road here. Workers quickly evacuated the area as the fire spread from the workshop to the spare parts department. Company officials said this department alone contained over SR. 50 million worth of equipment and parts. The fire then moved quickly to the showroom containing about 20 cars, and the company's offices. Workers managed to evacuate seven of the vehicles before flames

consumed the entire complex. No serious injuries were reported in the fire that sent a thick plume of dark gray smoke that could be seen throughout the city. The Red Crescent Society treated some people on the scene for minor smoke inhalation and fatigue. Eyewitnesses said several vehicles exploded in the fire. Mohammed Murshit, public relations official at Aljomaih Company, said the building was the flagship showroom and spare parts retailer in the western region. Murshit said there were over 180 vehicles in the service center belonging to customers. Aljomaih is a dealer for Chevrolet, GMC, Cadillac and Opel cars in Saudi Arabia. Terry Johnson, GM managing director in the Middle East, said the autogiant had dispatched people to assist in customer issues raised by the fire. — Lloyd's Agents.

REFINERY, SAN LUIS POTOSI, MEXICO

London, May 26 — Grupo Mexico's zinc refinery in San Luis Potosi is scheduled to resume production yesterday at 50% of capacity after a serious fire blew out two rectifiers in January, a senior company official said. Following the successful replacement of one of the rectifiers, initial output is expected to be about half of the refinery's normal production of around 100,000 mt/year of refined zinc, Grupo Mexico vice president Juan Rebollo said. Full production is likely to be restored "toward the end of August," he added. Grupo Mexico has said the accident could well be a positive for the company, because excess demand has led to "highly favorable" market terms for the concentrate it has been selling instead of refined zinc.

SCHOOL, DERBY, DERBYSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 27 — A press report, dated May 26, states: A Derby school devastated by fire in March has been given the go-ahead by the government for a complete rebuild. Derby City Council has been given approval to plan an £18m reconstruction of Sinfon Community School rather than just repairing the damaged buildings. The exact cause of the fire is still unknown but police have been treating it as suspicious.

SLOPS TANKS, CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jun 1 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 0730, UTC: A serious fire has broken out in sloop tanks at the Valero facility in Corpus Christi and the local fire brigade are in attendance. The fire is current reported as "not under control" and a fire-fighting barge is being brought in to assist. Crude oil tanker *Max Jacob* (81565 gt, built 2000) is currently berthed at the facility and is approximately 50-60 feet away from the fire. The vessel was loaded when it arrived (on/about May 26), but it has not yet been

established whether it still has any cargo onboard. Operations to evacuate the vessels crew are currently in progress.

London, Jun 1 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1000, UTC: The fire in the slops tanks at the Valero facility in Corpus Christi has now been completely extinguished. All crew from crude oil tanker *Max Jacob* were safely evacuated. The tanker was not affected by the fire.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, May 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The Romero Fire, burning in the western Catalina Mountains, is expected to be fully contained by 1800 tomorrow, officials with the Coronado National Forest said. The 764-acre fire was 85% contained yesterday, and all crews fighting it have been released with the exception of three hotshot and two hand crews on the mountain. The air tankers have all been released, but fire crews are still using light helicopters for drops, officials said. The difficult terrain is the major obstacle in completing containment, said Marylee Peterson, spokeswoman for the Coronado National Forest. There are some concerns with flare-ups from the dry, underlying brush, but if the weather continues to be favourable, the fire crews should reach full containment, Peterson said. (See issue of May 26.)

London, May 26 — A press report, dated today, states: The Alkalai Fire burning along Interstate 17 near Sunset Point was fully contained last night. The quick-moving brushfire consumed roughly 100 acres. A burning vehicle northbound on I-17 apparently sparked the fire, and gusty winds carried the flames across the interstate, Black Canyon City Fire Chief Tom Birch said. Air tankers and ground crews from the Bureau of Land Management were assisted by the Black Canyon, Daisy Mountain and Mayer fire departments in fighting the blaze. Fire crews will remain on hand this morning to watch for hot spots.

London, May 30 — A press report from Titusville, Florida, dated today, states: Fire crews worked yesterday to control a 1,000-acre brush fire that led to the closing overnight of Interstate 95. The highway was reopened early yesterday in Brevard County and Memorial Day weekend traffic moved smoothly, but firefighters were concerned about the weather. "We're still trying to gain the upper hand on it before the wind kicks in," Brevard Fire Rescue spokesman Orlando Dominguez said. The fire started Sunday (May 28) afternoon, likely caused by lightning, said Dennis Neterer, Brevard Fire Rescue assistant chief. No damage or injuries were reported but several residents voluntarily evacuated their homes to escape the smoke in the area of east-central Florida. Sections of I-95 have been closed intermittently over several weeks because of thick smoke

mixed with morning fog. The poor visibility has been blamed for dozens of accidents. More than 2,700 wildfires have charred nearly 104,800 acres in Florida since Jan. 1, according to the state Division of Forestry.



AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO DUBAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

London, May 30 — A press report, dated May 28, states: A flight by Emirates airlines to Vienna today headed back to Dubai International Airport after one hour of take-off due to malfunction. Authoritative sources told Kuwait News Agency the Airbus 200-300 had 209 passengers aboard. The aircraft's captain, shortly after taking off, informed the air traffic control he intended to return back due to the nearness of the airport and emergency at the air facility was declared. The captain followed airline regulations and safety measures were taken for the safe landing of the aircraft.

CRASH, RAHERNEY AREA, CO WESTMEATH, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

London, May 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Two men died when a light aircraft crashed in Co. Westmeath on Thursday (May 25). The Cessna 150 came down in a field near the village of Raherney, about 15 kilometres east of Mullingar, shortly after 1000. The aircraft had been on a training flight from Weston Aerodrome in Dublin, and the occupants were Joseph McCabe, from Lucan, Co. Dublin, and Liam Ryan from Clontarf, Dublin, both in their 30s. The Irish Times reports that Mr McCabe was a flying instructor and Mr Ryan was completing examinations to become an instructor. The aircraft belonged to Ciaran O'Connor of the National Flight Centre. It is believed the men were killed instantly when the aircraft nose-dived into the ground, crushing the cockpit. Michael Boyle, a witness to the crash, told the Irish Independent, "I saw it flying overhead and the engine was buzzing like a lawnmower. It was diving towards the ground, then it spun at least three times, maybe four, before hitting the ground". The wreckage of the aircraft was taken away by the Department of Transport's Air Accident Investigation Unit, which will attempt to establish the cause of the crash.

CRASH, STAFFORD TOWNSHIP AREA, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft crashed in a wooded area in southern

New Jersey today, killing four people, authorities said. The wreckage of the aircraft, a single-engine Piper, was found off Route 72, police Capt Charles Schweigart said. The aircraft was registered to Aviron Aviation LLC in North Plainfield, according to Jim Peters, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

EMERGENCY LANDING, DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Three passengers were taken to the hospital with minor injuries yesterday night after a United Airlines flight made an emergency landing at Dulles International Airport, the airline said. United Express 7512 from Houston, Texas, had to make the emergency landing at Dulles with its nose gear still up, said United spokeswoman Megan McCarthy. The flight was carrying four crew members and 56 passengers, who were evacuated from the aircraft on the runway.

EMERGENCY LANDING, LANSERIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SOUTH AFRICA

London, May 26 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Three people were injured this afternoon when a light aircraft they were in lost power while doing circuit training, Lanseria International Airport authorities said. The pilot of the Piper Twin Comanche was forced to land about two kilometres from airport, said spokesperson Lize Nel. The men sustained minor injuries, but the aircraft was badly damaged. The airport's emergency, medical and security services responded to the incident and the injured were treated for minor injuries. The Civil Aviation Authority was investigating the incident, said Nel.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MITCHELL, UNITED STATES

See N5191V.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MITCHELL, UNITED STATES

London, May 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A private Cessna 210 made an emergency landing Sunday (May 28) night in Mitchell. Five passengers onboard were uninjured, officials said. The aircraft was on approach to the Platte airport when pilot Steven Shafer noticed a warning light indicating that the nose gear didn't lower, Mitchell police Sgt. Leon Baier said. Shafer confirmed the problem and headed to Mitchell. The pilot circled the airport to use up fuel before attempting to land about 1900 hrs, Baier said. Baier said Shafer eased the aircraft down on the runway with the nose eventually coming down. The nose scraped the runway for about 50 feet, causing about \$15,000 damage to the aircraft, Baier said. Baier said the aircraft has been secured in a hangar for Federal Aviation Administration investigators to examine.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA AIRCRAFT GROUNDED

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Equatorial Guinea's government has grounded all but one of the country's airline companies, state radio reports. Their operating licences, including that of the national carrier, were revoked after aircraft inspections carried out by South African experts.

FIRE ON AIRCRAFT AT PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, May 26 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A small fire broke out on a US Airways flight just before takeoff this evening at Philadelphia International Airport. But the crew put the fire out quickly and no injuries were reported. An airport spokesman says the South Carolina-bound flight was on the tarmac when the fire broke out around 1830 hrs. Airport spokesman Mark Pesce says there was some sort of smoke and fire coming from a small generator on board the aircraft. About 50 passengers walked off and were bused back to the terminal. The incident forced the airport to be shut down for 15 minutes. There are still some related delays being reported.

INCIDENT AT BIJU PATNAIK AIRPORT, INDIA

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: A small bird brought an Indian Airlines plane to a shuddering halt as it was speeding for take-off from Orissa's Biju Patnaik airport at around 1400 hrs, this afternoon, but all 121 people on board were safe. The bird, which hit the plane's engine and got sucked in, however took its toll on the tyres. Four of them deflated as the pilot suddenly brought the Airbus to a halt. The plane later taxied to a bay near the terminal building and the passengers were taken off. They were kept waiting for about an hour inside the aircraft and another hour at the terminal before being taken to a city hotel. The aircraft has been sent for a check and repairs. A.S. Das, an employee at the airport manager's office, said it may not be ready for flying until tomorrow.

INCIDENT AT CENTRAL WISCONSIN AIRPORT, MOSINEE, UNITED STATES

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: A United Express flight from Chicago overran the runway at Central Wisconsin Airport in Mosinee yesterday, said Tony Yaron, the airport's manager. No injuries were reported. There were 44 passengers and three crew members aboard the CRJ 200 regional jet. Mosinee is about 130 miles north of Madison.

N166MA

London, May 28 — A press report, dated May 27, states: Divers searching for two men whose two-seater plane crashed into Lake

Texana recovered their bodies today. Witnesses said that pilot Shannon Simnacher, 36, and Mark Bearden, 37, were performing stunts over the lake yesterday when the their plane stalled and crashed in about 20 feet of water, said Jackson County Sheriff Andy Louderback. The bodies of both men were still in the plane when found by the divers.

London, May 30 — Aviat A-1B (Husky) N166MA crashed into Lake Texana, near Edna, Texas, at 0110, May 26. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N4596X

London, may 27 — A press report, dated May 26, states: A small plane crash-landed near Oxnard Airport and ploughed into a sport utility vehicle today, injuring the pilot and driver. The injuries to the pilot and SUV driver were not life-threatening, said police Cmdr. Marty Meyer. The pilot had just taken off when he reported engine failure to the tower and attempted to return to the airport, Fergus said. The plane bounced off the field, went through a fence and struck the passenger side of the SUV, about 1340 hrs. Fergus said the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board were investigating the incident.

London, May 30 — Piper PA-28-151 (Cherokee Warrior) N4596X crashed near Oxnard, California, at 2038, May 26, while on a local flight from Oxnard, and struck a car. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. No injuries were reported.

N5191V

London, May 30 — Cessna T210L (Centurion II) N5191V made a nose gear-up landing at Mitchell, South Dakota, at 0025, May 28. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The five persons on board were not injured.

N5212U

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft crashed in a residential area of Fort Thomas, Kentucky, yesterday evening, killing the pilot, who was the only person on board. Johnathan Meyer, 79, of Xenia, Ohio, had left Lunken Airport in a Cessna 210N (Centurion II) at about 1800 hrs, according to Lt Mark Dill of the Fort Thomas police. The aircraft crashed about 150 feet from a house on Rossford Avenue. The aircraft clipped the tops of several trees and dropped about 60 feet. Meyer was ejected. No one on the ground was hurt. The crash, which occurred directly west of Lunken in Cincinnati's East End, across the Ohio River, was reported to Campbell County emergency workers at 1819 hrs. Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board were called but were not expected to arrive until this morning, Dill said. The 22-year-old aircraft is owned by Wheels Auto Leasing Inc of Dayton, OH, which Meyer appeared to be affiliated with, according to records. The impact

spread debris in all directions around the tangled remains of the aircraft.

London, May 31 — Cessna 210N (Centurion II) crashed near Fort Thomas, Kentucky, at 2205, May 30, while on a flight from Cincinnati Municipal Airport, Ohio. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N69HU

London, May 30 — Hughes 269A N69HU crashed near Alliance, Ohio, at 1916, May 28. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.



ELECTRIC SMOKERS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, May 31 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Masterbuilt Manufacturing Inc., of Columbus Ga., today announced a voluntary recall of about 10,700 Electric Smokehouse Smokers. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Smoldering wood chips used in the wood chip box can ignite into flames when the door of the unit is opened, posing a risk of burn injuries to users and property damage to nearby combustibles. Masterbuilt has received two reports of units that were damaged as a result of wood chip flare-ups. No injuries or property damage were reported. The smokers cook food slowly at lower temperatures and use wood chips to produce smoke inside the unit for flavor. Wood chips are placed inside the smoker and heated using an electric burner element to produce smoldering coals. The electric smokehouse model ESQ30B has a black powder coated outer shell with the Masterbuilt Electric Smokehouse logo on the front door. The electric smokehouse model ESQ30S has a stainless steel outer shell with the Masterbuilt Electric Smokehouse logo on the front door. The model number is located on a metal plate on the back of the unit. Sporting goods stores sold these smokers nation-wide from July 2005 through May 2006 for between \$200 and \$250. Manufactured in China. Consumers should stop using these smokers immediately, and contact the firm to receive free repair kit. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

FROZEN MEAT PRODUCTS, UNITED STATES

London, May 27 — A press report, dated today, states: The US Agriculture Department has announced that an Oklahoma company has recalled 4.3 million pounds of frozen meat products because they may contain pieces of

metal. The USDA says the meat was produced by Advance Food Company of Enid and was sold to institutional buyers nationwide and to one Midwest retail customer with stores in Iowa, Kansas and Missouri. The retailer was not identified. The meat is mostly varieties of cubed beef sold in 10 and 12 pound cases which have various dates between November 28, 2005, to April 30, 2006. Each package displays a number "EST 2260Y" or "EST 2260G" inside the USDA seal of inspection.

GENERAL MOTORS VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, May 26 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has ordered the recall of 7,800 General Motors trucks built between 1992 and 1995 because a replacement fuel injection system sold for the vehicles may develop a fuel leak. NHTSA warns that a fuel leak could result in a fire. The vehicles involved are the 1992-1995 Chevrolet Astro and Blazer, GMC Jimmy, S Series, Safari, Sonoma, the 1992-1993 GMC Typhoon, and the 1992-1995 Oldsmobile Bravada. The fuel return line in the injection system has a mechanical bleed valve which was not installed at the proper torque level. The recall only involves R&B Inc. fuel lines and not original equipment.

MIRRORS, UNITED STATES

London, May 26 — A press release issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, dated May 25, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Wal-Mart Stores Inc., of Bentonville, Ark., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 110,000 Simply Basic Lighted Mirrors. Exposed wires inside the mirror could pose an electrical shock hazard to the user when they touch the mirror. No injuries have been reported. The recalled mirror is double-sided, lighted, and has three touch control settings. It has a metal stand with a brushed silver-colored finish. The mirror is 6.5 inches in diameter and has regular side and a magnified side. Model number DK-00118/H-1698-0 is on the bottom of the mirror's base. Touch lighting with three settings is printed on a white sticker on the top of the mirror's base. Manufactured in China, they were sold exclusively at Wal-Mart stores nationwide from August 2005 through to April 2006 for about \$15.

TIBALDI SMALLGOODS CAPOCOLLO CURED PORK, AUSTRALIA

London, May 31 — A press report, dated today, states: An outbreak of salmonella poisoning in Melbourne has led to the national recall of a cured pork product usually sold in delicatessens. Tibaldi Smallgoods' capocollo has been linked to the outbreak, which has affected 10 people mainly in the northern

suburbs. Victoria's acting chief health officer Dr John Carnie says the company has fully co-operated with the investigation. "We also then obtained a sample of that product which has also come up positive for the same type of salmonella, so having made that link we then communicated that to Tibaldi Smallgoods who voluntarily recalled this capocollo product," Dr Carnie said. Company director Stephen Moss says he would like to know where the contamination occurred.

TOYOTA MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Jun 1 — A press report, dated May 31, states: If you own a Toyota Prius, it may be going into the shop soon. Toyota is recalling nearly a million vehicles to replace a part that could cause drivers to lose control of the steering wheel. Weakness in the steering shaft could cause it to become loose or crack. No accidents are reported so far. In the U.S., the

recall only affects about 170,000 Prius models from 2002-to-2005. Toyota will contact owners by mail next month and fix the defect free of charge.



BANGLADESH

Karachi, May 27 — The congestion of containers is still persisting at the country's main sea-port at Chittagong due to presence of a large number of empty containers. The port authority is taking all possible steps to ease it. The customs office, waiving of penal charges and other measures which can contribute to ease the congestion of containers of import cargoes at the port yards. The port has now 9,285 TEUs of import containers against the

port's normal import container capacity of 9,466 TEUs. According to CPA figures, 4,558 TEUs of empty containers have been lying in the port yards. The port stored 16,440 TEUs of all kinds as yesterday afternoon against its capacity of 12, 800 TEUs, the CPA sources said, and they added seven container-laden vessels remained at the outer anchorage to berth at the port yards. — Lloyd's List Correspondent

ITALY

Genoa, May 30 — Port situation May 30: Genoa: No vessels awaiting berths. Savona: No vessels awaiting normal or special berths. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

SYRIA

Aleppo, May 27 — Waiting time is presently 24 hours at Lattakia and two days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

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

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	05-Jun-2006	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 7 vessels due by 25/6.
Brisbane	05-Jun-2006	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 7 vessels due by 21/6; possible delays expected 14-15/6, ca. 1 day's delay on 16/6 and 2 days delay 21-22/6.
Dalrymple Bay	05-Jun-2006	Coal: DBCT berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; DBCT berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 12 hour maintenance shutdown planned for 14/6; DBCT berth 3: 3 vessels waiting; other vessels not scheduled: 13 vessels waiting; 28 vessels due by 26/6; maintenance shutdown until 7/6.
Dampier	05-Jun-2006	Iron ore: Parker Point A berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 9 vessels due by 29/6; Parker Point berth 2: 8 vessels due by 16/6; Parker Point berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 1 vessel due 2/7; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; 5 vessels due by 14/6.
Esperance	05-Jun-2006	Iron ore: 2 vessels due by 19/6; no delays expected.
Geraldton	05-Jun-2006	Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored.
Gladstone	05-Jun-2006	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 1 berthed and waiting, 14 waiting, 28 vessels due by 10/7; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; 10 vessels due by 15/7; shiploading operations will be shut down for maintenance from 10-15/7.
Hay Point	05-Jun-2006	Coal: Berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 3 vessels due by 15/6; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 6 vessels due by 12/6.
Newcastle	05-Jun-2006	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessels berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 54 vessels due by 2/7; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 4 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels berthed and loading; 27 vessels due by 26/6; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; no vessels off port awaiting coal.
Port Kembla	05-Jun-2006	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 11 vessels due by 30/6; no delays expected.
Port Walcott	05-Jun-2006	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 9 waiting; 12 vessels due by 20/6.
Whyalla	05-Jun-2006	Iron ore: 1 vessel anchored; 6 vessels due by 29/6.
Azerbaijan		
Apsheiron	05-Jun-2006	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 3 vessels berthed, of which 1 stopped discharging crude oil, 1 discharging fuel oil, 1 to discharge crude oil; 2 vessels in roads, of which 1 to discharge crude oil, 1 to discharge fuel oil; 1 vessel due 6/6 to discharge gasoline.
Baku	05-Jun-2006	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; Azerneftiyag terminal: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: 1 vessel berthed, waiting to discharge crude oil; 2 vessels in roads, both to discharge crude oil Sangachal district: no vessels.

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

Port Conditions

Bulgaria

Bourgas	05-Jun-2006	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 3 coils, 1 baryte concentrate, 1 copper concentrate, 1 gasoil), 4 discharging (1 coals, 1 zinc concentrate, 1 zinc/lead concentrate, 1 iron ore); 3 vessels in roads, of which 1 to load chemicals, 2 to discharge (1 crude oil, 1 billets); 15 vessels due, of which 7 to load (3 coils, 1 reinforced concrete, 1 copper anodes, 1 containers, 1 baryte concentrate), 8 to discharge (2 iron ore, 2 zinc concentrate, 1 zinc/lead concentrate, 1 gasoil, 1 containers, 1 coal).
Varna	05-Jun-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 29 May - 4 June: Thirty-two vessels in port operating of which 16 loading (2 scrap, 1 packed hardboard, 2 equipment in packing cases/soda, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 1 bulk clinker, 6 soda, 1 NPK/TSP, 1 TSP, 1 sunflower seeds), 12 discharging (1 iron coils, 1 steel sheets, 1 bulk copper slag, 1 raw phosphate, 1 bulk slag, 4 bulk coal, 1 petcoke, 1 bulk sugar, 1 containers), 4 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.

Cyprus

Larnaca	06-Jun-2006	Four conventional vessels discharging at berth; 1 conventional vessel due 7/6; no delays expected.
Limassol	06-Jun-2006	Eight container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 2 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 6 container vessels, 2 conventional vessels, 3 passenger vessels due 7/6; no delays expected.

Egypt

Adabiya	05-Jun-2006	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), all general cargo.
Alexandria	05-Jun-2006	Thirty vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 22 general cargo, 2 bulkers carrier, 3 tankers, 3 container vessels; 11 vessels at inner anchorage, 8 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	05-Jun-2006	Fourteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 8 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 1 livestock, 3 container vessels; 2 vessels at outer anchorage, none at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	05-Jun-2006	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 2 container vessels; 2 vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	05-Jun-2006	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 5 container vessels.
Suez	05-Jun-2006	Seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 3 general cargo, 4 passenger vessels; 4 tugs, 3 vessels dry-docked.
Suez Canal	05-Jun-2006	Twenty-six vessels transiting Northbound, 29 Southbound.

Estonia

Tallin	05-Jun-2006	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 vessel berthed loading oil products; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 1 vessels due, with 10 days berthing delay expected.
--------	-------------	--

Israel

Ashdod	06-Jun-2006	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 13 vessels discharging at berth (10 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 6 vessels loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 1 tanker); 6 vessels waiting at anchorage discharge (4 general cargo, 1 containers, 1 bulker); 1 vessel awaiting orders; 18 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	06-Jun-2006	No labour problems. No vessels berthed; 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; no vessels due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	06-Jun-2006	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel discharging at berth, 11 vessels loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 2 car carriers, 3 tankers, 1 passenger vessel); 10 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 general cargo, 8 containers), 1 passenger vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 4 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 2 awaiting orders; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.

Kazakhstan

Aktau	05-Jun-2006	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, 2 completed loading crude oil, 1 loading crude oil; 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil; 2 vessels due by 6/6, both to load crude oil.
-------	-------------	---

Mozambique

Maputo	31- May-2006	Four vessels in port operating, all loading (2 mineral coal, 1 citrus, 1 ferro chrome); 30 vessels due by 17/6 of which 8 to load (1 mineral coal, 1 bulk sugar, 2 ferro chrome, 1 manganite, 1 aluminium), 11 to discharge (1 steel billets/vehicles, 2 vehicles, 1 bulk aluminium, 1 breecks, 1 machines/containers, 1 pipes, 1 bulk wheat, bagged rice, 1 clinker, 1 pitch), 11 to discharge/load (7 containers, 2 containers/sheets rolls, 1 vehicles/containers, 1 ferro chrome), 1 container vessel, 1 other vessel .
--------	--------------	---

Russia

Novorossiysk	05-Jun-2006	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 pig-iron, 1 coils, 1 slabs, 1 copper, 1 vegetable oil), 1 discharging vegetable oil, 1 discharging/loading containers; 2 vessels waiting in roads, both to load, of which 1 pipes/tin plate/coils, 1 copper; 57 vessels due, of which 55 to load (10 steel billets, 1 slabs/steel billets, 2 scrap, 1 pig-iron, 4 coils, 1 coils/steel sheets/WRIC, 2 H-beams, 2 wheat, 1 WRIC, 4 aluminium, 1 bulk NPK, 2 cellulose, 1 DRI, 1 coils/tin plates, 10 copper, 1 equipment, 1 steel billets/wire rods, 1 slabs, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 coils/steel sheets, 2 bulk urea, 1 lead, 1 soda ash, 1 diesel oil, 2 bulk sugar), 2 to discharge (1 non-ferrous metals, 1 citrus); Oil terminal: 2 tankers berthed, both loading, of which 1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 3 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 4 tankers due, all to load crude oil.
--------------	-------------	--

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

Port Conditions

Slovenia

Koper	05-Jun-2006	Port working normally. Fifteen vessels berthed of which 1 discharging/loading containers, 2 loading sawn timber/general cargo, 1 discharging sawn timber/general cargo, 6 discharging bulk cargo, 2 loading bulk cargo, 2 car carriers discharging/loading vehicles, 1 tanker discharging liquid cargo; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge bulk cargo; 22 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 5 to discharge/load containers, 1 car carrier to load vehicles, 1 car carrier to discharge/load vehicles, 1 Ro/Ro to discharge/load general cargo, 8 vessels to load sawn timber/general cargo, 3 to load bulk cargo, 3 to discharge bulk cargo.
-------	-------------	---

Spain

Bilbao	06-Jun-2006	Thirty-nine vessels operating (5 tankers, 34 other vessels), of which 6 loading, 19 discharging, 14 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	06-Jun-2006	Twenty-nine vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 cement, 1 bulk fertiliser, 1 baled scrap), 23 discharging (18 steel products, 2 gas, 2 machinery, 1 vehicles), 3 loading/discharging (1 steel products, 2 general cargo); no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

Sri Lanka

Colombo	05-Jun-2006	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Eight container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 17 vessels discharging at berth (11 containers/feeders, 2 bulk palm oil, 1 steel cargo, 1 bagged fertiliser, 1 bulk gypsum, 1 bulk cement); 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement, 2 bagged fertiliser); 4 vessels dry-docked; 5 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.
---------	-------------	--

Turkmenistan

Aladja	05-Jun-2006	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, loading crude oil.
Okarem	05-Jun-2006	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	05-Jun-2006	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, of which 1 to load heating oil, 1 completed loading jet fuel, 1 completed loading fuel oil; 4 vessels in roads, 2 to discharge crude oil, 1 to load fuel oil, 1 to load gasoil; 2 vessels due by 5/6, 1 to load gasoil, 1 to discharge crude oil.

Ukraine

Mariupol	05-Jun-2006	Fourteen vessels in port operating, of which 13 loading (5 steel, 2 fire-clay, 1 barley, 3 coal, 1 coke, 1 ammonium saltpetre), 1 discharging/loading feldspar/fire-clay; 13 vessels in roads, of which 11 to load (8 steel, 2 wheat, 1 fire-clay), 1 to discharge containers, 1 to discharge/load containers/fire-clay; 35 vessels due, of which 32 to load (21 steel, 4 coal, 5 fire-clay, 1 coke, 1 equipment), 1 to discharge feldspar, 2 to discharge/load (1 containers, 1 equipment).
Odessa	05-Jun-2006	Eighteen vessels in port operating, of which 11 loading (1 pig-iron, 1 scrap, 8 metal, 1 wheat), 4 discharging (2 luggage, 1 general cargo, 1 sand), 1 loading/discharging containers, 2 passenger vessels; 9 vessels in roads, of which 6 to load (2 metal, 2 pig-iron, 1 coal, 1 oil), 2 to discharge (1 sugar, 1 oil), 1 to load/discharge containers; 69 vessels due, of which 30 to load (22 metal, 2 pig-iron, 1 ore, 1 barley, 3 wheat, 1 equipment), 4 to discharge (2 general cargo, 1 bananas, 1 oil), 35 to discharge/load containers.

USA

Beaumont	06-Jun-2006	No new restrictions in draft (normal 40 ft. 0 ins. f.w. max. deep draft enforced). Louis Dreyfus terminal: no delays.
Galveston	06-Jun-2006	No new restriction in draft (normal 39 ft. 6 ins. b.w. max. deep draft enforced - 40 ft. with ideal conditions). Channel open under normal traffic; ADM-Farmland terminal: no delays.
Houston	06-Jun-2006	Pilots report normal 45 ft. 0 ins. max. draft up to Shell terminal, 40 ft. 0 ins. max. draft above Shell terminal to 610 bridge area; Cargill terminal: no delays; LDC Dreyfus terminal: no delays.
Kalama	06-Jun-2006	Kalama export terminal: 4 days delay; United Harvest terminal: no delays.
New Orleans	06-Jun-2006	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1 day's delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 1-2 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 2-3 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 3 days delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 2-3 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 2-3 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 1-2 days delay expected; ADM/Paulina: undergoing maintenance; Zen-Noh/Convent: 1-2 days delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: no delays; Mile 158.0 Myrtle Grove midstream terminal: 2 days delay; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: no delays. Nine-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to decrease to 3.5 ft. by 15/6. Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to Pilottown - 47 ft. for all vessels (24 hours); Pilottown to Nola - 47 ft. for all vessels (24 hours); New Orleans to Mile 180 - 45 ft. (24 hours) and up to 47 feet on a case-by-case basis; Mile 180 to Baton Rouge - 45 ft. for all vessels (24 hours); Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 23 ft. as per last report of the Bar Pilots. It is highly recommended that MRGO is excluded in fixtures until further notice, as plans to restore the 36 ft. project depth have not been published.

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

Port Conditions

Portland	06-Jun-2006	Columbia Grain terminal: 1 day's delay; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays.
Seattle	06-Jun-2006	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: no delays.
Tacoma	06-Jun-2006	Temco terminal: 1 day's delay.
Vancouver	06-Jun-2006	United Harvest terminal: 1 day's delay.

Published by Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit, part of Informa plc, Sheepen Place, Colchester, Essex CO3 3LP.

Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit does not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, nor accept responsibility for errors or omissions or their consequences.

Copyright © Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit, part of Informa UK Limited 2006. This casualty information is copyright. Unauthorised copying prohibited by law.

ISSN 0047 4908

If subscribers wish to purchase records for networkable or shared use within their company they can contact Andrew Luxton on +44 (0) 20 7017 4625.

Lloyd's is the registered trade mark of the Society incorporated by the Lloyd's Act 1871 by the name of Lloyd's

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