THE crew of the *Damai Lestari* on board the *SCF Khibiny* with Captain Sergey Bukvich (centre).

Indonesian crew rescued after hit-and-run collision

THIRTEEN Indonesian seafarers were rescued by the Sovcomflot tanker *SCF Khibiny* in the Malacca Straits after their vessel, the Indonesian-flag *MV Damai Lestari*, sank following a hit-and-run collision with an unidentified vessel. A further eight survivors were picked up by another vessel.

Captain Sergey Bukvich and the crew of the *SCF Khibiny* were quick to act following the sighting of two drifting liferafts and a smoke distress signal. After positioning their ship alongside the rafts and embarking all the survivors, including the master and chief engineer, they provided medical assistance, accommodation and meals. The shipwrecked seafarers were then handed over to an Indonesian navy vessel prior to the arrival of the *SCF Khibiny* in Singapore.

Throughout the rescue, Captain Bukvich remained in close contact with Unicom of Cyprus, managers of the Russian-owned *SCF Khibiny*. Particular care was exercised during the rescue operation, given the risk of piracy in this busy shipping route.

This latest incident involving a Sovcomflot-owned ship follows the rescue by *SCF Tomsk* of 42 people from a boat found drifting in the North Atlantic in June last year.

Africa is piracy flashpoint with highest number of incidents

Hijackings continue but rapid reporting pays off

New study on extreme waves and stability

THE effects of extreme waves on the stability of commercial ships and the structural strength of ageing bulk carriers are to be the subject of a joint study by two classification societies, the American Bureau of Shipping and the Polish Register of Shipping (PRS).

The investigation will start by assessing each society's existing data and simulation software for addressing issues such as pressures, forces, loads and ship motions.

Then the programme will consider specific issues such as the dynamic stability of smaller vessels, and also the impact of extreme weather on specific components of larger vessels, such as the foredeck structure, hatch coamings and hatch covers. The study is also expected to further advance the class societies' understanding of the issue of parametric roll and broaching phenomena.

PRS will bring to the study its work into the cumulative long

Baltimar Boreas during the incident which occurred in February last year, but it caused alarm because the ship was carrying ammonium nitrate.

The investigators found that the maintenance of the fuel hoses had been inadequate over a long period of time and that inappropriate temporary repairs had been made. The flexible fuel hose failed because the wire braid outer covering had worn as a result of rubbing and chafing.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau was also critical of the arrangements for closing engineroom ventilators which, it said, did not meet the intention of Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) regulations.

'Tissue' could clean up oil spills

A MAT of nanowires with the touch and feel of paper could be an important new tool in the clean-up of oil and other organic pollutants, according to researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the US.

The scientists say