Sun starts to set on single hulls as phase-out comes into force

Most analysts do not expect major changes in market but fears raised for future tonnage availability, writes Martyn Wingrove — Tuesday April 05 2005

Today sees the start of a new dawn for the shipping industry, with the mandatory phase-out of single-hull tankers and the introduction of new regulations limiting the carriage of heavy grade oil to certain ship types.

Most analysts are not expecting any major changes in the market from the phase-out in the next few years, but some showed concerns for the availability of tonnage in 2009-2010.

Other analysts said there were several issues that cloud the situation, such as who will enforce the regulations, as not all countries are signatories, which could mean some tankers will escape the ban.

Impact

Intertanko expects only a limited impact on tanker markets as many single-hulled tankers have already been taken out of service.

It estimates 169 ships with a combined dry weight of 6.9m tonnes will be taken out of service this year, of which 142 tankers are below 60,000 dwt.

“This leaves 27 ships of panamax, aframax, suemax or higher, which is pretty negligible,” an Intertanko spokesman said.

“Next year this will be even smaller, about a third of this year, but in 2007 it will be back to 2005 figures.”

Tanker owners have been preparing for phase-out of single hulled tankers, with huge orders for double-hulled vessels to upgrade their fleets.

According to Intertanko, at the end of 2004, 67% of the global fleet was double hulled and by the end of this year 71% will not be single hulled.

Accelerate

The International Maritime Organisation revised the regulation 13G of Annex I of the Marpol convention in December 2003 to accelerate a phase-out of single-hulled tankers, beginning today with category 1 vessels most affected.

Those category 1 ships delivered before April 5, 1982, will not be able to trade in hydrocarbons under the Marpol regulations, and all of these types of vessels delivered after April 5, 1982, should be taken out of service by the end of the year.

Category 1 tankers are 20,000 dwt or greater, able to carry crude oil, heavy oil, diesel or lubricating oil and without protectively located segregated ballast tanks.

Under the regulations 13G, amended after the Erika and Prestige tanker incidents off Europe, category 2 tankers will also be phased out starting today, according to their age, until 2010.

Category 2 tankers delivered on or before April 5, 1977, will be taken out of service, while those delivered by the start of 1978 will be forced out by the end of this year.

Regulation 13H of Marpol Annex I, also coming into force today, bans the carriage of heavy grade oil in single-hulled tankers of more than 5,000 dwt.

IMO provides a framework for phase out of category 2 and 3 single-hulled tankers with all of these ships to be taken out of service by the end of 2010.

Exemptions

But there are exemptions under regulations 13G that allow flag states to permit category 2 tankers to operate beyond 2010 to 2015 or to the age of 25 years. Port authorities have the right to ban these tankers if required.

Under regulation 13G all single hulled tankers 15 years or older will be required to undertake extra survey work under the condition assessment scheme. This means these tankers will come under more stringent and transparent verifications, reporting structural conditions of ships. CAS can be done at the tanker’s next intermediate or special survey.
Summary of Major Cases in this week’s issue of Lloyd’s Casualty Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vessel</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Flag</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>GT</th>
<th>DWT</th>
<th>Blt</th>
<th>Casualty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EURO SEA</td>
<td>general</td>
<td>VCT</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>813</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Grounded in lat 56 5N, long 11 56.1E, Mar 25. No pollution or damage. Tug on scene. Refloated Mar 26 under own power and proceeded after diver investigation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARY CHRISTINA</td>
<td>general</td>
<td>ANT</td>
<td>BV</td>
<td>2,224</td>
<td>3,155</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Had main engine problems and diverted into Brest Mar 25 to effect repairs. ETC Apr 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERSEAS CHICAGO</td>
<td>crude oil</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>AB</td>
<td>46,100</td>
<td>90,638</td>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Detained in Prince William Sound, Mar 26, after small crack found in the deck. Proceeded Mar 29 after repairs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SABRATA STAR</td>
<td>general</td>
<td>CYM</td>
<td>BV</td>
<td>5,755</td>
<td>7,443</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Hit Scheldekaai 9 while leaving berth at Antwerp Mar 24 and returned to berth. Four/five metre crack above waterline, leaking oil via ballast tank. Effecting repairs. ETA Rotterdam Apr 5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUDE 1</td>
<td>general</td>
<td>TUR</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>1,075</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>In collision with general cargo Aras-I, Mar 29. Had water ingress and was grounded by the master at Bozcuda Island to prevent sinking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN RISE I</td>
<td>general</td>
<td>KHM</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>5,405</td>
<td>8,084</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Had fire in accommodation in lat 42 11N, long 28 55E, Mar 31.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAKASAGO 2</td>
<td>lpg</td>
<td>JPN</td>
<td>NK</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>1,248</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Grounded on rocks in Higashizu, Shizuoka Prefecture, Mar 29. Starboard hull dented extensively and flooding in the hold and engine-room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X-PRESS KAVERI</td>
<td>container</td>
<td>SGP</td>
<td>NK</td>
<td>6,973</td>
<td>8,377</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Engine-room and accommodation areas extensively damage by fire, Mar 26, which started about 33 miles off Tuticorin. Extinguished by crew. Towed into Tuticorin Mar 27.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YUE HAI TIE 1</td>
<td>ro-ro</td>
<td>CHN</td>
<td>CS</td>
<td>14,381</td>
<td>5,600</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Grounded near a dock in Xuwen County, Guangdong Province, Mar 27. Docked later same day. Slightly damaged. Investigation under way. Sailed Mar 28.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List

**ADELE J. (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Mar 27 -- Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1129, UTC: At 0715, Mar 26, general cargo Adele J. (2481 gt, built 1991) experienced a machinery failure, when arriving at Solvesborg. As a result the vessel struck a quay and then aground on a sandbank, inside the port. The vessel has been holed in its ballast tank. Vessel had a pilot onboard at the time of the incident.

Malmo, Mar 30 -- General cargo Adele J. entered Solvesborg harbour at 0700, local time. Mar 26 with pilot onboard. When the vessel approached the quay, pilot ordered a back-hand order and nothing happened. The manoeuvre was made from the port bridge. The master subsequently made an emergency stop of the engine. The vessel hit the quay and drifted slowly to a sand ground. The pilot vessel pulled the vessel from the ground. Divers inspected the vessel's bottom and no leak was noted. A crack of about 1.5 m was found on the port side just under the anchor. Some damages to the quay was also noted and a new inspection will be made when there is a better visibility in the water. Vessel's class society GL boarded after repairs and gave permission for the vessel to sail until the next docking in Apr 2005. Vessel left Solvesborg at 0800, local time, Mar 27. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Salvage BV completed salvage inspections and possible back-loading operations on bulk Alexia M. early this morning, when the vessel departed from Kalundborg Fjord after completing reloading operations on bulk Alexia M. early this morning, when the vessel departed from Kalundborg Fjord. The vessel has been aground in the Danish Great Belt. Wijsmuller Salvage BV was able to do so utilising its fast Scandinavian resources, part of its worldwide network. After the lightering operation of 5,050 tons of cargo was completed this morning, three SwitzerWijsmuller tugs, Sigyn, Skuld and Switzer Market, executed the controlled refloating operation under command of the Wijsmuller Salvage B.V. salvage master and his team. Alexia M. is being moved to Kalundborg Fjord for further inspections and possible back-loading of cargo. -- Wijsmuller Salvage B.V.

**ALIDA GORTHON (Sweden)**

Montreal, Mar 30 -- Understand general cargo Alida Gorthon could complete repairs and sail around Apr 4. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**ANGLIAN EARL (Barbados)**

Falmouth, Mar 24 -- Anchor handling tug/supply Anglian Earl completed repairs and sailed Falmouth at 0900, Mar 24, for Lowestoft. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**ANIARA (Singapore)**

London, Mar 31 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1025, UTC: Today: Vehicle Aniara (45037 gt, built 1978) 24 persons on board, is on fire in lat 37 39N, long 23 47E. Crew are preparing to abandon vessel. Vessel is awaiting tug assistance. (Note -- Aniara sailed Chennai Mar 16 and subsequently passed Port Said Mar 28.)

Salvage personnel will join the vessel to further prepare it for the intended lightering operations while en-route to the site. Mobilisation of additional salvage staff, including a naval architect, the necessary tugs and equipment has been set in motion with an intended start of lightering operations of a to-be-confirmed quantity of cargo this weekend (Mar 26-27). -- Wijsmuller Salvage BV.

London, Mar 27 -- Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1150, UTC: Bulk Alexia M. is still aground. Cargo lightering operations are in progress and are expected to be completed by tomorrow evening.

London, Mar 28 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1000, UTC: Bulk Alexia M.: Vessel is still aground. Lightering of the vessel is almost finished and a refloating attempt should be made later today.

Ymuiden, Mar 28 -- Wijsmuller Salvage B.V. successfully refloated bulk Alexia M. at 1430, MET, today, which has been aground in the Danish Great Belt. Wijsmuller Salvage B.V. was able to do so utilising its fast Scandinavian resources, part of its worldwide network. After the lightering operation of 5,050 tons of cargo was completed this morning, three SwitzerWijsmuller tugs, Sigyn, Skuld and Switzer Market, executed the controlled refloating operation under command of the Wijsmuller Salvage B.V. salvage master and his team. Alexia M. is being moved to Kalundborg Fjord for further inspections and possible back-loading of cargo. -- Wijsmuller Salvage B.V.

Ymuiden, Mar 30 -- Wijsmuller Salvage B.V. completed salvage operations on bulk Alexia M. early this morning, when the vessel departed from Kalundborg Fjord after completing reloading operations late yesterday evening. Operations ended for the Wijsmuller Salvage team at around 0300, MET, this morning, with the departure of the vessel for its original destination, Amsterdam. Wijsmuller equipment and personnel are being demobilised. -- Wijsmuller Salvage B.V.

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Rotterdam, Mar 31 -- Owners and underwriters of vehicle Aniara have engaged SMIT Salvage BV, basis LOF underwriters of vehicle Aniara have engaged SMIT Salvage BV, basis LOF. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BBC SCOTLAND (Gibraltar)

Messina, Mar 25 -- General cargo BBC SCOTLAND sailed Messina Mar 17 as scheduled. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BONGGAAY 91 (Malaysia)

See "Celebes Sea" under "Piracy."

BRUNO SALAMON (Panama)

London, Mar 23 -- Following received from Ankara MSRCC, timed 1515, UTC: Bulk Bruno Salamon refloated and anchored in Ahirkapi (C) anchorage area.

BUGALED BREIZH (France)

London, Mar 25 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Marine accident experts investigating the sinking of fishing Bugaled Breizh off the English coast last year have said the accident was caused by a submarine. Five French trawlers were drowned when the vessel went down off the Lizard peninsula in January 2004. At the time, a Nato exercise was underway involving a submarine. The Dutch embassy in Paris says the Dolfijn was at least 15km away at the time of the accident. But marine accident experts, commissioned to investigate by the families of the Bugaled Breizh crew and the Guilvinec fishermen's committee, say the vessel was pulled under by a submarine. At a news conference today, they said a submarine could have caught the trawler's cable in its rudder or propeller which could have dragged down the back of the trawler. "The trawler rears up immediately and sinks from the back end very quickly," they said. "The submarine can resume its course without too much damage and furthermore the accident goes unnoticed by most of the crew." This theory has always been denied by the Sea Accident Investigation Office. The French news agency AFP reports that the experts did not have access to the wreckage of the Bugaled Breizh, which is submerged. In the meantime, official technical and judicial inquiries are being carried out into the accident. But the Brest-based experts added in their report that other explanations were technically possible, including a collision with a rock or underwater wreck or equipment failure. "While nothing can be formally proved, and nothing in the judicial file implicates any person in particular, I have the intimate conviction that the Bugaled Breizh was pulled down by a submarine," one of the experts said.

CAPRICORNUS LEADER (Panama)


CHRISTY (U.S.A.)


ARAS-I (Georgia)

See Sude 1.

ASIAN NOVA (Panama)

Sydney, Mar 30 -- Poor watch handover practices and poor lookout were pinpointed as major causes in the collision between bulk Asian Nova and fishing Sassenach off Townsville on May 29, 2003, that cost a master of the vessel, the 24 crew members are all well. The vessel was carrying cars and had departed from Alexandria bound for Piraeus. After request of the master, Search & Rescue was conducted, the vessel was reached and collected the 24 crew members. At site remain two craft, patrol boat and rescue boat of the Coast Guard, one fire fighting craft and two tugs.

ARS (Malta)


ATHOS I (Cyprus)


Atlantic Hero (Panama)

See "Brittany, France" under "Pollution."

BALTIC PRESS (Sweden)

Falmouth, Mar 29 -- Ro/ro Baltic Press: Repairs have been completed and vessel sailed Falmouth at 0900, Mar 27 for Ferrol. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ASR (Malta)

Press: Repairs have been completed and vessel arrived Rotterdam at 1655, Mar 26. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

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afternoon, a day after it was closed because of a collision between a coal barge (being towed to tug Christy) and a general cargo Star Drivanger, the Coast Guard said. Commercial vessels with a draught of 18 feet or greater must observe some minor restrictions until Star Drivanger can be refloated, said Lt. Mike Adams, the public affairs officer for the U.S. Coast Guard. Until 0400 Monday (Mar 28), traffic can only move one way around the ship, Adams said. There is no overtaking and vessels are advised to keep a safe speed between buoys 84 and 87, Adams said. Commercial vessels are advised to stop the damaged vessel because they cause a large wake as they pass. Until 1600 yesterday, commercial vessels with 18 feet draughts or larger had to request permission to move around the ship, Adams said. By Monday, the freighter should be moved, the public affairs officer said. The cause of the collision remains under investigation, said Lt. Mike Adams. The investigation will be completed, he said.

While the Coast Guard had not been able to move the vessel because they cause a large wake as they pass, until 1600 yesterday, commercial vessels with 18 feet draughts or larger had to request permission to move around the ship. Adams said. By Monday, the freighter should be moved, the public affairs officer said. The cause of the collision remains under investigation, said Lt. Mike Adams. The investigation will be completed, he said. Before the freighter can be moved, it must be patched and water pumped out so it can be refloated, Adams said. The cause of the crash is still under investigation, Adams said. No one was injured and no pollutants seeped into the water. It is unclear when the investigation will be completed, he said. While the Coast Guard had not surveyed local shipping companies, Adams said it was "fairly certain it was an inconvenience" for them. Judy Adams, the Alabama state docks spokeswoman, said the collision caused an inconvenience for the docks. Before the section reopened for commercial barges, there were four ships lined up ready to enter the port and two ready to leave, she said. When the restrictions were lifted the ships were allowed to move, the spokeswoman said. Mobile, Mar 27 -- General cargo Star Drivanger Mobile at approximately mile 0 when the tug Christy with four open hopper river barges crossed the channel in front of vessel Mar 21, a collision resulted whereupon open hopper river barge ING-1929 was holed 1‘ x 6‘ on the forward rake and began taking on water. Vessel was pushed ashore and grounded outside the channel. Cargo was lightened during Mar 21-22, and on Mar 22 the barge was taken to Delta Marine for repairs, and the tug Christy was released by Coast Guard. The Star Drivanger was holed through the outer shell and into the number 1 cargo hold. The cargo hold is now dewatered and temporary repairs in place. Cargo removal operations will commence today direct to barge. The plan is to lighten holds 1, 2 and 3, hoist the ship into the process and proceeding to berth to complete discharge. The channel was closed for two and a half days resulting in numerous vessel’s demurrage charges.

London, Mar 30 -- Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 2220, UTC: General cargo Star Drivanger was refloated am, Mar 24.

COLD SPRING HARBOR (U.S.A.)

London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated Mar 25, states: About 13,000 gallons of diesel fuel spilled from tank barge Cold Spring Harbour (1372 gt) that struck an underwater object on a pier in the Woodbridge, NJ’s, Sewaren facility section, on Mar 24. Approximately 9,000 gallons had been recovered by this evening, the U.S. Coast Guard said. No injured wildlife were reported, and the crews on the barge and a tug tested negative for alcohol use, the agency said. Cold Spring Harbor, laden with nearly a million gallons of No.2 diesel fuel, was leaving a pier at the Motiva Sewaren facility section when it struck an underwater object, puncturing the vessel below the water line, the U.S. Coast Guard said. The ship’s crew realized they had hit something, and returned to the pier, where containment and offloading efforts began, Coast Guard Petty Officer Michael Lutz said. The damaged tank held approximately 99,000 gallons of fuel. Hvzoza said most of what did spill was contained by booms placed around the accident site, along the waterway, which leads to Raritan Bay. Three environmentally sensitive waterways, the Woodbridge, Smith and Mill creeks, are being used to recover the No.2 diesel fuel spilled, Hvozda said. About 6,000 gallons of fuel had been recovered, however, an estimated 300 gallons of fuel remained on the vessel.

Cleanup was expected to be completed today.

Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact Andrew Luxton on +44 (0) 20 7017 4625.
Because Arthur Kill is tidal, McGranachan said the dissipation would occur at a faster rate.

CORNER BROOK (Bermuda)
London, Mar 23 -- Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRSC, timed 2007, UTC: General cargo Corner Brook. Tug Fairplay IX arrived on scene at 0833, UTC, today and connected tow at 1008, UTC. Tug and tow are now proceeding towards Falmouth where they are expected to pick up a surveyor. The vessel's bulkheads are now reportedly cool and it is hoped to carry out an inspection in the affected area soon to check for any signs of fire. (See issue of Mar 22.)
London, Mar 23 -- Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRSC, timed 2019, UTC: General cargo Corner Brook, Corner Brook for Tilbury, cargo 4,992 tonnes newsprint: Tug Fairplay IX connected tow at 1008, UTC, today and making seven knots with ETA Falmouth 1200, UTC, Mar 27 for inspectors to board prior to onward passage to Tilbury. Engine-room still sealed, but being ventilated, Technical advice being given by Swedish fire experts. Believe at least one metre of water in engine-room. No indication of fire. Communications maintained with Falmouth MRCC.
London, Mar 24 -- Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRSC, timed 0914, UTC: General cargo Corner Brook is still proceeding to Falmouth in tow of tug Fairplay IX. Current position lat 50 06.8N, long 18 31.2W. The vessel is continuing to vent its tanks.
London, Mar 24 -- Following received from Falmouth MRSC, timed 1747, UTC: General cargo Corner Brook remains under tow and now making direct for Tilbury, where ETA Mar 29. Berthing facilities and pilot arranged. Engine-room opened and fire confirmed extinguished.
London, Mar 24 -- Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0733, UTC: General cargo Corner Brook under tow of tug Fairplay IX, x-bow transit to Tilbury, ETA Falmouth MRSC Split, 1800, UTC. Mar 29. Position lat 49 45.9N, long 04 13.5W at 0712, UTC, today.
London, Mar 29 -- Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1837 UTC: General cargo Corner Brook is proceeding to Tilbury in tow of tug Fairplay IX. The tow intends to pick up the North-east Spit pilot at 0200, UTC, Mar 30.

DION (Marshall Islands)
See "Azores" under "Weather & Navigation."

ELANTA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

ELLING K. (Canada)
London, Mar 27 -- A press release from the United States Coast Guard, dated yesterday, states: A Coast Guard Jayhawk helicopter and crew from Air Station Sitka is currently en route to the fishing Elling K. (99 gt, built 1952) which is taking on water in Hecate Strait near the Queen Charlotte Islands in Canadian waters. The Coast Guard received a request for helicopter assistance from Canadian Officials in Victoria, British Columbia, at about 1445, today. A Canadian helicopter is on scene with the 72-foot seiner but it does not have hoist capability. The three person crew of the vessel must have to abandon ship. They are equipped with a life raft, survival suits and an electronic position indicator. The Jayhawk is expected to reach the vessel somewhere around 1830 hrs. The helicopter crew will need to stop and refuel the aircraft during the flight to the vessel's location. The distance from Sitka to the vessel's position is about 260 miles.

London, Mar 27 -- Following received from Victoria BC RCC, timed 1755, UTC: Elling K.: Crew managed to reduce size of water ingress. Vessel was safely towed into the Queen Charlotte Islands.

EMC 423 (U.S.A.)
Chicago, Mar 28 -- Tank barge EMC 423 is still on fire today, and salvage operations are continuing. About 30% of the barge's cargo has been discharged to barge EMC 506. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ENTERPRISE (Antigua & Barbuda)
Adelaide, Mar 25 -- Bulk Enterprise arrived Port Pirie Mar 23 and sailed Mar 24 for Geelong. -- Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Mar 21.)

EURO SEA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)
London, Mar 25 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1200, UTC: General cargo Euro Sea (682 gt, built 1965), Sweden for Holbaek, cargo rocks, ran aground in lat 56 05N, long 11 56.1E at 0200, UTC, today. No pollution or damage to the vessel. Vessel remains aground.
London, Mar 26 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1112, UTC: General cargo Euro Sea remains aground. Tug Danasund is in attendance, but awaiting the arrival of a vessel which will be used to lighten the Euro Sea's cargo of rocks, before any refloating attempt is undertaken.
London, Mar 27 -- Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1150, UTC: General cargo Euro Sea successfully refloated,援助 by its own power. -- Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Mar 27.)

FLECHA (Malta)
See "Crew of Maltese Vessel at Warau, Australia" under "Labour Disputes."

FLEET TRADER 1 (Hong Kong)
London, Mar 25 -- Following received from Larnaca RCC, timed 1130, UTC: Bulk Fleet Trader 1 (12908 gt, built 1982), ex Waglan Light, 20 persons onboard, had a fire on board in lat 10 35N, long 17 07E at 1215, UTC yesterday. Nineteen crew were safely rescued, one crew member killed. Dakar RCC co-ordinating rescue. (Note -- Fleet Trader 1 sailed Santa Cruz de Tenerife Mar 20 for Apapa-Lagos.)
London, Mar 25 -- Following received from Fleet Management Ltd, managers of bulk Fleet Trader 1, dated today: Vessel has not been abandoned and the fire has been extinguished. All crew are safe on board except for one casualty. Vessel is safely afloat and in no imminent danger.

London, Mar 28 -- Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0300, UTC: Bulk Fleet Trader 1 was last reported some 12 hours ago adrift awaiting the arrival of a tug.

London, Mar 28 -- Following received from Fly, managers of bulk Fleet Trader 1, dated today: Arrangements have been made for the vessel to be towed to its discharge port of Lagos.
London, Mar 29 -- Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0145, UTC: The owner of bulk Fleet Trader 1 informed the vessel will be towed pm, Apr 2.

Pireaus, Mar 29 -- Bulk Fleet Trader 1 caught fire about 240 nautical miles south of Dakar Mar 24. Tsavlis Salvage tug Lagos was despatched. Speculation approximately 1700, UTC, same day from its salvage station in Mindelo. Tsavlis offered Lloyd's Standard Form. Tug arrived at casualty's position on the afternoon of Mar 27. Fire was extinguished. The casualty, reportedly awaiting tug from elsewhere, declined assistance. -- Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

London, Mar 30 -- Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0157,
U.S. Coast Guard, when inspecting Department of Justice fined Schlussel dated Mar 25, states: The U.S. IBUKI (Antigua & Barbuda) "Earthquakes." HIGH SPIRIT (Liberia) testing of ballast lines and procedures exchange for new crews, changes to pumps and stopping the engine. The engine-room to flood, shorting oil repairs. The bureau's report found a when the engine failed and it drifted the Hay Point terminal in April, 2004, last year. Bulk Harmonic Progress was Barrier Reef, in far north Queensland, recommended changes to procedures HARMONIC PROGRESS (Panama) Said for Gijon. depart from Jeddah port. this cleaning operation the vessel will discharge of these containers and the understood that the Saudi Authorities Jeddah port on Mar 14 and it is Bulk Fleet Trader 1: A tug arrived on scene and started towing at 1912, UTC, Mar 28. A second tug, with slow speed, will arrive Apr 2. GABRIELLE (Antigua & Barbuda) London, Mar 24 -- Part c.c. Gabrielle and Mar 19 Miami, Mar 29 -- Part c.c. Gabrielle has completed repairs and been approved by Class. The vessel returned to service at 1615 today and will sail for St. Maartin on Mar 31. -- Lloyd's Agents. GANT VISION (Malta) Cadiz, Mar 29 -- Bulk Gant Vision sailed from Cadiz on Mar 23, heading to Algeciras Port. -- Lloyd's Agents. GLORY BRIDGE (Liberia) London, Mar 29 -- It is understood that c.c. Glory Bridge was carrying two containers containing the chemical stearic acid. The vessel's master reported a leakage of the chemical, while approaching the Suez Canal. The vessel was brought to Jeddah port on Mar 14 and it is understood that Saudi authorities have given permission for the discharge of these containers and the cleaning of the vessel's hatch. After this cleaning operation the vessel will depart from Jeddah port. GREAT POLARIS (South Korea) London, Mar 30 -- Bulk Great Polaris passed Cape Finisterre Mar 28, Port Said for Gijon. HARMONIC PROGRESS (Panama) London, Mar 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Australian Transport Safety Bureau has recommended changes to procedures after a shipping incident on the Great Barrier Reef, in far north Queensland, last year. Bulk Harmonic Progress was on its way from Japan to load coal at the coal terminal in April, 2005, when the engine failed and it drifted towards the reef. There was no pollution or damage to the reef. The vessel was towed to Gladstone for repairs. The bureau's report found a leak in the main ballast line caused the engine-room to flood, shorting oil pumps and stopping the engine. The report has recommended improvements to information exchange for new crews, changes to ballast operation procedures, regular testing of ballast lines and procedures to deal with engine-room flooding. HIGH SPIRIT (Liberia) See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes." HOWARD OLSEN (U.S.A.) See Millinoma. IBUKI (Antigua & Barbuda) London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated Mar 25, states: The U.S. Department of Justice fined Schussel Reeder KG $750,000 for maintaining irregular records of its discharges. The U.S. Coast Guard, when inspecting Schussel's c.c. Ibuki at Honolulu port, was given a false oil record book. The company later admitted that its crew violated federal laws by failing to record all of its unprocessed oily bilge wastes. "This result demonstrates our clear resolve to uphold the laws designed to protect our special environment," said Edward Kubo Jr., U.S. district attorney. One-third of the fine amount will be used for funding projects that preserve and/or restore Hawaii's coastlines. The money will be dispersed through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Also, Schussel was asked to hire an independent monitor to develop and implement an environmental management system that would prevent violations in the future. INDEPENDENCE (U.S.A.) London, Mar 24 -- Following received from Coast Guard J uneau, timed 1605, UTC: Fish testing Independence is currently in tow of tug Chuhunta bound Cape Spencer, ETA 0600, UTC, Mar 25. London, Mar 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Coast Guard cutter towing disabled fish factory Independence turned the vessel over to a tug yesterday for the rest of the trip to a safe harbour. The tug reached the Independence about 1045, yesterday, and took over towing the vessel to Cape Spencer and J uneau, the Coast Guard said. The vessels are expected to arrive in Cape Spencer tomorrow before continuing about 80 miles east to J uneau, according to the Coast Guard. London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated Mar 25, states: An on-board inspection today means fish factory Independence can head home. U.S. Coast Guard officials say they boarded Independence in Hoonaht. Officials say they inspected the ship's rudder, but they are not releasing details of the inspection. They say the crew of the ship is in good spirits. Independence will be towed back to Everett, Wash, and is expected to leave shortly. INFINITY (Bahamas) London, Mar 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Celebrity Cruises is canceling one cruise on passenger Infinity (90228 gt, built 2001) to replace the starboard thrust bearing in the ship's propulsion system. The ship must enter dry dock to replace the bearing, which will result in the cancellation of its Mar 27 sailing. The ship is expected to return to its scheduled sailings on Apr 6. The canceled sailing, scheduled to depart this Sunday, is a 10-night cruise from Ensenada to Honolulu. Infinity is currently sailing a 14-night trans-Canal cruise that will end in San Diego, Sunday, as scheduled. Guests booked on the canceled sailing will receive a full refund and free Celebrity cruise of 10 nights less, departing on or before Mar 27, 2006, excluding holiday and Celebrity Xpedition sailings. Travel agents will receive full commissions for the canceled sailing, plus a $50 rebooking fee per stateroom when their clients reschedule their cruise. Dan Hanrahan, president of Celebrity Cruises, said, "The damage to the hull is relatively slight compared to what you would expect." The $4.5 million ship, built on San Pedro's waterfront from 2000 to 2003, will be hoisted out of the water today to repair the hull, said. It will then be taken to a shipyard in Ventura Harbour, where a more complete survey of needed repairs can be made. "There's a lot of
cosmetic damage to deck structures and things of that sort, but as far as structural damage is concerned, there's remarkably little damage to the operational parts of the vessel," he said. "Depending on the ship's condition, the repairs could be done at the Rotterdam shipyard or in San Pedro if the ship is sturdy enough to be brought home, Gladson said. The institute will seek bids for the repairs. A major concern is how soon the vessel will be able to rejoin the four-vessel TopSail fleet.

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JACKIE MOON (Antigua & Barbuda)
London, Mar 28 -- A press report, dated Mar 24, states: General cargo Jackie Moon with six crew on board ran aground near Dunoon pier when the chief officer fell asleep because of alcohol and fatigue, according to a report from the Marine Accident Investigation Branch. Mikola Necheperenko, whose father had just died, was estimated to have drunk half a litre of brandy when Jackie Moon hit the rocks Sep 1, last year. When he awoke almost nine hours after the incident, he was still under the legal limit. The vessel was on its way from Dundalk to Glasgow to pick up scrap metal when it hit the rocks. The previous morning he had been told in a phone call that his father had died in Ukraine. He and the other five crew followed the tradition of toasting the life of his father with a drink. Necheperenko was fined £500 at Dunoon Sheriff Court and, when he could not pay the fine, was jailed for 14 days.

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JM 2 (North Korea)

KAIWO MARU (Japan)
SEE "Typhoon Tokage" under "Weather & Navigation."

KATERINA (Malta)
SEE under "Pollution."

KYROS (Cook Islands)
Trondheim, Mar 30 -- Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra, inform that general cargo Kyros is scheduled to leave yard this evening. -- Lloyd's Agents.

LIFANA (Netherlands)
London, Mar 31 -- General cargo Lifana arrived Gdansk Mar 28 from Rotterdam.

MAERSK ROSYTH (U.K.)
London, Mar 26 -- Product tanker Maersk Rosyth departed from Rotterdam at 0220 hrs, Mar 25, bound for Esbjerg.
London, Mar 28 -- Product tanker Maersk Rosyth arrived Antwerp at 2256, Mar 26 from Rotterdam and sailed at 0148, Mar 28 for Port Jerome.

MANTENNA (Portugal)
London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated Mar 25, states: The Coast Guard says the steering failed on the ship (general cargo Mantenha) that ran aground near Newport last month. Lieutenant Colonel Thompson blames a lack of maintenance on the vessel's steering equipment. The vessel was fined $5,000 for the incident, the maximum allowed.

MARITIME ANTALYA (Panama)
London, Mar 24 -- Following received from Japan Coast Guard, time 1340 UTC, today, Antalya in lat 41 39.0N, long 141 16.0E at 1100, UTC, today. Vessel is proceeding to Niigata escorted by a Japese Coast Guard patrol vessel and tug.

MARITIME WISDOM (Singapore)
Mumbai, Mar 23 -- Bulk Maritime Wisdom and barge Prapati were in collision at Panjim. Extent of oil spill to be estimated. Clean-up operations going on. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: India's Coast Guard was today fighting to contain 110 tonnes of fuel that leaked into the sea off Goa after a barge collided with bulk Maritime Wisdom before dawn. Though there were no casualties in the accident that happened at 0100 hrs about four nautical miles off the famed Candolim-Sinquerim beach, officials and experts said the oil slick would badly impact the environment. An official said slick, spread over an area of the 3.3 by 1.2 nautical miles, was breaking into two or three patches. It moved some eight miles south in 16 hours, heading towards Cabo De Rama, one of Goa's southernmost beaches just north of the border with Karnataka state. The slick was caused when the barge Practi (also reported as Prapati), belonging to the family of a local politician, ran into Maritime Wisdom, which had been loading iron ore since Mar 16 to be taken to China. Officials said the accident occurred when the barge was coming alongside the tanker. While manoeuvring, it banged into the side of the tanker where the fuel tanks are located. U. J. Joshi, chairman of Goa Pollution Control Board, said the leaking tanker had transferred the oil from its tanks to another one on board, but a large amount had spilled into the sea by then. Both vessels were heading towards Goa. The slick, about 25 km from the shoreline, had moved nearly 10 km south, past the Margao Port Trust, officials said. Goa's chief secretary, K. M. Dhingra said the polluted water area will remain in force for at least 40 hours or until the slick was contained or dispersed "We are sharing information and also getting feedback from the different monitoring bodies in Goa on an hourly basis " she said. Apart from the danger to fish and fishermen, who were yesterday ordered to stay clear of the area, the slick could affect plankton, oysters and mussels in the area. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Mumbai, Mar 24 -- A local press report states: Thirty-six hours after it launched intense measures to neutralise the oil spill off the coast of Goa, the Coast Guard said the worst was over and the oil is unlikely to touch the coastline, either in Goa or in Karnataka. The oil, a mile long oil slick has broken down into small patches. At 1700, local time, on Thursday (Mar 24) it was still within Goa waters, nine miles south of Grande Island and travelling in a southerly direction. "We don't expect any pollution to hit the tourist beaches here. Over 100 metric tons of oil spilled out of bulk Maritime Wisdom after its tanks were ruptured in a collision with barge Prapati on Wednesday (Mar 23). "A caution issued to the tourist coast on Wednesday has also remained in force," coast guard official said. "Everything is back to normal and we don't expect any pollution to hit the beaches," said Tourism Director Elvis Gomes. The Coast Guard has done a tremendous job of cleaning up the spilled oil under control," said Tourism Director Elvis Gomes. Three offshore patrol vessels assisted by aircraft sorties spraying dispersants managed to
break down the major portion of the slick by Thursday afternoon. The Coast Guard chief sees little chance of the tar balls being washed to shore or causing any major environmental concerns. The level of pollution is negligible at this point, and there is very little perception," said Goa's Captain of Ports A. P. Mascalenas. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**MARTINA M (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Tunis, Mar 28 -- Captain Ermanno Martina M is still aground in the same position. First attempts for refloating will be held on Apr 2. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**MARIN H (Netherlands Antilles)**

London, Mar 26 -- Following received from Corsen MRCC, timed 1056, UTC: General cargo Mary Cristina (2224 gt, built 1997) experienced main engine problems yesterday and diverted into Brest, to effect repairs. (Note -- Mary Cristina is on a reported passage of Porsgrunn for Norderney) today through Dover Straits, in a westerly direction, on Mar 22.)

Brest, Mar 30 -- Following main engine problems general cargo Mary Cristina diverted into Brest, arriving under its own power, on Mar 25. The vessel is still at Brest effecting repairs, completion of which are expected in two to three days. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**MATIAS FERAUSQUIN**

Buenos Aires, Mar 28 -- Russian Matias F.Ferausquin is still lying sunk in lat 35 45 03.9S, long 59 14 35.5W. An inspection carried out on Mar 24 determined that the vessel can be refloated, but no salvage operations have commenced as yet. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**MILLICOMA (U.S.A.)**

London, Mar 22 -- A Coast Guard Seaview, Wash, press release, dated today, states: Salvage crews are making final preparations to offload and refloat bergant holy tank barge Millicoma from its grounded position in a rocky cove near North Head Lighthouse. Tow will begin across the river to Astoria, Oregon, for damage assessment by the Coast Guard and owner Sause Bros. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**MARTINA M (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Tunis, Mar 28 -- General cargo Martina M is still aground in the same position. First attempts for refloating will be held on Apr 2. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**MARC CHRETIEN**

(London, Mar 23 -- Press report, dated Mar 22, states: Maritime salvage crews and fuel-spill response teams from the U.S. Coast Guard and owner Sause Bros. were dispatched to the scene and are ready to try to contain a fuel spill if the barge breaks up, and state ecology experts worry that thousands of gallons of diesel fuel could spill in an area known for razor clam beds and other wildlife habitat. The diesel, used to power a generator on board the vessel, is stored in a double-hulled, 5,000-gallon tank. It was unclear yesterday how much fuel was in the barge's tank, but spill experts did not think any had leaked. The fuel barge's massive storage tanks are empty, and thus not a threat to the ecological environment should the vessel experience a major rupture, said Sam Sacco, a spokesman for Foss Maritime Co of Seattle, which is helping to plan the salvage mission. The barge is used to carry diesel or other refined petroleum products, Sacco said. Surf washed over the stern of the vessel yesterday, and the barge was the most stable, and stayed against the side of the barge yesterday as it lay against the rocks near North Head lighthouse, just north of Cape Disappointment State Park. The barge snapped loose from a towline late Saturday as it was being towed from Coos Bay to Portland for repairs, Sacco said. It was one of two barges being pulled by the Foss-owned tug Howard Olsen, said. The tug crew searched for the missing barge but was unable to locate it in the dark, Sacco said. Spotters in an aircraft spotted the barge on Sunday morning (Mar 20) wedged in a small cove just below the North Head lighthouse. Workers from Foss salvage crews and fuel-spill response teams from Foss, Sause Bros, the Coast Guard and the state Department of Ecology were dispatched to the scene and are ready to try to contain a fuel spill if the barge breaks up, Sacco said. High seas kept salvage crews from approaching the barge by boat on Sunday, and officials devised a plan yesterday to ferry the four-member salvage team to the barge by helicopter. The team flew in during the afternoon, and officials decided when the barge was the most stable, and stayed up until dark making notes, Sacco said. The first order of business today, or when the barge is righted, will be removing the diesel from the generator storage tank, he said. That might entail pumping the fuel into small drums and lifting them off the barge by helicopter. The team then decided the best way to refloat the barge and tow it out of the narrow and shallow cove, Sacco said.
UTC: Tank barge Millicoma has been said. Sitka was brought safely to empty and headed for dry dock, Sacco the dangerous Columbia River bar in tug Howard Olsen moved them across cable snapped late Saturday as the with the barge Sitka when its towing state Department of Ecology. the vessel, Sacco said. Five of the 15 empty fuel tanks damaged when the helped create buoyant “bubbles” in Portland-based Fred Devine Diving & was prepared by crews from Coos Bay, lights and electrical system during the fuel was needed to power the barge’s generators. Plans to remove the diesel unplanned three-day stay, stuck Astoria dock, following the vessel’s problems with the barge.” He said rough weather on Saturday night (Mar owns the vessel that lost the barge in extent of damage. “We have inspectors even worth repairing, due to the they are now wondering if the barge is dry dock in Portland soon. However, to assess Millicoma to Portland tomorrow morning. The barge is scheduled to leave its Pier 2 mooring in Astoria at about 0800 hrs, for the 100-mile journey up the Columbia River to Portland. Once there, Naavojo will conduct the tow with tug Betsy L., assisting. Both tugs were involved in the salvage operation that freed the barge from a rocky cove near North Head last week. Naavojo and its tow will travel at a speed of about three knots. Sause Bros officials expect the trip to take about 30-36 hours. Upon arrival in Portland, the barge will be moored at the Fred Devine Diving & Salvage dock. Fred Devine is the company that led the salvage operation for the barge Millicoma. Air blowers, placed on the barge during the salvage, will continue to pump air into cargo tanks below deck during the salvage. This will help to ensure barge stability. Three salvage experts will also be onboard the barge, including a barge master from Sause Bros and two crew specialists from Fred Devine. Over the weekend, Sause Bros and the salvage company conducted a damage assessment and made temporary repairs to enhance the barge’s stability for the trip to Portland. Repairs were made to the No.4 starboard and centre ballast tanks, as well as other portions of Millicoma. Once moored at its Portland dock, Sause Bros will continue to assess Millicoma to determine the next steps needed to fully repair the barge.

MSC AL AMINE (Morocco) Tunis, Mar 23 -- General cargo MSC Al Amin arrived at dock CMR, (Tunisia) pending final decision regarding repairs. According to our surveyor, repairs will last at least three or four months. -- Lloyd’s Agents.

NAN HUA (China) See “Hong Kong” under “Weather & Navigation.”

NEW FERRY LXXXIII (Hong Kong) See “Hong Kong” under “Weather & Navigation.”


ORIENTAL HIGHWAY (Liberia) London, Mar 23 -- Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1605, UTC: Vehicle Oriental Highway (8060 gt, built 1980) was towed into Gijon today following further problems 20 miles north of Gijon last night. Vessel is currently with pilot, awaiting berth.
crack to halt its spread, said Anil Mathur, president of Alaska Tanker Co. The tanker was prescheduled for refit and upgrade. The vessel is headed to a refinery at Long Beach, Calif.

OVERSEAS WASHINGTON (U.S.A.)
London, Mar 25 -- The master of crude oil tanker Overseas Washington (46100 gt, built 1978) is getting credit for using good sense after the vessel lost engine power near Prince William Sound for using good sense after the vessel lost engine power. The master reported that they were offshore from Valdez and an oncoming ship carrying 900,000 barrels of crude. The tanker then briefly lost engine power. The vessel regained engine power after about 20 minutes and the tanker traveled under its own steam to a safe place. Tugs, including at least one that was a US Navy cutter, came to help. However, they were not needed and the Overseas Washington made its way to Knowles Head, a spot inside the Sound where tugs were often docked. A variety of engine and electrical specialists went aboard the tanker and concluded the problems were due to human error. In operating a manual steam throttle valve in the engine-room, said Anil Mathur, president of Alaska Tanker Co., the Beaverton, Ore., firm which operates the vessel, the best way forward is to take Pacific Sky out of service so that a full repair can be made.
mortuary. Fire fighters, made up of firemen from the Ghana National Fire Service, Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA) and Volta Aluminium Company (VACLO) are still working around the clock to retrieve the remaining 13 bodies including those of expatriates. Meanwhile, the TOR stated that there was no cause for alarm because the Bulk Oil Storage Company (BOST) had stocks of fuel that could last for the three weeks while "TOR itself has a quantity that would take us for some time". Mrs Aba Lokko, Public Affairs Manager, said to prevent further disaster TOR had cut lines to the disaster area and would be on the guard. She denied the allegation that TOR contributed to the cause of the fire because it failed to work on its leaking pipelines, which spilled oil onto the surface of the sea that came into contact with naked fire from Polaris that caught fire in dry dock. She also said, "we got the accident around 1030 hours, destroyed the vessel, Volta Aluminium Company (VACLO) conveyor belt, TOR pumping station and the Volta River Authority (VRA) pumping house. The Kiku Cold Store and Dolphin Shipping Company office close to the conveyor belts also burned down. The fire took about eight hours to be controlled. Security Personnel made up of the Police, the Navy and Firemen have been place on guard. London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters today recovered 10 more bodies from fishing vessel Polaris that caught fire in dry dock in Tema yesterday. It brings to 14, the number of bodies recovered so far. Ghana News Agency reported. The vessel had been undergoing maintenance work at the dry dock for the past few months, and is now counting losses of at least $3 million. The Managing Director of the state-owned Tema Oil Refinery, Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority and National Disaster Management Organisation were today still searching for bodies. The fire affected the seawater-pumping house which serves as a coolant for Ghana's only Fluidised Catalytic Cracking (RFCC) Unit to produce gasoline and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). Flares were set off by all the emergency services. Dr Kofi Kodua Sarpong, Managing Director of TOR told reporters at a Press briefing at TOR that efforts are underway to restore the situation to normalcy as well as inform the public about the disaster and arrangements are in place to avert a possible fuel crisis. A venture of this nature would require enough funds from both government and Ghanaians. He was answering questions from newsmen as to whether the nation has enough fuel in stock, at a news conference held at Tema on the fire outbreak at the PSC Tema Shipyard, which has for now claimed 15 lives and engrufed Togolese registered vessel Polaris and other vital national installations, rendering them unuseable. The conference, which was addressed by Professor Christopher Ameyaw-Akumfi was to inform the public about the disaster, the situation to normalcy as well as inform the public about the disaster and efforts being made to bring situations to normalcy as well as announce names of the persons who have been trapped in the ship. He said the Residual Fluidised Catalytic Cracking (RFCC) Unit, which has for now claimed 15 lives, was addressed by Professor Christopher Ameyaw-Akumfi was to announce names of the committee meant to look into the cause and find solutions. Prof. Ocquaye said Officials of Tema Oil Refinery (TOR) have met with experts to inspect the damaged facilities and offer advice as to whether they could be repaired or relocated, adding that work has already started to clear the debris in the area. Installations were restored as well as the TOR pumping station and pipeline, VALCO conveyor belt, VRA pumping house and other adjoining companies—the Tema Oil Refinery, Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority and all the National Fire Service have not given up hope because they would continue today to get to the bottom of the vessel to make sure that all bodies have been retrieved. The bodies have brought the number to 13, remaining four more. Luck was on the side of two survivors who had come from the vessel to drink water. Meanwhile, officials of the Tema Oil Refinery (TOR) have assured the nation of normal supply of fuel products because they have their own Strategic Fuel Reserve that could last for a longer period to serve consumers in times of fuel crisis. A venture of this nature would require enough funds from both government and Ghanaians.

London, Mar 28 -- A press report, dated Mar 27, states: A dead body floating on the water near the burnt fishing vessel Polaris was retrieved today at PSC Tema Ship Yard at Tema and dispatched to the 37 Military Hospital. It was alleged that he jumped into the water from the vessel on the onset of the fire, apparently to swim to safety. It brings to 14, the number of bodies so far recovered, the other 13 were, however, charred beyond recognition. Efforts are still underway by firemen to pump water and debris from the vessel in the attempt to recover bodies that may have been trapped due to fire. London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated Mar 28, states: Professor Mike Ocquaye, Minister of Energy, today stated that the nation needs a Strategic Fuel Reserve that could last for a longer period to serve consumers in time of fuel crisis. A venture of this nature would require enough funds from both government and Ghanaians.
was subsequently reported passing Dover Straits Mar 24 in a westerly direction, bound for Puerto Ordaz.)

PORTVENIR I (Chile) Santiago, Mar 30 -- Ro-ro PortVenir I is still at the Asmar shipyard, and repairs are expected to be completed towards the middle of April. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PRAPATI (India) See Maritime Wisdom.

RED POINT (Italy) Rio de Janeiro, Mar 31 -- Chemical/oil carrier Red Point arrived at Enavi. Repair Yard on Mar 13. Repairs are still in progress and the vessel currently has an ETD of Apr 6. -- Lloyd's Agents.

RICKMERS GENOA (Marshall Islands) London, Mar 31 -- Following received from the managers of general cargo Rickmers Genoa, dated today: Cleaning of vessel's No 1 hold is currently under way in Shanghai Roads. When this operation is complete, vessel will be berthed at Shanghai, prior to proceeding to a shipyard for repairs.

RIDER (NIS) See "Crew of Finland-Germany Ferry Service" under "Labour Disputes."


RUNNER (NIS) See "Crew of Finland-Germany Ferry Service" under "Labour Disputes."

RYU GYONG (North Korea) See "Cargo Dispute, Chittagong, Bangladesh" under "Miscellaneous."

SABRATA STAR (Cayman Islands) Maassluis, Mar 24 -- General cargo Sabrata Star (ex-22787) hit Scheldekai 9 while leaving the berth at Antwerp at 1700, local time, today, and returned to berth. Vessel has crack above the waterline and is leaking oil via ballast tank, the crack is about four-to-five metres long. Trip to Rotterdam cancelled until further notice. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note -- Sabrata Star arrived Antwerp Mar 21 from Taranto.)

Maassluis, Mar 29 -- General cargo Sabrata Star is currently under repair in Antwerp. After the repairs, the vessel is expected in Rotterdam and currently has an ETA of Apr 5. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

SASSENACH (Australia) See Asian Nova.

SEA CLOUD (Antigua & Barbuda) Ymuiden, Mar 26 -- Wijsmuller Salvage B.V. and Resolve Marine Group were awarded the salvage contract to refloat the grounded c.c. Sea Cloud (8633 gt, built 1996) off St. Croix, just east-south-east of Puerto Rico. The vessel grounded reportedly on reefs a few miles off the port. Salvage team Resolve and Wijsmuller are being mobilised in. -- Wijsmuller Salvage B.V.

London, Mar 27 -- Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1730, UTC: C.c. Sea Cloud ran aground yesterday morning. Vessel is still aground. No pollution. Vessel grounded on a reef but not in immediate danger. London, Mar 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: C.c. Sea Cloud, carrying dry goods remained grounded yesterday after suffering minor damage off St. Croix's south coast, the U.S. Coast Guard said. The vessel had dozens of cargo containers aboard and 335,000 gallons of diesel fuel in its five gas tanks, said Lt. Eric Willis, a Coast Guard spokesman. No injuries were reported after the vessel careened into the reef near Puerto Rico on Sunday evening. Willis said the Coast Guard was assessing how to remove the vessel without damaging the hull and leaking any fuel, he said. "With much fuel aboard, it had to be a joint effort together a removal plan that does not put the boat in jeopardy to minimise the risk for any contamination or further damage to the reef," Willis said. The fuel tanks at the back of the vessel remained afloat while the bow was grounded, so it was unlikely any fuel would leak, he said. It was unclear why the vessel struck the reef, but mechanical failure did not appear to be the cause of the accident, Willis said. The man piloting the vessel passed a Breathalyser test administered by Coast Guard officials, he said. Late yesterday, the master unsuccessfully attempted to shift weight aboard the vessel to free the bow from the reef, officials said. The vessel's destination was St. Croix but its registration and last port of call were not clear.

London, Mar 27 -- A Coast Guard St. Croix press release, dated today, states: Less than a half-mile west of the channel entrance to Krause Lagoon c.c. Sea Cloud remains hard aground in the amidships area after a failed attempt to enter the channel yesterday morning. A Coast Guard team from St. Croix immediately responded to the incident and was assisted by a second team from San Juan, PR. The Coast Guard and local authorities along with the salvage company and environmental response contractor hired by the responsible party are working together to remove the vessel while minimizing the risk of pollution and damage to the surrounding environment. Sea Cloud is carrying a cargo of non-hazardous dry goods loading coils; however the ships fuel tanks contain more than 335,000 gallons of various fuel oils posing the greatest potential environmental risks. Divers hired by the responsible party reported no significant damage to the ships hull. The fuel tanks of major concern are located at the rear of the ship. This section is reported to be free floating. See Maritime Wisdom.
and the tanks are currently not in danger of leaking. The entrance to Krause Lagoon is not blocked and commercial traffic continues to travel through the channel. The cause of the accident is still under investigation, but a mechanical failure does not appear to have contributed to the grounding. Alcohol testing of the bridge crew is standard procedure and was determined to not be a factor in this case. Commander Elmer Emeric, Commanding Officer of Sector San Juan Prevention Operations augmented the Coast Guard Office in St. Croix. The team will provide ongoing responsible party plans to safely refloat the ship while minimising the potential environmental impact. The responsible party is working in full cooperation with the Coasty Guard, territorial agencies and natural resource trustees to address the same environmental issues of concern. We have time to ensure that any work performed to remove the vessel is done carefully with maximum consideration given to minimising all risk said Commander Emeric.

London, Mar 29 -- Following received from Coast Guard San Juan, timed 1505, UTC: C.c. Sea Cloud was refloated this morning. The vessel is currently safely moored, undergoing an inspection.

Ymuiden, Mar 29 -- Wijsmuller Salvage BV and Resolve Marine Group successfully refloated grounded c.c. Sea Cloud earlier today. In close cooperation between owners, underwriters and the US Coast Guard, the salvors on-site, with assistance from specialist staff at their head office in The Netherlands and the USA, set up a salvage plan which was accepted by the US Coast Guard on Mar 28. The plan consisted of weight/buoyancy adjustment techniques, the transfer of fuel to less vulnerable locations and the use of tugs and special towage connections in order to prevent damage to the coral around the casualty during salvage operations. Consisting of Wijsmuller/Resolve teams, flown in from the USA and The Netherlands, had prepared all for one controlled refloating attempt during high water overnight, Mar 28-29. Operations were aimed to be concentrated on refloating close to daylight for better control. The vessel was refloated at 0545, local time, today by tugs Triton, Yaguar and Courageous. The vessel was subsequently manoeuvred alongside the berth at 0730, local time, after the necessary safety checks had been carried out and the condition of the vessel was stabilised. -- Wijsmuller Salvage BV.

London, Mar 30 -- Salvage services rendered to c.c. Sea Cloud by Wijsmuller Salvage BV and Resolve Salvage Ltd under LOF 2000. Vessel was successfully refloated yesterday morning.

SELENDANG AYU (Malaysia)

Seattle, Mar 30 -- According to a press report dated today, Captain Singh, the master of bulk Selendang Ayu, is to plead guilty today in US District Court at Anchorage, to one charge of making a false statement to the NTSB. This charge stems from a two-hour discrepancy in the time stated in which the vessel’s engines were shut down after the accident. The clean-up costs are reported to exceed $24 million at this point, with the clean-up unfinished. Discussions are continuing regarding removing the vessel, one half of which is now completely submerged. -- Lloyd’s Agents.

Anchorage, Mar 31 -- The captain of bulk Selendang Ayu that broke apart in December and created Alaska’s worst oil spill since the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster pleaded guilty yesterday of lying to federal investigators. Kailash Bhushan Singh entered his plea in US District Court in Anchorage, where Judge Ralph Beene pronounced the settlement deal that the captain had reached with federal prosecutors. In exchange for his plea, Singh will serve three years of probation and cooperate with the probe of the wreck of the Malaysian-flagged Selendang Ayu. Singh admitted to falsifying the ship log and deliberately reporting an inaccurate time for the engine shutdown that eventually led to the vessel’s grounding. Some critics say the wreck might have been averted if he had called for help earlier. “I accept the misstatements that were made and I sincerely apologise,” Singh, an Indian citizen, told personnel. Singh’s attorney, Michael Chalos, characterized the false statement as an isolated lapse in an otherwise spotless maritime career. “I don’t know if it was borne out of the fact that he was in shock, he was hypothermic, he had just seen six of his crew members go down,” Chalos said. -- Reuters.

SEVERN FISHER (Gibraltar)

Belfast, Mar 24 -- Product tanker Severn Fisher was refloated after grounding at Belfast. The vessel is expected to complete repairs and sail Mar 26. -- Lloyd’s Agents.

Belfast, Mar 30 -- Product tanker Severn Fisher is still in Belfast port. Repairs are now reported to be completed. Understand that the vessel will be undergoing dock trials tomorrow and then sea trials on Friday, Apr 1. Severn Fisher is then scheduled to sail around midday Friday. -- Lloyd’s Agents.

SOUKASTAR (Lebanon)


Istanbul, Mar 30 -- General cargo Souhastar completed necessary repairs by own means and upon inspection confirmed clear of pollution. Vessel is underway from Canakkale at 2145, local time, Mar 28. -- Lloyd’s Agents.

STA.ELENA (Philippines)

Manila, Mar 28 -- The Philippine Coast Guard reported today that the Philippine-registered passenger Sta.Elena (200 gt) encountered steering problems, broke off Balanac Pier in Marinduque island in central Philippines at 1330, yesterday. The vessel with 220 passengers has originated from Balanac Pier in Marinduque and was sailing for Dalahican Port in Lucena City when its steering mechanism failed. The vessel was taken in tow by another passenger ferry Maria Sofia which was in the vicinity when the accident occurred. The Coast Guard of Sta.Elena is being towed to Dalahican Port, The Sta.Elena is owned by Manila-based Sta. Elena Shipping Lines. -- Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

STAR DRIVANGER (Singapore)

See Christy.

STEEL QUEEN (Netherlands)

London, Mar 23 -- Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1105, UTC: General cargo Steel Queen remains aground outside Oxelosund.

London, Mar 24 -- Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 0942, UTC: General cargo Steel Queen is still aground.

London, Mar 28 -- Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1245, UTC: General cargo Steel Queen was refloated Mar 26 and is alongside at Oxelosund.

Stockholm, Mar 30 -- General cargo Steel Queen is presently discharging at Oxelosund, ETD at 2000, today. Vessel will then be towed to Gdynia for repairs. -- Lloyd’s Agents.

London, Mar 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Multtraship Sabo successesully refloated Dutch general cargo Steel Queen, loaded with 3157 tons of steel coils, grounded on a rocky shoal outside the port of Oxelosund in Sweden on Tuesday (Mar 22). Multtraship immediately sent a salvage team to the site, including a salvage master and a diving team and two tugs, amongst which the Multtraship tug Barracuda. Also a barge and a crane were mobilised to discharge part of the cargo of steel coils. Upon arrival on the stranding place, the salvage team carried out a diving inspection, after which was found that the vessel had propeller damage, damage to its keel plates in four ballast tanks. 1080 tons of steel coils were discharged in the barge alongside, during which the damaged ballast tanks were kept under air pressure. Here after the vessel was refloated by the Dutch early Saturday morning (Mar 26). Steel Queen was subsequently towed to Oxelosund, where another diving inspection took place. After total

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discharging the vessel will be towed by Barracuda to Gdynia where the damage will be repaired.

**SUDE 1 (Turkey)**

Istanbul, Mar 29 -- General cargo Sude 1 (578 gt, built 1964), Theodosia to Constantza today, was in collision with general cargo Aras-1 (2457 gt, built 1973) Nemrut for Rostov, in ballast, in the Dardanelles, at 0330, local time, today. Sude 1 is grounded at the eastern end of the ars-1 is presently anchored at Karakilic port. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Sude 1, Ukraine for Aliaga, cargo 1,010 tons of clay, collided with general cargo Aras-1, from Nenrut, in ballast, off Bozcaada island the search and rescue coordination centre of the Maritime Undersecretariat said today. The centre said water leaked into Sude 1, so the master had run aground 300 metres south of Bozcaada harbour to prevent it from sinking. The centre noted that Aras-1 anchored at Karakilic port.

**SUN RISE I (Cambodia)**

London, Mar 31 -- Following received from MRSCC Ankara, timed 1328, UTC: At 1130, UTC, today, general cargo Sun Rise I (5405 gt, built 1975), XUUSB, proceeding to Nikolayev, reported a fire in its accommodation area, when in lat 42 13N, long 28 55E. Vessel has since reported that no assistance is required. Vessel has 19 persons on board.

**SVEAFJELL (Norway)**

Trondheim, Mar 30 -- There has been no change in the situation of general cargo Sveafje. The vessel is still at Kvernhusvik Shipyard. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**SVEN OLTMAN (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Hamburg, Mar 27 -- C.C. Believer ex Sven Oltmann sailed Hamburg Mar 26 for Gdansk. (See issue of Mar 10.)

**SWING (Netherlands)**

Maassluis, Mar 28 -- General cargo Swing sailed Rotterdam at 2100, Mar 26 for Soderhamn. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**TAKASAGO 2 (Japan)**

London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Lpg Takasago 2 ran aground off Izu Peninsula in the predawn hours of today after the navigator at the time fell asleep, the local office of the Japanese Coast Guard (JCG) said. Captain Takaji Noda and his eight-member crew were not injured in the accident. The 700-ton liquefied petroleum gas tanker was carrying its fuel oil did not leak from the vessel. "I had dozed off at the time," the navigator who was on duty as telling JCG officers during questioning. Moreover, the vessel was cruising off course at the time. The JCG's Shimoda Coast Guard Office is investigating the exact cause of the accident. At around 0200 hrs., the vessel owned by the Matsuyama-based Takasago Kaiun Sangyo Co. Ltd. ran aground on the beach in the Okawa district of Higahizhuro, JCG officials said. The bottom of the front part of the vessel was cracked and seawater leaked into one of its storage spaces. The sea was calm when the tanker ran aground. The vessel was on its way to Shimizu in Shizuoka Prefecture before dawn this morning. No injuries have been reported among the vessel's nine crewmembers. The starboard hull was extensively damaged with seawater flowing into the vessel. The nine crewmembers are all safe and several have already been rescued with no leakage of oil and other materials reported. The ship, carrying 700 tons of propane gas, left Negishi port, Yokohama, yesterday and was on its way to Shimizu port in Shizuoka. According to the local office of Japanese Coast Guard, the navigator on duty has admitted to being asleep at the time of the accident. A study is being conducted to find out whether a tug can pull the tanker from the rocks.

**TOM T. (Saö Tome & Principe)**

Bucharest, Mar 28 -- General cargo Tom T. sailed Midia Mar 26 for Constantza, and is presently at Constantza Shipyard, reportedly for scraping. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Mar 29 -- General cargo Tom T. arrived Constantza Mar 26 from Midia. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**TRANSFER (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Belize City, Mar 27 -- The marine surveyor who has been involved with port c.c. Transfer since its grounding, stated that his investigation and the mortgagee has been turned over to no movement. He reports the situation seems to be a "dead issue." -- Lloyd's Agents.

**VICUNA (Chile)**

Santos, Mar 24 -- Following received from Sub-agents Paranaqua: The last remaining piece of the midship section of chemical/oil carrier Vicuna will be removed Apr 5, completing the removal of the vessel. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Bangkok, Mar 29 -- An International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation report, dated today, states: Chemical/oil carrier Vicuna had an explosion while discharging a cargo of methanol at Catallini Pier, Paranagua port, Nov 15. Structural damage to the vessel was severe and caused it to sink in shallow water alongside the berth. After the explosion, fuel oil was found in areas of high environmental sensitivity to the north and east of the accident site. It is estimated that up to 400 tonnes of lfo got to the area. Much of the 4,000 tonnes of methanol that was on board the vessel burnt in the fire or evaporated or dissolved in the water upon release. ITOPF was mobilised by the vessel's insurer and arrived on-site on Nov 17. The oil spill response operation was led by the shipowners with the assistance of local and federal government agencies. To minimise leakage of oil from the wreck site, booms were deployed and maintained around the casualty. Response efforts were hampered by high currents, which made effective containment difficult. Three main types of habitats that were affected by oil: sandy beaches, mangroves and associated saltmarshes, and rocky and manmade shores (including concrete quays and jetties). Areas sensitive to damage from active clean-up, such as the mangroves, were largely left to recover naturally. Where cleaning was necessary, the majority of the work was carried out manually with the assistance of local contractors utilising local villagers as an additional source of manpower. At the height of operations some 300 personnel were deployed. Most of the bulk oil had been removed by early January and final cleaning of the beaches is due to complete shortly. Salvors were engaged to recover the bunker oil remaining on board after the explosion and later remove the wreck from its position alongside the pier. Wreck removal is anticipated to finish by the end of March/early April. A monitoring programme to assess environmental damage and recovery is being undertaken by the Federal University of Parana's Centre for Marine Studies. To date, no signs of stress, such as yellowing or defoliation, have been detected and local experts have confirmed that environmental damage is limited and localised. Initial wildlife casualties from the incident included several marine turtles as well as a number of sea birds. A mobile wildlife rehabilitation centre was set up at the disused port authority building and specialist personnel employed to undertake an assessment of the severity of impact. Field surveys revealed surprisingly few wildlife casualties and operations were wound down by the end of November. As a precautionary measure, a fishing ban was enforced in the entire estuary

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following the incident. The ban prohibited the harvesting of molluscs and finfish and also barred all water sport activities in the area. It was lifted after bulk oil had been removed from the water surface and shores and after the authorities were satisfied that the contamination was a product of water and harvested marine organisms. A small fishing exclusion zone remains around the accident site with the rest of the remainder of the wreck is being removed.

X-PRESS KAVERI (Singapore)
London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire on board c.c. X-Press Kaveri (6973 gt, built 1980), a feeder vessel sailing from Colombo to Tuticorin, caused concern today. While the crew escaped unhurt, the engine room and accommodation areas were damaged extensively. Official sources said that the fire was first noticed at around 0900 hrs, when the ship was 33 nautical miles off Tuticorin port. Though the blaze was put out by the crew immediately, a fire broke out again. The ship's captain, Silva alerted the signal station of the port at 0950 hrs. Two tugs, one equipped with fire fighting equipment, and a Coast Guard vessel rushed to the scene. The crew cut out the blaze using fire fighting devices even before the port vessels reached the spot. The feeder vessel, owned by Seacon, Singapore, had 22 crew on board and was loaded with 337 containers with a capacity of 498 Twenty-foot Equivalent Units. No damage was caused to the containers. Later investigating the source, the sources said that a technical snag caused the fire. A private towing vessel left for Tuticorin from Colombo to tow the vessel back there. Tuticorin port did not have repair facilities.

London, Mar 26 -- c.c. X-Press Kaveri which caught fire in the mid-sea yesterday, was towed to Tuticorin port. A team of surveyors from Kochi conducted a 'classification survey' to assess the damage. The fire was due to an explosion in the turbo-charger, of which 22-member crew were unhurt. Towed to Tuticorin by Tuticorin Port Trust tug Ananya, 45-tonnes, the ship will be taken to Colombo tonight by a tug vessel brought from the Sri Lankan port. Earlier, the TPT Chairman, N.K. Raghupathy, said that on receipt of the distress message, "we sent tugs Ananya and Thiruvalluvar, to the scene, 33 nautical miles from the port." The office of the Director-General of Shipping would conduct an inquiry. On the absence of repair facilities at the port, he said the TPT proposed to establish them through public-private partnership.

London, Mar 28 -- c.c. X-Press Kaveri, Colombo for Tuticorin, cargo containers, had fire break out about 33 nautical miles from Tuticorin at 0900, March 28, and had been extinguished at 1330, same day. The cause of the fire is reportedly due to an explosion in the turbo-charger. Explosion is stated to be restricted to the turbo-charger. The main engine could not be started and stated to be in repairable condition. A rescue operation was carried out at sea using a fire float from Tuticorin port and the vessel was towed to Tuticorin. All the cargo in containers and the crew members are safe. All the containers destined to Tuticorin were discharged. Thereafter, vessel is scheduled to be towed back to Colombo today for dry docking/repairs. Extent of damage to vessel will be known after detailed survey to be conducted at Colombo. -- Lloyd's Agents.

YUE HAI TIE 1 (China)
London, Mar 30 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Ferry Yue Hai Tie 1 which ran aground not far from its dock in Xuwen County, Guangdong Province Mar 27, finally docked the same day. After the stranding, Zhanjiang Maritime Affairs Bureau of Guangdong (ZMAB) formed a special accident investigation group. After inspection, they concluded the stranding was caused by poor visibility and errors by the captain, which led the vessel off its route and hitting the bulkwark on the east side. According to the ZMAB, the ferry was only slightly damaged. It found 22 defects in the vessel, nine of which are serious. They barred it from leaving the port. Four defects are required be solved prior to departure and the rest should be corrected in one month. The ferry has failed to report to the closest maritime department after they were stranded. Since last September, they had not completed the required maintenance and had not filled in monthly examination and maintenance plans. Other problems included failures of the automatic identification system and the navigation recorder. The vessel docked for around 28 hours for examination and repair and left at 0000, Mar 28.

YUE HAI TIE No.1 (China)
London, Mar 29 -- A report, dated today, states: Ro-ro ferry Yue Hai Tie No.1 (6973 gt, built 2002) on the country's maiden cross-sea railway service ran aground not far from a dock in Xuwen County, Guangdong Province on Sunday (Mar 27). Yue Hai Tie No.1, carrying 241 passengers and 26 crew, was stranded at 0920 hrs on its approach to Beigang Dock, having crossed the Qionghou Straits from Haikou's Nangang Dock, Hainan Province. No one was injured in the incident. With the help of the local maritime affairs bureau, the Yuehai Railway Co Ltd, which owns the ferry, took immediate action to rescue all those on board. At the same time all 43 cargo carriages being transported were safely removed. The ferry finally docked on Sunday afternoon.

ZHE JIAO 820 (China)
See “Hong Kong” under Weather & Navigation.

ZIM NOVOROSSIYSK (Malta)
London, Mar 25 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The crewmen of Zim Novorossiyisk sailed Haifa while the vessel was undergoing minor repairs in Istanbul.

CELEBES SEA
London, Mar 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: The crewmen of Malaysian-registered tug Bonggay 91 (192 gt, built 2002) were reportedly kidnapped in Mindanao near the Semporna border, the Malaysian National News Agency reported today. The report identified the victims as Ahmad Rumiati, alleged master of the tug, Yamin Laila and Ekalung. The Malaysian National News Agency said five armed men with M16 and AK47 assault rifles caught up with the slow-moving tug when it was to approach the Malaysian maritime border near Pulau Mataking, off Semporna in Sabah. The tug was toking barge Bonggay 90 (1368 gt, built 2001). The crewmen came from East Kalimantan, Indonesia and were on their way back to Sandakan, Sabah when the incident happened. The bands fired three warning shots and then stormed into the tug and kidnapped the three of the six crewmen. They also took some communication equipment from the tug. The suspects were reportedly fleeing toward the southern Philippines. The Malaysian news agency also said Semporna police chief Abidin Awang confirmed the incident but declined to reveal further information. There are no further details on the identity of the suspects or which bandit group they belong.

Manila, Mar 31 -- The Philippine Navy has dispatched three patrol vessels to track down pirates which attacked tug Bonggay 91 and barge Bonggay 92 and kidnapped three of its crew yesterday. "Three Philippine Navy patrol vessels are monitoring and conducting negotiation and barrier patrol on the boarders of Malaysia and the Philippines," Navy spokesman Captain Geronimo Malabanan said today. He said that the Philippine Navy’s interdiction patrols in the waters surrounding Tawi-Tawi island in Western Mindanao where being coordinated with Malaysian police. According to Malaysian news agency, Bernama, Bonggay 91, and its barge were on their way back to Sandakan from East Kalimantan, Indonesia, when they were attacked by pirates at
around 1100 hrs near Pulau Matakung, off Semporna, in the east coast of Sabah. The pirates, who were aboard a speedboat, sailed away with two Filipino crew members, Yamin Labusu and Erekson Hutagul. The pirates, believed to be Filipinos, fled in the direction of Tawi-Tawi in southern Philippines. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**Port State Control**

**NIGERIA**

London, Mar 24 -- A report, from LaSalle, dated today, states: A press report, dated Mar 22, states: Four merchant vessels have been detained by National Maritime Authority for failing to meet safety standards set for ships sailing on the nation's territorial waters. The vessels, which are currently being held in Port Harcourt, were carrying premium motor spirit and the other three vessels had perm kernel products as at the time they were arrested by officials of NMA Safety Department. NMA Director-General, Engr. Festus Ugwu, who confirmed the arrest, said that this was deliberate for the purpose of ensuring safety on the nation's waters. He disclosed that the vessels were not seaworthy, as they were described by the Safety Department as "deficient in structure." Ugwu explained that under the International Ship and Port Facility Security, introduced by International Maritime Organisation, Nigeria is expected to ensure that vessels operating in the country are seaworthy. He said the vessels will not be allowed to sail until they have been certified as having met all necessary security and safety standards set by IMO. He explained that the owners of the vessels were currently making efforts to carry out necessary repairs in their ships. However, he could not say when NMA is likely to allow the vessels sail, a situation which the Safety Department of NMA said depends on the owners' readiness. According to him, the detention of the vessels was not targeted to punish the owners of the ships but to safeguard the lives of the passengers on board as well as the nation's territorial waters. "The ships will be released as soon as the owners put certain facilities in place," said NMA and the Nigerian Navy had last year pledged co-operation in the task of implementing the global maritime security order as it concerns Nigeria in the area implementation of ISPS code. NMA had solicited the assistance of the Navy in core technical areas when the need arises.

**Seizures & Arrests**

**AFRICAN PRIDE (Panama)**

London, Mar 24 -- A report from LaSalle, dated today, states: A press report, dated Mar 23, states: Trial of the 13 Russians who allegedly used the missing product tanker African Pride for illegal oil bunkering suffered another set back yesterday, following an application for adjournment made by the Federal Government, the complainant in the case. Mrs Pat Ajoku, who is the prosecuting counsel had informed the trial judge, Justice Gloria Okeke, about government's appeal, which is pending at the Court of Appeal. The prosecution had appealed decision of the trial judge to refuse government's application to amend the charge preferred against the accused foreigners. The appeal was last week thrown out by the appellate court, which noted that it was not properly filed. Sequel to the refusal, the prosecution filed a fresh appeal against the ruling of the trial court and consequently at yesterday's proceedings, made an oral application for adjournment of the trial, pending the determination of the appeal. Although the defence vehemently opposed the adjournment, describing it as a ploy to delay the trial, the judge adjourned the matter to May 30. The 13 Russians were on Mar 2, last year, arraigned on a two-count charge of conspiracy and unlawful conveying or 11,300 tonnes of crude oil valued at about N345 million in a vessel. But as their trial was approaching its end, the government sought to amend the charge, but the judge refused to grant the request, describing it as an attempt to delay their trial. That it will be injustice, as amending it, will amount to trial de novo. Dissatisfied with the ruling, the government headed for Appeal Court and brought before the trial court an application for stay of proceedings which was equally refused on Jan 14. The government has filed two fresh appeal against the said rulings.

**ALCOR (Comoros)**

Limassol, Mar 23 -- General cargo Alcor is still under arrest at Limassol breakwater. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**ALMOUROL (Portugal)**

See Pardelas.

**ENDEAVOR II (Greece)**

Karachi, Mar 23 -- The Sindh High Court has confirmed the sale of crude oil tanker Endeavor II to Kanika Marine Ltd at a cost of $7.01 million. However, the delivery of the vessel is subject to a payment of Rs 396,656, which was the shortfall in the final payment by the buyer. As soon as the buyer pays this amount, the official assignee will hand over the vessel, along with all its documents, to the new owner. The vessel is under arrest at Karachi Port and the funds will remain with the court until the case is resolved. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Mar 30 -- Kanika Marine Ltd, is expected to take possession of crude oil tanker Endeavor II today or tomorrow. The new owner bought it at $7.11 million which is the amount which is being deposited in Sindh High Court (SHC) until case is resolved. A new date is yet to be fixed by honorable court hearing the case. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**HERKULES II (Portugal)**

Maassluis, Mar 25 -- Tug Herkules II is still under arrest in the Rotterdam area. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**HIGH SPIRIT (Liberia)**

See “South-East Asia” under “Earthquakes.”

**HIGHLANDER**

Cape Town, Mar 29 -- Fishing Highlander is still under arrest at Cape Town. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**ILHA BRAVA (Portugal)**

London, Mar 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fishing Ilha Brava (453 gt, built 1951) which was detained off North Mayo last night is being escorted to port. The vessel was stopped by patrol vessel LE Eithne around 195 miles off the Mayo coast. It is being escorted to Galway, where it is expected to arrive tomorrow. It will then undergo inspections by Department of the Marine officials from the Republic.

**JULIETTA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Mar 24 -- C.c.) julietta (7480 gt, built 2002) was arrested at Hull Marine by the Admiralty Marshal in respect of damage to the vessel's cargo of cocoa beans. The vessel was released Mar 12. (Note -- J ulietta sailed Hull Mar 12.)

**JUNO TRADER (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Bissau, Mar 24 -- Ref. Juno Trader is still under arrest at Bissau. -- Lloyd's Agents.

**OCEAN BOOMER (Panama)**

London, Mar 31 -- Admiralty Court sale: Oceanographic research Ocean Boom I lying Gibraltar is to be sold by private treaty "as is, where is" at the time of sale and still under Admiralty Marshal's conditions of sale. All offers must be received by noon Apr 19.

**ORIONIS (Hong Kong)**

Karachi, Mar 25 -- Munda Port Authority, on the order of the High Court of Ahmadabad in Gujarat, India, has arrested general cargo Orionis (1978 gt, built 1980) on the admiraltry suit filed by a Pakistani company for not paying bunker charges at Karachi Port. According to shipping industry sources, the court accepted the request
of the legal council of the bunker supplier under Section 70 of the Indian Contract Act 1872 and issued orders for arrest against the vessel. The F MOS arrested the ship on last Thursday evening, which arrived for loading of 9,000 tonnes of steel coils and 4,000 tonnes of rebar for the Philippines and China. Earlier, she arrived at Karachi port on 1 Jan and loaded rice consignment for some African country. Of the request, Faisal Marine Oil Services (FMOS) had submitted about 66.88 tonnes of marine gas oil and 158.5 tonnes of heavy oil at an estimated cost of US$63,000, which were not earlier paid. The FMOS sent several copies of bunker charges bills to the local representatives of the vessel and also served many letters and reminders to the Singaporean-based vessel owner Prominent Shipping as well as its Korean-based time charterer Daeshing Shipping, but not received any response and hence the matter for payment remained pending. The F MOS left with no other option but to opt for the arrest of the vessel. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

OSIRIS (Netherlands)
See under "Marine."

OSTWIND (Antigua & Barbuda)
Maassluis, Mar 25 -- General cargo Ostwind is still under arrest at Vlaardingen. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

PARDELHAS (Falkland Islands)
London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated Mar 28, states: Trawlers Paradelhas belonging to the Portuguese company Paradelhas Fishing Company which have been abandoned for years in Punta Arenas will be auctioned Apr 19, following the ruling of a local court. Paradelhas and Almourol will have a starting auction price of approximately US$146,000 and 212,000, following a Punta Arenas court decision recognizing that the Portuguese company has pending debts with the local maritime agent, Agenzia Maritima Ultramar Limitata ed Operazioni, equivalent to US$163,000. The maritime agent and the Portuguese company signed a service agreement September 2000. Paradelhas also has pending debts with the crew, mostly Peruvians, who refused to abandon the vessels until they were paid. Finally they gave up in July 2004 after surviving several years in precarious almost inhuman conditions aboard the abandoned vessels. According to Punta Arenas press, both vessels arrived in the year 2000, after having finished fishing in Falkland waters and went into the local Navy yard for repairs and maintenance. Since the fishing company never paid the bill, or ordered the vessel to remain docked in Punta Arenas port. They were later ordered to Isabel Island in the bay, where they have remained since, one of the vessels is grounded and half sunk. According to court information, Almourol belongs to the Portuguese company Trz-Peixe and Paradelhas to Murtuosa Fishing.

RIKA (Estonia)
Tallinn, Mar 30 -- General cargo Rika is still in the same position with no crew on board. According to information from the Harbour-master some pipes were burst during the cold period. Therefore there is some water in the engine-room. -- Lloyd's Agents.

VOYAGER (Netherlands Antilles)
Maassluis, Mar 25 -- General cargo Voyager is still under arrest at Rotterdam. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ARUN, INDONESIA
London, Mar 28 -- A press report, dated two weeks: Exxon Mobil Corp., the world's largest publicly traded oil company, has resumed full gas production from its field at Arun in Indonesia after a pipeline leakage, said Deva Rachman, a spokeswoman at Exxon in Jakarta. The leakage didn't reduce LNG shipments from Arun in Sumatra, one of Indonesia's two liquefied natural gas export terminals, Rachman said. Exxon said on Mar 24 that the flow of gas in the pipeline, which usually carries 600 million cubic feet of gas a day, may be cut by the leakage. The company evacuated some residents living near the leak. "Most of the villagers that were evacuated earlier have returned to their homes," Rachman said by mobile telephone today. Exxon, which operates the field, supplies gas to PT Arun NGL, Indonesia's oldest liquefied natural gas plant. Declining gas output from the field has resulted in lower LNG sales to customers including Korea Gas Corp. and Japan's Tohoku Electric Power Co.

KIRKUK AREA, IRAQ
See "Iraq" under "Political & Civil Unrest."

NORTH SLOPE, ALASKA, UNITED STATES
London, Mar 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Environmental workers in Alaska were yesterday racing to clean up 111,300 gallons of oily water that spilled from a leaky oil pipeline today that was up to 66.88 tonnes of marine gas oil and 158.5 tonnes of heavy oil at an estimated cost of US$63,000, which were not earlier paid. The FMOS sent several copies of bunker charges bills to the local representatives of the vessel and also served many letters and reminders to the Singaporean-based vessel owner Prominent Shipping as well as its Korean-based time charterer Daeshing Shipping, but not received any response and hence the matter for payment remained pending. The F MOS left with no other option but to opt for the arrest of the vessel. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PYRAMID LAKE, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES
London, Mar 24 -- A press report, dated Mar 23, states: A landslide apparently ruptured an oil pipeline today that spilled up to 111,300 gallons of crude oil into a reservoir that provides water to Southern California cities, officials said. Officials said they had cordoned off the affected area of Pyramid Lake, about 60 miles north-west of Los Angeles. Firefighters closed several lanes of Interstate 5, a major north-south highway, as they rushed to isolate the area and build a dike to keep more oil from pouring into the lake. The Forest Service and state Department of Fish and Game were working with pipeline owner Pacific Energy Partners to control the oil. Arthur G. Diefenbach, a senior vice president for the company's subsidiary, Pacific Pipeline Systems, said officials believe the spill was caused by a landslide, but "it's a little early to tell." Diefenbach said officials were concerned about potential contamination of the region's drinking water. "These kinds of spills are usually pretty localized," he said. Family Martinez, chief operating officer for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which uses water from the reservoir to generate power. The light crude oil spill occurred about a mile east of the lake, about 60 miles north-west of Los Angeles. Firefighters closed several lanes of Interstate 5, a major north-south highway, as they rushed to isolate the area and build a dike to keep more oil from pouring into the lake. The Forest Service and state Department of Fish and Game were working with pipeline owner Pacific Energy Partners to control the oil. Arthur G. Diefenbach, a senior vice president for the company's subsidiary, Pacific Pipeline Systems, said officials believe the spill was caused by a landslide, but "it's a little early to tell." Diefenbach said officials were concerned about potential harm to local wildlife. "We have a bird and wildlife rescue unit on standby if we should have a problem," he said. The 1,297-acre lake stores water for delivery to Los Angeles and other Southern California coastal cities. London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 75 percent of the oil that spilled from a ruptured pipeline into Pyramid Lake had been removed from the water by yesterday afternoon, officials said. What's left of the estimated five-acre oil slick is scheduled to be removed today before noon, after which crews will begin cleaning the oil-contaminated water, company officials said. "Obviously, our first concern has been removing the oil from the surface of the water," said Aubrey Harris, a spokeswoman for Long Beach-based Pacific Energy Partners. "Once that is completed, we will focus on the shoreline. But the whole canyon cleanup and restoration will probably take a few weeks." A

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Pipeline Accidents/Pollution

landslide triggered by recent heavy rains likely caused the pipeline to break about 1300, Wednesday (Mar 23), spewing 126,000 gallons of light crude oil down the hillside east of Interstate 5. The oil travelled down a ravine, under the highway and into the lake, a holding reservoir that feeds parts of Los Angeles County. It is too early to determine how much oil made its way into the lake, Harris said. The oil slick was contained to a cove hours after the spill using large, absorbent barriers called booms. Pyramid Lake, part of the State Water Project, normally feeds into Castaic Lake to the south, but water flows were halted following the contamination. Shoreline cleanup is expected to take a few days, Harris said, adding that removing oil from the hillside will require at least two weeks.

BRITTANY, FRANCE
London, Mar 30 -- A French court yesterday acquitted the captain of the Mitsui OSK crude oil tanker Atlantic Hero accused of deliberately causing pollution off the French coast, finding that his denial of the offence was plausible despite the presence of an 11 km slick in the vessel's wake. The master, 41-year-old Croatian, Srdjan Ljustina, admitted at a hearing last month that his vessel was in the process of transferring ballast tanks when a French navy aircraft flew over it last September. But he argued that any pollution caused by his ship could only have been from oil waste and not by oil-based residues. His explanation was rejected, however, at the hearing by public prosecutor, Francois Nicot, who claimed that he and his crew had taken advantage of the ballast cleaning operation to get rid of other waste. He asked the court to impose a Euro 300,000 fine on the master and the vessel's owners. Giving its judgement yesterday, however, the court found in the master's favour. The environmental protection organisation, Vigipol, indicated that it would be appealing against the acquittal of the master of Atlantic Hero.

GUAYANILLA, PUERTO RICO
London, Mar 24 -- A press release from the United States Coast Guard, dated Mar 22: Coast Guard personnel were on scene at a fuel oil spill in Guayanilla, Puerto Rico that occurred late Sunday (Mar 20) night when an estimated 7,000 barrels or 294,000 gallons of No.6 grade fuel oil leaked from a 24 inch transfer pipe used to move product from the shore side facility to tanker vessels. All but 50 gallons were contained in the facilities secondary containment area and around the clock operations continue to contain and remove the oil. The incident occurred when a transfer pipe burst 5,000 feet from shore at the Commonwealth Oil Refining Company CORCO facility in the port of Guayanilla. The oil was being transferred to the oil tanker Sorokaletie Pobedy. The National Response center notified the Coast Guard Command Centre of the spill Sunday at 2330 hrs. Coast Guard personnel from inspections office in Ponce, Puerto Rico were on scene by 0100 Monday to ensure the leakage was stopped, containment booms deployed and all means available were being used to minimise impact to the environment. By first light and throughout the day the team of responders included Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Quality Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Puerto Rico Environment Protection Agency, Emergency Management Association and Puerto Rico Police Department. On Monday afternoon a Coast Guard HH-65 Dolphin helicopter from Air Station Borinquen and small boats from DPNR and PRPD were used to survey the impacted area and to locate the estimated 50 gallons that entered a nearby navigable waterway most of which is center within a dense mangrove area. Cleanup crews continue to work around the clock to remove the liquid product from the containment areas.

HUMBER ESTUARY, UNITED KINGDOM
London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Humber Estuary's delicate wildlife population has been saved from pollution after the Hull tidal barrier was lowered to contain an oil spill. The Environment Agency is yet to track down the source of the leak in the River Hull today. By afternoon the artificial breach of the river between Stoneferry and the Hull barrier was covered in a sheen of oil, officials said. Spokesman Phil Young said the oil would have been a "nightmare" for wildlife. It is not yet clear whether the spill was deliberate or accidental. Hull City Council raised the alarm this afternoon and an investigation into the source is continuing.

KATERINA (Malta)
London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The chief engineer of bulk carrier was sentenced to eight months in federal prison yesterday after he admitted toefuse to remove and conceal the bypass pipe when the vessel came into port in Long Beach. The DA's office also said Guinto admitted he made fraudulent entries in the vessel's pollution-prevention records. Captain Ioannis Kalikis, 65, of Malta, pleaded guilty in February to an obstruction of justice charge. Kalikis admitted his actions meant to impede a Coast Guard investigation into pollution violations. He allegedly advised other crew members they needed to destroy incriminating messages. Kalikis is scheduled to be sentenced on April 4. The vessel's second engineer, Rolan O. Sullesta, 42, pleaded guilty in January to one charge of obstruction of justice for concealing one of two bypass pipes. Sullesta is scheduled to be sentenced April 11. The vessel is operated by DST Shipping Inc of Thessaloniki, Greece. According to the DA's office, the company pleaded guilty to obstruction of an official proceeding and failing to maintain an accurate Oil Record Book. DST was sentenced to probation, in which it will be subject to special scrutiny. The company also paid a $1 million fine.

KUPARUK, ALASKA, UNITED STATES
See "North Slope, Alaska, United States" under "Pipeline Accidents."

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

London, Mar 23 -- A press report, dated Mar 22, states: Heavy winds are buffeting Sydney and surrounding areas and are expected to strengthen. A severe weather warning is still in place for the New South Wales coast and the southern and central Tablelands. Strong winds are moving towards Newcastle, and Sydney has experienced gusts of up to 80 km an hour tonight. The Manly ferry has been cancelled due to heavy swells in Sydney harbour. Localised flooding in Sydney caused traffic delays in Campsie, Alexandria, Gore Hill and Dee Why. The weather bureau is forecasting a second band of heavy rain and has issued a flood watch for the Georges, Karuah, Paterson and Williams rivers. The New South Wales State Emergency Service advises people to stay indoors away from windows and stay clear of floodwater and fallen powerlines. Emergency services are warning people to stay away from surf-exposed areas.

London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: In south-east Queensland, emergency crews are working to repair homes damaged by this afternoon’s fierce storms. The storms hit a wide area to the west and north of Brisbane. Five police cars were damaged by large hailstones at Deception Bay on Brisbane’s northern outskirts and a house was damaged at nearby Narangba. Further north, two homes were damaged at Hervey Bay and police say they have received reports of a “mini tornado” between Biggenden and Childers. The worst damage was at Glenwood, where 18 homes have been damaged.

AZORES

St. Michael’s, Mar 30 -- Bulk Dion (17428 gt, built 1994) arrived and berthed alongside the quay at Ponta Delgada Mar 23 for discharge operations. Due to boisterous weather in the Azores, discharge was constantly stopped. The vessel is reported to have broken some ropes and touched the quay where it is berthed due to the heavy weather. -- Lloyd’s Agents.

BANGLADESH

London, Mar 23 -- A press report, dated Mar 22, states: Bangladesh troops pulled out seven more bodies from the rubble of collapsed homes in the country’s north today, raising the death toll from a storm in the area to 45, officials said. They said efforts were on to locate more bodies from several villages that were mostly razed by Sunday’s storm that also injured at least 700 people. District administration officials said dozens of people were still missing and some of the injured in hospitals may die, taking the death toll higher. It would take several more days to assess the full extent of damage, they added. Officials said the storm made 10,000 people homeless and damaged rice and other crops.

Dhaka, Mar 24 -- At least 80 people have been killed and some 1,000 others have been injured after tropical storms swept across Bangladesh over the past four days, officials said today. Of the victims, 32 died and 300 were hurt in storms which lashed 21 districts over the last twelve hours. Forty-eight others were killed and 700 were injured in northern Gaibandha and Rangpur areas on Sunday (Mar 20). Most of the victims died under collapsed houses and uprooted trees. Others were killed by lightning, hailstorms and boat sinkings, disaster management officials said today. The recent storms also left more than 15,000 people homeless, they said. Meteorology officials said today that more storms were likely to hit the country until the end of May. -- Reuters.

London, Mar 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storms that swept across Bangladesh killed at least seven people, injured hundreds of others and destroyed thousands of homes, officials and news reports said today. They destroyed dozens of farming villages in central and northern Bangladesh yesterday, damaging rice crops and uprooting trees and electricity poles. Five people were killed and about 500 others were injured in Natore district, 100 miles north of the capital Dhaka, said local government official Aminul Islam. Islam said the victims were killed by collapsing homes, flying debris and lightning. The storms also destroyed about 6,000 straw-hut homes in about 50 farming villages in Natore. The storms also killed two people in neighbouring Sirajganj and Pabna districts, the Janakanta daily newspaper said. About 500 others were injured and some 600 homes destroyed. In Dhaka, central Bangladesh, another sudden storm forced several flights to be diverted from the city’s international airport, and stranded many commuters as they headed home from work.

London, Mar 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: A tropical storm sweeping through central Bangladesh has left 11 people dead and about 10,000 homeless, local officials said today. Rescuers were said at least 100 people were also injured in three central districts struck by the overnight storm, which was followed by heavy rain. About 500 rural homes were blown away while rice crops on thousands of hectares were destroyed by the winds, said Natore district administrator Aminul Islam. Seven people were said in Natore, the worst hit among the three districts. Two other people were crushed under flattened homes and uprooted trees in Manikganj district, 130 km north of Dhaka. Two other people were killed in Pabna district. The storm also toppled electric poles, disrupted phone links and cut off roads.

HONG KONG

London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hong Kong marine officials will raise safety issues with mainland counterparts after a spate of sea collisions involving mainland vessels this year, including one yesterday. Fog that blanketed Victoria Harbour has been partly blamed for the collisions yesterday morning, but the Marine Department is investigating whether any vessels were in the wrong shipping lane or travelling at an unsafe speed. One of the accidents was between mainland catamaran ferry Nan Hua (509 gt, built 1997) and a Hong Kong barge, which injured 15 people, happened near the scene of the crash last month. Ship masters have been warned to exercise extreme caution when travelling in Hong Kong waters. More fog has been forecast for today and humid, rainy weather is expected over the next few days. A Marine Department spokesman said its representatives would raise safety issues with their mainland counterparts at a forthcoming meeting. The department will also try to get the safety message across to mainland crews through local shipping agencies as well as forums and seminars. In the worst of yesterday’s accidents Nan Hua, carrying 46 passengers and 11 crew from Tsing Sha Tsui to Haian in Guangdong, was in collision with a 40-metre barge southwest of Tsing Yi at about 0900 hrs. Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre duty officer Wong Chan-kwong said a poor-visibility warning was issued at 0030 yesterday. “We were told that crews sighted the barge and stopped the engine,” he said. “Visibility had been reduced to about 100 metres in the vicinity at the time of the crash,” Mr Wong said. The crash followed a collision at about 0730 hrs, and another between a fishing boat and a mainland vessel (Zhe Jiao 820) at about 0800 hrs. No one was injured in either accident, although the fishing boat sank. A man who escaped injury in the catamaran accident said the ferry had slowed seconds before the crash, and passengers were injured and bleeding after their heads rammed into the seats in front. Four men and 11 women, aged 21 to 58, and two mainland crew members, were taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital for treatment and discharged. Six sailors, including two Hong Kong, were rescued uninjured by marine police after their Hong Kong-registered fishing boat sank following a collision with a mainland vessel off Po Toi Island. The mainland vessel, with a hole ripped in its gunwales, left the scene of the collision but was later found by Marine Police. No injuries or damage were reported in the accident.

A complete online archive covering the last 10 years of Lloyd’s Casualty Week. For further information please call +44 (0) 20 7017 4779.
involving the Star Ferry. It was carrying 10 passengers when it was in collision with a barge off Hunghom. Hong Kong was shrouded in thick fog yesterday as a humid airstream affected the city and the coast of Guangdong, according to the Observatory. The foggy weather is expected to continue today.

London, Mar 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two high-speed ferries, including ferry Nan Hua sailing from Tsimshatsin, have had their speed restricted after the Marine Department said they failed to travel safely during thick fog on Monday. The department yesterday said it had revoked the speed-limitation exemption permits of Nan Hua, which collided with a barge on Monday, and double-deck catamaran ferry New Ferry LXXXIII (726gt, built 2002), operated by New World First Ferry on the Hong Kong-Macau route. This means the two vessels will be restricted to 40 knots in Hong Kong waters. The department also announced last night that it was tightening speed restrictions under foggy conditions to improve safety. Under the new measures, speed-limitation exemption permits on all fast vessels will be revoked when visibility drops below one nautical mile, as it did on Monday. A department spokesman said: "It is important that the masters observe the conditions stated in the speed-limitation exemption permit given for operations to ensure safety. If the masters violate these conditions, the Marine Department will withdraw the (permit) immediately." The department has also demanded all high-speed craft install an automatic identification system to help it monitor movement. Ship masters will also be told not to leave the port before they leave the China Ferry Terminal and Macau Ferry Terminal in low visibility.

INDIA
London, Mar 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two days of gales and heavy rains have left at least 18 people dead and 50 hurt, and 5000 homeless in West Bengal. Eight people died in Burdwan, 200km west of Kolkata, and another 10 died in coastal villages strung along the Bay of Bengal. "We have received reports of the deaths and relief has been sent to the affected places," West Bengal relief minister Hafiz Alem Sairani said. The casualties included 30 children hurt when a school roof collapsed on Wednesday (Mar 23), he said.

MADAGASCAR
Antananarivo, Mar 26 -- At least 900 people were made homeless and four were missing after flood waters caused by days of heavy rain swirled around the southern Malagasy town of Taolagnaro, emergency official said today. Downpours have pounded the southern Indian Ocean island for the past several days, sparking fresh disaster warnings after floods made tens of thousands of people homeless in various parts of the country of 17 million in recent months. Emergency officials put the latest figures for the number of people made homeless from flooding in the south since last week at 987 today. -- Reuters.

PAKISTAN
London, Mar 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 12 people were killed in Kohlu and Zhob areas of Balochistan as a fresh spell of heavy rain caused flash floods in different areas. Train service between Sibi and Jacobabad was suspended and a large number of villages in Sibi, Lasbela, Zhob and districts are reported to have been inundated. According to district officials, reports reaching here eight people were swept away by water torrents in the Kahan area of Kohlu and four young girls were killed when the roof of their house collapsed in Killi Machan village of Pishin district. The seasonal Tani Nullah in Suri Dara of Kahan is in full flood. Heavy rain caused havoc in Lasbela and Sibi with Bolan, Nari and Lehri rivers reported to be in high flood. Several hundreds of houses and properties have been affected by a breach in the bank of Lehri river. "At least 300 villages have been inundated in Lasbela district," District Nazim Babu Amin Umran said, adding that the standing crops in the area have been destroyed. Army troops and Frontier Works Organization personnel have launched a relief operation in the area.

London, Mar 24 -- A press report, dated Mar 23, states: Flash floods triggered by heavy rains hit remote areas of south-western Pakistan today, killing 21 people and forcing thousands of others to flee their flooded homes, officials said. The deaths occurred when flash floods from some villages near Kohlu, a town about 180 miles east of Quetta when floodwater destroyed many homes there, said Razaq Bugti, a spokesman for the Balochistan government. He said authorities had started rescue work in the area.

ROMANIA
Bucharest, Mar 29 -- Mida port was closed between 1630 hrs and 1830 hrs, yesterday due to dense fog. Visibility below 0.5 nautical mile. The Sulina Channel was closed at 0615, today, due to bad weather, wind north-north-east 6-7 (strong breeze-near gale), sea six feet. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Mar 30 -- The Sulina channel was re-opened at 0600 hrs, today. -- Lloyd's Agents.

RUSSIA
London, Mar 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: A storm warning, issued because of a cyclone hitting the Kamchatka Peninsula Mar 25, has been cancelled as the storm has subsided, sources from the Kamchatka meteorological service said today. Snowdrifts and gale-force winds are losing their power. However, the influence of the cyclone is still felt in the Pacific Ocean off the coast, where the speed of the wind reaches 20 metres per second. The storm warning stays in place for vessels. The cyclone delivered the most powerful blow on the southern regions of the peninsula Mar 26, grounding aircrafts and cutting off settlements. Air and transport communication has been restored. The only settlement remaining cut off from the peninsula is the district centre of Ust-Kamchatsk.

London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Strong winds and snow blizzards hit Sakhalin Island and the Kuriles today. According to Sakhalin-based weathermen, adverse weather will continue for two days, with the cyclones shifting northward to reach the Kamchatka Peninsula two days later. The duty services of power engineers, the personnel of the housing/public utilities sector, and road maintenance men have been alerted by a storm warning. Heavy snowfall is expected, with the temperature being around zero, Celsius. Wind velocity on the coast has already mounted up to 25-27 metres per second. The gale prevented the sailing of the Vanino-Kholmsk sea ferry service responsible for delivering most of the island's supplies. The Sakhalinenergo electric utility said the storm damaged power transmission lines leaving about 12,000 people in a dozen settlements in the southern part of the island without electricity.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "HENNIE"
was still under warning No. 3, everywhere was closed and it was nearly a public holiday until 1400 hrs when no cyclone was in force. Normal way of life restarted after 1400 hrs. No serious damage was reported. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 26 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone "Hennie" near lat 22.6S, long 59.2E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 125 degs, or 24 nautical miles. Position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots, radius of 50 knot winds 100 nautical miles for all four quadrants. Forecast position lat 23.4S, long 59.4E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Forecast position lat 24.2S, long 59.5E at 0600, UTC, Mar 26. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots, gusts 65 knots. (End)

London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical cyclone "Hennie" was located near lat 22.6S, long 59.2E, approximately 430 nautical miles south-east of Mauritius, and has tracked south-eastward, or 125 degs, or 24 nautical miles, since yesterday. It has maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots, radius of 50 knot winds 100 nautical miles for all four quadrants. Forecast position lat 23.4S, long 59.4E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Forecast position lat 24.2S, long 59.5E at 0600, UTC, Mar 26. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 100 nautical miles in the north-east and south-east quadrants and 85 nautical miles in the south-west and north-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave is 21 feet. At 0600, UTC, Mar 27, the centre is predicted to be near lat 25.0S, long 62.8E, with maximum sustained winds of 35 knots and gusts to 45 knots.

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London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake struck off the tsunami-ravaged coast of Sumatra in northern Indonesia, Hong Kong seismologists said today. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties. The 5.9-magnitude quake hit near the coast at 0110, GMT, today, the Hong Kong Observatory said. The tremor was centred about 90 kilometres north-west of Banda Aceh.

London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two strong earthquakes rocked Indonesia's eastern province of Maluku today, but there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties, the local geological agency said. The first quake of magnitude-6.4 struck just about 40 minutes after midnight; the second, measuring 6.0 magnitude, came at 0740 hrs, the Lower Colorado River Authority said. A complete online archive covering the last 10 years of Lloyd's Casualty Week. For further information please call +44 (0) 20 7017 4779.
Aceh, the Hong Kong seismological centre said. There have been no reports of a tidal wave danger.

The epicentre was in the sea area off the coast of Sumatra. An initial warning of a tsunami in a south-westerly direction, towards Mauritius, was rescinded in the early hours of today. According to Government reports, as many as 1-2,000 people may have been killed as a result of the collapse of many buildings on Nias.

London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: A three-metre-high wave smashed into the Indonesian island of Simeulue, off the coast of Sumatra, causing extensive damage shortly after a massive earthquake, a military official said. Up to 2,000 people are believed to have died in the earthquake. The military commander in Aceh, close to the epicentre of the quake, says he has received reports that the wharf at Simeulue's main port was badly damaged. Endang Suwaryya says waves have also affected the island's airport in the coastal town of Sinabang. An Aceh-based journalist who made contact with the island says the main hospital in Sinabang has been destroyed and cannot be used. He says there are unconfirmed reports of 25 dead on the island. Indonesia's Vice President, Jusuf Kalla, says up to 2,000 people are feared dead in collapsed buildings on the island of Nias, near Sumatra. Witnesses on the island say the ocean surged 30 metres inland. "The water level rose higher than last December, reaching up to 30 metres," said a woman, speaking from Nias. It is reported that there are no buildings left standing in the main town on southern Nias, Teluk Dalam. "Roughly it is expected between 1,000 and 2,000 died," Mr Kalla told El Shinta news radio of the quake. In the Sumatran city of Medan, Erni Ginting, a spokeswoman for the disaster centre for Aceh and North Sumatra, told reporters: "The official death toll stands at 322." She said all the fatalities were on Nias, 220 of them in Gunungsitoli. Information Minister Sofyan Djalil said authorities had donated at Sibolga on the mainland, opposite Nias, as the hub for relief flights as the control tower on the island's airstrip had collapsed.

London, Mar 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: A new earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale struck the north-west of Sumatra Island overnight. There is no tidal wave danger there. The spirit centre was in the sea area some 280 kilometres west of the city of Banda Aceh, the Hong Kong seismological centre said. There have been no reports about victims and destruction.

Jakarta, Mar 31 -- Based on Health Ministry Dept up to 1800, Mar 29, the earthquake claimed 431 lives, Gunung Sitoli 200, Teluk Dalam 130, Simeulue Island-Aceh 100, East Aceh 1. Based on Health Ministry Dept the refugees from all areas reach 2000, mostly in Nias and Nias Selatan excluding Aceh and mainland of Sumatera. Infrastructure damages reported: Gunung Sitoli Port. The wharf was reported totally demolished. Telo Nias Island and Subdistricts were reported demolished. Simeulue Port was reported demolished. Land Transport between Gunung Sitoli City - Nias City to some adjacent subdistricts were reported to be halted including connection from Binaka Airport to city of Gunung Sitoli. Binaka Airport itself was reported to have sustained damages in 38 points including apron and control tower, totally demolished. Laskin Sinabang Airport on the island, was reported damaged, totally halted. Pinang Sori Airport, Sibolga and Silangit Airport, Siborong, Borong, in normal condition. Public facilities such as electricity, water, gas, and water supply totally halted. Sirombu Port, Teluk Dalam Port, Barus Port, Lahawa Port dan Sibolga Port were reported not affected by the earthquake, normal condition. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

London, Mar 31 -- Tanker operator D'Amico Tankers has hit out at the continued detention of its chem.tank High Spirit in Tanzania after the ship damaged pipelines as it was forced off course by the tsunami. The military commander in Aceh, close to the epicentre of the quake, says he has received reports that the wharf at Simeulue's main port was badly damaged. Endang Suwaryya says waves have also affected the island's airport in the coastal town of Sinabang. An Aceh-based journalist who made contact with the island says the main hospital in Sinabang has been destroyed and cannot be used. He says there are unconfirmed reports of 25 dead on the island. Indonesia's Vice President, Jusuf Kalla, says up to 2,000 people are feared dead in collapsed buildings on the island of Nias, near Sumatra. Witnesses on the island say the ocean surged 30 metres inland. "The water level rose higher than last December, reaching up to 30 metres," said a woman, speaking from Nias. It is reported that there are no buildings left standing in the main town on southern Nias, Teluk Dalam. "Roughly it is expected between 1,000 and 2,000 died," Mr Kalla told El Shinta news radio of the quake. In the Sumatran city of Medan, Erni Ginting, a spokeswoman for the disaster centre for Aceh and North Sumatra, told reporters: "The official death toll stands at 322." She said all the fatalities were on Nias, 220 of them in Gunungsitoli. Information Minister Sofyan Djalil said authorities had donated at Sibolga on the mainland, opposite Nias, as the hub for relief flights as the control tower on the island's airstrip had collapsed.

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and small arms fire, the U.S. military said today. The militiants had attacked a base in Khost province and checkpoint by border with Pakistan last night. "Coalition troops returned fire with 155 mm artillery rounds at enemy positions. Coalition air, mortars and artillery insured," the U.S. military said. The U.S. military did not say who the attackers were but a Taliban spokesman said Taliban fighters had fired 20 rockets at U.S. positions from its last airport. An Afghan government soldier was killed and 15 wounded in the attack, the Taliban spokesman, Abdul Latif Haqqani of the Islamic Information news agency, but the U.S. said there had been no casualties on the coalition's side. Separately, suspected Taliban members killed two Afghan security officials and wounded another in an ambush in Girishk district of southern Helmand province today, a local official said. Eleven police soldiers were wounded in the same district earlier in the day in what was described as a "mistaken clash" between police and army forces, the official said. Meanwhile, several rockets struck the outskirts of Kandahar city, causing little damage and no casualties. -- Reuters.

Kabul, Mar 28 -- Four U.S. soldiers were killed today when their vehicle struck a landmine in southeast Afghanistan, the U.S. military said. The soldiers had been travelling with Afghan troops in a three-vehicle patrol in Logar province, around 40 km south of Kabul. Mines and unexploded ordnance still litter Afghanistan from two decades of conflict going back to the 1979 Soviet invasion. U.N. security officials issued a warning this month to beware of mines, as the security officials issued a warning this month to beware of mines, as the six-month to one-year period of soil migration, authorities said. The troops were travelling by truck on a remote jungle road in Putumayo state, one of Colombia's biggest cocaine-producing regions some 300 miles south of Bogota, when they came under attack. Mauricio Soto, the Colombian navy commander. Only one Marine in the convoy survived. Soto blamed the attack on guerrilla forces of Colombia, or FARC, which has been battling to topple the government here for 40 years. Also yesterday, police said suspected FARC fighters attacked a squadron of U.S.-supplied drug-fumigation aircrafts and two escort helicopters in south-east Colombia, lightly damaging several of the aircrafts and wounding a pilot. The aircrafts were spraying herbicides Tuesday over fields of poppy plants, the raw ingredients of heroin, near Algeciras, 160 miles south-east of Bogota, when they came under fire, a spokesman for Colombia's anti-narcotics police said. At least one of the aircrafts and the two combat helicopters escorting them were struck by gunfire or rockets but managed to fly back to their base safely, said the spokesman, who asked that his name not be used. A helicopter pilot was hit in the leg. Bogota, Mar 28 -- Colombia said today it was moving toward peace talks with the country's second largest rebel group and called for international support. The 5,000-stong National Liberation Army, known by its Spanish initials ELN, yesterday asked for the help of Brazil, Venezuela and Spain in ending the group's 40-year war against the state. Since June of last year, the ELN and the government of President Alvaro Uribe have been in contact. Mexico acted as an intermediary. "We are studying initiatives aimed at assuring the end of this exploratory phase and moving toward a peace process," Colombian Peace Commissioner Luis Carlos Restrepo said. "The government and the ELN highlight the effective assistance of Mexico and call for international assistance once this new drive for national peace comes to fruition," said Restrepo's statement. The ELN meanwhile sent a letter to the left-leaning presidents of Brazil, Venezuela and Spain to help the country reach peace and create "a hopeful democracy that will make social justice possible." The three presidents will meet with Uribe for a summit on trade and terrorism in Venezuela tomorrow. A peace deal will not be easy. The ELN wants Uribe to free ELN prisoners held in Colombian jails and negotiate the bilateral cease-fire. Uribe has said the ELN, which funds itself by kidnapping, must unilaterally disarm if talks are to take place. While Colombia's biggest guerrilla force, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, and right-wing paramilitary militias have grown rich on the country's huge cocaine business, the ELN has sworn off drug smuggling. This leaves it at a financial disadvantage that may help prompt it to follow the steps of former rebel group M-19, which in 1989 negotiated a deal to disarm. -- Reuters.

BANGLADESH

London, Mar 31 -- Opposition activists limited staged marches in parts of Bangladesh as part of a day-long general strike sponsored by Awami League to demand the resignation of the Khaleda Zia government and a "proper" probe into the killing of its MP and former Finance Minister, S A M S Kibria. The Awami League's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed, and 13 Left wing allies have called the strike to demand the resignation of the Bangladeshi government and that Kibria's killing, delayed at the earliest. Kibria was killed during a grenade attack on an Awami League rally in January. The Opposition parties have kept the port city of Chittagong out of the purview of the strike due to an Islamic conference there.

COLOMBIA

London, Mar 24 -- A press report, dated today, states: Communist rebels in southern Colombia ambushed a military convoy yesterday, killing 10 soldiers in a hail of gunfire and explosions, authorities said. The troops were travelling by truck on a remote jungle road in Putumayo state, one of Colombia's biggest cocaine-producing regions some 300 miles south of Bogota, when they came under attack. Mauricio Soto, the Colombian navy commander. Only one Marine in the convoy survived. Soto blamed the attack on guerrilla forces of Colombia, or FARC, which has been battling to topple the government here for 40 years. Also yesterday, police said suspected FARC fighters attacked a squadron of U.S.-supplied drug-fumigation aircrafts and two escort helicopters in south-east Colombia, lightly damaging several of the aircrafts and wounding a pilot. The aircrafts were spraying herbicides Tuesday over fields of poppy plants, the raw ingredients of heroin, near Algeciras, 160 miles south-east of Bogota, when they came under fire, a spokesman for Colombia's anti-narcotics police said. At least one of the aircrafts and the two combat helicopters escorting them were struck by gunfire or rockets but managed to fly back to their base safely, said the spokesman, who asked that his name not be used. A helicopter pilot was hit in the leg. Bogota, Mar 28 -- Colombia said today it was moving toward peace talks with the country's second largest rebel group and called for international support. The 5,000-stong National Liberation Army, known by its Spanish initials ELN, yesterday asked for the help of Brazil, Venezuela and Spain in ending the group's 40-year war against the state. Since June of last year, the ELN and the government of President Alvaro Uribe have been in contact. Mexico acted as an intermediary. "We are studying initiatives aimed at assuring the end of this exploratory phase and moving toward a peace process," Colombian Peace Commissioner Luis Carlos Restrepo said. "The government and the ELN highlight the effective assistance of Mexico and call for international assistance once this new drive for national peace comes to fruition," said Restrepo's statement. The ELN meanwhile sent a letter to the left-leaning presidents of Brazil, Venezuela and Spain to help the country reach peace and create "a hopeful democracy that will make social justice possible." The three presidents will meet with Uribe for a summit on trade and terrorism in Venezuela tomorrow. A peace deal will not be easy. The ELN wants Uribe to free ELN prisoners held in Colombian jails and negotiate the bilateral cease-fire. Uribe has said the ELN, which funds itself by kidnapping, must unilaterally disarm if talks are to take place. While Colombia's biggest guerrilla force, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, and right-wing paramilitary militias have grown rich on the country's huge cocaine business, the ELN has sworn off drug smuggling. This leaves it at a financial disadvantage that may help prompt it to follow the steps of former rebel group M-19, which in 1989 negotiated a deal to disarm. -- Reuters.

INDIA

London, Mar 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least two Indian soldiers have been killed and eight others injured in an attack by suspected militants in Indian-administered Kashmir. Police say the soldiers were part of an Indian Border Security Force patrol which came under attack in a mountainous area of Rajouri district. Indian security forces have launched a search for the attackers but no arrests have been made as yet. It is not clear who carried out the latest attack which took place in a village deep in a forest. "The Border Security Force personnel were attacked while patrolling in the tiny mountainous village," a police spokesman is quoted as saying.

IRAQ

London, Mar 23 -- A press report, dated Mar 22, states: Militants targeted a US patrol with a roadside bomb today that killed an all-American civilian in the northern city of Mosul, where an assassination attempt against top police officials sparked clashes that left more than two dozen
insurgents dead or captured. Morgue officials in southern Iraq, meanwhile, said they had received half a dozen corpses of slain soldiers at a clinic, all with bound hands and bullet-riddled heads and torsos. Iraq also sought to soothe the relations with neighboring Jordan, as both nations agreed to return their respective ambassadors after a weekend diplomatic dispute. 

Iraq's national security adviser, Mouwafak al-Rubaie, said today that his Egyptian counterpart to Jordan would return "as soon as practically possible." The announcement came a day after King Abdullah II ordered the recall of Jordan's ambassador to Iraq, the official Jordanian news agency reported. Both countries withdrew their envoys on Sunday (Mar 20) in a dispute over the infiltration of insurgents across the border. Tensions between the two countries boiled over last week, with Iraq border troops and vessels deterred over the alleged involvement of a Jordanian in a deadly suicide bombing hoisting the Iraqi flag at the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad. 

Late yesterday, attackers in a northwest neighbourhood in Baghdad, ambushed a convoy carrying security forces officials, including top police chief Brig Gen Abu Al-Waled, sparking a gunfight in front of a main mosque. Police killed 17 militants and captured 14, said Col Wathiq Ali, deputy police commander. Ali said no security forces were injured in the clash, which saw guerrillas carrying mortar launchers, rocket-propelled grenades and Kalashnikov rifles. Insurgents have carried out countless attacks on Iraq's army and police -- flogging security forces the US military says must gain better control of the country before any major US troop drawdown in Iraq, now in its third year of post-invasion conflict. Mosul hospital officials, citing witnesses, said insurgents hit a US patrol with an improvised bomb in a north-western neighbourhood early today, damaging a Humvee as it crossed a bridge and killing four civilians and the blast. It was not immediately clear whether US troops suffered casualties. Earlier, the US military reported the death of a Marine in a restive western province. The Marine assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, was killed in action yesterday in Anbar province, which contains the flashpoint cities of Fallujah and Ramadi, the US military said. As of yesterday, at least 1,522 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003. Of those, 898 were in fighting in the south-eastern city of Kut said the facility yesterday received the bodies of six slain Iraqi army soldiers, five cooks and one electrician. Each soldier had his hands tied behind his back and suffered multiple gunshot wounds to the head and chest, said Hadi Al-Itabi, head of the morgue at Al-Suffar General Hospital in Kut, 100 miles south-east of Baghdad. Gunbattles broke out today in the streets of the southern Baghdad neighbourhood of Dora, where militants riding in three cars opened fire on people shopping along a main thoroughfare, Interior Ministry officials said. Shopkeepers and residents fired return, killing three assailants. A man, woman and child were injured in the fight and taken to a local hospital. In the same quarter killed a policeman as he drove to work, said police Lt Col Hafid Al-Ghrayyi. Mosul officials also said five mortar shells landed in a Kurdish-dominated north-western mixed city, injuring one. Three rockets landed overnight on the town of Iskandariyah, south of Baghdad, killing a child and child, said a local police official. Seeking to seal a political deal after Jan 30 elections, the Shiite-clergy's spiritual leader, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, was expected to meet tomorrow with J alal Talabani, the Kurdish leader likely to become Iraq's next president. The Kurds want the oil-rich Kirkuk to be returned to the autonomous Kurdistan region immediately after the government convenes, but an official from al-Sistani's office said the spiritual leader would not back the country's new National Assembly to decide that in Iraq's future constitution. 

London, Mar 24 -- A press report, dated Mar 23, stated US and Iraqi forces raided a suspected guerrilla training camp and killed 80 fighters, the single biggest one-day death toll for militants in months and the latest in a series of blows to the insurgency. Iraqi officials said today. Politicians helping shape a postelection government expected with days said negotiators are considering a Sunni Arab as defence minister in a move aimed at bringing them into the political process, and perhaps deflate the insurgency they lead. The US military announced late yesterday that its air and ground forces backed Iraqi commandos during a noon raid on the suspected training camp near Lake Tharthar in central Iraq. Seven insurgents were killed, authorities said. Shopkeepers and police were putting out the blaze, he said. Oil exports from Kirkuk to Turkey have been shut down by an intense campaign of sabotage. 

Bucharest, Mar 29 -- Three Romanian journalists kidnapped in Baghdad managed to send desperate messages to relatives and colleagues before disappearing yesterday, the latest foreigners to be abducted in Iraq. "We're kidnapped. This is not a joke," one of the three, Prima TV reporters Marie Jeanne Ion, managed to message her mother from her cell. Firemen and police were putting out the blaze, he said. Oil exports from Kirkuk to Turkey have been shut down by an intense campaign of sabotage. Bucharest, Mar 29 -- Three Romanian journalists kidnapped in Baghdad managed to send desperate messages to relatives and colleagues before disappearing yesterday, the latest foreigners to be abducted in Iraq. "We're kidnapped. This is not a joke," one of the three, Prima TV reporters Marie Jeanne Ion, managed to message her mother from her cell. Firemen and police were putting out the blaze, he said. Oil exports from Kirkuk to Turkey have been shut down by an intense campaign of sabotage.
Kirkuk, Mar 31 -- A suicide car bomber attacked a military checkpoint in northern Iraq today, killing five Iraqi national guards, a police official said.

The bombing targeting a Kurdish official has begun a delayed second session of the newly-formed 275-seat parliament. Discussions about the formation of the government are split over who they want as MPs and those not represented in parliament are split over this. MPs more time to agree on a candidate, but he has instead exposed tensions in the country because they come from a poor country which won't be able to pay the ransom." -- Reuters.

London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Iraq's parliament has begun a delayed second session amid an intercommunal deadlock that has left the legislative process in limbo. The meeting came after two hours of last-ditch talks failed to achieve the modest goal of naming a speaker. The assembly was banned after politicians criticised the delays in forming a government. The talks will be held on Sunday (Apr 3) to allow MPs more time to agree on a candidate. Today's session was meant to show that progress was being made, but instead raised tensions in the newly-formed 275-seat parliament. Proceedings had been held up for three hours as Shia, Kurdish and Sunni Arab members tried to agree on a candidate to be speaker, as promised before the session. The Shia are pushing for the appointment of Fawaz Jarba, a woman who is member of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, which won the elections. Kurdish deputies are said to favour another candidate, while Sunni Arab MPs who represent a parliament are split over who they want. Mr Yawer, has been put forward as a compromise candidate, but he has turned down the position. During the heated debate interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi stormed out of the session, followed by the interim President Ghazi Yawer. A parliament speaker is needed before MPs can begin discussions about the formation of the presidency council which will appoint the key position of prime minister. The appointment of a Sunni Arab is important as a gesture to that minority which largely boycotted the elections, having held sway over Iraq during Saddam Hussein's regime. Iraq's fragmented political scene has been beset by further divisions over Sunni power, the role of religion and jockeying for Cabinet posts. The Kurds are expected to win the Foreign Ministry and Sunni Arabs to get the defence ministry. But control of the oil ministry has proved a major sticking point between the Shia -- representing the majority of Iraqis -- and the Kurds. As the deadlock continued, insurgents have pursued their campaign of violence to sabotage the new Iraq, taking shape under US-led occupation. At least one person was killed and 17 others were wounded in a massive car bomb that exploded near a US official in the northern city of Kirkuk today, police said. A top US official escaped assassination when his convoy was targeted by a car bomb in the southern city of Basra.

Kirkuk, Mar 31 -- A suicide car bomber attacked a military checkpoint in northern Iraq today, killing five Iraqi national guards, a police official said. Several guards were also wounded in the attack near Suleiman Beik, 60 miles south of the city of Kirkuk. -- Reuters.

IVORY COAST

Abidjan, Mar 25 -- Ivory Coast's rebel leader will attend peace talks in South Africa next week at which the government will also be represented, possibly by President Laurent Gbagbo, officials said today. The talks will be hosted by South African President Thabo Mbeki, who has been mandated by the African Union to revive a moribund peace process in the war-divided country. Mbeki's spokesman says the Ivorian leader may attend the talks in Pretoria, which the South African presidency says will take place on Apr 3. A spokesman for rebels holding the northern part of the country said rebel leader Guillaume Soro would be at the talks. The Ivorian newspapers have said opposition leader Alassane Ouattara, whose exclusion from a presidential election in 2000 is seen at the heart of the Ivorian crisis, and former president Henri Konan Bedie had also been invited by Mbeki. The U.N., which has 6,240 troops in the country policing a buffer zone along the border with Liberia, hostilities would also provide sanctuary for Akayev of any moral right to be head of state and he could expect a harsh reception if he returned. Akayev, an opposition leader who played a central role in the protests, has been invited by Mbeki. A presidential poll is planned for June. Russian President Vladimir Putin said Moscow was ready to work with the Kyrgyz opposition, and would also provide sanctuary for Akayev if he wanted. The overthrow of Akayev, a relative liberal in a region of mainly autocratic leaders, followed weeks of protest throughout the country that turned violent in two towns in the impoverished south.

Desire Tagro said the Ivorian leader may attend the talks in Pretoria, which the South African presidency says will take place on Apr 3. A spokesman for rebels holding the northern part of the country said rebel leader Guillaume Soro would be at the talks. The Ivorian newspapers have said opposition leader Alassane Ouattara, whose exclusion from a presidential election in 2000 is seen at the heart of the Ivorian crisis, and former president Henri Konan Bedie had also been invited by Mbeki. The U.N., which has 6,240 troops in the country policing a buffer zone along the border with Liberia, hostilities would also provide sanctuary for Akayev of any moral right to be head of state and he could expect a harsh reception if he returned. Akayev, an opposition leader who played a central role in the protests, has been invited by Mbeki. A presidential poll is planned for June. Russian President Vladimir Putin said Moscow was ready to work with the Kyrgyz opposition, and would also provide sanctuary for Akayev if he wanted. The overthrow of Akayev, a relative liberal in a region of mainly autocratic leaders, followed weeks of protest throughout the country that turned violent in two towns in the impoverished south. -- Reuters.

London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: The political crisis that threatened to paralyse the central Asian republic of Kyrgyzstan has been resolved. Since protests toppled President Askar Akayev last week, two rival parliaments - the outgoing assembly and the new - have vied for legitimacy. The upper house of the old parliament dissolved, following the example of the lower house yesterday. It said that it was unable to ensure stability. The new interim President, Kurmanbek Bakiev, raised the assembly's action. "I hope your decision will bring calm," he said. It was controversy over the polls which saw the new house elected that fuelled last week's popular uprising. In the immediate aftermath of the protests, the Supreme Court annulled the poll results and said the previous parliament had authority. But Kyrgyzstan's electoral body backed the new assembly. Mr Bakiev had initially supported the old parliament, but switched his support to the new as it pronounced him prime minister. He had already designated interim prime minister, Frangiz Matrosova, who boosted his legitimacy. Mr Bakiev has said he wants to hold presidential elections in three months' time. But the Speaker of the new parliament said such a vote would only take place after talks had been held with Mr Akayev, because he had not formally resigned. It is not clear where Mr Akayev is. Mr Bakiev has said he...
LEBANON
Beirut, Mar 23 -- Two people have been killed and five wounded after a bomb exploded in a Christian suburb of the capital Beirut. The explosion, the second in a commercial Christian area in Beirut in four days, triggered a wave of anti-Syrian protests. US-led international pressure forced Syria to announce a troop withdrawal from Lebanon last month. About 18 trucks loaded with soldiers and equipment from the posts near the village in the Bekaa Valley drove into Syria overnight. Troops in the southern Bekaa were also seen preparing to abandon their posts as the pace of a Syrian pullout from Lebanon that began on March 8 appeared to quicken, the witnesses said. Syria promised in a letter to the United Nations this week that it would end its 29-year military presence in Lebanon before parliamentary elections, whose timing is now in doubt. The polls were due to occur before parliament’s term expires on May 31, but a political crisis triggered by the assassination of former prime minister Rafik al-Hariri could force a delay. Syria has prepared plans to form a national unity government. If Omar Karami, the country’s most powerful party, said yesterday he expected Syria to spurn his effort to form a national unity government with pro- Damascus-backed Lebanese security authorities, the third in eight days in the Christian heartland. Earlier in the day, Lebanon’s opposition who blame Syria and its allies for the killing of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri on Feb. 14 urged the country’s security chiefs to resign in response to an international probe into the death. Security sources said a rigged Buick car exploded in an industrial area in Dikwanah suburb in east Beirut. Fire fighters were trying to contain blazes in two buildings where back smoke rose into the night sky. Ambulances and rescue workers rushed to the scene, witnesses said. It was not immediately clear how many people were in the buildings, but the area is usually deserted during the night. The area houses factories, printing houses, car repair shops and warehouses. -- Reuters.

Beirut, Mar 30 -- More Syrian troops pulled out of Lebanon today as pro-Syrian Prime Minister Omar Karami prepared to form a national unity government. Karami was due to meet President Emile Lahoud to inform him of his decision to resign yesterday he would quit because he had failed to persuade the anti-Syrian opposition to join a unity cabinet to lead Lebanon to elections due in May. The opposition, which blames former prime minister Rafik al-Hariri’s death on Syria and the Lebanese security agencies it backs, has refused to join any government until after elections that it expects will give it a majority in a parliament now largely allied to Damascus. If he accepts Karami’s resignation, Lahoud will have to consult deputies again to choose a new prime minister, a process that could delay the election and anger the opposition, which accuses Karami of procrastinating to avoid the polls. Opposition leaders had urged Karami to form a government without them. His old cabinet remains in a caretaker capacity. Syria says it will complete the withdrawal before the elections. Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara made the pledge in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, dated yesterday. Syria’s U.N. ambassador said a Syrian-Lebanese committee would meet this week to set a timetable for ending its military presence in Lebanon. About 2,000 Syrian troops have left in the past week, including the Israeli border, ending its 29-year military presence in Lebanon before parliamentary elections, whose timing is now in doubt. The polls were due to occur before parliament’s term expires on May 31, but a political crisis triggered by the assassination of former prime minister Rafik al-Hariri could force a delay. Syria has prepared plans to form a national unity government. If Omar Karami, the country’s most powerful party, said yesterday he expected Syria to spurn his effort to form a national unity government with pro- Damascus-backed Lebanese security authorities, the third in eight days in the Christian heartland. Earlier in the day, Lebanon’s opposition who blame Syria and its allies for the killing of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri on Feb. 14 urged the country’s security chiefs to resign in response to an international probe into the death. Security sources said a rigged Buick car exploded in an industrial area in Dikwanah suburb in east Beirut. Fire fighters were trying to contain blazes in two buildings where back smoke rose into the night sky. Ambulances and rescue workers rushed to the scene, witnesses said. It was not immediately clear how many people were in the buildings, but the area is usually deserted during the night. The area houses factories, printing houses, car repair shops and warehouses. -- Reuters.

Liberia
Monrovia, Mar 28 -- A first contingent of more than 100 Liberian police trained by the United Nations was deployed on the streets of the capital Monrovia today, a police spokesman said. Colonel Ansума would enjoy all appropriate legal and constitutional guarantees if he returned to Kyrgyzstan.

Political & Civil Unrest

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NEPAL
Kathmandu, Mar 28 -- Maoist rebels killed three soldiers in eastern Nepal after firing at their base while they were on their way home on leave, the army said today. The three men, who were not carrying any weapons, were attacked and killed with knives and shot dead in the Maoist stronghold of Ramechhap on Saturday (Mar 26), an army statement said. The guerrillas have vowed to step up attacks on government forces and called for a nation-wide general strike later this month.

PHILIPPINES
London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Officials in the southern Philippines say two communist insurgents have been killed in a fierce firefight with soldiers. The fighting erupted on Saturday (Mar 26) near Davao City when New People's Army (NPA) gunmen ambushed patrolting soldiers, said regional army commander Major General Samuel Kromah, the deputy director of police said. The remaining 38 brand new recruits. The remaining 38 brand new recruits. The remaining 38 brand new recruits. The remaining 38 brand new recruits.

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

Political & Civil Unrest

Kromah, the deputy director of police operations, said the 123 recruits had completed their nine months of training on Sunday (Mar 26) and had immediately been deployed to various locations within the capital. Further contingents of newly trained recruits were due to be deployed at a later date, he added. Kromah told IRIN that 85 of the first batch of officers to join the new-look Libyan National Police were brand new recruits. The remaining 38 were former police officers who were rapidly retrained, he added. Kromah said the training programme at the police academy, which is presently run by UN police officers drawn from forces around the globe, included human rights education, riot control, traffic control, community policing, criminal investigation and civic responsibility.

The United Nations Missions in Liberia (UNMIL) aims to train and equip a new 3,500-strong police force by the end of 2006. Its immediate target is to deploy 1,800 officers throughout the country by October. Parliamentary and presidential elections are held in October. Since Liberia's 14-year civil war came to an end in 2003, security in the country has been maintained by a 15,000-strong UN peacekeeping force, which includes more than 1,000 civilian police. This has been supplemented until now by a 500-strong interim Liberian police force, comprising former police officers who were rapidly retrained. Police chief Colonel Joseph Kerkuwa said the United States had agreed to supply some equipment for Liberia's new police force, but he appealed to other international donors to provide more.

PAKISTAN
London, Mar 23 -- A press report, dated Mar 22, states: Three bombs in the south-western province of Baluchistan damaged a power line and a shop but caused no casualties, officials said today. A power pylon was topped yesterday at Killi Kishungi in Naushki district, 130 km south-west of Quetta, said electricity company spokesman Gibrail Khan. A hundred houses in the area were plunged into darkness, he said. Another bomb ripped through the shutters of a steel workshop in Naushki, a local police official said. The third bomb went off in the regional office of the army-led Anti-Narcotics Force in the town of Turbat, 600 km south-west of Quetta, but caused no damage, said local police official Habibullah. Nobody claimed responsibility for the blasts. Officials have blamed nationalist tribesmen demanding autonomy and greater benefits from the region's natural resources for a string of recent bomb blasts and rocket attacks. Riddled with poverty, Baluchistan has seen a rise in violence since January when rebels launched a deadly rocket barrage on a major gas plant in revenge for the rape of a female doctor there. Thousands of troops moved into the province following the attack, which killed eight people.

London, Mar 24 -- Despite the hectic efforts of Pakistan government at parliament level to resolve the various issues of tribes, the subversive activities are going on in western Province of Pakistan. Some saboteurs have blown up the main railway track near Mach in Balochistan Province of Pakistan yesterday morning. Local media reported that three-foot pieces of the track was blown up with three home-made bombs at around 0600 hrs between Mach and Hrik, some 70 km east of Quetta. Soon after the explosion security forces were called to the area and informed the railway authorities at the next station that the goods train scheduled to pass the area be stopped. Railways control officials, while confirming the incident, said that the explosion did not affect the train service because all Quetta-bound trains were stopped at Jacobabad railway station owing to heavy rain that had damaged railway track between Dera Murad Jamali and Nutal area.

Kathmandu, Mar 28 -- Maoist rebels killed three soldiers in eastern Nepal after firing at their base while they were on their way home on leave, the army said today. The three men, who were not carrying any weapons, were attacked and killed with knives and shot dead in the Maoist stronghold of Ramechhap on Saturday (Mar 26), an army statement said. The guerrillas have vowed to step up attacks on government forces and called for a nation-wide general strike later this month.

Kathmandu, Mar 26 -- The strike today comes two days ahead of an 11-day nationwide strike called by the rebels to protest the king's decision. In Biratnagar, an industrial town 70 miles west of Katmandu, factories remained closed and streets deserted today, said officials reached by telephone. Business and schools were closed.

A press report, dated today, states: Insurgents have blown up a gas pipeline in continuing attacks on government installations and security forces in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, reports here said. The Bloch Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility for the Tuesday (Mar 22) attack on the pipeline close to a bridge between Dharad and Sibi towns, Daily Times reported from the provincial capital Quetta. The local police said the saboteurs had used three-foot pieces of dynamite to blow up the pipeline. The report did not say if gas supplies were affected. The BLA had launched a major attack on the gas field installations in Sui town in early February and had cut off gas supplies to homes and industries in several areas.

Karachi, Mar 24 -- Despite the hectic efforts of Pakistan government at parliament level to resolve the various issues of tribes, the subversive activities are going on in western Province of Pakistan. Some saboteurs have blown up the main railway track near Mach in Balochistan Province of Pakistan yesterday morning. Local media reported that three-foot pieces of the track was blown up with three home-made bombs at around 0600 hrs between Mach and Hrik, some 70 km east of Quetta. Soon after the explosion security forces were called to the area and informed the railway authorities at the next station that the goods train scheduled to pass the area be stopped. Railways control officials, while confirming the incident, said that the explosion did not affect the train service because all Quetta-bound trains were stopped at Jacobabad railway station owing to heavy rain that had damaged railway track between Dera Murad Jamali and Nutal area.

Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Mar 23 -- A press report, dated Mar 22, states: Somali Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Ghedi has appealed for an end to fighting in the town of Baidoa which has left at least 14 people dead. Speaking from Libya, he urged the rival militias to observe a ceasefire following two days of clashes. There are fears the fighting has damaged hopes of an immediate return to a lasting ceasefire following two days of clashes. There are fears the fighting has damaged hopes of an immediate return to a lasting ceasefire.
but in Baidoa and Jowhar and there were celebrations to mark this decision in Baidoa on Saturday (Mar 26). However, one powerful warlord apparently ordered his troops to attack those who were out on the streets and a fierce gun battle broke out, a witness said in the hands of the militia led by Mohammed Ibrahim Habasdeh. The militia commanded by Hassan Mohamed Nur Shargudud is reported to have left the town. Monday’s kidnap of nine Somali MPs from Nairobi arrived in Mogadishu yesterday to assess the security situation.

THAILAND

London, Mar 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Suspected Islamic rebels have ambushed a train in southern Thailand, injuring at least 19 people, police say. The armoured railway carriage was on a routine inspection tour in the province of Narathiwat when two bombs exploded at about 0615 hrs, today, near the station of Sungai Kolok, close to the Malaysian border. The explosive devices were reportedly detonated by a mobile phone. A police spokesman said the militants were waiting along the railway tracks and opened fire in the moments after the blast. Police said it returned fire - and the gunfight lasted for at least 10 minutes before the attackers managed to escape. Among the 19 injured were 10 police officers. There have been no reports of casualties among the insurgents. Train operations had been suspended in the area, police said.

TOGO

London, Mar 27 -- A press report, dated Mar 26, states: Opposition supporters have marched through the streets of the Togolese capital demanding the postponement of next month’s presidential election. They say this is being held too soon to be fully free. However, supporters of the ruling PTT (Rally of the Togolese People) also held a rally in the capital yesterday. Around 2,000 people attended each demonstration, witnesses said. Opposition leaders say the Apr 24 deadline does not give them enough time to mount a proper campaign. Interior Minister Francois Boko said on Wednesday (Mar 23) that a special, 3,500 strong special security force would be deployed to ensure candidates would be able to move freely in the run-up to the election. Emanuelli Bob-Atkita, vice president of the Union Forces for Change party, will stand as the main opposition candidate against Faure Gnassingbe.

YEMEN

Sanaa, Mar 30 -- Yemeni forces gunned down three Islamic rebels after they had ambushed and killed eight policemen in the second attack in two days this week, sources said. Six other policemen were wounded in the clashes yesterday with followers of slain anti-US cleric Hussein al-Houthi in the province of Amrah, 100 km north of the capital, San'a. The official Saba news agency said security forces also arrested an Islamic rebel. On Monday (Mar 28), supporters of Houthi killed seven policemen and wounded 20 in an attack on a police station and an ambush in Saada province, 240 km north of San'a. Local sources said Yemeni security forces killed 10 rebels on Monday in a large operation in Saada. They said the clashes continued yesterday but gave no further details. Houthi, a Zaidi Shi'ite Muslim sect leader who had founded the Believing Youth group, was killed last September after two months of clashes with security forces in which 100 rebels and state troops died. Yemen accused Houthi of forming an armed group which staged violent protests against the United States and Israel. The group is not linked to al Qaeda. Yemeni security sources have blamed Houthi’s elderly father, Sheikh Badr el-Deen, for the new round of violence. They said he had shunned a government amnesty, quit San'a and returned to his Saada stronghold to foment violence. - Reuters.

BRAZIL

London, Mar 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: The mother of an international football player has been abducted for ransom in Brazil, the latest in a series of similar kidnappings. It is the third time in the many months that mothers of Brazilian football heroes have been targeted. Ines Fidelis Regis, 57, was abducted by three armed men who invaded the family home in Campinas, 100 km from Sao Paulo. She is the mother of Roqueiro, who is a member of Brazil’s famous national team. Only a week ago the mother of another star, Luis Fabiano, was taken and remains in the hands of kidnappers. The mothers of two other stars were earlier released only after the payment of undisclosed ransoms.

London, Mar 27 -- A press report, dated Mar 25, states: Police in Brazil have freed the mother of football star Roqueiro, three days after she was kidnapped by gunmen. Ines Fidelis Regis, 57, was found apparently unharmed in a house in the coastal town of Caraguatatuba, in Sao Paulo state. During the operation to free Mrs Fidelis, whose son plays for Sporting Lisbon in Portugal, the kidnapper was arrested and a machine gun seized. She was the fourth Brazilian player’s mother to be abducted in recent months. Police said they had stormed Mrs Fidelis after being tipped off, but did not say by whom. The kidnappers had not contacted the family, and no ransom was paid, they added. Earlier this month, gunmen abducted the mother of Brazilian international Luis Fabiano in Campinas, also in the state of Sao Paulo. She is still being held captive. The wave of kidnappings began last December, when the mother
of Santos striker Robinho was seized at a family gathering. She was released unharmed several weeks later after ransom was paid. Last month, the mother of Sao Paulo striker Grafite spent a day as a hostage after being abducted near the city of Sao Paulo.

COLOMBIA
London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: A 25-member armed group wearing military uniforms kidnapped four people in a rural estate in Antioquia department, northwestern Colombia, the police said yesterday. Three men and a woman were kidnapped Thursday (Mar 23) when having Easter vacation in the village of Los Andes. Their whereabouts are still unknown. The police blamed the kidnapping on guerrillas of Front 35 of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the largest rebel group in the country.

CREW OF MALTESE VESSEL AT WALLAROO, AUSTRALIA
London, Mar 23 -- Bulk Flecha arrived Port Lincoln Mar 20 and sailed Mar 22.

FRANCE
London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: Operation Stack has moved up to phase two on the M20 in Kent after industrial action in France seriously affected cross-Channel travel. Riot police use tear gas to disperse striking French seamen from the Channel Tunnel entrance today. The strike, the launda of a blockade of berths at the port of Calais, meaning delays for SeaFrance and P&O ferry services. The industrial action is in response to discussions in the French Parliament on changes to shipping laws. Ferry operator SeaFrance had already cancelled its Dover-Calais services because of the strike. All ships will be kept in Calais until Thursday morning (Mar 24) when sailings are due to resume. P&O has also been affected with two ferries returning to Kent because they were unable to berth in Calais. Two more ships were used to carry freight to Zeebrugge in Belgium. A P&O spokesman said: "We do not know when they will next be able to enter Calais." Reports from France today said protesters were dispersed from the Eurotunnel station at about 1200 GMT, with only minor disruption to traffic. Kent Police implemented phase one of Operation Stack at about 1400 GMT, today, closing the M20 coastbound between junctions 11 and 12. Phase two came in at around 2000 GMT, between junctions eight and nine. The operation allows lorries to queue on the M20 with other traffic being diverted. Yesterday, rail traffic through the Channel Tunnel was blocked for about two hours as a group of 100 striking workers cut through fences surrounding the terminal near Calais and invaded the tracks. Trains were restarted in both directions with 15 Eurostar services delayed. The seamen are protesting against a plan to reform the French national register for shipping, with sailors' unions saying the changes are a threat to French jobs. SeaFrance said when it stopped its crossings it hoped it would be able to transfer passengers to alternative services. Customers who had booked crossings for tomorrow are being advised to contact SeaFrance reservations.

INDIA
New Delhi, Mar 30 -- Tradersmen shut up shop today at the start of a three-day protest against a Value Added Tax (VAT) due to take effect across 21 states on Apr 1. VAT has been delayed five times in nearly 10 years but is finally set to go ahead on Friday (Apr 1) after the UPA government last week it would not back down despite the dissent of five opposition-rules states. Traders across the country were planning a 72-hour strike until the weekend, worried they will have to pay more tax, that they lack the systems to cope with a bigger pile of paperwork and that even tax collectors are ill prepared. The tax levied on the value manufacturers and retailers add to goods at each sale point in the chain, is to replace sales taxes across the state that creates duplicate taxation. It will cover 550 goods, have two basic rates of 4 and 12.5 per cent and a special rate of 1.0 per cent for gold and silver ornaments. -- Reuters.

Labour Disputes

CAMEROON
London, Mar 22 -- There was serious disruption to the port of Douala last week after dock workers in the port went on strike from Mar 17 to Mar 20 to protest against their wages and working terms and conditions. A meeting was due to take place yesterday between the workers and their employers, stevedoring group GPAC (Groupeement Professionnel des Acconiers du Cameroun) to discuss the dockers' grievances.

CREW OF FINLAND-GERMANY FERRY SERVICE
London, Mar 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: A strike that had idled ro/ro Runner (20729 gt, built 20077) and ro/ro Rider (20077 gt, built 1990) and ro/ro Rider (20077 gt, built 1990) and ro/ro Runner (20729 gt, built 20077) later sold the German-flagged vessels to Finnish company Finnlines, which was caused over a wage dispute. The strike had the support of the German Verdi trade union, which felt that as the ships operate between Finland and Germany, the labour contracts for the crew should follow German rules. The issue was resolved by placing the ships under the Finnish flag, and replacing the Polish crews with Finnish seamen. Each ship also got a Finnish ship's master and a Finnish crew. The Swedish Seamen's Union and the Transport Workers' Union did not object to out-flagging the vessels to Finland. In Germany, however, local stevedores had given their support to the Polish crews.

A nationwide strike called to protest the launch of a Value Added Tax (VAT) across India drew a mixed response on the second day, with many stores re-opening for business, traders' associations said. Some markets in the capital New Delhi were back to their usual bustling selves while in others many shops remained shuttered. The tax, agreed at a meeting of state finance ministers in New Delhi in June, is designed to cut multiple layers of levies, boost revenues, reduce inter-state barriers to trade and make accounting more transparent. A nationwide strike for the tax was called by protesters in many states, including the dissent of five opposition-ruled states. Traders across the country were planning a 72-hour strike until the weekend, worried they will have to pay more tax, that they lack the systems to cope with a bigger pile of paperwork and that even tax collectors are ill prepared. The tax levied on the value manufacturers and retailers add to goods at each sale point in the chain, is to replace sales taxes across the state that creates duplicate taxation. It will cover 550 goods, have two basic rates of 4 and 12.5 per cent and a special rate of 1.0 per cent for gold and silver ornaments. -- Reuters.

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with central sales tax and several others. We demand that the extra taxes be abolished before VAT is implemented,” Goel said. The strike call drew mixed responses in other Indian states, with PTI news agency saying many shops remained closed in states like Karnataka, eastern Bengal and northern Uttar Pradesh states for a second day running. Many shops were also closed in Indian-controlled Kashmir, it said. In the western economic hub of Mumbai, transporters and traders continued with their business although some wholesale markets in central parts of city remained closed. In the eastern state of West Bengal, shops and businesses remained shut and traders staged protest marches, and the usually crowded streets and malls of state capital Calcutta were deserted. VAT sets new rates on 500 items, with 250 essential items ranging from farm products to medicines taxed at four percent and the rest at 12.5%.

IRAQ
London, Mar 23 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: There are currently no tugs, pilots or radio officers available at Basrah Oil Terminal, following a reported dispute which arose earlier today. According to SOMO Basrah, loading operations are continuing but berthing and sailings have been canceled for the meantime. It is anticipated that the crew will return to the terminal tomorrow.

NEPAL
See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

NIGER
London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: A nationwide strike over a tax on staple foods closed banks and shops, left streets deserted and disrupted government services in the capital of Niger today. In the second city of Zinder, 900 kilometers east of Niamey, some people tried to protest but were stopped. "Some youths tried to burn tyres on the road but were dispersed by security forces," Zinder Governor Abba Malam Boukar said on national radio. It was unclear how they were dispersed, or if any violent protests have been banned since Mar 15, when thousands of demonstrators took to the streets, stoned government cars and broke traffic lights. Forty-six people were detained but since have been freed. Protesters want legislators to reverse a Jan 4 law imposing a 19 percent tax on staples including rice, sugar and milk. In Niamey, anti-riot police armed with batons deployed around the parliament building where lawmakers took part in an ordinary session. Police patrolled closed banks and the central market, which was deserted. Buses and taxis stayed off the roads, forcing many civil servants to stay home.

PAKISTAN
Karachi, Mar 27 -- The transportation of goods across Pakistan has suffered for the last three days on account of a strike called by All Pakistan Goods Transport Association (APGTA) against an increase in petroleum prices, toll taxes, motorway police and the arrest of the Secretary General of the Punjab Goods Association. Members have observed a three days “wheel jam” strike involving trucks and trailers, from March 25, which has caused the suspension of the supply of foodstuffs, vegetables and exportables etc. They have warned the government that the strike will continue and, if needed, will go on for an indefinite period, in the case of non-acceptance of demands. The strike has caused considerable problems to traders and manufacturers of various items, as the transporters are refusing to transport their goods. Owing to the strike, the supply of fruits and vegetables to markets also faced a cut, and the markets faced shortages. As a result, the prices of vegetables and fruits has increased. An official of association has asked the government to immediately decrease OIL prices, reduce number of toll plazas and direct motorway police not to harass truck drivers. -- Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

Karachi, Mar 29 -- Pakistan Goods Transport Truck Owners Association has called off their countrywide wheel-jam strike that was completely observed during three days across the northern area of country. The association made the announcement following a holding a meeting with the NWF Governor Khalilur Rehman yesterday. The delegation headed by its president Malik Khawaja Muhammad Khan comprising Rajwali Khattak, Haji Atta Muhammad, Noor Muhammad, Muhammad Tariq and dozens of leaders met with the Governor Khalilur Rehman and apprised him about their demands, says a press release. The delegation expressed reservations over the artificially increase in the petroleum products, increase in the toll taxes, dilapidation and congestion of roads and some other issues. They informed the governor that they had brought the matter into the notice of the high ups for so many times, but there was no option left for them but to launch an agitation move. The governor assured the transporters that he would take up the matter with the Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, on which, the transporters announced the ending of their strike, the press release added. Separately, the Supreme Council of All Pakistan Transporters have announced a countrywide strike tomorrow while the Karachi Transport Union (KTI) yesterday announced to go on strike against hikes in fuel prices on Apr 6 in Karachi. -- Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

Karachi, Mar 30 -- Transportation of goods in Pakistan continues to be badly hampered due to a strike called by Supreme Council of All Pakistan Transporters (SCAPT) in Sindh Province. Reportedly, hundreds of oil tankers and part of the Shrin Jinnah Colony in Karachi at oil terminal depots and suspending supply of refined petroleum products to upstream. SCAPT has also reported that other transporters went on strike over the issue of revision of prices of diesel, out of business of 10,000 oil tankers due to start of new oil pipeline from Karachi to Multan and other problems being faced by them. Passengers suffered as long-route buses remained off the roads in Karachi. Initially, the strike oil tankers, trucks and trailers remained off the roads to press for their owners’ demands. Separately, reports from northern area of Pakistan also indicates a large numbers of tankers and trucks remained off the roads particularly disturbing supply of goods to Afghanistan. -- Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

Karachi, Mar 31 -- The Supreme Council of All Pakistan Transporters (SCAPT) has extended the strike for today and warned the government that if their demands were not met the strike could be observed for an indefinite period. The transporters had called the strike in protest against frequent hikes in prices of petrol and diesel and harassment to drivers on highways and in support of their various demands. Yesterday, oil tankers and inter-city buses went on strike across the country, suspending supply of petroleum products and leading fuel prices of passenger and commercial vehicles. Council’s chairman, Yusuf Shahwani, in a statement said the strike was not meant to serve any political cause, but only to press for fulfillment of the transporters’ demands. According to Shahwani, about 42,000 oil tankers, 60,000 trucks and trailers and 8,000 long-route buses took part in the strike across the country. A delegation led by him met Sindh Governor Dr Ishratul Ibad and appraised him of their grievances. The delegation was informed that the provincial government had nothing to do with the prices of petroleum products. Federal Minister of Communications Shiekh Siddiqui is reported to have assured the delegation that the increase in toll tax would not be collected on highways and the decision about the issue is pending in Pakistan but would be suspended till Jun 30. After the meeting, the transporters’ body decided to extend the strike for another day. -- Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

SOUTH AFRICA
London, Mar 24 -- Workers at Harmony Gold mines in Free State, A complete online archive covering the last 10 years of Lloyd's Casualty Week. For further information please call +44 (0) 20 7017 4779.
South Africa, have started a strike after talks on job cuts failed. About 21,000 miners - or 90% of the workforce at its Harmony and Freegold sites - failed to turn up for last night’s shift. The two sites make up about 40% of Harmony’s overall output but it said the action would have little impact because of the Easter holidays. The firm plans to restructure its operations, cutting up to 5,000 jobs. Industry observers fear the strike could be a protracted one. The company obtained a court order banning workers at its recently-purchased Target mine in Free State from taking part in the strikes. The world’s sixth-largest gold producer has been hit hard by the rise in the value of the rand as many of its sites are based in South Africa. National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) officials said the strike took place after last-ditch talks broke down.

London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Strikes at two of South Africa’s largest gold producers are to expand to include all mines across both companies, a miners’ union said. Workers at Harmony and Freegold mines have walked out in a dispute over pay and planned redundancies. The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) said the dispute was being extended because of the behaviour of both firms. Gold Fields said the strike was illegal and it was going to hold it in court. The NUM said nearly 30,000 workers at all mines of Gold Fields would walkout at 1800, yesterday, which the company confirmed. Currently 20,000 Harmony staff are out on strike at two facilities in the Free State. The union said this would increase within seven days to cover Harmony and Freegold’s payroll of 50,000 people. In addition to opposing job cuts at the two firms, the union wants monthly living allowances raised to 1,200 rand ($189.80; £100) from the current 706 rand.

London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated Mar 28, states: Rail services in the United Kingdom extended because of the behaviour of the company confirmed. Harmony has said the strike would be a speedy resolution to the impasse. Harmony has said the strike is not related to recent retrenchment notices served on the union by the mining company.

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UNITED KINGDOM

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2002. The settlement was approved at a High Court hearing in Birmingham today. The father-of-three, who suffered from the digestive disorder, said Crohn's disease, had bowel surgery after being admitted on Jan 9, 2001. Irwin Mitchell, the law firm representing his family, said three days later he started complaining of "unbearable" abdominal pain, nausea, chest pain and dehydration. The pharmacist, from Moseley, had also been prosecuted. But despite coughing up blood, vomiting and his family's continued pleas for assistance, staff did nothing, solicitors said. A coroner ruled that death occurred during the time with the game's actions. A

This allows a controller to vibrate in

California court found that Sony had its products pending the hearing. A

Immersion, and would continue to sell from a 2002 case brought by US firm infringement lawsuit. Sony said it the United States after losing a patent unit, to order to suspend sales of PlayStation

UNITED STATES

PERSONAL INJURY,

London, Mar 23 -- A press report, dated Mar 22, states: An apprentice technician who sustained 60% of his body after an electrical explosion, settled a lawsuit this week against engineering contractor firm Fluor Corporation and powerhouse IBM Corp. Fluor’s insurance companies will pay $9.5 million in damages, and Fluor’s workers’ compensation carrier paid $5.9 million in medical bills for David McNabb, 37, McNabb’s attorney said today. McNabb was hospitalised for 20 months after an accident at an IBM facility in San Jose in January, 2002. An IBM supervisory engineer asked McNabb and another Fluor contractor to scavenge replacement parts in an electrical equipment in a building where the electrical unit was allegedly labeled with a yellow “out of service” tag. When McNabb applied his wrench to a piece of equipment, he suffered a 12,400-volt shock, said his attorney Richard Alexander. IBM spokesman Edward Edwards said that Fluor’s insurance company, not IBM, paid the settlement. Alexander had argued that Fluor and IBM were at fault. IBM Fluor and the IBM supervisory engineer were named as defendants in the lawsuit. “IBM was negligent because its own regulations prohibit anyone working on or near exposed energised electrical conductors,” Alexander said today. “He never should have been sent there.”

POOR POSTAL SERVICE,

POOR POSTAL SERVICE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated Mar 22, states: Royal Mail has paid £43m in compensation to postal customers for late deliveries in the year to March 2004, the postal regulator has said. Postcomm said the money was paid directly to private and business users. Royal Mail must also pay £43m in compensation to postal customers for late deliveries in the year to March 2004, the postal

London, Mar 23 -- A press report, dated Mar 22, states: IBM, the world's largest computer company, has settled a patent antitrust lawsuit with Compuware Corp. today said they agreed to settle a lawsuit in which Compuware accused IBM of predatory pricing and anti-competitive practices. The agreement calls for International Business Machines Corp. to licence $140 million of Compuware software over the next four years, and offer to buy $260 million of Compuware services over the same period. Shares of Compuware stock jumped 6.2%, and IBM stock rose 0.2%. Compuware sued IBM in March 2002 alleging that IBM had copied some of its software programs and was selling them at below-market cost, using its dominance in mainframe hardware and software to compete unfairly in the market for software tools used to run mainframes, where Compuware has been strong. The settlement halted a trial that had been running for several weeks in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Early today, the parties met with the judge, who accepted the settlement, which includes a patent cross-licensing deal between the two companies, IBM said. One source familiar with the terms said that the settlement amounts to a series of business dealings in which both Compuware and IBM stand to make money. Otherwise, the deal leaves IBM free to compete vigorously in the tools market. IBM is likely to offer low-margin desktop support services to Compuware customers through which IBM stands to make back the $260 million, the source said. “It sounds more like a business arrangement than a settlement,” said Judith Hurwitz, the president of technology consulting firm Hurwitz & Associates. Lisa Elkin, a spokesman for Detroit-based Compuware, was not immediately available to comment. “IBM is free to distribute our products at the prices we choose to sell them, which will benefit our customers,” Tim Breuer, a spokesman for IBM’s software business. He declined to comment on the details of the agreement. Shares of Compuware rose to $7.40 in late morning trade on the Nasdaq, while IBM shares gained 74 cents to $90.25 on the New York Stock Exchange. The change reflects growing competition in the mainframe software market over the past five years. Compuware saw demand for its products peak in the late 1990s as customers rushed to fix potential “Y2K” software bugs, and has struggled since then, Hurwitz said. Its revenue slid to $1.26 billion last year, down from $2.23 billion in

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2000. Wall Street analysts expect revenue to remain flat in 2005 and edge up slightly next year, according to Reuters Estimates. Meanwhile, IBM has become more aggressive in the market, introducing its z-Series mainframe machines, Linux software and language mainframes, said Hurwitz said. "It is not just a legacy IBM has to drag around like a ball and chain. It's a market that has legs for the future for them," she said. IBM said the agreement would not have a material affect on its first-quarter 2005 earnings. Compuware and IBM will have to bear all their own fees and expenses in the case, the source said.

RECORD LABEL LAWSUIT, UNITED STATES
London, Mar 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rap music mogul Marion Suge Knight has been ordered to pay $107 million to a woman who claims she was raped and forced to start his Death Row Records label. Los Angeles County Superior Judge Ronald Sohigian ordered Knight and his companies, Death Row Records and Tha Row Inc., to pay Lydia Harris $45 million in economic damages, $2 million in non-economic damages and $50 million in punitive damages. In her lawsuit, Harris said in 1989 she and Knight became equal founding partners of the music label and that he pushed her out without her knowledge when he recognized its money-making potential. Sohigian made the judgment after ruling Knight and his attorneys violated court rules requiring them to answer questions and provide information to opposing counsel during the discovery process in 2002.

SEXUAL ABUSE, UNITED STATES
London, Mar 27 -- A press report, dated Mar 26, states: The Roman Catholic Diocese of Stockton has agreed to pay $3.6 million to two settle claims by two victims molested by a Lodi priest who was later deported to Ireland. The two unidentified victims and now in their 40s. They were elementary school students between ages 11 and 12 at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Lodi when they were molested by the Rev. Oliver O'Grady. O'Grady was convicted in 1993 of molesting the boys and served seven years before he was deported. The victims' attorneys, Gregory Davenport and Jeffrey Silvia, said yesterday each victim will get $1.8 million.

STOLEN TRADE SECRETS, UNITED STATES
San Jose, Calif., Mar 24 -- A California jury awarded memory chip maker Lexar Corp. $84 million in punitive damages from Japan's Toshiba Corp. today in a trial over Lexar's claims Toshiba stole its trade secrets. The San Jose jury yesterday had awarded Lexar more than $380 million in damages and considered the punitive award separately today. -- Reuters.

TOBACCO-RELATED ILLNESS, UNITED STATES
London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: A woman with lung cancer is to be awarded the highest court-ordered payment yet to an ex-smoker who failed to win a last-ditch appeal was rejected. Pauline Henley, 72, from San Francisco, California, will receive the $10.5m award, which has grown to more than $16m with interest, from Philip Morris, the world's largest cigarette maker. Trial lawyers said the company had lied about the risks and addictive nature of smoking and was responsible for her cancer. The payout was reduced from the largest such an appeals court concluded the jury had considered improper factors in awarding punitive damages. But Philip Morris argued that a new trial should have been ordered, rather than a simple reduction of the award. It claimed the lower courts also failed to consider the legal impact of a 2001 court ruling banning tobacco advertising. But the appeal was rejected, setting the stage for the company to pay up, six years after it began fighting to overturn the judgment. In 1998, William Ohlemeyer, a lawyer for the company, said: "We're disappointed that the court didn't take the case, but it won't prevent us from successfully defending other cases." It is the fourth time the industry has been ordered to pay damages to an individual smoker, and the second time for Philip Morris. Ms Henley plans to give most of the money to a foundation to warn children about the dangers of smoking and treat youngsters with breathing problems and cancer.

London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated Mar 28, states: A New York jury today awarded punitive damages of $17.1 million against Philip Morris USA in a case in which a 72-year-old woman said her lung cancer and neurological disorder were caused by her smoking, the source said. The punitive damage award, which has grown to more than $20 million with interest, is one of the largest such awards against the embattled tobacco industry. The 72-year-old plaintiff, Norma Rose, suffers from lung cancer and a neurological disorder she claimed were caused by her smoking, a habit she picked up in her teens. She quit in 1993. She alleged that cigarettes were a defective product design. In the case, Rivington American Tobacco et al., the jury returned on Mar 18 a $3.4 million award for compensatory damages against Philip Morris and American Tobacco Co., split evenly. But the jurors assessed nothing against American Tobacco, instead assessing all punitive damages against Philip Morris. The tobacco firm is vowed to appeal. Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court denied an appeal by Philip Morris in another case, in which a jury awarded a San Francisco woman $16 million in punitive damages.
level crossing on the CP main line just north of Balgonie late this morning. CP spokesman Ed Greenberg says the train was trying to come to a halt when the truck hit the second locomotive in the freight. Greenberg says 24 empty hopper cars then derailed along with a locomotive. RCMP say the intersection is a marked crossing with lights but add that a heavy overnight snowfall had created poor driving conditions at the time. Greenberg says cleanup crews are trying to get the line reopened by tomorrow.

**CASH, BANK, INNER MONGOLIA, CHINA**

London, Mar 27 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Three Chinese bank branches have been robbed by employees of Rmb115m ($13.9m) in the latest of a string of large-scale insider thefts that underline concerns about mainland banks' ability to manage and track their funds. News of the theft at three branches in Inner-Mongolia follows the resignation last week of Zhang Enzhao as head of China Construction Bank, the country's second largest lender, following accusations that he took a $1m bribe.

**DIAMONDS, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two gunmen posing as deliverymen slipped into a Diamond District wholesale business at 55 W. 47th St., New York, just before 1 p.m. and walked out with an estimated $5 million in diamonds, police said. The bandits, dressed in black, their faces covered by ski masks, appeared to have carefully planned the robbery, taking advantage of the reduced security in place for Good Friday.

**CASH MACHINE FAILURE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Millions of Barclays Bank customers were left cashless yesterday after a computer meltdown paralysed half of the bank's ATMs across southern England. The bank is investigating whether the changeover to British Summer Time caused the technical glitch. A spokeswoman said the clock change theory was "something fairly high on the list" of possible causes. Customers remained able to use cards in shop transactions, or to gain access to their funds through cashback services. Around 1,500 cash machines were affected by the breakdown. Customers were unable to withdraw money from hole-in-the-wall machines and Link ATMs, or to use telephone and internet banking. A spokeswoman for the bank would not confirm whether the clocks going forward was responsible for the IT problem. "Given the timing of this it's obviously something fairly high on the list (of possible causes), but it would be wrong to speculate until the investigation has been completed," she added that there was no impact on security - only "accessibility for people to their own accounts." The problem of the ATMs was solved by 6:00 BST, yesterday, although internet banking still remained affected.

**CARGO DISPUTE, CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Mar 29 -- General cargo Ryu Gyong has informed the Chittagong Port Authority that the vessel will sail on Mar 30. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**DAM BURST, GHAZNI PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN**

Kabul, Mar 29 -- A dam burst in Afghanistan's Ghazni province today, prompting U.S.-led forces to launch an evacuation effort using helicopters to clear downstream areas. The Ghazni river rose by one metre within half an hour of the Bande-Sultan dam bursting at around 0900 hrs (0430, UTC) and within hours some streets in Ghazni town were flooded, residents said. Relief workers said military helicopters had helped evacuate some families, who had been warned over the radio. Concern had mounted over the past few weeks as heavy rains and melt waters built up pressure on the dam's wall. -- Reuters.

**OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"**

Phnom Penh, Mar 24 -- Bird flu has killed a 28-year-old Cambodian man, officials said today as authorities in neighbouring Vietnam tested dozens of people in a village where a five-year-old boy has been infected with the virus. Keo Saran is Asia's 48th bird flu victim and Cambodia's second after a 25-year-old woman, who lived in the same southern province of Kampot, died in a Vietnamese hospital in late January. "The bird flu virus killed him," said Dr. Heng Taykry, the director of the Calmette hospital where the man died on Tuesday (Mar 22). Keo Saran appeared to have been infected after eating dead chickens, the doctor said today. Tests on seven relatives of the dead man have so far proved negative for the virus. The virus, which produces a high fever, coughing and acute pneumonia, has killed about 70% of the people known to have been infected, but it is believed to pass easily from birds to humans. However, experts fear it will eventually combine with a variety of human flu to form a contagious virus capable of killing millions of people worldwide. In hardest-hit Vietnam, where 34 people have died, health inspectors found 37 people with fevers and a similar illness in a commune in the central province of Quang Binh, where the five-year-old boy tested positive for bird flu nearly two weeks ago. "We are in serious condition and nobody shows clinical symptoms that need medical intervention," said senior provincial health official Truong Dinh Dinh, disputing state media reports that up to 200 people had flu-like symptoms. He said samples taken from residents, chickens, flies and the suspected bird flu would be tested for bird flu. Officials have been on alert in the province since the boy tested positive. He is now in stable condition in hospital. His 3-year-old sister was also ill after eating chicken, but doctors did not take tissue samples to test for bird flu. Dinh said a 16-month-old boy from Chau Hoa was in hospital with suspected bird flu, while five other villagers were under supervision, including the aunt of the 13-year-old girl who died. The woman had a slight fever after tending to her niece, Dinh said, but she appeared to be getting better. Authorities were also searching for a 41-year-old man from Chau Hoa, who walked out of a hospital yesterday where he and other suspected bird flu cases were held for observation. "The patient is in the group of bird flu suspects so we have informed local authorities to monitor his case," Bui Duc Phu, deputy director of the Hue Central Hospital said. Hong Kong Health Minister York Chow said yesterday that he was concerned about the reports from central Vietnam and the city may issue a travel warning if the cases turned out to be bird flu. The virus made the first known jump from bird to human in Hong Kong in 1997, where it killed six people. It has shown no signs of waning since late 2003, recurring across large parts of Asia several times and killing 34 Vietnamese, 12 Thais and two Cambodians despite the slaughter of millions of poultry. However, the World Health Organisation says it has seen no evidence so far to suggest the virus is changing into a form that could be transmitted from person to person. -- Reuters.

**BANGLADESH**

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**CHINA**

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tested positive for the H5N1 strain of bird flu, a health official said today. Initial test results at the National Institute of Virology and Epidemiology in Hanoi showed that the family in Hai Phong, 100 kilometres east of Hanoi, was infected with the deadly strain of the virus, Institute Director Nguyen Tran Hien said.

OUTBREAK OF MARBURG VIRUS, ANGOLA
London, Mar 24 -- A press report, dated Mar 23, states: An outbreak of haemorrhagic fever in northern Angola has killed 95 people, most commonly adults, the UN health agency said today. The World Health Organisation confirmed yesterday that the illness was Marburg, a disease similar to Ebola. Analysis had identified 102 cases of the virus since October, 2004, 95 of which had proved fatal. Angolan officials put the death toll for the start of the outbreak, the monthly number of cases has progressively increased, but this increase could be the result of intensified surveillance, WHO said in a statement. About three-quarters of cases have occurred in children under five and a small number of health care workers are among those adults infected, WHO said. The outbreak occurred along Angola's border with Congo, in Uige province. Authorities initially feared the deaths were caused by Ebola, which still exists in nature in Congo. "Marburg virus disease has no vaccine or curative treatment and can be rapidly fatal," WHO said. "In the present outbreak, most deaths have occurred between three to seven days following the onset of symptoms." Previous outbreaks have indicated that the risk of infection is increased by close contact with bodily fluids of infected people, as may occur during treatment or burial practices, WHO said. The health agency added that it was working with Angola's Ministry of Health to improve infection control in hospitals and to intensify efforts to detect cases, as well as improve public understanding of the disease and how it is transmitted. "Marburg virus disease occurs very rarely and appears to be geographically confined to a small number of countries in the southern part of the African continent," WHO said. "When cases do occur, the disease has epidemic potential, as it can spread from person to person, most often during the care of patients."

London, Mar 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: A six-alarm fire at a major Pacific Gas and Electric Co. substation knocked out power to at least 25,000 customers, sent Market Street between Third and Eighth streets into chaos and caused a huge and unnerving explosion. The outag hit Chinatown, Civic Center, the Western Addition, North Beach, the Tenderloin, downtown and the Embarcadero and South of Market. The single-alarm fire in the substation at Eighth and Mission streets was reported about 1915 hrs and water damage was limited, said a safety inspector. About 500 firefighters in 15 trucks first used 25 pounds of carbon dioxide in bottles until a truck arrived with 500 pounds of the chemical. About three-quarters of the chemical was used, said Audry Lee, assistant battalion chief with the San Francisco Fire Department. The substation, a plain, windowless three-story building filled with
transformers, serves as a kind of mother ship to other substations that serve the city. The fire started in a circuit-breaker panel on the second floor. Firefighters did not want to use water until PG&E officials assured them it was safe. After some initial reports to the bottom of the panel, Lee said PG&E said it was safe to use water. Firefighters sprayed the insulation -- resulting in a huge explosion that made the whole building go dark. Flames illuminated the area after the outage occurred, police placed flares in the dark streets and stopped traffic entirely on five blocks of Main Street. All five of the plant's employees escaped after they were alerted by someone at an arena next-door who had spotted flames at the rear of the building. Adjacent businesses were evacuated in the industrial area, as a precaution, as soon as the fire was reported. The earliest reports of any injuries.

**MILL, ABBEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated Mar 28, states: A massive blaze ravaged a plastics factory in Toronto's industrial area, as a precaution, as an explosion had been feared. The fire began early Saturday (Mar 28, states: A fire at an industrial area, as a precaution, as an explosion had been feared. The fire was reported about 1320 hrs, shook nearby buildings and sent huge plumes of black smoke into the air that could be seen from Galveston to Lake Pontchartrain. One employee was critically injured. UTMB Galveston reported it's admitted three people to the hospital in critical condition and four in serious condition. Other patients are still being evaluated by the hospital's trauma doctors. Texas City's Mainland Medical Center reported receiving 15 plant workers as well as 10 nearby residents who walked in for treatment. Clear Lake Regional Medical Center was also treating one of the injured. The explosion, reported about 1320 hrs, shook nearby buildings and sent huge plumes of black smoke into the air that could be seen from Galveston to Lake Pontchartrain. One employee was critically injured. UTMB Galveston reported it's admitted three people to the hospital in critical condition and four in serious condition. Other patients are still being evaluated by the hospital's trauma doctors. Texas City's Mainland Medical Center reported receiving 15 plant workers as well as 10 nearby residents who walked in for treatment. Clear Lake Regional Medical Center was also treating one of the injured. The explosion, reported about 1320 hrs, shook nearby buildings and sent huge plumes of black smoke into the air that could be seen from Galveston to Lake Pontchartrain. One employee was critically injured. UTMB Galveston reported it's admitted three people to the hospital in critical condition and four in serious condition. Other patients are still being evaluated by the hospital's trauma doctors. Texas City's Mainland Medical Center reported receiving 15 plant workers as well as 10 nearby residents who walked in for treatment. Clear Lake Regional Medical Center was also treating one of the injured.

**MILL, ABBEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: A massive blaze ravaged a plastics factory in Toronto's industrial area, as a precaution, as an explosion had been feared. The fire began early Saturday (Mar 28, states: A fire at an industrial area, as a precaution, as an explosion had been feared. The fire was reported about 1320 hrs, shook nearby buildings and sent huge plumes of black smoke into the air that could be seen from Galveston to Lake Pontchartrain. One employee was critically injured. UTMB Galveston reported it's admitted three people to the hospital in critical condition and four in serious condition. Other patients are still being evaluated by the hospital's trauma doctors. Texas City's Mainland Medical Center reported receiving 15 plant workers as well as 10 nearby residents who walked in for treatment. Clear Lake Regional Medical Center was also treating one of the injured. The explosion, reported about 1320 hrs, shook nearby buildings and sent huge plumes of black smoke into the air that could be seen from Galveston to Lake Pontchartrain. One employee was critically injured. UTMB Galveston reported it's admitted three people to the hospital in critical condition and four in serious condition. Other patients are still being evaluated by the hospital's trauma doctors. Texas City's Mainland Medical Center reported receiving 15 plant workers as well as 10 nearby residents who walked in for treatment. Clear Lake Regional Medical Center was also treating one of the injured. The explosion, reported about 1320 hrs, shook nearby buildings and sent huge plumes of black smoke into the air that could be seen from Galveston to Lake Pontchartrain. One employee was critically injured. UTMB Galveston reported it's admitted three people to the hospital in critical condition and four in serious condition. Other patients are still being evaluated by the hospital's trauma doctors. Texas City's Mainland Medical Center reported receiving 15 plant workers as well as 10 nearby residents who walked in for treatment.

**MILL, RHODE ISLAND, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: An explosion rocked a BP plant this afternoon, killing one person and critically injuring others. Set up in 1979, Zha Lung Nature Reserve covering an area of 210,000 hectares is a global level nature reserve for the endangered red-crested crane.
A complete online archive covering the last 10 years of Lloyd's Casualty Week. For further information please call +44 (0) 20 7017 4779.

blaze. Rescue teams combed through piles of rubble and the remains of shattered buildings in the plant to search for the dead and injured while ambulances took the injured to hospitals. "We believe 14 people lost their lives as a result of the fire," BP spokesman Bill Hoyle said. BP officials and area health officials said at least 100 people were injured and that some were in critical condition. Plant spokesman Bill Stephens said more than 100 injured had been working in the refinery. The others were outside the complex and hurt by flying glass and falling ceiling tiles.

An isomerization unit, which boosts octane in they will be better able to hazardous vapors. Once they can get a closer look. Besides the 15 refinery explosion that killed 15 people this past week. "We do not yet have the best site due to benzene vapors leaking from a damaged storage tank 300 yards away. BP is attempting to stop the leak, which makes the air toxic, so probers can't get close to it," said Daniel Horowitz, who works at the refinery and was rescued by the fire.
The Czech government has apologised to the area. It also pledged more than 10 years for the park to recover. Chile. Experts say it will take more than 10 years for the park to recover. Mr Smitak says he feels great. The legal action against Mr Smitak will rely on the co-operation of the Czech courts.

The sum sought was not specified in the report, dated today. Experts say the two-storey building housed supplies. "All those who were inside the building escaped safely as soon as the fire was discovered," said Staff Sgt. June Layden. Company officials say the two-storey building housed $1.8-million worth of building supplies.

Jiri Smitak, 31, had been camping in the Torres del Paine park when a gas stove he was illegally using overturned, sparking the blaze. The cause of the fire is being investigated and the damage is being estimated now. Investigators work at the site.

London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire broke out in a Fursheft supermarket in Kiev overnight. More than 10 percent of the total area of the supermarket occupying 3,000 square metres was burnt, according to an Emergency Services Ministry's press service reported. Nobody was hurt. Sixteen teams of firemen fought the blaze that swept through the building. The roof of the fire was extinguished two hours after it broke out. The cause of the fire is being investigated and the damage is being estimated now. Investigators work at the site.

London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: A major fire at an industrial supply warehouse has forced the evacuation of homes and business premises and the closure of three schools in Mount Pearl, a bedroom community west of St. John's. As firefighters worked to contain the blaze, huge clouds of black and white smoke poured from the plant, thought to be owned by Emco Corp. A spokesperson for the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary said there were no reports of injuries. The flames moved so quickly that the company's 35 employees were forced to flee the building without coats or purses. "All those who were inside the building escaped safely as soon as the fire was discovered," said Staff Sgt. J June Layden. Company officials say the two-storey building housed $1.8-million worth of building supplies.

Wildfire, Chile

London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Chilean authorities are suing a Czech citizen for fire damages after he accidentally started a fire, causing extensive damage to a national park. Jiri Smitak, 31, had been camping in the Torres del Paine park when a gas stove he was illegally using overturned, sparking the blaze. The cause of the fire is being investigated and the damage is being estimated now. Investigators work at the site.

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Fires & Explosions/Aviation

London, Mar 22 -- Boeing 707, 9G-IRL, operated by Ethiopian Airlines and leased from Cargo Plus Aviation, departed Addis Ababa on a cargo flight to Lome with a scheduled refueling stop at Entebbe. It was raining as the Boeing approached Entebbe. At 1052, Mar 19 the aircraft made a first attempt to land on Runway 17 but the approach was abandoned. On the second attempt to land it came in too low, struck a rock. It broke up and crashed into Lake Victoria just short of the runway. According to the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority, the aircraft, en route from Addis Ababa to Lome, Togo, was making a refueling stop at Entebbe. The crew experienced trouble landing on Runway 17 at 1026 hrs. It was during their second attempt at landing that the right wing of the craft is suspected to have hit a rocky outcrop. The crew was forced to take to the water and direct the aircraft, with its nose in the water, to a safe landing. According to the Civil Aviation Authority, the aircraft, en route from Addis Ababa to Lome, Togo, was making a refueling stop at Entebbe. The crew experienced trouble landing on Runway 17 at 1026 hrs. It was during their second attempt at landing that the right wing of the craft is suspected to have hit a rocky outcrop. The crew was forced to take to the water and direct the aircraft, with its nose in the water, to a safe landing. According to the Civil Aviation Authority, the aircraft, en route from Addis Ababa to Lome, Togo, was making a refueling stop at Entebbe. The crew experienced trouble landing on Runway 17 at 1026 hrs. It was during their second attempt at landing that the right wing of the craft is suspected to have hit a rocky outcrop. The crew was forced to take to the water and direct the aircraft, with its nose in the water, to a safe landing.
ACCIDENT, DADE COLLIER JET PORT, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES
London, Mar 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two men were killed and another, a Coast Guard official said, 'It landed without
alerted the airport of an emergency
to the scene after people saw a light
in the area. The helicopter crashed down
into a field, burst into flames and a dense
crash site. News helicopter shots showed that
the small helicopter was destroyed.

CRASH, SURPRISE AREA, UNITED STATES
London, Mar 31 -- A press report, dated Mar 22, states: Two men apparently are OK after their small
helicopter crashed in the desert west of Surprise. When rescue crews arrived on the scene near
195th Avenue and Bell Road, they found the two occupants of the
helicopter walking around. Initial reports indicated that both men refused to be taken to a hospital to be checked out. News helicopter shots showed that
the small helicopter was destroyed.

CRASH, SAHARANPUR, HARYANA STATE, INDIA
London, Mar 31 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two ministers in the government of the Indian state of Haryana have died in a helicopter
crash that also killed the pilot, police
say. They named the dead politicians as
power minister OP Jindal, who is also a well-known industrialist, and
agriculture minister Surinder Singh. The helicopter crashed in Uttar
Pradesh state at about 1330, local
time, in the district of Saharanpur. According to police, two other passengers were injured in the crash.

CRASH, D-IMMA
London, Mar 22 -- Cessna 340, D-IMMA, was destroyed after crashing shortly after takeoff approximately 1430, UTC, Mar 3. The pilot and all five passengers on board were killed.

CRASH, EMERGENCY LANDING, EAST MIDLANDS AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM
London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft was landed at the scene after people saw a light
in the area. The helicopter crashed down
into a field, burst into flames and a dense
crash site. News helicopter shots showed that
the small helicopter was destroyed.

CRASH,gements have been brought in. No
were called to the scene near the
afternoon. The emergency services
off, in a field half a mile from Kemble
Airfield and burst into flames this
evening. "It's in very
damaged, with destroyed
propeller pieces penetrating the
fuseage. A pilot and copilot on board
were not injured. The deer died. The
D-IMMA
London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: The wreckage of a
aircraft near the
CRASH, ARC, BOLOGNA, ITALY
London, Mar 31 -- A press report,
dated today, states: An investigation
into a fatal aircraft crash in Perth
that killed two people and left four
others with serious burns has found
the accident was caused by engine
failure. The Australian Transport
Safety Bureau has found the twin
engine Cessna 404 was taking off from
Jandakot Airport in August, 2003,
when one of its engines failed. The
bureau said the pilot attempted to
avoid flying toward power lines by
turning the aircraft back to the airport
for an emergency landing but during
the turn the aircraft clipped trees and
crashed into scrub. The aircraft
crashed into the desert west of Surprise. When

CRASH, ENTEBBE, UGANDA
London, Mar 31 -- A press report,
dated today, states: Thirty-six people
were injured including some with
broken bones when an Eva Air
crashed into the sea off the
city of Ho in Germany. Hof police
reported that two men and one woman
were killed. The aircraft crashed near
a small airport in the Helmbrechts region. The cause of the crash is not yet known.

CRASH, JANDAKOT AIRPORT AREA, PERTH, AUSTRALIA
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CRASH, AC, GLASGOW, UNITED KINGDOM
London, Mar 25 -- A press report,
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CRASH, CRASH, GLOUCESTER, UNITED KINGDOM
London, Mar 22 -- A press report,
dated today, states: Two people have
died in an airplane crash in Gloucester.
initial report said. The aircraft came down shortly after takeoff, in a field half a mile from Kemble
Airfield and burst into flames this
afternoon. The emergency services
were called to the scene near the
village of Culkerton and a large area
has been sealed off. Air accident
investigators have been brought in. No
details have been released yet about
the identity of the two people who
were killed.

CRASH, NASCOLLIER JET PORT, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES
London, Mar 31 -- A press report,
dated today, states: A single-engine
aircraft crashed near a small airport
nearby hospital. It is reported that the
aircraft were killed and another
travelling in the single engine private
aircraft were killed and another
severely injured girl was taken to a

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forced to make an emergency landing at East Midlands Airport after fears that it was leaking fuel. A total of 13 fire engines from across the county responded to the alert at around 0215, this morning. However, once the Boeing 757 Euro transit aircraft was inspected, no sign of a leak was found. According to the fire service there were no passengers onboard the aeroplane and no-one was injured during the incident.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MALPENSA AIRPORT, MILAN, ITALY

London, Mar 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: A private jet was involved in an emergency landing at the city's Malpensa airport, airport authorities said, adding that those aboard were unhurt. Firefighters sprayed foam on a runway as the jet skidded to an emergency landing yesterday evening, airport officials said. The plane had to be towed to a hangar after its undercarriage failed to deploy. Airport officials said the eight passengers, including two children, and three crew were unhurt. The incident forced the closure of Italy's biggest airport for around an hour, the ANSA news agency said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MURTALA MUHAMMED INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, LAGOS, NIGERIA

London, Mar 31 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A cargo aircraft yesterday made an emergency landing at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos after sustaining an engine problem, according to local media reports. The reports quoted officials of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) as saying the pilot of the DC-10 aircraft, the destination of which was not known, requested for landing at Lagos due to an engine problem. No one was injured in the incident.

EMERGENCY LANDING, RECIFE, BRAZIL

London, Mar 23 -- A press report, dated Mar 21, states: A HollandExel Boeing 767 with 273 persons on board was forced to return to a Brazilian airport after one of its engines stopped working 45 minutes after take-off this morning. Flying with just one engine the Boeing 767 landed safely at the airport in Recife, where it had originated. All passengers have been given emergency accommodation at city hotels. A HollandExel spokesman said the plane was en route to Amsterdam when the port engine cut out. The pilot decided to return to Recife, informed passengers and landed the plane with just one engine. The spokesman said no signs of a fire in the engine have been detected, despite the fact that sparks were seen. Airport firefighters also cooled the plane's brakes after the emergency landing. The plane is 10 to 12 years old and was on lease from Swedish airline SAS.

EMERGENCY LANDING, WINNIPEG, CANADA

London, Mar 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Air Canada aircraft with a cracked windshield made an emergency landing yesterday at Winnipeg International Airport. The A-320 Airbus carrying 98 passengers and six crew members from Toronto to Calgary landed safely about 0955 hrs. City fire and paramedic crews rushed to the airport as a precaution. There were no injuries.

ER-IBR

Dar Es Salaam, Mar 24 -- Eight people were missing and feared dead after a Russian cargo aircraft plunged into the Tanzanian section of Lake Victoria late yesterday, provincial authorities said today. "We are launching an operation to pull out the wreckage. We don't see any sign of life," Dar Es Salaam regional commissioner, told Reuters by phone from the lakeside town of Mwanza. -- Reuters.

London, Mar 26 -- Ilyushin 76TD, ER-IBR, operator Airline Transport crashed into Lake Victoria soon after take-off from Mwanza Airport, Tanzania, at 2307, Mar 23. There were eight crew and the passengers who were all killed. The aircraft was carrying a load of fish to Croatia.

Dar es Salaam, Mar 26 -- A Russian built Ilyushin 76TD crashed into Lake Victoria two minutes after take off from Mwanza Airport (on Mar 23). Eight crew members are reported to have died. The aircraft belongs to Air Transport Incorporation of Kishinen and is registered in Moldova. Four bodies have been recovered and Four more are reported to be trapped in the fuselage. Rescue efforts continue by the Marine Police and by Gieta Gold company staff. The plane was reported to be loaded with 50 tonnes of fish fillet and was flying to Osijek, Croatia. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FLIGHTS DELAYED DUE TO FOG, KALININGRAD, RUSSIA

London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Heavy fog paralysed the work of Kaliningrad airport today. Three flights from Kaliningrad and three flights from other Russian regions to the city were cancelled in the morning because of poor visibility. Visibility is within 300 metres, while 800 metres is required for landing. The fog may remain for several hours, airport sources said. On aircrafts from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Minsk and Krassnodar arrived in the Russian western most region later than scheduled also because of fog.

HK-4146

London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: A small West Carribean Airways aircraft crashed today during take-off from the Colombus Island of Old Providence, killing the pilot and co-pilot and injuring all 12 passengers, authorities said. "It had just taken flight when some type of technical problem apparently happened, and it crashed at the edge of the runway," said Martin Gonzalez, spokesman for Aerocivil, the civil aviation agency. The Czech-built Let-410, was carrying tourists from the Caribbean island of Old Providence to another Colombian island, San Andrés, off the coast of Nicaragua, the official said. Of those injured, four were in serious condition, Gonzalez said.

London, Mar 28 -- Let 410UV-P, HK-4146, operator West Caribbean Airways, climbed insufficiently after take-off from Providencia-El Embrujo Airport and flew into the side of a small hill at approximately Mar 26. The two crew on board were both killed and of the 12 passengers on board six were killed.

INCIDENT AT BERINGIN AIRPORT, KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA

London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Cassa aircraft operated by airline company Dirgantara Air Service (DAS) skidded off the runway upon taking off at Beringin airport today, but there were not reports of casualties. The airplane was taking off at about 1330 hrs, but skidded off the end of the runway. None of the 19 passengers and crew on the plane, which was flying to Tjilik Riwu Airport in the Central Kalimantan capital of Palangka Raya, were hurt. The plane, from which smoke was seen billowing from the wing on the right side of the aircraft, stopped just short of a ravine.

INCIDENT AT MWANZA AIRPORT, TANZANIA

London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated today, states: Seventy-six air passengers have escaped unhurt from a landing mishap as all the rear tyres burst while arriving at the Mwanza airport in northern Tanzania. All of the four rear tyres on the Boeing 737, operated by the Air Tanzania Company Ltd., burst as the plane arrived in Mwanza from Dar es Salaam yesterday morning, official reports. Air Tanzania Company Ltd. CEO and Managing Director Dumisani Sangweni said in a statement that a team of technicians had been dispatched to Mwanza on a chartered flight to replace the damaged tyres and assess any further secondary damage to the plane. Sources at the Mwanza airport attributed the mishap to the plane "running over "foreign objects" washed onto the runway by a downpour of rain.

INCIDENT AT SYDNEY AIRPORT, AUSTRALIA

London, Mar 25 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Qantas air carrier was stranded on a runway at Sydney Airport after landing with brake problems this morning. "After landing it experienced some hydraulic line issues, and we had one fire truck attend because they had hydraulic fluid dripping onto hot brakes," an Airservices Australia spokesman said. "The issues have prevented the
aircraft from moving up to the ... air bridges, and people are apparently now being taken off. There were 247 passengers and 16 crew onboard the Air Pacific 747-400, which landed at Sydney from Nadi in Fiji just after 1140 hrs.

**INSPECTION OF CESSNA 402-C AIRCRAFT, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 22 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Federal Aviation Administration is ordering the immediate inspection of all Cessna 402-C aircraft because of a possible wing defect. Officials say the problem could cause the wing to break away from the aircraft. The Cessna 402-C makes up the majority of Hyannis-based Cape Air and Island Airlines' fleets. The potential problem can arise when spar straps begin to fail on the aircraft's wing. Those spar straps hold the wing on the plane's body. An official with Cape Air tells the Cape Cod Times that their company began installing supports for the spar straps several years ago. Twenty of the airline's Cessna's have the modification, the emergency order from the FAA requires repetitive visual inspection of the wings for every 110 hours of flight time. Federal officials say extensive cracks have been found on three aircraft.

**N222YT**

London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Hair stylist and salon owner Peter D'Ambrosio and wife Karen of Symmes Township were flying in their Cessna 210 when they were killed during landing Saturday night (Mar 26). The crash happened on Johns Island, off the South Carolina coast. The couple - the only people on the aircraft - were pronounced dead at the scene, said Charleston County Coroner Susan Chewning. "It was a crash on the final approach," Chewning said. "It was raining before the crash, but it wasn't raining at the time of the crash." The single-engine, six-seater aircraft crashed and caught fire short of a Charleston Executive Airport. Emergency medical teams were on the scene, said Charleston County Sheriff Monte Harsch said. "The twin engine aircraft went down around 1400 hrs in Bennner Township just outside Bellefonte, the Centre County official said. The aircraft was identified as a Cessna 182. The emergency order from the FAA requires repetitive visual inspection of the wings for every 110 hours of flight time. Federal officials say extensive cracks have been found on three aircraft.

**N6092Q**

London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated Mar 28, states: Investigators from the Federal Aviation Administration are investigating a fatal plane crash near Bloomfield. It happened around 1000 hrs, today, just south of Bloomfield's Municipal Airport. Emergency medical teams airlifted the plane's pilot to Iowa City for treatment, but the pilot's wife did not survive the crash. "We know the plane had just taken off from the airport and was attempting to return to the airport when it crashed," Davis County Sheriff Monte Harsch said. The plane was mostly intact. It's wings are still attached, and only a few pieces of debris littered the area, but the front of the single-engine plane is crushed.

London, Mar 29 -- Mooney M-20E (Super 21), N6092Q, crashed near Bloomfield, Iowa, at 1530, Mar 28. One of the two persons on board was killed and the other was seriously injured.

**N656UA**

London, Mar 22 -- United Airlines flight 846, Boeing B767, N656UA, experienced a port engine surge during take-off at Ezeiza International Airport, Buenos Aires, on Mar 14. The flight crew aborted the take-off and the 10 crew and 168 passengers performed an emergency evacuation. The incident is being investigated by the Junta de Investigaciones de Accidentes de Aviacion Civil, Argentina.

**N770G**

London, Mar 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Six Rhode Islanders were killed yesterday when a Pilatus PT6A-67 (N770G) crashed yesterday near a construction site where a new county prison is being built, authorities said. The turboprop aircraft went down around 1400 hrs in Benner Township just outside Bellefonte, the Centre County official said. The aircraft was identified as a Pilatus PC-12. The emergency order from the FAA requires repetitive visual inspection of the wings for every 110 hours of flight time. Federal officials say extensive cracks have been found on three aircraft.

**ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE**

London, Mar 31 -- A press report, dated Mar 29, states: Bombardier Recreational Products Inc. and its U.S. affiliate BRP US Inc. are recalling about 3,430 all-terrain vehicles over concerns that some of their axle bearings may break. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission said today that the rear axle bearings on the Bombardier DS560 ATVs were not grease properly and may break under use, making the ATVs unstable. Operators may lose control of the vehicle, threatening injury to the operator. The company received one report of breakage resulting in loss of control, but the incident did not result in injury. The company has not received any reports of injuries or deaths. The ATVs were sold in North America as well as abroad from March 2004 to now for between $6,000 US and $7,000 US each.
scooter can break or become damaged, and users of the scooters can fall and suffer injuries. MGA has received six reports of cracked wheels on the recalled scooters. All six incidents resulted in cuts, scrapes, and bruises. In one case, a 9-year-old suffered a broken arm. The company said the wheels can break or become damaged, which can lead users to fall or suffer injuries, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said today. The distributor, MGA Entertainment Inc., of Indianapolis, Ind. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately and contact MGA for a refund or a replacement scooter. Contact Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**CHOCOLATE BARS, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 31 -- A Vermont company is recalling a batch of chocolate bars shipped to 23 states after discovering the wrong wrapper was used on bars that contain peanuts. The peanuts pose health risks to people with peanut allergies. Lake Champlain Chocolates of Burlington said its peanut bars were mistakenly labeled Five Star Fruit and Nut Bars, which contain hazelnuts, pecans, cherries and dark chocolate. Three consumer complaints prompted the recall of the two-ounce bars, which were shipped in early March to retailers in Wisconsin, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and the District of Columbia. The side of the wrapper bears lot number 05056. Consumers can return the product to the store for a refund.

**GEL CANDLES, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: A severe fire hazard prompted a voluntary recall of about 720,000 gel candles made by a Marble Falls company, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission said yesterday. The candles, produced by Nature’s Finest, were sold by drugstores and grocery stores nationwide from June 2001 through July 2003 for between $8 and $11 each, according to the commission. Consumers should stop using the candles immediately and contact Nature’s Finest to receive a full refund, the commission says. The gel used in these candles can catch fire, creating a high flame, the commission says. That can result in nearby combustible materials catching fire. Nature’s Finest has received four reports of the surface layer of the gel burning and creating high flames, the commission says. Two consumer reports have required medical treatment, according to the commission.

**HONDA MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN**

London, Mar 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Honda Motor Co. said Thursday (Mar 24) it will recall 859 HR-V passenger cars to prevent their rear doors from opening while the cars are in motion. In a report filed with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Honda said the HR-Vs in question were manufactured between July 1999 and March 2005.

**MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN**

London, Mar 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Corp. said today it will recall about 9,800 trucks and buses in total in connection with seven types of defects, including one associated with its steering system. In a report filed with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, the manufacturer said, those vehicles, made between December 1998 and July 2002, include the Aero Star bus and Super Great truck. In February, the company pledged to file recall reports concerning a total of 28 items among the 37 problems. The company said the Aero Star problem concerns a metal component for fixing a steering-system gear to the bus body.

**PORTABLE DVD PLAYER BATTERIES, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 31 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission today announces the recall of about 47,000 portable DVD player batteries in voluntary co-operation with Thomson Inc., of Indianapolis, Ind. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The battery can overheat and explode while recharging, posing a burn and fire hazard to consumers. Thomson Inc. has received 11 reports of batteries overheating and five reports of batteries exploding. There are two reports of consumers suffering burned fingers from picking up a battery after it overheated. Only batteries used with the RCA portable DVD player and bearing the model number DRC600N are being recalled. The DRC600N model DVD player with the battery attached is about 7.2 inches wide, 5.2 inches deep, and 2 inches high. The cabinet housing is plastic, except for a metal "skin" on the top of the player. The metal "skin" is silver colored, and the rest of the DVD player is tan or dark gray. The logo "RCA LIFE," along with the words "DVD VIDEO" are printed on the top of the DVD Player. The battery attaches to the bottom of the DVD player. Manufactured in China. Sold at electronic and department stores nation-wide from September 2002 through July 2003 for between $340 and $490. Consumers should stop using and stop recharging the battery immediately and contact Thomson Inc. for a free replacement battery. The portable DVD player is not being recalled, and consumers can continue to use it without the battery until they receive a replacement battery. The player can be used with an AC Power Adapter by simply unplugging the battery from the unit and plugging the AC Power Adapter into the 9-volt jack on the unit. -- Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**SUZUKI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN**

London, Mar 30 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Chinese manufacturer of Bratz Stylin' Scooters is recalling about 297,000 scooters because the wheels can break or become damaged, which can lead users to fall or suffer injuries, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said today. The distributor, MGA Entertainment Inc. of Van Nuys, Calif. has received six reports of cracked wheels. All the incidents resulted in cuts, scrapes and bruises. In one case, a child suffered a broken arm. The recall includes scooters manufactured by Jurong Dumar Bicycle Inc. of China. The recall does not include Bratz Stylin' Scooters manufactured for any manufacturer other than Jurong. The non-motorized, two-wheeled scooters have a folding hinge and an adjustable handlebar. The scooter platform is purple with a bright pink Bratz logo on the top surface. Included in this recall are scooters containing information identifying the product as Item No. 266563, with a date of manufacture prior to July 2004, and manufactured by Jurong. This identification information can be located either in the area directly beneath the scooter platform or at the bottom of the scooter near the rear wheel. The scooters were sold at toy and discount chain stores nation-wide from September 2003 through November 2004 for about $30.

**SUZUKI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN**

London, Mar 30 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Suzuki Motor Corp said yesterday it is recalling a total of 3,214 vehicles in three models for free repairs due to fears about problems with shifting gears or moving the car. Subject to the action are the Alto minivehicle, Wagon R and Carol cars manufactured between December 1998 and June 2001. Suzuki said in a report submitted to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

**TODDLER BEDS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Mar 22 -- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
announces the recall of about 1.2 million Graco Toddler Beds in voluntary co-operation with Graco Children's Products Inc. of Exton, Pa. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. A child's arm, leg or foot can become entrapped between the slats in the guard rails or footboard. This can result in broken bones, sprains and other injuries to young children. Graco has received reports of 77 entrapments. This resulted in 13 broken arms and legs, 1 broken foot, a sprained ankle, and 54 other injuries including bruised, scratched, and swollen limbs. The recalled Graco toddler beds are white plastic and steel with openings between the slats in the guard rails and footboard. The beds were sold under the names "Cozy Toddler Bed," "Glow-in-the-Dark Toddler Bed," and "Classic Toddler Bed." There is a label on the guard rail or leg containing one of the following model numbers: "8801, 8801WR, 8821, 8824, 8828, 8833, 30066, 34434 and 11030," a serial number, and the manufacturer's address. Model 8828's headboard has a blue sky with a yellow moon and stars. Model 8801WR has red legs. "Graco" is printed on all of the beds' footboards.

EARTH SUMMIT
London, Mar 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: The 1998 Grand National winner Earth Summit has been put down after being diagnosed with cancer. The 17-year-old was trained by Nigel Twiston-Davies and ridden to success at Aintree by Carl Llewellyn. He is the only chaser ever to have completed the treble of the Aintree, Scottish and Welsh Nationals. "We will miss him greatly but know that he had a great life doing what he loved," said Nigel Payne on behalf of the horse's owners the Summit Partnership. Earth Summit underwent scans two weeks ago and was discovered to have cancer in both his liver and spleen. He was put to sleep to avoid any suffering. Since his retirement in 2000, he was stabled by Marcella Bayliss, who had looked after him since he joined the Twiston-Davies yard in 1992. The trainer brought Earth Summit back to health after a career-threatening injury at Haydock to win the Grand National just 16 months later. As well as his National wins, he won the Peter Marsh Chase at Haydock and a Steel Plate and Sections Final at Cheltenham. He had been due to go to the Parade of Champions at Aintree on Grand National day next month.

AUSTRALIA
London, Mar 26 -- A press report, dated Mar 24, states: The Queensland coal industry concedes the number of ships queuing to get Bowen Basin coal may not go below 50 for at least 12 months. Representing industry chief executive officers, except Anglo Coal, Ken Talbot says the $500 million in penalties ship operators are paying owners each year for running late could well increase. He says new infrastructure will not be completed for a year and if decisions are not made soon, industry expansion will be threatened. "If you look at the increased demand that we're forecasting over the next five years, it's important that we make those decisions now so that we're not playing catch-up for the next five years."

ITALY

PANAMA CANAL
London, Mar 23 -- A press report, dated today, states: Due to a combination of locomotive track rehabilitation, heavy arrivals and fog, some vessels waiting to transit the Panama Canal have experienced delays of up to four days. This is now being reduced to two-three days. The track work for this session is understood to be completed and it is hoped that normal service will resume soon.
### Port Delays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Port</th>
<th>Date of report</th>
<th>No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Australia</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbott Point</td>
<td>29-Mar-2005</td>
<td>Coal: 1 vessel berthed; 12 vessels due by 26/4; up to 1 day’s delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brisbane</td>
<td>29-Mar-2005</td>
<td>Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 1 vessel berthed; 3 vessels due by 12/4; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalrymple Bay</td>
<td>29-Mar-2005</td>
<td>Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 51 anchored; 31 vessels due by 29/4. 20-30 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; waiting times vary greatly due to different stem supply issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dampier</td>
<td>29-Mar-2005</td>
<td>Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 7 anchored; 8 vessels due by 8/4; up to 11 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 10 vessels due by 7/4; up to 9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shippers will always consider a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels awaiting HW; shippers are experiencing cargo shortages of some grades and stockpile problems; some vessels will berth out of turn and berthing line-up may change at short notice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gladstone</td>
<td>29-Mar-2005</td>
<td>Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 3 vessels berthed, 6 anchored; 37 vessels due by 7/5; up to 7 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed; 8 vessels due by 23/4; up to 2 days delay expected due to cargo availability and berth congestion; shiploading activities will cease from 06.00 hrs. 16/5 until 06.00 hrs. 26/5 to enable repairs to be carried out to wharf deck.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay Point</td>
<td>29-Mar-2005</td>
<td>Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 10 anchored; 5 vessels due by 1/4. up to 10 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>29-Mar-2005</td>
<td>Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels berthed, 17 anchored; 20 vessels due by 14/4; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel berthed, 6 anchored; 14 vessels due by 13/4; 1 unallocated vessel due 13/4; 6-9 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal, coal product problems with some shippers and cargo receival.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Hedland</td>
<td>29-Mar-2005</td>
<td>Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), “A” berth: 4 vessels anchored; 4 vessels due by 7/4; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; “B” berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 vessels due by 8/4; 1-4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty., Ltd., Goldsworthy (Fumcane Island) “C” berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 4 vessels due by 31/3; no delays expected; “D” berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 7 vessels due by 5/4; 1-4 days delay expected due to berth congestion, maintenance shutdowns and cargo availability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Kembla</td>
<td>29-Mar-2005</td>
<td>Coal: 19 vessels due by 1/5; CB-1: 3 vessels due by 8/4; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Walcott</td>
<td>29-Mar-2005</td>
<td>Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 17 vessels due by 18/4; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Shippers are experiencing shortages of lump and fine grade ores.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>29-Mar-2005</td>
<td>No vessels; no delays expected.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Brazil**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Port</th>
<th>Date of report</th>
<th>No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paranagua</td>
<td>29-Mar-2005</td>
<td>Eleven vessels berthed of which 2 fertiliser dischargers, 1 reefer loader, 1 pellets loader, 1 soya loader, 1 sugar loader, 1 container discharger, 4 other loaders/dischargers; 6 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 soya, 5 other vessel; 40 vessels due over the next 7 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Grande</td>
<td>29-Mar-2005</td>
<td>Two vessels berthed of which 1 soya meal loader, 1 wheat discharger; 3 vessels waiting in roads; 12 vessels due over the next 10 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santos</td>
<td>29-Mar-2005</td>
<td>Seventeen vessels berthed of which 1 bulk fuel oil loader, 5 sugar loaders, 1 bulk wheat discharger, 1 bulk salt discharger, 1 Ro/Ro loader, 1 pellets loader, 2 bulk soya loaders, 1 full container loader/discharger, 4 other loaders; 8 vessels waiting in roads; 23 vessels due over the next 7 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sao Sebastiao</td>
<td>29-Mar-2005</td>
<td>Four vessels berthed, 2 waiting in roads; 5 vessels due over the next 10 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitoria</td>
<td>29-Mar-2005</td>
<td>Two vessels berthed of which 1 iron ore loader, 1 general cargo loader; Terminal Vila Velha: 1 granite loader; Tubarao: 1 potassium chloride discharger, 1 soya loader, 3 other loaders; Praia Mole: 1 coal discharger, 1 steel products loader, 1 other discharger; Portocel: no vessels; Ubu: 1 loader; 16 vessels waiting in roads; 36 vessels due over the next 7 days.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bulgaria

Bourgas 29-Mar-2005 Nine vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (4 coils, 1 scrap, 1 copper concentrate, 1 empty), 2 discharging (1 billets, 1 coal); 3 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 cigarettes, 1 unknown cargo, 1 empty vessel; 12 vessels due, of which 7 to load (1 baryte concentrate, 1 coils, 1 profiles, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 containers, 1 equipment, 1 transformers), 5 to discharge (1 containers, 1 metals, 1 zinc concentrate, 1 LAB, 1 iron ore).

Varna 29-Mar-2005 Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik. Conditions 21-27 March: Thirty-one vessels in port operating of which 20 loading (1 bulk maize, 1 scrap, 3 sunflower seeds, 1 TSP, 5 soda, 1 bulk clinker, 1 sulphuric acid, 2 silica sand/other, 1 bulk STTP, 1 kaolin/soda/other, 1 packed hardboard, 1 metal constructions, 1 hydrochloric acid), 6 discharging (3 bulk coal, 2 raw phosphate, 1 equipment), 5 discharging/loading containers.

Chile

Antofagasta 28-Mar-2005 Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 13 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.

Valparaíso 28-Mar-2005 Three vessels berthed, 5 berths vacant; 5 vessels anchored; 12 vessels due this week.

Egypt

Alexandria 28-Mar-2005 Forty-one vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 34 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 4 tankers, 1 containers; 15 vessels dry-docked; 12 vessels at inner anchorage, 10 at outer anchorage.

Damietta 28-Mar-2005 Twenty vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 13 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 4 containers; 2 vessels at outer anchorage, 10 at inner anchorage.

Suez Canal 28-Mar-2005 Thirty-four vessels transiting Northbound, 10 Southbound.

Israel

Ashdod 29-Mar-2005 No labour problems. Seven vessels loading at berth (3 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 11 vessels discharging at berth (7 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (3 general cargo, 1 bulk), 10 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (6 general cargo, 4 bulkers); 1 vessel awaiting orders; 24 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.

Haifa 29-Mar-2005 No labour problems. One bulker loading at berth, 4 vessels discharging at berth (3 general cargo, 1 bulker), 9 vessels loading/discharging at berth (7 containers, 2 tankers); 1 bulker waiting at anchorage to load, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (2 containers, 1 tanker); 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 2 awaiting orders; 14 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.

Mozambique

Maputo 28-Mar-2005 Twenty-four hour berthing/sailing. Some restrictions to berthing at certain badly lit wharves. Vessels have to be geared for general cargo berths as shore cranes are very few and unreliable. The Port is working normally and is expected to remain so, hence vessels should berth on arrival, daylight, draft and weather permitting. No berthing delays envisaged. A shortage of equipment is being experienced (except at the Container terminal). Shed space is currently available. Safe draft for transiting the channel is 9.1 metres plus the tide of the day. Density of water varies from 1.020 to 1.023. Vessels with ramps on starboard side can berth with the ebbing tide. Should ramps be portside, vessels to berth with the flowing tide. Pilot launch is operational. Both tugs are operational. Leading lights are lit. Both container gantries are operational. Matola coal terminal is operational. Ressano Garcia, Goba and Limpopo railway lines are all operational. Eight vessels are currently in port berthed, of which 4 loading (1 bagged sugar, 1 bagged cashew nuts, 1 ferro chrome, 1 aluminium), 3 discharging (1 frozen fish, 2 bagged rice), 1 discharging/loading containers; 2 vessels berthing 28/3, 1 to load/discharge containers, 1 to load ferro chrome; 17 vessels due by 6/4 of which 7 to load (1 aluminium, 1 cashew nuts, 2 coal, 1 clinker, 1 ferro chrome, 1 bagged sugar), 5 to discharge (1 vegetable oil, 1 petcoke, 1 gasoil/mogas, 1 petrol, 1 aluminium), 3 to discharge/load (2 containers, 1 containers/steel rolls/steel sheets), 2 other vessels.

Pakistan

Karachi 28-Mar-2005 Two vessels loading at berth (1 rice, 1 chemicals), 7 discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 palm oil, 1 sugar, 2 jute, 1 phosphate, 1 general cargo); 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 phosphate, 1 sugar, 1 crude oil, 1 chemicals); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 6 vessels due (3 containers, 1 general cargo, 1 chemicals, 1 crude oil), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Conditions

Port Qasim 28-Mar-2005
One iron ore vessel discharging at berth, 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge.

Russia

Novorossiysk 28-Mar-2005
Eighteen vessels in port operating, of which 13 loading (1 bulk NPK, 1 scrap, 1 steel billets, 1 steel billets/coils/steel sheets/WRIC, 1 flowers, 1 lead, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 coils, 1 steel billets/slabs, 1 wheat, 1 aluminium, 1 barley, 1 diesel oil), 4 discharging (1 ore, 3 bulk sugar), 1 discharging/loading containers; 9 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 2 bulk NPK, 1 coils, 1 bulk urea, 1 steel billets, 1 steel sheets, 1 barley, 1 wheat, 1 slabs; 66 vessels due, of which 62 to load (4 pig-iron, 1 HBI, 6 aluminium, 2 pipes, 1 tin plate/steel sheets/coils, 2 paper, 1 steel billets/pipes/vehicles, 1 WRC/coils, 2 bulk fertiliser, 2 DRI, 5 coils, 4 copper, 2 bulk NPK, 5 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 equipment, 1 WRIS/steel billets, 1 steel sheets/pipes/coils, 4 steel billets, 2 wheat, 1 cellulosé, 1 steel billets/tin plate, 1 steel, 1 UAN solution, 1 oil, 1 zinc, 1 lead, 1 bulk cement, 2 diesel oil, 1 ammonium sulphate, 2 slabs, 2 bulk urea), 3 to discharge (1 bulk NPK, 1 rice, 1 bulk sugar), 1 to discharging/load containers. Oil terminal: 3 tankers berthed, all loading, of which 3 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 8 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 3 tankers due, all to load, of which 1 crude oil, 1 fuel oil, 1 diesel oil.

Spain

Sagunto 29-Mar-2005
Twenty vessels in port operating of which 13 discharging (12 steel products, 1 anhydrous ammonia), 4 loading (3 bulk fertiliser, 1 steel coils), 3 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo; no vessels outside commercial wharf; 6 days berthing delay at present.

Sri Lanka

Colombo 28-Mar-2005
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 (10 containers/feeder, 1 bulk cinker, 1 bagged fertiliser, 1 bulk fertiliser, 1 bulk LPG, 1 bulk palm oil, 1 bulk cement, 1 Ro/Ro); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 bulk cinker, 1 bulk LPG, 1 bulk palm oil); 5 vessels dry-docked, 1 at dolphin tanker berth; 7 vessels due (6 containers/feeder, 1 bulk cement), with no delays expected.

Ukraine

Illichevsk 28-Mar-2005
Eight vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading steel products, 1 discharging iron ore, 2 discharging/loading containers; 2 vessels in roads to discharge/load containers; 13 vessels due, of which 12 to load (8 steel products, 1 vegetable oil, 2 sulphur, 1 wheat), 1 to discharge iron ore.

Mariupol 28-Mar-2005
Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 11 loading (3 steel, 5 coal, 1 fire-clay, 2 sulphur), 1 discharging containers/fire-clay; 11 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 5 steel, 1 pig-iron, 2 coal, 2 fire-clay, 1 sulphur; 50 vessels due, of which 48 to load (27 steel, 1 coke, 14 coal, 1 fire-clay, 2 wheat, 1 carbamide, 1 soya beans, 1 equipment), 3 to discharge/load (1 pipes, 1 magnetite/steel plates).

Odessa 28-Mar-2005
Twenty-five vessels in port operating, of which 17 loading (10 metal, 1 oil, 2 corn, 1 corn/wheat, 1 general cargo, 1 oats, 1 paper), 5 discharging (1 luggage, 1 citrus, 1 sugar, 1 oil, 1 building materials), 2 discharging/loading containers, 1 passenger vessel; 5 vessels in roads, of which 2 to load (1 metal, 1 scrap), 3 to discharging/load containers; 63 vessels due, of which 43 to load (33 metal, 2 pig-iron, 1 pipes, 1 general cargo, 1 ore, 1 wheat, 1 corn, 1 oil, 1 building materials, 1 ferro alloy), 6 to discharge (1 citrus, 1 oil, 1 luggage, 1 sugar, 1 bananas, 1 ore), 14 to discharge/load containers.

United States

Houston 29-Mar-2005
Pilots report normal 39 ft. 3 ins, max. draft in Houston ship channel; foggy weather delaying inbound/outbound traffic; Cargill terminal: 2-3 days delay; LDC Dreyfus terminal: no delays.

Kalama, WA 29-Mar-2005
Kalama export terminal: 6 days delay; United Harvest terminal: no delays.

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### Port Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Orleans</td>
<td>29-Mar-2005</td>
<td>Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 2-3 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 3 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 3-5 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 1 day’s delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 8-10 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 8-10 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected; Peavey/Paulina: no delays; Zen-Noh/Convent: 1 day’s 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 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 2 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 3 days delay expected. Nine-day forecast for Carrollton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to increase to 6.9 ft. by 7/4. Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to New Orleans (Mile 090.0) - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 090) to Baton Rouge (Mile 233.5) - 45 ft. for all vessels; vessels with drafts up to 47 ft. have been handled up to Mile 180 in the past, but are approved by pilots on a case by case basis, based on current river conditions; Motiva Convent dock No. 1 is restricted to a max. draft of 38 ft. until dredging can be completed; dock No. 2 is restricted to 30 ft.; it is anticipated that dredging will take place sometime during the first half of 2005; Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 31 ft. bw.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portland, OR</td>
<td>29-Mar-2005</td>
<td>Grain terminal: 2 days delay; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay; CLD, O Dock terminals: 2 days delay.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tacoma</td>
<td>29-Mar-2005</td>
<td>Temco terminal: 4 days delay.</td>
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