

March 18 2005

## Pirates back in business in Malacca Strait after tsunami

Hijackings and kidnaps start again, writes Marcus Hand in Singapore — Tuesday March 15 2005

**T**HE hijacking and kidnap of two crew from an Indonesian product tanker by heavily armed pirates in the Malacca Strait has stoked fears of maritime terrorism in the region.

The 2,396 dwt product tanker Tri Samudra, owned by Humpuss, was hijacked by 35 pirates armed with machine guns and rocket launchers in the Malacca Strait on Saturday at 1755 hrs.

Noel Choong, regional manager of the International Maritime Bureau's piracy reporting centre in Kuala Lumpur, said the fully loaded tanker was on a voyage from Samarinda, Kalimantan to Belewan at the time of the attack.

### Flammable

While the exact nature of the cargo is unclear, it is understood to have been highly flammable.

The pirates ordered the crew to change course from Belewan to Dumai, and some time later left the ship, taking the master and chief engineer as hostage.

The vessel arrived late Saturday night in Dumai with the remaining crew members. Capt Choong said that the pirates have since contacted the owners with a ransom demand.

The report from the ship on the attack was headed "Pirate attack/terrorist" he said.

The IMB is however treating the incident purely as an act of piracy, noting that the modus operandi is the same as previous hijackings in the Strait, including the Highline 26 earlier this month.

The owners believe the hijackers were from the Free Aceh Movement or GAM.

### Ransom

While in this case the IMB believes the hijacking was perpetrated by the same group responsible for a series of kidnap and ransom cases involving tugs and barges, the type of vessel that was hijacked has sparked fears that terrorists could hijack a similar type of tanker and turn it into a floating bomb.

"What if terrorists learn how to attack a ship like this?" said a maritime terrorism expert. "The ship was fully loaded with flammable cargo and this is the ideal size for a terrorist attack" — a scenario that Indonesia's neighbour Singapore takes extremely seriously.

Another industry official involved in the fight against piracy agreed. "You need to have a small sized ship," he said.

A vessel such as a small tanker of few thousand tones with a highly flammable

cargo such as jet fuel was seen as ideal.

While much is made of the idea of hijacking a VLCC, it would simply be too large to ram into shore based facilities, and would likely ground before reaching the shore.

In a sign that the temporary piracy calm that followed the Asian tsunami on December 26 is well and truly over, a third hijacking and kidnapping took place in the Malacca Strait on Monday.

A Japanese tugboat, Idaten, was attacked on Monday evening 39nm south west of the Island of Penang.

The master, chief engineer and chief officer, two of who were Japanese and one Filipino, were kidnapped in the attack an official involved in the fight against piracy said.

The crew had managed to send out a distress call, AFP reported, and the IMB in Kuala Lumpur had given the information to the Malaysian marine police to send a patrol boat to intercept the attack.

**If you have information that has not appeared in the World Watch feature please contact :**

**Stephen Olley**

**Tel +44 (0) 20 7017 5205**

**Fax +44 (1206) 765 284**

**Email [stephen.olley@lloydsmiu.com](mailto:stephen.olley@lloydsmiu.com)**

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>BBC SCOTLAND</i>	general	GIB	GL	4,090	4,713	2002	Towed into Messina Mar 10 following main engine problems.
<i>CAP SAINT JACQUES</i>	trawler	FRA	BV	497	492	1981	Had fire in engine-room in lat 58 42N, long 08 55.8W, Mar 4. Fire extinguished same day. Lost all power, small ingress of water. Taken in tow. Subsequently reported heading under power for Boulogne.
<i>HUA LING</i>	bulker	CHN	—	16,022	26,644	1976	In collision with c.c. <i>MSC Christina</i> in lat 34 12N, long 122 38E, Mar 8. Still locked together Mar 10. To be towed together to Lianyungang or She Yang He Kou.
<i>KAREN DANIELSEN</i>	general	BHS	GL	3,120	3,635	1985	Hit Copenhagen's Great Belt Bridge after surveillance system failure Mar 3. Towed to Nyborg same day. Bridge damaged. Damage to vessel. Reported Mar 10 at Nyborg.
<i>KARMSUND</i>	general	NOR	NV	2,728	1,250	1979	Had engine breakdown outside Molde Feb 22. Towed to Molde, where arrived Feb 23. ETC for repairs about 10 Mar.
<i>MATIAS F. ERAUSQUIN</i>	general	PAN	—	498	—	—	Contacted by bulk <i>Oneida</i> in way of Km 227, River Parana, Mar 7. Partially sank as a result. Five of the 9 crew safe.
<i>ONEIDA</i>	bulker	MLT	NV	17,825	28,791	1984	In contact with sand carrier <i>Matias F.Erauskin</i> at Km 227, River Parana, Mar 7. Anchored nearby.
<i>RODSHER</i>	general	LVA	LR	2,021	2,942	1977	Towed into Brest Mar 5 following engine problems.
<i>SUN CROSS</i>	general	KOR	KR	3,785	5,761	1984	In collision with mv <i>Rickmers Genoa</i> in Yellow Sea, in lat 34 40N, long 122 06E, Mar 7. Sank as a result. Two of the 15 crew rescued.
<i>VENTURE II</i>	yacht	NZL	—	492	649	1956	Took on water and engine-room flooded off Kapiti Island, New Zealand, Mar 9. Temporary wooden plug put in place. Investigations under way. Permanent repairs to

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



## **ALKMINI A. (Greece)**

London, Mar 7 — Understood salvage services were rendered to passenger ro/ro Alkmini A. by Lybousakis Leon Shipping Company under Lloyd's Open Form dated Feb 28.

## **ALMAZ (Russia)**

Seoul, Mar 4 — Fish factory Almaz has problems regarding payment of repair charge and remains at Yosu Shipyard without any repair works. — Lloyd's Agents.

## **ANGLIAN EARL (Barbados)**

Falmouth, Mar 8 — Anchor handling tug/supply Anglian Earl is still under repair at Falmouth, and is expected to sail by the end of next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

## **ARATERE (New Zealand)**

Wellington, Mar 6 — Ro/ro Aratere has experienced yet another steering problem. The incident was reported in the Maritime Safety Authority commercial accident summaries report for February. As the ship was leaving Picton in the early hours of Feb 20, the left rudder failed to respond to orders from the helm and Aratere anchored outside Picton Harbour so the failure could be investigated. It happened just 10 days after the MSA detained the vessel in Picton for almost 24 hours after it failed to respond to a course change on entering Wellington Harbour because of a rudder fault. The Feb 20 incident was reported verbally to the MSA after it anchored at 0230. The authority gave permission for Aratere to resume its trip to Wellington on the condition it sail through the Queen Charlotte Sound northern entrance. It also had to have at least one rudder working and an engineer had to monitor the steering gear. The ship arrived in Wellington just after 0400, the report said. Marlborough harbour master Alex van Wijngaarden said this morning he was informed of the problem immediately and allowed it to sail to Wellington, via the northern entrance. "The agreement was that necessary precautions would be taken the ship would resume its trip, departing through the northern entrance," he said. "It was to undergo investigative work in Wellington and, as it turned out, the problem was rectified." After Aratere was released from detention last month it was ordered to only carry freight and no passengers and was given reporting conditions. A technical risk assessment of the vessel is being done by Australian consultants and other shipping companies. MSA director Russell Kilvington said the latest problem was to the same port rudder that had the earlier problem but the shipping company notified the

MSA immediately the ship had gone to anchor, he said. "In the scheme of things this incident wasn't of great consequence," he said. Mr Kilvington said the Interisland Line did the right thing by isolating the rudder, going to anchor and informing the MSA. They used the northern entrance as an extra precaution, analysed the problem in Wellington, and it was checked by the MSA before the ship sailed again. "Unlike the previous incident, it was very well handled," he said. He said the MSA and the company had a progress meeting on Wednesday night and the company was doing quite an amazing amount of work analysing the problems. Mr Kilvington wouldn't speculate as to when Aratere would be able to take passengers. Toll Shipping spokeswoman Jess Batchelor said anyone wishing to cross Cook Strait on the Interisland Line could do so on ro-ro Arahura or the fast ferry Lynx, but the company hoped to be carrying passengers before the Easter holidays. She said the company hoped a decision would be made on passengers by the end of next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

## **ARIADNI (Cyprus)**

Messina, Mar 7 — Ro/ro/c.c. Ariadni arrived Gioia Tauro Mar 5 from Algeria and sailed Mar 6 for Algeria. — Lloyd's Agents.

## **ARION (Greece)**

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1015, UTC: Passenger ro/ro Arion is still aground at Chios. Tug Matsas Star has left for Istanbul to collect a crane for refloating attempts, and is due on scene Tuesday (Mar 8) or Wednesday. Once vessel is refloated it will be towed to Turkey for scrapping.

London, Mar 9 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1121, UTC: Passenger ro/ro Arion is still aground. A refloating attempt will be made Mar 11.

## **ARKLOW SAND (Netherlands)**

London, Mar 5 — General cargo Arklow Sand sailed Tilbury 1751, UTC, Mar 3, for Rotterdam. — Port of London Authority.

Maassluis, Mar 5 — General cargo Arklow Sand, in tow of tug Fairplay 22, arrived Rotterdam 1920, local time, Mar 4, from London. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Maassluis, Mar 7 — General cargo Arklow Sand arrived under tow of tug Fairplay 22. The vessel has some rudder damage and is at the moment under repair at Damen Shipyard in Schiedam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

## **ATHOS I (Cyprus)**

London, Mar 10 — A Delaware River Oil Spill Joint Information Centre report, dated Mar 9, states: Crude oil tanker Athos I, latest updates: Four hundred and ninety responders are working in the command centre and along the Delaware River. Some 129,436 gallons of oil and oily liquid has been recovered and 13,292 tons of

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oily solids (cleanup materials and oil) have been collected. Experts report 385 birds have been released and 183 birds are reported deceased. Seventy-eight percent of the heavily oiled areas, 55% of the medium oiled areas, and 34% of the lightly oiled areas have been grossly decontaminated. Thirty-eight facilities have been grossly decontaminated with seven currently being decontaminated. Out of 21 marina's needing decontamination, 11 have been fully decontaminated. Eighty recreation boats have been decontaminated.

#### **ATLANTIS CHARM (Cyprus)**

London, Mar 9 — Bulk/c.c. Atlantis Charm sailed Las Palmas Feb 9 and subsequently passed Panama Canal Mar 5.

#### **BAUMWALL (Germany)**

London, Mar 7 — General cargo Baumwall (3999 gt, built 1998) is now at berth No.4 in Oxelosund main harbour after being towed in following an engine-room fire. Vessel first had problem around midnight Mar 4. Firefighting tug Arctic Helios, with double crew, left Oxelosund at 0045, local time, Mar 5, and arrived on scene at 1635, local time. They arrived at berth in Oxelosund at 0230, local time, Mar 6, tug Simson assisted when berthing. Temporary repairs will probably be made in order to make it possible for the vessel to go to Hamburg and finish the repairs there. (Note — Baumwall was last reported arriving St. Petersburg on Feb 27.)

#### **BBC SCOTLAND (Gibraltar)**

Messina, Mar 10 — General cargo BBC Scotland (4090 gt, built 2002) was towed into Messina, this morning, following main engine problems. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — BBC Scotland sailed Leghorn Mar 6 for Singapore.)

#### **BETTY WOOD (U.S.A.)**

Miami, Mar 4 — Tug Betty Wood has departed the repair yard today. It is currently underway back to Tampa to pick up a barge and be back in operation. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 7 — Tug Betty Wood arrived Tampa Mar 6 from Jacksonville.

#### **BRO TRAVELLER (Sweden)**

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated today: At 1340, UTC, today, a collision occurred between bulk Island Gem (17065 gt, built 1984), Bilbao for Newport, with 19 crew and a cargo of steel products and chem.tank Bro Traveller (7973 gt, built 1988), Milford Haven for Cardiff, with a cargo of fuel products. Both vessels have sustained some damage, but there are no injuries to crew members on either vessel. So far, established by crew of Island Gem, is a crack in the accommodation area, four to five metres above sea level. There is no ingress of water reported in either vessel. Bro Traveller has sustained damage to the forecastle and has damaged frames. An initial inspection

is going on, by the crew, throughout the vessel. Island Gem is continuing to Newport and Bro Traveller to Cardiff, where it will be met by Maritime and Coastguard Agency surveyors. There is no risk of pollution. The weather, at the time of the incident, was north or north-east winds of six knots, with good visibility and cloudy.

London, Mar 8 — Following received from Coastguard Swansea MRCC, timed 1011, UTC: The collision between chem.tank Bro Traveller and bulk Island Gem occurred in lat 51 19.44N, long 03 20.77W, at 1341, UTC, Mar 7. Bro Traveller proceeded safely to Cardiff.

London, Mar 8 — Reported chem.tank Bro Traveller will proceed to Falmouth for repairs.

London, Mar 8 — Bulk Island Gem arrived Newport 1421, Mar 7, from Bilbao.

Falmouth, Mar 9 — Chem.tank Bro Traveller arrived Falmouth 0745, today, from Cardiff. Vessel berthed at County Wharf, Falmouth Docks, to effect repairs to bow damage. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BROTHER JOY (South Korea)**

Busan, Mar 9 — Fishing Zul Dai A No.20137 is still lying sunk at the site without salvage operation carried out. We understand that the water depth at the site is some 80 metres and salvage operation for the vessel is reportedly impossible. General cargo Brother Joy, after completion of inspection/investigation, sailed from Jeju, Korea, bound for the original destination of Shanghai, on Mar 1. We understand that the permanent repairs will be carried out at Busan, where ETA Mar 11. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **CALA PICCOLA (Netherlands Antilles)**

See "Davao, Philippines" under "Pollution."

#### **CAP SAINT JACQUES (France)**

London, Mar 4 — Following received from Coastguard Stormway MRSC, timed 0507, UTC: Trawler Cap Saint Jacques (497 gt, built 1981), 15 persons on board, weather north-westerly Beaufort 8 (gale), issued Mayday stating it had a fire in the engine-room in lat 58 42N, long 08 55.8W, at 0401, UTC, today. Rescue helicopter scrambled. Fire now extinguished. Coast Guard tug Anglian Prince proceeding from Stormway to assist. Fishing Mariette Le Roch now on scene.

London, Mar 4 — Following received from Coastguard Stormway MRSC, timed 0643, UTC: Trawler Cap Saint Jacques has lost all power. Manual pump coping with small ingress of water. Tug Anglian Prince proceeding to Butt of Lewis area on operational duties. Fishing Mariette Le Roch standing by the casualty.

London, Mar 4 — A Maritime and Coastguard Agency press release timed 1036, UTC, today, states: At 0400 this morning, Stormway Coastguard received a Mayday distress call on MF 2182 khz from

trawler Cap Saint Jacques as the vessel had had an engine-room fire. The vessel was in a position 85 miles West North west of the Butt of Lewis. Stormway Coastguard carried out broadcast action and two other French fishing vessels offered assistance. The crew were able to extinguish the fire after 30 minutes and are currently disabled in that position. Fishing Mariette le Roch. is standing by awaiting the arrival of the sister ship Cap Saint Jean who is due to arrive on scene at 0930 hrs. Weather conditions on scene were initially northwesterly gale force 8 (gale), however this has now abated to northwesterly force 5/6 (fresh/strong breeze) with a 2/3 metre swell. The intention is for Cap Saint Jean to take the casualty vessel in tow to the port of Ullapool. Carol Campbell, Stormway Coastguard Watch Manager, said: "It is fortunate that the fire was extinguished promptly as the situation could have deteriorated and necessitated the evacuation of the crew. With the weather conditions improving the situation is now much more stable".

London, Mar 4 — Following received from Coastguard Stormway MRSC, timed 1110, UTC: Trawler Cap Saint Jacques: Trawler Cap Saint Jean is now on scene.

London, Mar 4 — Following received from Coastguard Stormway MRSC, timed 1356, UTC: At 1356, UTC, once preparations were made on scene, trawler Cap Saint Jean commenced towing trawler Cap Saint Jacques towards Ullapool, with an ETA of 1900, UTC, Mar 5.

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Coastguard Stormway MRSC, timed 0840, UTC: Towline from trawler Cap Saint Jean, towing trawler Cap Saint Jacques, broke at 0450, UTC, this morning, re-connecting now with an ETA Ullapool of 0530, UTC, Mar 6.

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Coastguard Stormway MRSC, timed 1342, UTC: Trawler Cap Saint Jacques reported at 1335, UTC, tow progressing, now in the North Minch, ETA Ullapool 2200, UTC.

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Coastguard Stormway MRSC, timed 1935, UTC: Trawler Cap Saint Jean informed Stormway MRSC that trawler Cap Saint Jacques was operating under its own power and is heading for Boulogne for repairs. Trawler Cap Saint Jean was heading into Ullapool.

#### **CARNIVAL GLORY (Panama)**

London, Mar 5 — Passenger Carnival Glory arrived and sailed Key West Feb 27, arrived and sailed Cozumel Mar 2, and arrived and sailed Progreso about Mar 3.

#### **CASSIOPE (Cambodia)**

London, Mar 5 — General cargo Cassiope sailed Diliskelesi Feb 22.

#### **CEC ASIA (Bahamas)**

London, Mar 7 — General cargo CEC Asia, Port Everglades and Jacksonville

for four ports in Colombia, loaded with 140 or so containers of general cargo, ran aground off Cayo Guillermo on or about Feb 14. Salvors Antillana de Salvamento were awarded a Lloyd's Open Form contract to save the vessel. The salvors successfully refloated the vessel and redelivered the vessel to a place of safety. The shipowners have declared General Average.

Santo Domingo, Mar 7 — General cargo CEC Asia arrived Rio Haina Feb 28 and sailed same day for Cartagena. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CORAL ACROPORA (Netherlands)**

London, Mar 9 — Poor safety practices led to the escape of flammable gas from a small LPG tanker alongside in Runcorn, a UK Marine Accident Investigation has concluded. The gas escape took place last August on board Lpg Coral Acropora, which was due to discharge vinyl chloride monomer into the European Vinyl Corporation terminal at the port on the Manchester Ship Canal. In an unplanned release, caused by an error by the chief officer when a cargo surveyor was sampling the cargo, some 600 kg of liquid and vapour was released into the atmosphere. The vessel's crew, port agent, the cargo surveyor, two terminal staff, two people on the berth and a number of members of the public were exposed to VCM as the gas cloud emitted from the vessel drifted downwind. While the gas was not toxic, studies by the Health & Safety Laboratory found that the main risk was that of a flash fire within about 50 metres of the escape. There was no ignition and the gas cloud dispersed. The MAIB found that while the Anthony Veder operated vessel appeared to have a good operations and safety management system, cargo valves "had been habitually left in the open position and safety features routinely overridden". Following the accident, the MAIB issued a safety bulletin to all tanker operators, and provided recommendations to the shipowners, charterer, berth operator, and ship owning representative bodies. Owner and terminal operators have already put procedures in place to prevent any repetition of the accident.

#### **CORN BROOK (Malta)**

London, Mar 8 — General cargo Corn Brook sailed Antwerp Mar 2 and subsequently passed Brunsbuttel Mar 4 bound for Norrköping.

#### **DETTIFOSS (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Maassluis, Mar 7 — C.c. Dettifoss remains in dock for repairs. The vessel is expected to be back in service Mar 14. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **DIEPPE (France)**

Ferrol, Mar 3 — Passenger ro/ro Dieppe arrived Ferrol Feb 18 and is still in port. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ECSTASY (Panama)**

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: As many as 2,500 passengers aboard Carnival Cruise

Line's passenger Ecstasy (70367 gt, built 1991) are finding it slow going getting from Galveston to Cozumel. The vessel, experiencing problems with its propulsion system, is under way but slowed, said spokesman Vance Gulliksen. The cruise line, which operates two vessels out of the Port of Galveston, was flying in a specialist from Europe to work on the problem, which was not causing trouble for any of the vessel's other systems, the cruise line said. Ecstasy was on a scheduled five-day Western Caribbean cruise. Its remaining itinerary would be determined later, the company said. (Note — Ecstasy sailed Galveston Mar 8.)

#### **ELANTA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1015, UTC: General cargo Elanta was refloated by three tugs at 0430, UTC, this morning. Vessel is now at anchor near Chios, where it is expected to remain for the rest of the day. Tugs Atlas, Lucky Star and Christos XVI were standing by Elanta earlier in the week and it is likely these tugs were used for the refloating.

London, Mar 7 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: General cargo Elanta was refloated on Mar 5, with the assistance of three tugs and was towed and anchored safely off Kontari, Chios. There was no pollution caused during the refloating efforts.

#### **ELIZABETH M. (U.S.A.)**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Attempts to raise and remove tug Elizabeth M. from where it sank next to the Montgomery Dam, near Industry, Beaver County, Jan 9, were called off yesterday afternoon and rescheduled for today. Karen Auer, an Army Corps of Engineers spokeswoman, said River Salvage Co Inc, which is recovering the tug for its owner, Campbell Transportation Co, will resume the salvage work at 0700 today as river levels continue to drop to seasonal levels. Auer said a diver yesterday put a sling under the rear of the tug and readjusted the sling previously put under the front of the tug. "By the time they got everything rigged up to their satisfaction it was too late," Auer said. "They were worried they would run out of daylight."

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Crews found the body of a missing towboat worker today after tug Elizabeth M. was hauled from the Ohio River, where it sank in January after being swept over a dam by rain-swollen currents. The body was found in the engine-room of Elizabeth M. which had been partially submerged for nearly two months. Salvage crews found the body after water was pumped from the vessel, US Coast Guard officials said. Three other crewmen were killed when the boat sank Jan 9 just downriver from the Montgomery Dam near Industry, about 25 miles north-west of

Pittsburgh. Three crewmen survived. The Coast Guard conducted an inquiry into the accident last month but has yet to release its findings.

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: After tug Elizabeth M. was raised from the Ohio River Friday (Mar 4), investigators spent the weekend combing the tug for clues about the Jan 9 accident that killed four crew members. Marine surveyors representing the Coast Guard, crew members' families, the Army Corps of Engineers and Campbell Transportation, the tugs's owner, inspected the tug, which is in dry dock at the C&C Marine Maintenance Co. landing in Georgetown, Beaver County, about seven miles downriver from Montgomery Dam, where the tug sank. Karen Auer, a Corps of Engineers spokeswoman, said the tug owner's salvage contractor yesterday began pulling up the first of four barges that sank during the accident off the upriver face of the Montgomery Dam.

#### **ENERGIZER (Netherlands)**

Bucharest, Mar 7 — During the morning of Mar 5, c.c. Energizer (7642 gt, built 2004), Odessa for Constantza, notified Constantza Port Control that it had lost propulsion and would need assistance to be taken to Constantza Port. After drifting a few hours, the vessel succeeded in anchoring 35 nautical miles from Constantza port, waiting for assistance. After two unsuccessful attempts, due to a storm and waves above five metres, Energizer was towed to Constantza port by tug Hercules, and was anchored safely at 0730 hrs, this morning. The vessel will reportedly carry out repairs at Constantza, prior to a resumption of service. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ERIC HAMMANN (Germany)**

London, Mar 6 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1900, UTC: General cargo Eric Hammann (1156 gt, built 1991) has run aground at lat 53 38.9N, long 000 42.0W at about 1629, UTC. There are currently six crew members onboard including the pilot. The vessel will refloat on the next high tide at 0330 tomorrow.

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 0710, UTC: General cargo Eric Hammann refloated at 0313, UTC, this morning, and was due alongside at either Keadby or Gunness at 0400.

#### **FAIRWEATHER (U.S.A.)**

London, Mar 10 — An Alaska Marine Highway System press release, dated Mar 8, states: State labour negotiators have reached an agreement with the two remaining labour unions involved in operations of passenger ro/ro Fairweather, approving a contract to return the state's first fast-ferry to regular operations in time for the summer tourism season. The operating contract was approved by negotiators representing the Masters, Mates and Pilots and the Marine Engineers

Beneficial Association. Fairweather could be back in service on or before Mar 24. Terms of the contract allow for Fairweather to be operated by a single crew four days a week during the winter months between October and May. Two crews will man the vessel seven days a week during the busy summer months. The contract also gives the state flexibility to determine appropriate crew levels to meet future winter passenger demand.

#### **FANTASY (Greece)**

London, Mar 9 — Product tanker Fantasy sailed Ama Anchorage Mar 3.

#### **FARLEY MOWAT (Canada)**

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Research Farley Mowat (648 gt, built 1958) is taking on water off Nova Scotia but does not appear to be in serious danger. Pumps on the vessel are keeping pace with a leak and a coast guard ship is expected to meet the vessel this afternoon, said Lieutenant Pat Jessup from the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre in Halifax. Farley Mowat which was on its way to video baby harp seals as part of an international campaign against the seal hunt, reported the leak early today. The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's boat is carrying 30 people. Jessup said an Aurora aircraft reached the vessel in the Cabot Strait near St. Paul's Island.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated Mar 6, states: The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's quest to observe seal pups hit another snag today, as their aging research vessel Farley Mowat had to be shepherded through ice-covered waters after springing a leak. The 54-metre vessel began taking on water around 0900 in the Cabot Strait north of Cape Breton Island. "The ice must have hit something. We don't know where the water is coming in because the leak is underneath the engine," said vessel's captain Paul Watson, in an interview with The Canadian Press from on board the vessel about 15 kilometres north of Cape Breton. The vessel and 28 passengers from 10 different countries left Halifax on Friday (Mar 4) for Iles de la Madeleine, where they planned to video the birth of harp seals. The departure was delayed four days, after Transport Canada said the vessel didn't have the proper certification stating that it would not pollute waters. The federal agency detained the vessel until Watson provided the documentation. By midday today, an Aurora aircraft, Cormorant helicopter and Hercules aircraft had all reached the vessel, said navy Lieut. Pat Jessup. "The reports from Farley Mowat are that they are holding their own," said Jessup. "Their own pumps are doing the job right now but we are, as a precaution, going to send the extra pumps to help them out." The coast guard ice patrol vessel, Sir Wilfred Grenfell, based in St. John's, Nfld., happened to be in the area at the time and met up with the 49-year-old

leaking vessel around 1400. Watson said the coast guard would help them plow through the ice to Port aux Basques, Nfld., where the crew hoped to find the source of the leak. "Second thing is to put a temporary patch and third to permanently repair it," the captain said. Despite the scare, Watson said all on board were doing just fine. The vessel is equipped with two zodiac vessels, liferafts and survival suits for all on board.

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Research Farley Mowat, crewed by volunteers from the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, arrived in Port Aux Basques, Newfoundland yesterday escorted by a Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker. The conservationists had discovered the leak earlier in the day while their vessel was just north of Cabot Strait in the Gulf of St Lawrence on Canada's east coast. Sea Shepherd leader Paul Watson said engineers aboard the vessel detected water rising in the engine-room. "The cause of the breach is unknown although it is expected that there may be ice damage from the heavy ice floes," he said. The crew notified the Coast Guard and were advised to proceed to Port Aux Basques. Watson said the Coast Guard put three pumps aboard Farley Mowat but the vessel's own pumps proved adequate for the job. Coast Guard vessel Sir Wilfred Grenfell met up with Farley Mowat to assist in breaking ice on the trip to Port Aux Basques. "The first thing we need to do is determine the source of the leak," said Watson. "The next thing is to put a temporary patch on the hole and then we can make preparations for a permanent repair." It is not known whether the ship and its crew will be able to continue with their campaign to publicise and disrupt the clubbing to death of more than 300,000 seals. The "hunt" is expected to start between Mar 20 and 25, with the exact date to be decided by the Canadian government. Watson was not aboard his vessel when the leak was discovered.

Montreal, Mar 9 — Research Farley Mowat departed Halifax, after port state detention defects, on Mar 4, bound for the Gulf of St. Lawrence to protest seal hunting in the area of the Magdalen Islands. Upon, or shortly after entering the ice field, the vessel developed water ingress to the engine-room, apparently from an area under the main engine. The vessel called at Port aux Basques, Newfoundland, at 0123, UTC, Mar 7, as a port of refuge, and is currently still at this port assessing/effecting temporary repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **FEDON (Barbados)**

Rio de Janeiro, Mar 9 — Bulk Fedon sailed Jan 4 for Recalada, Argentina. Repairs were not carried out as intended, only part. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **FJORD CHAMPION (NIS)**

London, Mar 5 — Information received from Sandnes states: At 2150, local time, today, product tanker Fjord

Champion (17966 gt, built 1974) underway from Liverpool to Rostock, in ballast, had fire break out 15 nautical miles outside Mandal. The fire started in the engine-room. At about 2245 the crew of 28 had the situation under control, according to the captain. The weather is rough in the area with snow and wind. (Note — Fjord Champion sailed Liverpool 0215, Mar 2 for Rostock.)

Gothenburg, Mar 5 — Product tanker Fjord Champion, Liverpool to Rostock, in ballast, bunkers 833 tonnes, had a fire on board 24 nautical miles south-east of Kristiansand at around 2200, yesterday. Despite master onboard claiming that fire should be out and all under control, the fire started again and with strong force. Earlier during night, 12 out of the total 28 crew were evacuated with helicopters to Kristiansand. The remaining 16 tried to fight the fire, but were finally required to leave the vessel as fire spread from engine-room to cabins and the smoke was heavy and intensive. Oil cleaning and environmental units on scene. Earlier a rescue vessel got a tow line onboard, but it was not sufficient enough to stop the vessel from drifting closer towards shore. Now early morning heavy fire from the bridge. Last crew departed at around 0600, this morning. At the time vessel drifting and on fire outside the archipelago of Sogne, off the Norwegian south coast. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Mar 5 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: The crew of product tanker Fjord Champion was thought to have control of the fire at about midnight, but after a few hours the fire restarted again and at 0600, local time, today, all the crew were evacuated. One of the crewmen was injured. The vessel is now outside Sogne with the wheelhouse on fire. There has been some explosions onboard and the vessel is listing. So far no pollution in the area but the situation is critical. There is 800 tonnes of fuel oil onboard the vessel. Three Coastguard vessels are in the area. They will likely make an attempt to tow the vessel to open sea, before it grounds near Sogne.

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1055, UTC: Product tanker Fjord Champion reported fire on board in lat 57 47N, long 07 50.5E, at 2150, local time, last night. All crew evacuated. The fire is still burning. Fjord Champion has been aground, however, is now under control of a Coastguard vessel and rescue cutter. Tractor tug Haabull is due on scene in 30 minutes.

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1755, UTC: Product tanker Fjord Champion is now under tow due to the fire onboard which has now been extinguish but the vessel is still hot. Tractor tug Haabull is currently towing the vessel to Kristiansand were it is likely to go into dry dock.

London, Mar 6 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 0930, UTC: Product tanker Fjord Champion

is still waiting south of Kristiansand for fire to cool. Stavanger RCC are no longer involved in the case.

Gothenburg Mar 6 — Product tanker Fjord Champion, at risk of sinking and leaking oil, was towed into Sogne instead of Kristiansand which the coast guard intended. The local environmental movement in Norway was critical that the incident happened, and criticised the poor readiness to such accidents as several units of information from various sources that inspected the vessel around the world have noted damage and defects to this vessel. In the middle of January the firefighting equipment was "inaccurate" and in 2003 the vessel was stopped in both US and Canadian ports which reported there were a number of defects which were corrected at the time and vessel was allowed to proceed. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters have doused a blaze on product tanker Fjord Champion off the southern tip of Norway, easing fears of a damaging spill along the scenic coastline. But tug boats gave up on an attempt to tow the vessel to the nearby port of Kristiansand after the listing hulk started to take on water, the coast guard said in a statement. Instead, tug boats towed the fire-scarred hulk to calm, shallow waters where damage inspectors were able to get aboard. The fire was brought under control with help of a high-power water cannon. The blaze broke out on Friday (Mar 4) in the machine-room, forcing an overnight helicopter rescue of its 28-strong Indian crew. The main oil tanks of the vessel were empty but it has 746 tonnes of bunker oil aboard for its own use and 83 tonnes of diesel fuel that could soil the coastline, a popular holiday destination.

Gothenburg, Mar 7 — Product tanker Fjord Champion: Attempts to bring vessel to berth at Kristiansand will be made tomorrow and bunkers will be removed. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Mar 7 — Understood the fire on product tanker Fjord Champion broke out in the accommodation and not the engine-room as previously reported.

London, Mar 8 — Fire-gutted product tanker Fjord Champion is set to be towed to Kristiansand, today, after firefighters won a 12-hour battle to tame the blaze and so avert a maritime disaster off southern Norway at the weekend. Bergen-based Champion Shipping's tanker caught fire off Norway, raising fears of pollution from 746 tonnes of bunkers and 83 tonnes of diesel on board. Fire broke out around 15 nautical miles outside Mandal during a ballast voyage from Liverpool to Rostock. The master and 16 of his remaining crew had managed to control the fire before it flared up again amid strong winds and bad weather. Helicopters evacuated all the 28-man crew from the burning tanker on Saturday

morning, and early attempts to use small rescue boats to stop the vessel drifting towards the coast failed. Local reports yesterday also suggested that the vessel's captain had failed to immediately report the fire to authorities. A Stavanger-based tug operated by Norwegian coastal authorities took 15 hours to reach the stricken product tanker, but was able to tow it to open sea and away from the coastline. Norwegian environmental activists yesterday slammed coastal authorities for the delayed response to the incident. The vessel is understood to have been due for scrap this year.

Kristiansand, Mar 9 — Product tanker Fjord Champion safely moored alongside KMV quay in the port of Kristiansand at 1500, local time, Mar 8. Personnel onboard to clarify extent of damage. According to owners they expect vessel to be scrapped but this will be decided by insurance after final damage report. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GENMAR KESTREL (Marshall Islands)**

London, Mar 8 — Crude oil tanker GenMar Kestrel has entered Hellenic Shipyards for repair after its collision a month ago with another suezmax tanker off Egypt. The double-sided Genmar Kestrel sustained damage in number four and five starboard ballast tanks, as well as lighter damage to a centre cargo tank. The estimated \$4m repair is expected to take under 40 days and involves about 485 tons of steel renewal.

#### **GERRITA (NIS)**

Brest, Mar 7 — Crude oil tanker Gerrita, in tow of anchor handling tug/supply Bourbon Chieftain, arrived Brest Mar 5 from Sullom Voe. Bourbon Chieftain subsequently sailed Mar 6 for Yarmouth. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GOODRICH BAY (Liberia)**

Montreal, Mar 4 — Chem.tank Goodrich Bay arrived at port of Quebec where port shell plating was discovered torn, approximately 3,300 by 1,800 mm. Permanent repairs commenced Mar 1 and were completed Mar 3. Vessel will discharge its cargo at Quebec as planned and should depart Mar 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GRAND VIEW (Liberia)**

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 1250, UTC: C.c. Grand View (36627 gt, built 1991) was in contact with crude oil tanker Ohminesan (151039 gt, built 1996) in Singapore Strait outside Singapore waters Mar 5. Contact was not believed serious. Grand View proceeded on voyage to Port Klang. (Note — Grand View sailed Hong Kong Feb 28 for Singapore and Ohminesan sailed Sakai Feb 26 for Singapore.)

Singapore, Mar 8 — C.c. Grand View arrived Singapore Mar 7. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HIGHLINE 26 (Malaysia)**

See "Malacca Strait" under "Piracy."

#### **HOHESAND (U.K.)**

Novorossiysk, Mar 5 — C.c. Hohesand arrived Novorossiysk Mar 2 from Gioia Tauro. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HUA LING (China)**

See MSC Christina.

#### **IBN HAYYAN (Marshall Islands)**

Yokohama, Mar 9 — C.c. Ibn Hayyan (9030 gt, built 2000) while manoeuvring to berth (? at Kobe) had engine trouble and contacted the pier at 1046, Feb 24. Vessel sailed same day. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Ibn Hayyan arrived Kobe Feb 24, sailed same day, arrived Hakata Feb 25 and sailed same day.)

#### **ICE PRINCE (Greece)**

London, Mar 8 — General cargo Ice Prince, Levkandi for Bandirma, passed Dardanelles Mar 5.

#### **INTREPID B. (U.K.)**

Avonmouth, Mar 8 — Tug Intrepid B. is currently under repair at Fishguard. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ISLAND GEM (Greece)**

See Bro Traveller.

#### **ISLAND PARK TWO**

See "Hong Kong" under "Weather & Navigation."

#### **JETFERRY 1 (Greece)**

London, Mar 4 — Lloyd's Casualty Representatives in Piraeus report: During the afternoon of Mar 4, while ro/ro Jetferry 1 (4423 gt, built 1995) was arriving at the port of Skopelos, it struck the breakwater. From the contact, two passengers were lightly injured. The remaining 23 passengers and 22 crew are in good health. The vessel sustained some damages. Following the incident, Jetferry 1 berthed safely at the port and disembarked the passengers. Personnel of the port were mobilised and transported the injured persons, by ambulance, to the local hospital for first aid. The vessel, which was performing the schedule Volos-Skiathos-Skopelos, has been prohibited to depart pending repair of the damage and survey by the marine inspectorate. An investigation into the incident is being performed by the Port Authority.

London, Mar 7 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Ro/ro Jetferry 1 was permitted to make one voyage, without passengers or cargo, from Skopelos to Ag. Konstantinos on Mar 6.

#### **KAREN DANIELSEN (Bahamas)**

Aarhus, Mar 3 — General cargo Karen Danielsen (3120 gt, built 1985) hit the Great Belt Bridge 1930, today. People missing and vessel caught fire. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: General cargo Karen Danielsen rammed into one of the pillars of Copenhagen's Great Belt Bridge, shutting the bridge to all traffic, Danish rail authorities said. The vessel hit the bridge at 1830, GMT, injuring two Croatian crew

members and leaving one missing, according to Danish naval officials. Nine of the 10 crew members were evacuated to land, two with severe injuries, with a helicopter searching for the missing sailor. The vessel hit the bridge at the link between the suspended and low bridge. A navy spokesman said the vessel had a pilot on board, who disembarked before it approached the bridge. Local police had earlier said a fire had broken out aboard the vessel.

Aarhus, Mar 4 — General cargo Karen Danielsen was on a northbound course from Svendborg, and was wedged under the bridge. The vessel was towed in to Nyborg last night. Four people were injured, and one is still missing. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A surveillance system failure caused general cargo Karen Danielsen, Svendborg for Turku, to take a wrong turn and crash into the Great Belt Bridge yesterday evening. One crewmember is missing. Senior Grade Commander Lars Hansen with the Admiral Danish Fleet said the bridge's surveillance system, VTS, had failed. 'We must confirm that we could not sound an alarm on the bridge and warn off ships during the last 10 minutes,' he said. Hansen could not specify whether the failure was human or technical, but said there were no signs that the radar had failed. The ship's bridge collapsed upon impact, hacking a square metre chunk out of the Great Belt Bridge. Nine of the ten crew members were evacuated. Several of them were taken to hospital with injuries, including the master who suffered several broken ribs. The bridge, which is Copenhagen's lifeline to the mainland, was closed for hours last night. Hundreds of cars were stalled at both ends of the bridge and train schedule was cancelled until 0030 hrs.

London, Mar 7 — Danish authorities are probing why a warning system installed on the Great Belt Bridge to monitor heavy shipping traffic failed to raise the alarm before general cargo Karen Danielsen crashed into the 18km suspension link on Thursday evening (Mar 3). The Ministry of Defence's Sovaernet confirmed that the VTS surveillance system had failed as the vessel headed off course into the lower western section of the bridge between the islands of Funen and Zealand. Danish shipowner Rederiet Otto Danielsen said that the missing chief officer had been recovered this morning, but was unable to confirm reports that he was found dead. Another member of the 10 strong Croatian crew was due to undergo surgery this afternoon, with three more suffering from minor injuries. The vessel sustained major damage to its wheelhouse, foremast, funnel and cranes that were ripped off as it passed beneath the 18 metre western part of the bridge. The Danish Maritime Administration and local police are also probing why the vessel had headed into the Great Belt Bridge,

when it should have taken a different route south-east into the Baltic on its way to pick up cargo in Finland. A spokesman for Sovaernet said that human error at the Korsor naval base is suspected for the system error, with an initial Danish Maritime Administration report expected over the next fortnight.

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated Mar 7, states: A Croatian sailor, second-in-command on general cargo Karen Danielsen, which crashed into Denmark's Great Belt bridge, was drunk at the time of the accident in which he was killed, an autopsy report showed today. The sailor was alone on the bridge when the vessel rammed into the bridge about 800m from central Denmark's Fyn island on Thursday (Mar 3). He had at least 1.55 grams of alcohol in his blood, police said today. Four of the 10 Croatian crew members were injured in the accident, including the captain, who suffered several broken ribs. The accident was the worst ever since the bridge opened in 1998, leaving it heavily damaged. The 18km long Great Belt link consists of a suspended bridge, a low bridge, a railway bridge and a railway tunnel, and functions as a link between the island of Zealand and the island of Fyn, as well as the Jutland peninsula and mainland Europe. The vessel hit the low bridge, creating a five-by-five metre dent in one of the bridge posts, which did not give way. The vessel was travelling without cargo from the Fyn island to Finland, but veered off from its route, heading north instead of east, and barreling straight into the bridge. The amount of alcohol in the sailor's bloodstream could in itself explain the navigation error, investigators said. Nevertheless, this accident should never have happened, the Danish coastal authorities admitted. The Great Belt is monitored by radar and cameras which should immediately alert the authorities when a vessel leaves the shipping lane and gets too close to the bridge. The Danish navy's operational command (SOK) admitted on Friday that it bore "some of the responsibility" for the crash since it had not alerted the vessel that it was heading straight for the bridge. An SOK spokesperson said the mistake was due to human error.

Aarhus, Mar 10 — General cargo Karen Danielsen is presently located in Nyborg. According to the owner the damage determined so far is the following: Front signal mast, and the two cranes are broken off. The wheelhouse is torn off as well as the chimney, which is broken backwards and still slightly attached. The intentions of repairs is still unknown. The vessel is undergoing laser measurements in order to determine further damage. Hereafter the owner and the vessel's insurance will take action and determine what to do. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **KAVAJA (Albania)**

Durres, Mar 9 — Our agent was on board general cargo Kavaja (289 gt,

built 1990) yesterday berthed at Durres port and met the inspector of Durres Harbour-master who is investigating with their specialists the reason for the casualty as vessel had problems with all three auxiliary engines one by one. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Kavaja was reported with engine problems some 25 miles off Durres on Friday, Mar 4, and was reportedly requesting assistance.)

#### **LORELEY (Germany)**

London, Mar 9 — According to the German paper Rhein-Zeitung, a judge of the court in St. Goar gave the captain of passenger cruise vessel Loreley a fine of 3,000 Euro last week. Judge Winfried Gerharz found proof that the accused during the navigation accident, had acted reckless and in the wrong way in Sep 2003, in which 59 of the total of 349 passengers were wounded. This judgment came after a session of five hours in which three advisers and three wounded witnesses gave accounts of the incident. Loreley ran aground around noon on Sep 28, 2003. After the grounding the starboard engine had a black out and stopped, the vessel went into a spin and ran into the rocks on the left hand side of the River Rhine. The passengers on board were totally surprised by this impact and according to one of the witnesses there was total chaos on board. Many of them had blood wounds and were in shock, one passenger had their pelvis broken in three places and had many bruises. After the statements of the involved passengers, the three advisers were heard, and gave an explanation about the electronic, physical and nautical aspects, but after a long discussion they could not give good unanimous proof that before the grounding the captain had made a wrong decision. Speculations were made as to if the vessel had been running too fast or had been overloaded for the then prevailing low water in the river. They were unanimous in the conclusion that the captain had used the bow propeller too late, he could have prevented the spin in the river. Also they said that the captain had warned his passengers too late over the vessel's intercom. The captain claimed that he did not know in which language to warn, because there had been so many foreign guests on board. The public prosecutor proved after the hearing the bodily harm of 59 cases and demanded a 60 day's charge at 50 Euro. The defender pleaded not guilty, he also mentioned that the captain had sailed 32 years for the company without an accident. The defence gave notice of appeal and goes to a higher court.

#### **LUJIN II (North Korea)**

Bucharest, Mar 8 — General cargo Lujin II has completed repairs and sailed, with a shipment of timber, yesterday evening, bound for Bejaia. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MAR-CIN (U.S.A.)**

London, Mar 10 — A Coast Guard Atlantic City press release, dated Mar



9, states: Fishing Mar-Cin (157 gt, built 1979) was disabled in yesterday's harsh weather conditions 60-miles off of Cape May, NJ, after a rogue wave washed over the pilot house knocking out the vessel's electronics, compass, global positioning system and partially damaged the vessel's steering. Fishing Caroline Girl III in the area, noticed that Mar-Cin was in trouble. Caroline Girl III notified fishing Christina Ann and requested they contact the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard received notice of the disabled vessel at 2015 hrs. A Coast Guard rescue helicopter from Air Station Atlantic City arrived on scene to assess the situation. Braving winds with gusts up to 62 miles-per-hour and 30-foot sea swells, the crewmembers of the rescue helicopter lowered a marine radio down to Mar-Cin. Mar-Cin was then able to establish limited communications with vessels near it. Mar-Cin indicated that all of the windows in the pilot house had been broken out, but they were all wearing dry suits. Coast Guard Station Barnegat Light deployed two rescue boats which arrived on scene at 0849 this morning and began to escort Mar-Cin back towards land. Shamrock Towing was called to finish towing Mar-Cin back in. Mar-Cin is currently at Gardner's Basin Marina in Atlantic City.

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

Tunis, Mar 4 — General cargo Martina M is still aground at Hergla. A Dutch salvage company will undertake the refloating operations. The vessel's owners have appointed a local workshop to pump out fuel, diesel and lubricating oil from the vessel to avoid pollution risks. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 7 — Understood salvage services are being rendered to general cargo Martina M under Lloyd's Open Form by Wijsmuller Salvage BV.

Tunis, Mar 10 — General cargo Martina M is still aground. Operations to pump fuel from vessel are still continuing, ahead of the commencement of salvage attempts. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MARY (North Korea)**

Beirut, Mar 4 — General cargo Mary, aground off the Lebanese Coast, has been sold for scrap. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MATIAS F.ERAUSKIN**

Buenos Aires, Mar 8 — While sailing upriver, bulk Oneida (17825 gt, built 1984) collided with sand carrier Matias F.Erauskin (498 gt), which apparently anchored, in way of Km 227, River Parana Guazu, close to the city of Baradero, at approximately 2000, yesterday. Oneida is currently anchored in the area awaiting Coast Guard instructions. Matias F.Erauskin sank and four of its nine crew members are still missing. Coast Guard vessels, helicopters and divers are currently trying to find them. The channel was closed between 2050, yesterday and 0715 today. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MATIAS F.ERAUSKIN**

Buenos Aires, Mar 9 — Bulk Oneida is currently anchored at Km.238 of the River Parana. A hull survey was performed by the Argentine Coast Guard yesterday and a machinery survey is expected to be performed later today. "Sand vessel" Matias F.Erauskin is currently being inspected by the Coast Guard. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MSC AL AMINE (Morocco)**

Bizerta, Mar 9 — General cargo MSC Al Amine arrived Bizerta Feb 27 and is still in port. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **MSC CHRISTINA (Cyprus)**

London, Mar 9 — Following received from Beijing MRCC timed 1010, UTC: C.c. MSC Christina (37579 gt, built 1998) and bulk Hua Ling (16022 gt, built 1976) were in collision in lat 34 12N, long 122 38E, at 1100, UTC, Mar 8 and both vessels are still locked together. (Note — MSC Christina sailed Hong Kong Mar 6.)

London, Mar 9 — Following received from Larnaca RCC, timed 1555, UTC: C.c. MSC Christina and bulk Hua Ling are still locked together. Understood the intention is for the two vessels to be towed, still locked together, to Qingdao tomorrow.

London, Mar 10 — Following received from Larnaca RCC, timed 1034, UTC: C.c. MSC Christina and bulk Hua Ling are still locked together and are being towed to either Lianyungang or She Yang He Kou, depending on the weather. The vessels are expected to reach port around Mar 12, after which they will be separated and Hua Ling will be beached.

#### **NORMANDY (Bahamas)**

See Severn Fisher.

#### **OHMINESAN (Panama)**

See Grand View.

#### **ONEIDA (Malta)**

See Matias F.Erauskin.

#### **ORADE (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Mar 5 — General cargo Orade sailed Alexandra Dock, Hull, at 0049, UTC, Mar 3, for Antwerp.

#### **ORIENTAL RIVER (Panama)**

See Sunny Falcon.

#### **PARK ISLAND 2 (Hong Kong)**

See "Hong Kong" under "Weather & Navigation."

#### **PASSAT (Isle of Man)**

London, Mar 4 — Following received from the managers of general cargo Passat, dated today: Passat safely arrived Mokpo and is due to sail from there today for Singapore.

#### **POOLGRACHT (Netherlands)**

London, Mar 8 — General cargo Poolgracht sailed Davisville Feb 23.

#### **POSIDON HELLAS (Greece)**

London, Mar 4 — Lloyd's Casualty Representatives in Piraeus report:

During the morning Mar 4, passenger ro/ro Posidon Hellas (1802 gt, built 1998), with 16 passengers on board, sustained engine damage after departure from Aegina. At the time, the vessel was on the schedule Piraeus-Aegina- Methana-Poros. Following the incident the vessel returned safely to Aegina port. The passengers were forwarded to their destinations on board other vessels of the same line. Posidon Hellas has been prohibited to depart pending repair of the damage.

#### **QUEEN OF VANCOUVER (Canada)**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated Mar 3, states: Ro/ro Queen of Vancouver remains out of service until further notice, due to a significant mechanical problem. British Columbia Ferries' engineers expect the gearbox on the vessel will not be repaired until next week at the earliest. As a result of the breakdown, BC Ferries will be cancelling a number of sailings on Friday, Mar 4 and Sunday, Mar 6.

#### **RICKMERS GENOA (Marshall Islands)**

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Coast Guard Guam, timed 2145, UTC: An emergency alert, timed at 1948, UTC, and confirmed by China Coast Guard, indicated that general cargo Rickmers Genoa (23119 gt, built 2004) had been in collision with a vessel of about 40 metres in lat 34 40N, long 122 06E, in the Yellow Sea. Rickmers Genoa was on scene searching.

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Coast Guard Beijing MRCC, timed 2225, UTC: General cargo Rickmers Genoa was in collision with a fishing vessel, in lat 34 40.08N, long 122 07.7E at 1910, UTC. The fishing vessel has sunk. Ten vessels, including Rickmers Genoa, are searching for the crew.

London, Mar 8 — Following received from the managers of general cargo Rickmers Genoa, dated Hamburg, today: Following a collision in the Yellow Sea yesterday the chief mate of Rickmers Genoa is missing. The vessel has lost some deck cargo and No 1 hold is on fire. Two crew from the unnamed other vessel involved, which sank, have been rescued.

Busan, Mar 9 — It was reported that at about 0545, local time, Mar 8, while general cargo Sun Cross (3785 gt, built 1984) was on a loaded passage, with some 4,877 tons of steel products from Lanshan, China to Yawaka, Japan, it came into contact with general cargo Rickmers Genoa in open sea, some 150 miles west of Heugando island off Mokpo, Korea. As a result of this collision, Sun Cross completely sank. Two out of a total of 15 of the crew members were rescued by Rickmers Genoa, but the remaining 13 crew members remain missing to this time. A fire reportedly broke out on board Rickmers Genoa after the accident and Korean and Chinese marine police boats are attending at the scene for firefighting operations and to search for the missing crew. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Beijing, Mar 9 — General cargo Rickmers Genoa and general cargo Sun Cross were in collision in lat 34 40N, long, 122 03E, about 130 nautical miles from Lianyungang Port, Jiangsu, China, about 0400, local time, Mar 8. Local salvage vessel Dong Hai Jiu No.169, of the sea authority, was about 40 nautical miles away at the time of the accident, and arrived at the scene of the accident at about 0750, and tried to approach Rickmers Genoa. At this stage it is ascertained that one crew died, 12 crew were missing, and two crew survived from Sun Cross which sank. Rickmers Genoa had an explosion at about 0815 due to fire arising. At about 1009, Dong Hai No.169 released lifeboat in heavy weather, and moored at Rickmers Genoa at about 1030. Rickmers Genoa had a total of 27 crew members, four of them are passengers, who were rescued. As the fire on Rickmers Genoa was still heavy another three vessels of the sea authority were also dispatched for fire extinguishing and to search for missing crew. — Lloyd's Agents.

Beijing, Mar 9 — Following received from Lloyd's Agents Qingdao: General cargo Rickmers Genoa, bound for Dalian, and general cargo Sun Cross were in collision. Sun Cross was reported sunk with nine crew members missing and two rescued. Rickmers Genoa sustained hull damages to the port side of the vessel. There was a fire in the fore part of the vessel, close to FO tank, and the No.1 hold was flooded up to about six metres. Three containers were said to have been lost overboard. The Chief Officer of Rickmers Genoa was reported overboard and missing. According to the information from the Lianyungang MSA, the master of Rickmers Genoa had reported the above incident to Lianyungang VTC on the early morning of Mar 8, and two senior officers of Jiang Su MSA had attended Lianyungang for monitoring the situation and arranging to search/rescue the crew of Sun Cross. As arranged by Lianyungang MSA, one salvage vessel Dong Hai Jiu 169 from Eastern Sea Rescue Bureau had been instructed to attend the incident spot about midday to assisting in putting out the fire on Rickmers Genoa, caused as a result of the collision, and rescuing the crew of Sun Cross. PIC officers of Lianyungang MSA revealed that two crew of Sun Cross had been saved by the salvage vessel and four passengers of Rickmers Genoa were handed over to the Dong Hai Jiu 169. The fire occurred at the bow cargo hold of Rickmers Genoa and still hasn't been controlled completely at present. According to the information made available at this stage, we learned that the senior officers of the Lianyungang had agreed and currently arranged that Rickmers Genoa call Qingdao once the fire was completely out. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 9 — A Cesam report, timed 1607, Mar 8, states: Services

are being rendered to general cargo Rickmers Genoa under Lloyd's Open Form.

London, Mar 9 — Following received from the operators of general cargo Rickmers Genoa, timed 1141, UTC: The fire on board Rickmers Genoa has now been brought largely under control, and firefighting operations are continuing.

Beijing, Mar 10 — General cargo Rickmers Genoa carrying some dangerous chemical cargo (UN Code 3341), tyres and wooden boards, had fire and explosion in holds No.1 and 4. The fire in No.4 hold was extinguished and will soon be extinguished in No.1. Understand Rickmers Genoa would be towed to Qingdao or Dalian. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 10 — Following received from the operators of general cargo Rickmers Genoa, timed 1014, UTC: The fire on board Rickmers Genoa is under control and has almost been extinguished. Once the fire is out, the vessel will proceed to Dalian, either under tow or under its own power, with tug escort.

London, Mar 10 — Salvage services are being rendered to general cargo Rickmers Genoa by Shanghai Salvage under Lloyd's Open Form.

#### **ROCKNES (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Gdynia, Mar 10 — Bulk Rocknes is still in a shiprepair yard in Gdansk. It is estimated that repairs will be completed sometime between Apr 10 and 20. — Correspondents.

#### **RODSHER (Latvia)**

London, Mar 6 — Following received from Corsen MRCC, timed 0915, UTC: General cargo Rodsher (2021 gt, built 1977) was not under command following engine problems and was towed into Brest by salvage tug Abeille Flandre yesterday morning. (Note — Rodsher sailed Bordeaux Mar 2, and was due to arrive Zeebrugge Mar 6.)

#### **RYU GYONG (North Korea)**

See "Cargo Dispute, Chittagong, Bangladesh" under "Miscellaneous."

#### **SAAMIS ADVENTURER (Panama)**

London, Mar 4 — At 1155, EST, Mar 3, chemical/oil carrier Saamis Adventurer (20597 gt, built 1996), eastbound in River St Lawrence in lat 46 17N, long 72 35W, was surrounded by ice and pushed close to shore off St. Francois, Quebec. The vessel was later docked at Three Rivers for inspection.

#### **SAIL (Belize)**

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1015, UTC: General cargo Sail remains in the same position off Mytilene.

#### **SAMMARINA M. (Romania)**

Bucharest, Mar 9 — Ro/ro Sammarina M. is still in a shipyard at Constantza, under repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SEA EAGLE S. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1015, UTC: General cargo Sea Eagle S. remains aground off Salamis.

#### **SEA VENTURE II (Cyprus)**

Aarhus, Mar 3 — Repairs to general cargo Sea Venture II completed and it sailed Mar 2. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SEALTH (U.S.A.)**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The grounding of the Washington state ro/ro Sealth near Friday Harbour in the San Juan Islands on Christmas Eve was the result of "gross negligence" by the ferry captain, who has been suspended for a year without pay, according to the state ferry system. The vessel grounded on Reid Rock about 15 minutes out of Friday Harbour, resulting in several schedule changes. No one was injured, but was forced to return to Friday Harbour. An inspection after the grounding found a 100-foot scrape on the hull, and one of the main fuel tanks was breached, spilling fuel oil into the vessel's bilge. The ferry system blamed the grounding on Chief Mate George Terek, a licensed captain who has been a ferry employee for more than 20 years. He was suspended for a year and demoted permanently to second mate, effectively keeping him from ever again piloting a Washington state ferry. While damage to the vessel was originally estimated at \$700,000, that was reduced to \$273,000 after the work was completed at Dakota Creek Shipyard in Anacortes. The vessel returned to service last month. The investigation into the grounding involved crewmembers, as well as passengers, and looked into the vessel's global-positioning tracking system. There was no indication of a mechanical problem with the vessel. At the time of the incident, Terek was in the wheelhouse giving directions to the quartermaster, whose job was to steer the vessel. The investigation found that Terek did not adequately monitor the track of the vessel leaving Friday Harbour and did not use the full range of radar options. "Had Terek used the mapping function of the radar, it is likely that Terek would not have made the decision to turn starboard and thus hit Reid Rock," said Kelly Mitchell, state ferry senior port captain. "Terek's limited use of the radar ultimately hampered his ability to evaluate the navigational situation accurately," Mitchell said.

#### **SENEI MARU NO.5 (Japan)**

See Toyo Maru.

#### **SENNE (Philippines)**

Manila, Mar 7 — General cargo Senne is now at Basco port on Batanes island, in northern Philippines. Orly Roldan, Berthing Head at Pier 18, North Harbour terminal, Port of Manila, said that the vessel left the North Harbour on Feb 14 for Batanes, its homeport. He said that the vessel

departed after clearance was granted by the Philippine Coast Guard and arson investigators. Mr. Roldan said that the vessel suffered minimal damage from a fire which broke out in its cargo hold on Feb 8. The cargo of rice and sugar however, was affected by the fire. After undertaking some minor repairs and unloading its damaged cargo, the vessel was allowed to depart. The vessel has now resumed trading between Manila and Batanes, Mr. Roldan said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Mar 7 — Discharge of cargo from general cargo Sehnee at Batanes has been completed and the vessel is scheduled to arrive at Manila at 1600, local time, today. The vessel will be surveyed by local surveying company, K Coast, on Mar 9. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SETUBAL (Panama)**

London, Mar 4 — Following received from Etel MRCC, timed 1050, UTC: Vehicle Setubal (20248 gt, built 1978), Santander for Southampton, cargo vehicles, has engine problem in lat 47 30N, long 05 30W, at 1030, UTC.

London, Mar 4 — Following received from Etel MRCC, timed 1515, UTC: We have tried to contact the agents of vehicle Setubal to ascertain whether assistance is required but to no avail. Vessel has a problem with its main engine main cylinder.

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Etel MRCC, timed 1320, UTC: Vehicle Setubal completed repairs at 2305, UTC, yesterday, and proceeded to Santander.

#### **SEVERN FISHER (Gibraltar)**

Belfast, Mar 3 — Product tanker Severn Fisher, collision with passenger ro/ro Normandy: Severn Fisher is still in port. Normandy sailed Belfast 1650, Mar 2, for Rosslare. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SHEN NONG FENG (China)**

Hamburg, Mar 8 — Bulk Shen Nong Feng left Kiel, after finalising repairs, Mar 5 for Narvik. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SHINKO OCEAN (Panama)**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Shinko Ocean that had an engine failure in stormy weather near Penghu yesterday sank at around 0100 today, with all but one of the 20 crew members having been rescued, coast guard authorities reported. The first mate remains missing after having fallen overboard during yesterday's mishap. Rescuers continue their search for him. The nineteen other crew members have been safely helicoptered to Makung after being rescued by the Republic of China Seagull Squad. The vessel was on its way from Malaysia to Taichung, transporting logs, when its engines failed. Stormy weather then caused the master of the ship to lose control, and the vessel eventually struck a rock formation in shallow waters off Penghu Island. The ship then drifted further away from the northeastern coast of Makung before sinking at around 0100 today as a result of leakage, coast guard authorities said.

Taipei, Mar 4 — General cargo Shinko Ocean, laden with logs, on voyage from Malaysia to Taichung, encountered bad weather in Taiwan Strait, nearby Penghu Island, on Mar 3. The cargo shifted and the vessel began to list. A total of 20 crewmembers were on board, one of which, the C/Officer, was lost in the sea when hoisted up by the rescue helicopter, while the remaining 19 crew were safely rescued and are now at Penghu Island. At 0008, local time, today, the vessel was almost completely sunk, the stern section could still be seen on the sea surface. The vessel's position was in lat 23 20N, long 119 50E. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Shinko Ocean which ran aground near Penghu Thursday due to engine failure and stormy weather sank at around 0100, local time., Mar 4, with all but one of the 20 crew-members having been rescued, Coast Guard authorities reported. The first mate of the vessel remains missing after having fallen overboard during Thursday's mishap. Rescuers continue their search for him. The nineteen other crew members have been safely helicoptered to Makung, the capital of Penghu, after being rescued by the Republic of China Seagull Squad.

Taipei, Mar 10 — After all the crew of general cargo Shinko Ocean were rescued, with the exception of the Chief Officer, who is still missing, the vessel was towed by a salvage vessel to a safe open sea position to prevent any oil pollution and/or damage to the coast of Penghu Island. During the passage, the vessel sank in lat 22 16.8N, long 119 48.1E, around midnight on Mar 7 (1600, UTC, Mar 6), in an approximate depth of 1,000 metres. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SHUN TONG (Cambodia)**

London, Mar 7 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard, timed 0930, UTC: General cargo Shun Tong, XUQR7, (1249 gt, built 1982), Amagasaki for Haimen, cargo steel scrap, had a fire break out in cargo hold in lat 33 49.1N, long 130 16.1E, at 1920, JST, Mar 6. The fire has been extinguished and all crew are safe. Vessel is now at Fukuoka port. (Note — Shun Tong sailed Amagasaki Mar 5 for Haimen.)

Moji, Mar 9 — General cargo Shun Tong arrived Hakata Mar 7 from Amagasaki and sailed Mar 8 for Haimen. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SIRIUS (Russia)**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated Feb 28, states: General cargo Sirius (2452 gt, built 1984), Yeisk for Turkey, cargo sawn timber, struck a rock and ran aground last night south of Ocheretay Bay at the Tarkhankut in the Crimea. The press service of Chornomornaftohaz oil and gas company disclosed. The vessel was punctured, and the engine-room and the cargo hold were submerged as a result. The vessel sent out a distress call to the Department for

Engineering Fleet and Underwater Engineering Work of Chornomornaftohaz. The vessel is now 30 metres from shore. According to the information, none of the crew were injured, however it is for the time being impossible to remove anybody from the vessel. Tug Tsentavr is unable to draw closer to the vessel due to the storm and high-seas in the area of the distress. Specialists of the fleet of Chornomornaftohaz are on shore in the area of the accident, but due to the rocky terrain it is less likely a successful rescue operation can be conducted from the shore. According to the statement, the crew of the vessel attempted to leave the ship independently with the help of a lifeboat, but this was unsuccessful. Oleksii Chernohorskyi, the head of Chornomornaftohaz's Department for Engineering Fleet and Underwater Engineering Work, emphasized that there is a need to rescue the crew from the air, and the necessary negotiations regarding this are being conducted. "We are presently performing the function of communicators - the crew are in radio contact with us, and for our part we are relaying information to the Ministry of Emergency Situations, and monitoring the situation," remarked Chernohorskyi. (Note — Understood from previous owners that local media reports all crew of vessel were rescued but fate of vessel not known.)

Mariupol, Mar 4 — Understand general cargo Sirius is still aground near cape of Tarkhankut, Black Sea. All crew members were safely evacuated. There is danger of the hull breaking due to the old age of the ship and a bunkers spill in this case. The salvage operation has still not commenced due to bad weather. — Lloyd's Agents.

Mariupol, Mar 9 — General cargo Sirius: Our surveyors advise that salvage operations have still not commenced, due to storm weather. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **STELLAMARE (Netherlands Antilles)**

London, Mar 9 — Semi-sub HL vessel Stellamare, now renamed Nadalina S., arrived Casablanca Jan 19 and sailed Feb 2. Vessel arrived Nemrut Bay Feb 12 and sailed Feb 19, subsequently arriving at Constantza on Feb 23.

#### **STEPAN RAZIN (Russia)**

St. Petersburg, Mar 4 — Bulk/c.c. Stepan Razin: Discharge of approximately 19,000 tonnes of bulk cargo from Nos 1, 3, 4 and 6 holds is to be arranged to enable salvage operations to continue. The above discharge will be commenced based on weather conditions. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **STINA (NIS)**

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1615, UTC: General cargo Stina (1318 gt, built 1971) Lillesand for Loch Aline, in ballast, has anchored to investigate main engine problems in lat 57 16.85N, long 005 46.53W at

about 1600, UTC. Weather conditions wind northwest gale force 4 (moderate breeze). (Note — Stina sailed Lillesand Mar 1.)

London, Mar 5 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 2220, UTC: General cargo Stina completed repairs and the master indicated their intentions are to remain at anchor in their current position at lat 57 16.85N, long 005 46.53W until 0900 tomorrow when they will go into Kyle of Lochalsh.

Belfast, Mar 9 — General cargo Stina arrived Belfast Mar 8 from Loch Aline and sailed same day back to Loch Aline. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SUN CROSS (South Korea)**

See Rickmers Genoa.

#### **SUNNY FALCON (Panama)**

Busan, Mar 8 — While chemical/oil carrier Sunny Falcon (3778 gt, built 1990), in ballast, was anchored at Ulsan outer harbour anchorage E-1, Ulsan, the port side of the vessel came into contact with general cargo Oriental River (4999 gt, built 1989), cargo livestock feed, which was also at anchor, during strong wind and heavy snow, at approximately 2300, Mar 5. Both vessels claim that the other vessel dragged anchor at the time, causing the contact. As a result Sunny Falcon reportedly sustained damage to port side where its side shell plate in way of No.3 cargo tank was torn/holed approximately 1.5 metres long and main deck in way were indented approximately 500 by 4,000 mm. Oriental River reportedly sustained damage to starboard side where its bow plate in way of bosun store was indented approximately 1,000 by 6,000 mm. No oil leakage or personal injuries were reported. Sunny Falcon is at present lying afloat moored at the premises of Orient Shipyard Co, Ltd, Busan, for repairs and is expected to be completed Mar 11. Oriental River is at present under cargo operation at Pier No.2, Ulsan, and its repair schedule has not yet been decided to this time. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — Oriental River arrived Ulsan Mar 5. Sunny Falcon arrived Ulsan Mar 4 and sailed Mar 7.)

#### **SVEN OLTSMANN (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Hamburg, Mar 9 — C.c. Sven Oltmann is still at the dockyard for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TAIPAN SCAN (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Esbjerg, Mar 4 — Ro/ro Taipan Scan arrived Esbjerg Mar 2 from Delfzyl. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TOYO MARU (Japan)**

Yokohama, Mar 9 — Ro/ro Toyo Maru, 4238 gt, (built 2003), Kinuura for Chiba, and general cargo Senei Maru No.5, 1598 gt, (built 1996), cargo waste, were in collision 3.63 miles, 151 degrees from Kannonmisaki lighthouse at 0500, Feb 18. Both vessels sustained denting and

scratching. There were no injuries. After the collision Toyo Maru continued to Chiba and Senei Maru No.5 sailed for Kawasaki, both under own power. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **UNION PEARL (Barbados)**

London, Mar 5 — General cargo Union Pearl arrived Teignmouth Mar 2 from Cork.

#### **URSULA LEONHARDT (Malta)**

Brest, Mar 9 — General cargo Ursula Leonhardt is now due to be towed towards a Croatian port for repairs to its main engine. Reportedly the towage would be performed with Cyprus salvage tug Ocean Lady, the convoy being due to depart from Brest tomorrow. It has also been reported to us that the vessel changed its flag on Mar 7 to take the flag of Belize, new owner: Star War Shipping from Panama. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **VENTURE II (New Zealand)**

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: The crew working on the remake of "King Kong" were forced to abandon ship when the vessel being used to film scenes off the Kapiti Coast sprang a leak and began to take on water yesterday. Yacht Venture II (492 gt, built 1956), bought by director Peter Jackson for use in the film, got into difficulty when the engine-room flooded. Those on board had to be transferred to a support boat - and were later left on nearby Kapiti Island - as emergency repairs were carried out. Maritime Safety Authority spokeswoman Heidi Brook confirmed it was investigating the incident, which happened about 0800 hrs. The authority had received a report from the boat's crew. "It appears there was flooding in the engine room. There was a small hole in the hull in the bilge area. They located it and they put in a temporary wooden plug." Ms Brook said a wooden bung was used to plug the hole and the water was pumped out. A diver was on hand to help. She was unsure how many people were on the boat but said it was believed all were safe and accounted for. King Kong publicist Melissa Booth said shooting would resume once the repairs were completed, she said. The 50-metre Venture II, formerly known as Manuia, had been berthed for some time at a Miramar wharf. The vessel has been transformed into Jackson's version of the Venture, immortalised in the 1933 film King Kong as the ship that took the great ape from Skull Island to New York.

#### **VICUNA (Chile)**

Santos, Mar 8 — Following received from our Sub-agents at Paranagua, dated Mar 7: Chemical/oil carrier Vicuna: Another stern section was cut and carried out to Ponta do Poco to be cut into pieces. The completion of work is scheduled for the beginning of April. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Mar 10 — The operation to remove the wreck of Ultragas' chemical/oil carrier Vicuna is close to completion following the removal of

four key sections of the vessel. Smit Salvage is carrying out the operation to remove the remains of the vessel destroyed in a devastating blast at the Brazilian port of Paranagua in November last year. The bow section, accommodation block, engine and part of the stern section have been removed as part of a complicated and costly operation being covered by the P&I club, Tyndall Riley (Britannia). The all-important mid-ship sections of the vessel, due to be removed in the next few weeks, will be critical in establishing the cause of the accident which killed two crewmen, a superintendent of the vessel's managers, Humboldt Shipmanagement, and a Lloyd's Register surveyor on board the vessel to undertake a routine CAP inspection. Separate investigations into the cause of the accident are being undertaken by Brazilian authorities, representatives of the P&I club, the vessel's Chilean owners, terminal operator Cattalini and the flag state, Chile. While an independent investigation being undertaken by the Paranagua port captaincy began in the immediate aftermath of the event, the removal of what remains of the cargo tanks represents a critical phase for the investigation. The maritime court in Rio de Janeiro is due to appoint its technical expert to start the official collection of evidence on the incident some time in the next week. It is hoped that the remains of the tanks that held the vessel's explosive methanol cargo will yield important clues into the causes of the disaster. Terminal operator Cattalini and Ultragas have both appointed their technical experts in preparation for what is expected to be a bitter legal dispute over the causes of the accident and subsequent liability for the environmental damage caused. Around 400 tonnes of bunker oil was spilt after the explosion leading to an oil slick that spread more than 20 km affecting the region's fishing and tourist industries. Ultragas, on the instruction of the P&I club, has so far been picking up the bill for the environmental clean-up operation. However, its Brazilian law-firm, Siano & Martins, intends to make a case for compensation by arguing that the liability for the clean-up lies with Cattalini for lacking an emergency response plan that could have better dealt with the spill. Ultragas' lawyer, Luis Roberto Leven Siano, said total claims lodged against the Chilean tanker specialist had already reached US\$150m, without including any possible fines levied by the federal and state government against whichever company is deemed responsible for the spill. Environmental clean-up specialists Alpina Briggs and Hidro-Clean have around 200 people still working on the clean-up operation which has so far cost around R\$11m (US\$4.2m). Cattalini has told officials that its contingency plan exceeded the requirements spelt out under Brazilian law and the incident was "unprecedented".

**WHITE STAR (Cayman Islands)**

Genoa, Mar 10 — Yacht White Star is currently under repair at Amico & Co Yard, Genoa. Repairs are expected to be completed by the end of May. — Lloyd's Agents.

**YUAN DA NO.8 (Cambodia)**

Yokohama, Mar 9 — General cargo Yuan Da No.8, 2644 gt, (built 1984) contacted the breakwater 0.28 miles, 178 degrees from Niigata port at 0858, Feb 23. Vessel was towed and then berthed under own power. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Yuan Da No.8 sailed Pohang Feb 18 for Niigata.)

**ZUL DAI A NO.20137 (China)**

See Brother Joy.



**MALACCA STRAIT**

London, Mar 9 — The master and chief officer of tug Highline 26 kidnapped by pirates last week in the Malacca Strait have been released. "We have received verbal confirmation from the owners that the crew has been released," said Noel Choong, regional manager of the International Maritime Bureau's piracy reporting centre in Kuala Lumpur. The Malaysian master, Wong Check Tung, and Indonesian chief officer Munaji were kidnapped in the Malacca Strait last week after four gun toting pirates stormed the vessel. He said that the two crew members were released yesterday and were now at a police station in Port Klang. The IMB is still awaiting official confirmation from the Malaysian police of their release and no further details were available. It is believed that a ransom was paid for the release of the two men, but that a demand by the pirates of M\$1 million reported by Malaysian press was incorrect and it was in fact a much lower amount.



**CANADA**

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated Mar 4, states: Transport Canada has detained research Farley Mowat (648 gt, built 1958), belonging to one of the world's most famous environmental groups over concerns it could cause pollution. The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society has been ordered to repair its vessel, Farley Mowat, which has been docked in Halifax since early in the week. Transport Canada says the vessel, which was on its way to the Gulf of St. Lawrence to film birthing seals, does

not meet oil pollution prevention standards and will not let it leave port until it is fixed. "This is all about safety and preventing marine pollution," Steve Bone, area manager for Transport Canada in Dartmouth, N.S., said. Bone said the vessel needs to have certificates stating it is environmentally sound. But Paul Watson's, the vessel's captain, said today he's never needed them before. "As soon as we arrived here, suddenly these became required," Watson said in an interview. "I have no doubt it's political harassment." Watson said if his vessel hadn't been headed to Iles de la Madeleine to film seals, it would never have been stopped. Transport Canada denied the detention had anything to do with the high-profile group's plans. "Not every vessel is inspected in port every time. This time it was," said Bone. "It was not in compliance with regulations." Watson said the delay has all but forced the group to abandon its trip. He said Farley Mowat is unlikely to reach the area in time to film the birth of the seal pups.

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated Mar 4, states: Research Farley Mowat, belonging to an American environmental group, has been cleared to leave a Halifax port. Members of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society were detained in port for four days this week. Transport Canada had said it detained the vessel over concerns it could cause pollution, and the society was ordered to repair the vessel.



**CHINESE FISHING VESSELS SEIZED BY SOUTH KOREA**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Two Chinese fishing vessels were seized yesterday for illegally fishing in South Korea's southern territorial waters, local maritime police said. The Maritime Police Agency on Jeju Island said it seized two fishing vessels for illegally operating within South Korea's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The vessels were found about four kilometres within the EEZ about 56 km south of Mara Island, the agency said. The island is South Korea's southernmost territory. The agency did not disclose the number of fishermen on board the boats or their identities. The Chinese fishing boats and their crews were being sent to the port of Jeju for investigation, it said. (See issue of Mar 3.)

**DERYA 3 (Turkey)**

See "Turkish Fishing Vessels Arrested at Constantza."

**ELQUI (?Uruguay)**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated Mar 7, states: Longline fishing

Elqui (481 gt, built 1966) is being investigated by South Georgia Fisheries officials on suspicion of toothfish poaching. The vessel was escorted into Stanley harbour this morning by fisheries patrol vessels Sigma and Dorada, and is currently berthed alongside the town's floating dock facility, FIPASS. South Georgia director of Fisheries, Harriet Hall, would only comment today that, "It was brought into Stanley following a boarding in South Georgia waters. An investigation is currently ongoing." Ms Hall was unable to put a timescale on the investigations currently underway. If they were to culminate in prosecution, hearings would take place in Stanley, where the South Georgia courts are officially located. The South Georgia toothfish season does not begin until May 1, so there are no vessels currently licenced to be fishing in the zone. Elqui was spotted by the crew of two cruise ships, Explorer II and Grigoriy Mikheev, while the latter was carrying the Commissioner of South Georgia and Falkland Islands Governor, Mr Howard Pearce. Precise details of its current ownership and flag nation are not quite clear. Although it has at some point been flagged in Uruguay under the name Elqui " which is also on the vessel's stern " the ship's life preserver rings also bear the word "Conakry".

**EMINO GULLARI (Turkey)**

See "Turkish Fishing Vessels Arrested at Constantza."

**ERENLER 2 (Turkey)**

See "Turkish Fishing Vessels Arrested at Constantza."

**FILIPPOS (Paraguay)**

Rio Grande, Mar 3 — C.c. Filippos is still arrested at Porto Alegre, with no prospects of sailing at present. — Lloyd's Agents.

**JOVIC (Philippines)**

Manila, Mar 9 — General cargo Jovic was released on Feb 26, after discharging the cargo that the Bureau of Customs found to have insufficient documents. The vessel is now back in normal tramping operations on coastwise trade. — Lloyd's Agents.

**KADIR KAPTAN (Turkey)**

See "Turkish Fishing Vessels Arrested at Constantza."

**MEGAMAR (Honduras)**

Rio de Janeiro, Mar 7 — General cargo Megamar is lying abandoned at Niteroi. No movement. No scrapping so far. — Lloyd's Agents.

**OSTWIND (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Mar 9 — General cargo Ostwind will be sold by Court auction at the public hearing of the District Court of Rotterdam, at 1100, local time, Apr 21.

**PIRLAN TKARDESLER (Turkey)**

See "Turkish Fishing Vessels Arrested at Constantza."

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

**ROMANA I (Panama)**

Port au Prince, Mar 3 — Ro/ro Romana I is still at anchor in abandoned situation. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SAHIN (Turkey)**

See "Turkish Fishing Vessels Arrested at Constantza."

**SALEM TWO (Egypt)**

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Dubai-based Everlasting Shipping Co was denied permission to set sail their newly procured vessel general cargo Salem Two (now renamed C.H.M.T.) from Alexandria Port on claims that the vessel has not been cleared by the Egyptian Registry and that it is mortgaged to the Islamic International Bank for Investments and Developments, disclosed Deendayal Ramachandran, senior executive finance, Emirates Trading Agency. "The issue is still unresolved despite the fact that we have contacted higher authorities who have promised us a positive solution," said Deendayal. He said, "We bought the vessel Salem Two from Charter House Marine Trading in an auction conducted by the Alexandria Ports Authority (APA)." The vessel belonging to a Pakistani national Iftikhar Rafiq who bought it from the Alexandria Ports Corporation following an announcement by the ports that there are a number of marine units that are causing problems in the port," said Deendayal. "We have spent US\$1.5 million to repair and renovate the vessel after we checked with the concerned authority that the vessel is cleared and free from any ban," added Ramachandran. "We have also spent a huge amount in insurance premiums and salaries of the sailors and other expenses for a period of 12 months or more," he added. "While we planned to sail, the Marine Inspection Department in the Ports Authority refused to issue permission and also to eliminate the vessel from the list of the main registrar saying that it is mortgaged to the International Islamic Bank for Investments and Development." Deendayal said, "The vessel Salem Two has been procured through an admiralty auction sale as per Egyptian Law conducted by the Alexandria Port Authority (APA)." "The Ports Authority has committed in their sale document that the vessel is free of all and any encumbrances, maritime lien and mortgages," added Ramachandran. He pointed out that as per International Maritime Law, it is the responsibility of the port authority to clear all and any maritime lien, encumbrances, claim and mortgages. Based on that the APA has the responsibility to efface the vessel from the Egyptian Registry and transfer the title to the buyers. He said, "The vessel was procured as a wreck, then repaired, drydocked by the new buyers and brought under own power spending more than US\$1.5 million. After bringing it under own power, the

vessel ex-owners-liquidator and the Bank of Islamic International for Investment and Development who have mortgage on this vessel have started putting up unwarranted claims causing the vessel to be held up. Asked about the situation now, Deendayal said, "As on date the vessel is not arrested, but held up due claimants attempting to extract unreasonable sums. Now the vessel is totally under possession and control of the present owners who have been maintaining its engines and generators in running condition. Deendayal said, "We had already approach the Minister of Transport to clear this issue and the matter was taken up with legal consul under the Ministry of Transport." "We had a detailed meeting in the committee set up by the undersecretary, Ministry of Transport, Alexandria, who was supposed to send a memorandum to the Minister of Transport seeking his approval to exercise the port clearance. We are so surprised that the authorities concerned are not willing to take action, despite the fact that all levels at the ministry of maritime transport and the ministry of transport are convinced that the auction sale conducted by APA is valid and legal. I met the Minister of Transport in late December 2004, and he told me that the matter was referred by his office to the Advisory Council, the highest judicial body of the state to clear the issue," said Deendayal. When contacted, an official from Alexandria Port Authority said, "The issue is so controversial with many parties having claimed the ownership of the vessel, the matter that compelled us to hold the vessel till later notice." "I guess the Dubai-based company will have the right to finally get the ownership of the vessel and we are in the process of solving the matter." Islamic International Bank for Investments and Development when contacted declined to comment.

**STAMATOULA KALLOPI (Greece)**

London, Mar 4 — A report in today's issue of "Newsfront" states: Seized in the second half of February, product tanker Stamatoula Kallopi (487 gt, built 1962) has been seized by the Piraeus Port Authority in pursuit of a Euro6,920.92 claim against the registered owners, D.Metaxas N.E.

**TURKISH FISHING VESSELS ARRESTED AT CONSTANTZA**

Bucharest, Mar 9 — Turkish fishing vessels Derya 3, Eminogullari, Erenler 2, Kadir Kaptan, Pirlan Tkardesler and Sahin were released at the end of 2004, sailing from Constantza soon after. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ZHONG YUAN YU I (China)**

London, Mar 4 — Chinese fishing Zhong Yuan Yu I was arrested early this week by the Argentine Coast Guard allegedly poaching in Argentine waters. According to Coast Guard sources Zhong Yuan Yu I was intercepted with 160 tons of frozen

squid and three tons of fresh squid on deck. The jigger was captured by patrol vessel Prefecto Debres "inside Argentine jurisdictional waters, 199 miles east of Comodoro Rivadavia." Apparently on sighting the Chinese jigger in Argentina's EEZ, the Coast Guard vessel ordered the jigger to stop engines but instead it tried to escape to international waters. "Given the situation, Prefecto Debres appealed to intimidation tactics", and seven miles later Zhong Yuan Yu I stopped its engines. A boarding party found over 160 tons of frozen squid in the hauls and three of fresh squid on deck. The Chinese jigger is being escorted to Comodoro Rivadavia where it will face formal charges for illegal fishing.

**Pipeline Accidents****ASSAM, INDIA**

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

**Pollution****DAVAO, PHILIPPINES**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Ref Cala Piccola (8984 gt, built 1991) has been sanctioned for allegedly spilling oil in Davao port on Sunday (Mar 6), according to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). Cala Piccola was tagged for spilling an estimated 2,000 litres of oil at the Tefasco Pier, Davao City, on Sunday morning. PCG spokesperson Lieutenant Armand Balilo said the ship has been fined and was directed to clean up the oil spill, which threatens to harm the marine life in the area and poses a danger to other vessels.

Manila, Mar 8 — Ref Cala Piccola was detained at the Tefasco Pier at Davao port in southern Philippines on Mar 6, by Philippine Coast Guard authorities for allegedly causing an oil spill at the pier. The Coast Guard said in its report that an oil spill of between 1,000 and 2,000 litres of oil was discovered on the stern side of Cala Piccola. Coast Guard authorities boarded the vessel at around 1140 hrs and ordered the vessel's master Lujak Baldo to clean up the oil spill. Using buckets and absorbent pads, the vessels crew, with the help of Coast Guard personnel and a private oil spill response company - San Pedro Integrated Service, began clean-up operations on Sunday. The Coast Guard also rigged a boom to prevent the oil spill from spreading while the Davao office of Shell contributed the use of a skimmer. By yesterday, 34

drums of bunker oil had been recovered from the spill. The agent of Cala Piccola assured the Coast Guard that all expenses related to the oil spill clean up would be paid by the vessel's owner. The vessel is owned by Piccola Shipping Corp. The Coast Guard said that it is still studying what sanctions are to be levied against the crew and the vessel for discharging oil into the sea and for failing to inform authorities about the oil discharge. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Mar 9 — The Philippine Coast Guard allowed ref Cala Piccola to leave the port of Davao, yesterday night, for Tokyo, after paying a fine of Pesos20,000 (US\$370). The vessel was fined for causing an oil spill of between 1,000 and 2,000 litres of bunker fuel at the Tefasco Pier, Davao. Apart from the fine, the vessel has been ordered to reimburse all expenses incurred in the oil spill clean-up. Capt. J.Legaspi, of the Davao Coast Guard detachment, said that they were still totalling up the cost of the clean-up. The bill will be presented to the vessel's Davao agent, Gil Tanagon, who has committed to pay for the clean-up, Capt. Legaspi said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**DELAWARE RIVER,  
UNITED STATES**

See Athos I under "Marine."

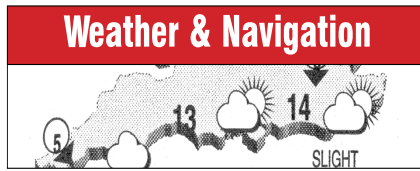
**NEWFOUNDLAND, CANADA**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The Newfoundland coast is littered with at least 1,200 dead and dying seabirds in what conservation officials described yesterday as one of the worst incidents of its type they have seen. The Canadian Wildlife Service said oily bilge water from a large ship is responsible for polluting the area, which incorporates two marine ecological reserves along the province's southeast coast. Wildlife officers increased earlier estimates of affected birds after conducting an aerial survey of the area. Most of the oiled birds are eider ducks, and wildlife officers estimate one per cent of their population off Newfoundland will die. "This is a very serious incident for us. It's unprecedented in terms of numbers of eiders impacted," said Bruce Turner, conservation manager of the service in Newfoundland and Labrador. "We've had nothing anywhere close to this in the past, and the number may increase." Many of the birds were still alive yesterday but weren't expected to survive. "There's not a whole lot we can do for the birds," Turner said. "The birds are still sufficiently lively to avoid capture. Normally, by the time you can capture them, they're on death's doorstep." Eider ducks, which are identifiable by their striking black bellies and white backs, come from throughout the Arctic to winter in Newfoundland. When birds are fouled by oil, they die of hypothermia or from toxins ingested while trying to clean themselves. They've been spotted

along more than 300 kilometres of coastline. Test results show the birds were oiled by bilge water from a large vessel.

**PARANAGUA AREA, BRAZIL**

See Vicuna under "Marine."



**ALGERIA**

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Torrential rain and floods that swept southern Algerian areas in the past few days killed three people while nine others went missing, official reports said. Civil defence reports said the floods in the desert regions of Alisi, Adrar and Tamenrast resulted in the collapse of several small buildings and the disruption of electricity and telephone networks in addition to destroying cattle. Several roads were also damaged and many villages were inundated, necessitating the evacuation of their inhabitants by helicopter.

**AUSTRALIA**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Tasmania's electricity supplier, Aurora Energy, will pay out more than \$1 million in rebates to customers following severe storms over Tasmania's north last month. Under Aurora's charter, customers who are without power for more than 12 hours receive an automatic \$80 cash refund. Aurora's chief executive Dr Peter Davis says these payouts will start being issued in the next month. Dr Davis says the infrastructure damage is still being assessed. "The obvious cost is that under our regulatory contract, where we have customers off for more than 12 hours, then we have to automatically pay them \$80 in a fine," Dr Davis said. "Given the number of customers off, we expect that those fines, the payments to customers, will be in excess of \$1 million just from that one storm."

**CYCLONE "INGRID"**

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A low in the Coral Sea has developed into a cyclone. The weather bureau says Tropical Cyclone "Ingrid" is currently located about 400 kilometres north-east of Cooktown, in far north Queensland. The category one cyclone is expected to move east and intensify over the next 24 hours.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: The Bureau of Meteorology has upgraded Cyclone "Ingrid" to a severe category 4 as it intensifies off the far north Queensland coast. The cyclone is about 370 km east-north-east of Cooktown and moving west-south-west at about eight kilometres-per-hour. A tropical cyclone watch is current for

coastal and island communities between Port Douglas and Lockhart River. Mike Bergin, from the Cyclone Warning Centre, says Ingrid is continuing its slow journey towards the coast. "We've got a variety of directions from the computer models but they are all agreed on a westerly movement," he said.

London, Mar 7 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Ingrid" located near lat 14.2S, long 148.6E at 0600, UTC. Movement past six hours: 245 deg at two knots. Position accurate to within 30 nautical miles, position based on eye fixed by satellite. Maximum sustained winds: 120 knots, gusts to 145 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 25 nautical miles all quadrants. Radius of 50-knot winds: 55 nautical miles north-east quadrant and south-east quadrant, 45 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 50 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds: 105 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 95 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 80 nautical miles south-west quadrant 90 nautical miles north-west quadrant Forecast for 0600, Mar 8: Centre predicted to be near lat 14.3S, long 147.7E with maximum sustained winds of 130 knots and gusts to 160 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 30 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 55 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 105 nautical miles. Tropical cyclone "Ingrid", located approximately 235 nautical miles north-east of Cairns, Australia, has tracked west-south-westward at two knots over the past six hours. "Ingrid" is forecast to continue to slowly track west-south-westward throughout the forecast period. The system has significantly intensified over the past 12 hours as it has remained quasi-stationary and is forecast to intensify further as the upper level outflow remains good.

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: People in the far north of Queensland are being urged to use the remaining hours of daylight to prepare for Cyclone "Ingrid". The Bureau of Meteorology says "Ingrid", a category 5 system, poses a serious threat to the far north Queensland coast. About 1400, Queensland time,, Cyclone "Ingrid", with a central pressure of 930 hPa, was about 270 kilometres north-east of Cooktown. The cyclone was moving west at eight kilometres an hour. Gales are expected to develop between Lockhart River and Port Douglas tomorrow morning with destructive winds likely later in the day. Cooktown and the Aboriginal communities of Hopevale and Wujul Wujul are the places most likely to bear the brunt when the weather system crosses the coast. The bureau has issued a tropical cyclone warning for coastal and island communities between Lockhart River and Port Douglas. A cyclone watch extends from Port Douglas to Innisfail. Tides in coastal areas between Cape Melville and Port Douglas are likely to exceed the highest tides of the year as the cyclone approaches. Craig Mitchell

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

from the Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre says the cyclone appears likely to maintain its intensity. "At this stage it's a very intense storm and the satellite picture favours it being a strong system that could be very destructive as it comes towards the coast," said Mr Mitchell. The far north's counter disaster coordinator Michael Keating says emergency service planning is well underway with communications established between communities south to Cardwell. "We've already established communications networks through to our local areas in the north of the state," he said. "We'll be working with the state counter disaster organisation in Brisbane so the whole mechanism of disaster management and disaster planning is underway." Superintendent Keating says people should now be focusing on securing their immediate area. "The most important thing people can do during these daylight hours is to take preparations and make preparations in relation to debris which may be in their general area," he said. "It's very important that people look in their own backyards, look in their business centres and remove whatever debris is laying around." Ports and harbours in far north Queensland have been put on alert. Cairns regional harbour master Alan Boath says mariners should be aware of the possibility of tidal surges as well as the impact of cyclonic winds. Captain Boath says a cyclone plan for the region has been activated. "The cyclone contingency plan requires them to either proceed to sea or move to the designated cyclone moorings, depends on the type of vessel and obviously the size of vessel," he said. "Much larger vessels obviously have to proceed to sea and in the small ports we would certainly expect people to proceed to the cyclone moorings and secure themselves there."

London, Mar 8 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Ingrid" located near lat 13.9S, long 146.9E at 0600, UTC. Movement past six hours: 270 deg at four knots. Position accurate to within 20 nautical miles, position based on eye fixed by satellite. Maximum sustained winds: 130 knots, gusts to 160 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 35 nautical miles all quadrants. Radius of 50-knot winds: 45 nautical miles all quadrants. Radius of 34-knot winds: 90 nautical miles all quadrants. Forecast for 0600, Mar 9: Centre predicted to be near lat 14.2S, long 144.7E with maximum sustained winds of 120 knots and gusts to 145 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 25 nautical miles over water. Radius of 50-knot winds: 45 nautical miles over water. Radius of 34-knot winds: 85 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 80 north-west quadrant over water, 70 nautical miles south-west and north-west quadrants over water. Tropical cyclone "Ingrid", located approximately 200 nautical miles north-north-east of Cairns, Australia, has tracked westward at four knots

over the past six hours. The system is forecast to continue to track westward over the next 12 hours before turning south-westward and making landfall.

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Strong winds and steady rain are starting to lash far north Queensland as category 4 Cyclone "Ingrid" closes in on the east of coast of Cape York. The weather bureau says the storm system has weakened slightly, but still poses a serious threat. At 1400, AEST, "Ingrid" was about 105 km north-east of Cape Melville and 220 kilometres east of Coen. The cyclone was moving west at 10 kph. The Bureau of Meteorology says "the very destructive core with wind gusts to 260kph is expected near the coast between Coen and Cape Melville tomorrow morning". Far northern disaster coordinator Michael Keating says residents have moved voluntarily from small remote communities, such as Port Stewart, for safety. The local authorities are dealing with all of their local communities," he said. "There have been no forced evacuations and some people have moved voluntarily because they see themselves at risk, but they have just moved to areas where they will be more safe." The bureau has issued a cyclone warning for communities between Cape Grenville and Cooktown. The warning extends inland across central Cape York Peninsula. A cyclone watch is current for coastal and island communities on the eastern Gulf of Carpentaria between Weipa and Kowanyama, though the watch south to the Gilbert River Mouth has been cancelled. The bureau says that although "Ingrid" has weakened a little, the cyclone still poses a serious threat to far north Queensland, with a very destructive core and the potential to generate a dangerous storm tide. Destructive winds are expected between Coen and Cape Flattery overnight. The bureau is also warning of a possible dangerous storm tide as the cyclone crosses the coast "with damaging waves, strong currents and flooding of low-lying areas extending some way inland". The cyclone has forced Qantas to cancel two flights from Cairns to far northern destinations. A midday service to Horn Island in the Torres Strait was cancelled at midday and a separate flight to Weipa was also called off this afternoon. A Qantas spokeswoman says not all flights have been cancelled north of Cairns, and the company is monitoring the situation. Meanwhile, residents of the Aboriginal community of Hope Vale are hoping their buildings can withstand "Ingrid" if it heads their way. Heavy rain and strong winds threaten to cut off the community. Except for two elderly men who want to remain at their shacks at the beach, Hope Vale's residents will move to the town's four strongest buildings if "Ingrid" hits. Hope Vale chief executive Greg Maclean hopes they can withstand Ingrid's 260 kilometre an hour winds.

London, Mar 9 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Ingrid" was located near lat 13.6S, long 145.0E, approximately 45 nautical miles north-east of Cape Melville, Australia. Movement over the past six hours, 270 degs, at seven knots. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre located by satellite. The system has shown less organisation over the past 12 hours and has experienced weakened poleward outflow with the passing of a mid-latitude trough. The eye of the system has become cloud filled and the system is beginning to interact with land. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 105 knots, gusts 130 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 20 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 85 nautical miles in the north-east, south-east and north-west quadrants and 75 nautical miles in the south-west quadrant. At 0600, UTC, Mar 10, the centre is predicted to be near lat 13.7S, long 142.4E, with maximum sustained winds of 75 knots and gusts to 90 knots.

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Areas of Australia's north-east coast are bracing for what could be one of the region's most powerful cyclones in over 30 years. Cyclone "Ingrid", which is due to hit northern Queensland, had winds of up to 280 k/h this morning. Over the past day the cyclone has weakened slightly, being downgraded to a category four from the maximum category five. But experts warn that "Ingrid" could still cause significant damage. Queensland residents have been packing sandbags and gathering emergency supplies. "There's not quite gale force winds on the coast yet [but] we are expecting them to develop during the day, so there is a great opportunity for people to stock up on food and water, batteries for the radio and secure things outside," meteorologist Phil Alford told the Associated Press. Strong winds are expected near Cooktown late today, with the cyclone reaching the coast near Cape Flattery early tomorrow morning. "There have been no forced evacuations and some people have moved voluntarily because they see themselves at risk," disaster coordinator Michael Keating said. As well as strong winds, residents have also been told to expect dangerous tides. "The sea is likely to rise steadily to a level significantly above the highest tides of the year, with damaging waves, strong currents and flooding of low-lying areas extending some way inland," Australia's Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre warned.

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Communities on Cape York's west coast face an anxious afternoon as tropical cyclone "Ingrid" continues moving across the area. At 1400, AEST, the cyclone was about 110 kilometre north-west of Coen and 75 kilometres east of Aurukun, and moving west at 20 kilometres-per-



hour. The weather bureau says Cyclone "Ingrid" still poses a major threat with destructive winds of up to 140 kilometres-per-hour likely to continue near the centre. The cyclone is expected to cross the coast into the Gulf of Carpentaria near Aurukun later today and strengthen as it moves west. Gales over inland areas are likely to extend on to the coast between Mapoon and Cape Keerweer this afternoon and higher than normal tides are expected in the area. Very heavy rain and localised flooding can be expected over northern Cape York Peninsula. Close watch Far northern disaster coordinator Michael Keating says local police stations have reported little damage and surprisingly little rain as the severe storm moves towards the Gulf of Carpentaria. Superintendent Keating says a close watch is being maintained. "We have got a number of communities in the area's we still have some concerns," he said. "The cyclone is still a severe tropical cyclone and it's essential that people in the watch area continue to listen to the media and continue to respond to the advice that they are given." Aurukun Shire Council chief executive Gary Kleidon says the rain has intensified but residents are ready. "The community is basically locked down at the moment," he said. "The people have all returned to their homes and are just waiting. We're basically finalising, closing up some of our premises and that."

London, Mar 10 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Ingrid" was located near lat 13.5S, long 141.7E. Movement over the past six hours: 255 degs at 11 knots. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. The Wiepa radar loop shows the system is located along the western coast of Cape York Peninsula and is just about the enter the Gulf of Carpentaria. Once "Ingrid" enters the gulf it is forecast to rapidly reintensify as it encounters very warm water and will continue to track westward. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 65 knots, gusts 80 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds: 30 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 60 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Mar 11, the centre is predicted to be near lat 13.6S, long 138.4E, with maximum sustained winds of 90 knots and gusts to 110 knots.

#### **CYCLONE "PERCY"**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Weakening Cyclone "Percy" skirted the Cook Islands' main population centre of Rarotonga yesterday and was expected to gradually move away from the island, meteorologists said. The cyclone, which caused heavy damage in the northern Cook Islands and Tokelau late last week, had not resulted in any reports of damage on Rarotonga yesterday morning, Chief

Inspector John Tini of the Cook Islands Emergency Operations Centre said. Cyclone "Percy" had caused some rough seas and high tides but winds on Rarotonga had not been particularly strong, he said. By about midday yesterday, "Percy" was about 295 km south-west of Rarotonga and moving south-east at about 22 kph. Winds at the centre of the cyclone had weakened to about 140 kph with occasional gusts up to 185 kph, the Fiji Meteorological Service (FMS) said. The cyclone was forecast to gradually move away from Rarotonga through the rest of the day, the FMS said. After passing west of the Cook Islands, "Percy's" forecast track could take it close to the Austral group of French Polynesia and the southernmost island of Rapa. The French Meteorological Service has issued an alert for the region.

London, Mar 4 — Following received from Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Percy" was located near lat 24.0S, long 160.6W, approximately 170 nautical miles south-south-west of Rarotonga and has tracked east-south-eastward, or 115 degs, at 16 knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 15 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 110 nautical miles in the north-east, south-west and north-west quadrants and 120 nautical miles in the south-east quadrant. "Percy" is exhibiting early stages of extratropical transition and will complete transition in 12 to 24 hours. At 0600, Mar 5, the centre is predicted to be near lat 25.7S, long 153.6W, with maximum sustained winds of 45 knots and gusts to 55 knots.

#### **HONG KONG**

Hong Kong, Mar 9 — Ferry Park Island 2 (not Island Park Two, as before reported) reportedly sustained only very minor damage and is now operating in Hong Kong waters. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **JAPAN**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Unusually heavy snowfall blanketed Tokyo, cancelling or delaying dozens of flights and trains and slowing down road traffic. Some two centimetres of snow accumulated in downtown Tokyo, the first time since 1998 that more than one centimetre of snow covered the Japanese capital, according to the meteorological agency. All Nippon Airways said it had cancelled 38 domestic flights out of Haneda airport in the metropolis. Its main competitor Japan Airlines said it had called off several flights. Shinkansen bullet trains were running at lower speeds near Tokyo, leading to delays, as the snow turned into rain and slush by late morning. Sections of expressways

were also temporarily closed as a precaution. No damage or injuries were reported.

#### **SWEDEN**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A cold snap gripped eastern Sweden this month with temperatures falling to the lowest level in 30 years during the same period, Sweden's media reported yesterday. The Weather Bureau reported the lowest temperature of Stockholm yesterday was minus 14 degrees Celsius. The lowest reading of minus 25 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday in Uppsala, the fifth largest city in Sweden, which was the record low in March since 1942. Meteorology experts said the chilling weather was caused by cold wind from Russia's north and the Arctic Ocean. Reports said a blizzard also hit Sweden's southern regions, leaving transport paralysed and highways and airports closed.

#### **NEW ZEALAND**

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A tornado has torn through the town of Greymouth on New Zealand's southern west coast, demolishing buildings and tossing shipping containers into the air. The tornado cut a swathe 300 metres wide through the town. "It was just a mass of timber and roofs coming through the sky, the damage is just unbelievable," Grey district Mayor Tony Kokshoorn said. He says the roof of one of the biggest buildings in town had lifted and came flying through the air towards him as he drove away from council chambers. No serious injuries have been reported. Mr Kokshoorn says about 100 people have had to be evacuated from a retirement village after half of its roof was lifted.

#### **ROMANIA**

Bucharest, Mar 7 — Sulina Channel was closed at 0630, local time, Mar 5, due to bad weather, wind north-north-east force six-seven (strong breeze-near gale), sea five-six. Channel was re-opened at 0600, local time, today. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TAIWAN**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The Central Weather Bureau (CWB) announced yesterday that the continuing bad weather is likely to continue today. Because of the cold front hovering over the island, many parts of Taiwan will experience cold temperatures and rain today. The Council of Agriculture (COA) yesterday announced the newest statistics regarding the damaged inflicted upon farm and animal products since mid Feb. As of yesterday afternoon, the damage is estimated to be at NTS\$396 million (£6,700,000). Strawberries, plums, and pears are among the hardest hit. The estimated area hit by the bad weather total up to 5,643 hectares. According to COA, waves after waves of cold fronts are causing heavy casualties on

the farm products. Consumers might have to prepare for price hikes in the market.

### TROPICAL CYCLONE "WILLY"

London, Mar 10 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, the centre of tropical cyclone "Willy" was located near lat 14.4S, long 115.7E, approximately 390 nautical miles north-north-west of Port Hedland, Australia, and has tracked westward, or 260 degs, over the past six hours, at 10 knots. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds: 20 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 130 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Satellite imagery indicates "Willy" continues to experience dual outflow channels and is becoming better organized. The system is forecast to track west-southwestward. At 0600, UTC, the centre is predicted to be near lat 15.9S, long 112.0E, with maximum sustained winds of 75 knots and gusts to 90 knots.

### UNITED KINGDOM

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A Cumbrian secondary school devastated by the floods which swept through Carlisle has re-opened to pupils. The Newman School faced an estimated £4m clean-up bill after the flooding which hit the city in January. Head teacher John O'Neill said the school was open to years seven and 10, with the remaining pupils being taught at another local school and college. While repair work continues, other pupils are being taught at Carlisle College and North Cumbria Technical College.

### UNITED STATES

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A late-winter storm lashed parts of the Northeast with icy winds and frigid temperatures yesterday, closing Boston's airport, knocking out power to thousands of homes and threatening to dump up to 10 inches of snow in some areas. Whiteout conditions forced authorities to close Logan International Airport after a number of flights were cancelled. Logan spokesman Phil Orlandella said the airport planned to reopen early today. Boston expected to receive 6 to 8 inches by today. Forecasters said the city's northern and western suburbs could get up to 10 inches. Scattered power outages caused by gusty winds left about 21,000 utility customers without electricity. In New Jersey, slick driving conditions caused scores of highway wrecks. Winds reached 61 mph hour in northwest New Jersey, and 50 mph in Atlantic City. In North Carolina, a line of strong thunderstorms rumbled across the countryside with winds up to 70 mph, toppling trees, damaging buildings and cutting electrical service to tens of thousands of homes. At one

point, more than 34,000 utility customers were without power. In Cumberland County, an estimated 23,000 chickens died when high winds blew the roofs off a pair of chicken houses. Raleigh television station WRAL reported.

### Earthquakes



### NICARAGUA

London, Mar 8 — A report, dated Mar 7, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0717, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located near the coast of Nicaragua in lat 11 39N, long 86 12W, depth 81 km.

### SOUTH AFRICA

London, Mar 9 — Following received from the BBC, dated today: Some 42 South African miners have been trapped underground, following an earthquake south-west of Johannesburg. Rescuers were digging to save them, said a spokesman for gold mining company DRDGold. The company's 3,200 miners in the area are all being evacuated following the magnitude five earthquake. Large earthquakes are not common in South Africa and one seismologist said it could have been triggered by underground mining operations. "This is most probably a mining-induced event... it is a gold mining area," said Council for Geoscience seismologist Eldridge Kgaswane. He said that mine work triggered small earthquakes on an almost daily basis. A DRDGold spokesman said 13 miners had been injured. The epicentre of the earthquake was near the town of Stilfontein, 155km south-west of Johannesburg, experts said. A block of flats for elderly people in the nearby town of Klerksdorp had to be evacuated after the earthquake left it unfit for human habitation, the emergency services said. Pupils at two schools in the town were also sent home after walls were damaged. Police spokesman Louis Jacobs said about 40 people had been slightly injured and many shop windows broken in the two towns.

### TAIWAN

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale rocked high-rise buildings in Taiwan early today, the Seismology Centre said. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties. The quake struck at 0306 with its epicentre 6.2km north of the eastern coastal town of Suao and 8.5km underground. A quake with a magnitude of 4.2 struck seven minutes before the major quake. There were a series of aftershocks including one measured at 5.0 on the Richter scale at 0316 and one with a magnitude of 4.7 at 0327, the centre said.

### Volcanic Activity



### MOUNT ST. HELENS, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Mount St. Helens erupted in the US today, sending a plume of smoke and ash nearly 12,000 metres into the air, say officials. But the eruption of the volcano at 1730, local time, did not appear to pose an immediate danger to people as the area is sparsely inhabited, they said. KOMO television in the Oregon city of Portland showed the giant plume hanging over the crater of the volcano which rumbled back to life last October after years of silence. The plume prompted the Federal Aviation Administration to order air traffic to avoid the area. "Air traffic control will not allow any aircraft in the area of the plume," Mike Fergus of the FAA said, adding that the column of smoke and ash topped out at around 12,000 metres. "All the airlines and the airports know what's happening but it's the companies who will make the decision to cancel or delay any flights." It was unclear whether the volcano had spewed any lava, with officials confirming only that the mountain had belched smoke and ash over a largely uninhabited area of the states of Oregon and Washington.

### Political & Civil Unrest



### AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Mar 8 — Fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar issued a rare statement today saying his fighters will increase attacks on government and foreign forces in Afghanistan once the harsh Afghan winter gives way to spring. The statement, issued through a spokesman, Abdul Latif Hakimi, was a riposte to U.S. Major General Eric T. Olson that Taliban attacks had "decreased dramatically" and Omar was no longer able to exercise control over the insurgents. Hakimi also claimed the Taliban was responsible for the killing of a British man in Kabul yesterday night, but security sources in the Afghan capital doubted the veracity of the claim, saying it appeared opportunist. Steven MacQueen, working as an adviser to the Afghan government was shot dead while driving alone in his car on a main road in the city centre, near a UN building and the Dutch embassy. Gen. Olson also said he expected President Hamid Karzai to announce an offer of amnesty to Taliban rank-

and-file soon and said some 30 medium-level Taliban had recently surrendered to U.S.-led forces. Karzai has said his government is in contact with Taliban members but the amnesty offer will not extend to Mullah Omar or up to 150 of his most hardened followers. — Reuters.

### **BOLIVIA**

La Paz, Mar 6 — Bolivian President Carlos Mesa said today he was resigning after 17 months in office as new protests spread through South America's poorest nation and threatened the important oil and gas sector. Mesa, a political independent, announced his decision on radio and television tonight and said he would tender his resignation to Congress tomorrow. He said authorities would not be able to control a nationwide protest to force changes in rules governing Bolivia's vast natural gas resources expected to take place in coming days. That protest is organized by coca farmer Evo Morales' Movement to Socialism or MAS. Presidency Minister Jose Galindo said the country's political future should be defined by Congress. If Congress accepts Mesa's resignation, it could opt for an interim leader or call new elections before the presidential term ends in 2007. Mesa was vice-president when he took over in October 2003 after President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada fled the country during a bloody popular revolt that left 67 people dead and hundreds injured in what came to be known as the "Gas War." In January, Mesa was hit by protests on two fronts, sparked by a rise in fuel prices. El Alto's poor inhabitants protested against a French-owned water utility, while the wealthiest province, Santa Cruz, called for autonomy. At that time, Mesa said he would resign before people died in the upheaval, but he ended up defusing both protests by making important concessions. Peace lasted just over a month before new protests broke out in several parts of the country, blocking key roads and interrupting transport. In El Alto, protesters forced the French company Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux's water concession be canceled despite the high cost to the state, and Mesa said they planned to invade the international airport and cut water supplies off to La Paz. In the meantime, Morales stepped up his campaign for a more radical hydrocarbons law that would make it tougher to operate for multinationals that have already invested over \$3 billion to exploit the continent's second largest natural gas reserves after Venezuela. "The MAS wants an unworkable and impossible law because the multinationals will take us to international courts," Mesa said in his speech to the nation. MAS followers also threatened to invade oil fields, forcing one company to close a well this weekend. — Reuters.

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: Bolivian lawmakers today rejected a

resignation offer by President Carlos Mesa, granting critical support to his embattled government after days of escalating street protests prompted him to submit an offer to step down. In a unanimous vote, congressmen threw their support behind the president, a day after he tendered his resignation, saying the country was becoming ungovernable amid street protests over his political and economic policies. Thousands of Mesa's supporters thronged outside Congress in La Paz, many waving Bolivian flags, cheering the late-night vote on Mesa's bold gamble that Congress would reject his resignation offer and grant him new political support. Last-minute wrangling between lawmakers and Mesa delayed a formal vote for hours after the Bolivian leader sought concessions to stay in office, including a halt to street protests by indigenous groups that have paralyzed the country in recent days. Earlier today, several leaders representing opposition parties had signaled their support for his presidency. Analysts said Mesa's resignation offer appeared to be a gamble to force critics to rally around his presidency. Mesa is an independent with no political party affiliation, although he enjoys wide popular support. Since coming to power, Mesa has been plagued by relentless street protests, including calls for greater autonomy by Santa Cruz, Bolivia's wealthiest province, demands to lower fuel prices and increase taxes levied on foreign oil companies from 15 percent to 50 percent of their sales. Other recent protests also have demanded an immediate end of operations of the French-owned water utility that supplies the capital and the neighbouring city of El Alto. Critics accuse the water company of failing to serve the city's poorer districts, a highly charged political issue in Bolivia that has echoed throughout South America, where governments have experimented with privatising state services to attract foreign investment.

### **COLOMBIA**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A United Nations official has demanded a full investigation of the massacre of eight civilians amid accusations Colombian soldiers carried out the brutal killings, in which the victims were hacked to pieces with machetes. The massacre was one of the most horrific in Colombia's brutal war. The eight victims, including three young children and a teenage girl, were buried on a farm in northwest Colombia. Hours after the U.N. official visited the community on Wednesday (Mar 2) near the town of Apartado, a convoy of Colombian prosecutors protected by police came under gunfire on the same road, killing one of the policemen and critically wounding another.

### **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

Bunia, Mar 8 — Nearly 4,000 fighters in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo handed in their weapons this week, more than doubling the number disarmed in the lawless region since September, an army officer said today. The militiamen who disarmed are based in the Ituri region, where fighting has damaged efforts by Congo to recover from a wider five-year war, but they are not from groups blamed for killing nine U.N. Bangladeshi peacekeepers in February. Although thousands of militiamen are still at large in the mineral-rich region, killing, raping and looting in an ethnic conflict over resources, U.N. officials and diplomats said the large-scale disarmament was a significant step forward. "There were about 3,900 militiamen and they have all handed in their weapons. There was no hesitation, the commanders and the soldiers have agreed," said Colonel Francois-Xavier Duku, head of a U.N.-backed disarmament programme in Ituri. "They decided to do so because they saw the area had been controlled by the army and they only had one choice, either rebel or give in," said Duku, adding 700 soldiers were deployed last week to the town of Aru where fighters disarmed. Before this week, the \$10.5 million disarmament programme in Ituri had collected weapons from just 3,800 fighters since September. Fighting between Hema and Lendu militias and brutal attacks on civilians near the regional capital of Bunia have forced about 100,000 people to flee their homes since December. The conflict is rooted in land and commercial rivalries in an area rich in gold and diamonds. Nearly 5,000 U.N. peacekeepers are based in Ituri and Congo's army has pledged to send thousands more troops to try to stamp out the violence. The fighters who disarmed this week were from the FAPC militia controlled by Jerome Kakwavu, who is now a general in Congo's new national army and lives in the capital Kinshasa. Duku said they handed in assault rifles, mortars, rocket launchers, heavy machineguns and other weapons. The fighters get \$50 in exchange for their weapons. The large-scale disarmament followed a visit to the region last week by Congo's Defence Minister Adolphe Onusumba. — Reuters.

### **INDIA**

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Police in the southern India state of Andhra Pradesh say they have killed ten suspected Maoist guerrillas. It is the most violent clash since the rebels withdrew from peace talks with the state government in January. The police said two senior Maoist leaders were among those killed in the clashes in Nizamabad district. The Nizamabad police chief N Madhusudhan Reddy said that clashes took place near Manala after the police asked the

rebels to surrender. Rebel leaders Ramesh -also known as Venkata Swamy - and Babanna were among those who were killed in the gun battle, the police said. The police said six rebels managed to escape from the battle, and a search operation had begun.

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected ULFA militants blew up a gas pipeline of Oil India Ltd in Upper Assam's Tinsukia district last night, police said today. The ultras destroyed a portion of the pipeline at Butibari inside Lakhpathar reserve forest under Lankshi police outpost at around 2045 hrs, police said. There was no report of injury. The blaze was brought under control around midnight and repair work on the pipeline was continuing, police said. Meanwhile, one bomb expert was killed and five others, including two policemen, were injured in a series of bomb blasts and grenade attacks by the ultras in different parts of Assam yesterday.

#### INDONESIA

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Indonesia's military today claimed it had killed 30 separatist rebels in tsunami-ravaged Aceh province in the space of a week, threatening a fragile truce agreed on after the Dec 26 natural disaster. A rebel spokesman alleged most of the 30 were unarmed villagers caught up in army sweeps. A top commander, meanwhile, reportedly accused the rebels of lying during ongoing peace talks. The flurry of claims indicate the post-tsunami informal cease-fire is not sticking and underline the obstacles to a lasting peace in the region. The military said in a statement it had killed 30 rebels and confiscated 29 weapons in the final week of February. It gave no more details on the killings, only a handful of which were reported at the time. Rebel spokesman Muksalmina said only 15 insurgents had been killed since the Dec 26 tsunami and that the rest of the victims were innocent villagers. The latest round of talks, which are being held in Finland, ended with the rebels stating they were prepared to shelve their demand for independence in exchange for greater self-government and a guarantee the military would withdraw. Aceh military commander Maj. Gen. Endang Suwarya said he doubted the rebels would keep their word.

#### IRAQ

Baquba, Mar 7 — Insurgents killed five Iraqi soldiers in clashes near the town of Baquba today and detonated a suicide car bomb that killed two policemen on their way to reinforce the troops, police and hospital sources said. The suicide car bomb, which targeted a convoy of police vehicles heading to the scene of the clashes, also wounded eight policemen and four civilians, they said. — Reuters.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Insurgents attacked an Iraqi oil pipeline in north

of Baghdad today and set it ablaze, police said. "The oil pipeline, used to convey crude from Baiji to Dora refinery, was attacked early on Monday by home-made bombs in the Ishaqi area south of Samarra," Lieutenant Colonel Naiyf Muhmoud, a police officer in Samarra said. Black and thick smoke could be seen billowing over the area as security forces and teams of fire fighters raced to the scene to put out the fire, he said.

Baghdad, Mar 8 — Gunmen shot dead a senior policeman who worked in the Iraqi interior ministry in Baghdad in a drive-by shooting today, ministry sources said. In an Internet statement, al Qaeda's wing in Iraq said it was behind the assassination of police Major General Ghazi Mohammed, who worked in the ministry's immigration department. The United States is offering a \$25 million reward for information leading to the death or capture of group's leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Iraq's government says his network is crumbling and the net is closing on him, but in an Internet statement yesterday, the group said Zarqawi was safe and well, and vowed new attacks. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Mar 9 — A suicide bomber driving a garbage truck blew himself up today near a Baghdad hotel used by Iraqi police and their foreign instructors, killing at least one and wounding more than 20 others, officials said. The blast in the heart of Baghdad was a reminder that insurgents are not allowing any let-up in their efforts to bring down the government and drive out U.S. troops and their allies. Gunfire followed the blast. A large crater was left in the road. Police were quick to seal the area. In other matters, an American general said yesterday the U.S. military was investigating procedures at tense military checkpoints as part of a probe into the killing of an Italian intelligence officer. Italy's foreign minister earlier rejected a U.S. account of how its forces killed the agent after he rescued a journalist held hostage in Iraq. Agent Nicola Calipari has been hailed as a hero in Italy after he died shielding reporter Giuliana Sgrena from U.S. gunfire as they drove to Baghdad airport last Friday (Mar 4). The U.S. military has said its soldiers fired on the Italians' car after it approached a checkpoint at speed and failed to heed signals to slow down. But Fini said the Italians had been driving slowly and received no warning. He said Italy had also made "all necessary contacts" with U.S. authorities to facilitate entry to the airport. Bulgaria, which has 430 troops in Iraq, has also accused U.S. troops of accidentally killing a Bulgarian soldier last Friday and has called for an investigation. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Mar 9 — The bodies of 19 people who were shot dead were found in the western Iraqi town of Qaim, hospital sources said today. All 19, including a woman, were wearing civilian clothes, said Doctor Hamdi al-Alousi, the director of Qaim Hospital.

Police said the bodies were discovered yesterday night. Another doctor at the hospital said a police identification document was found on one of the corpses. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Mar 10 — Insurgents dressed in Iraqi police uniforms shot dead the chief of a central Baghdad police station today, police sources said. They said the insurgents set up a fake police checkpoint and stopped the police officer's car as he was on the way to work at Salhiya police station. After asking his name, they shot him along with two other policemen in his car. One of the insurgents filmed the killing, police said. — Reuters.

#### ISRAEL

Jerusalem, Mar 7 — Palestinian gunmen wounded two Israelis in the West Bank city of Hebron today, military sources said. The shooting, which punctured a ceasefire declared on Feb 8 by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, occurred near the Tomb of the Patriarchs shrine in the city. — Reuters.

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: Israel has agreed in talks to cede control of two West Bank towns - Jericho and Tulkarm - to Palestinian forces in the coming days. Israel's army will draw back from the town of Jericho first, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said. However, a meeting between him and Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz ended without agreement on when and how far the Israeli forces will withdraw. The talks form part of an effort to revive a stalled peace process.

Tulkarm, West Bank, Mar 10 — Israeli forces, carrying out a West Bank raid today despite a ceasefire, killed a Palestinian militant with alleged links to a suicide bombing in Tel Aviv last month. Palestinian security sources named him as Mohammad Abu Khazneh of Islamic Jihad, which claimed responsibility for the bombing that killed five Israelis on Feb 25. An Israeli security source said Abu Khazneh played a central role in planning the suicide attack and was also responsible for a car bomb Israeli forces found in the West Bank on Feb 28, which militants intended to use to blow up an Israeli bus. Local residents said Abu Khazneh had been hiding in his father-in-law's home near the town of Tulkarm and refused to heed calls to surrender by Israeli soldiers who surrounded the building. He fired at the soldiers, who called in bulldozers that levelled the structure on top of him. Troops later recovered Abu Khazneh's body and a pistol, the spokesman added. The Israeli security source said Abu Khazneh belonged to an Islamic Jihad cell under the control of the group's Damascus-based leadership and the military believed he was planning further attacks. — Reuters.

#### LEBANON

Damascus, Mar 7 — Syrian forces will complete a pullback to eastern Lebanon by the end of March, and the

Syrian and Lebanese military would then decide how long these forces stay there, a statement after a meeting between the leaders of both countries said today. — Reuters.

Beirut, Mar 10 — Lebanon's president reappointed pro-Syrian Prime Minister Omar Karami today, 10 days after he resigned amid a storm of anti-Syrian protests in Beirut. President Emile Lahoud asked the Sunni Muslim politician to form a government after parliament, where Syria's allies have a majority, nominated him for the post yesterday. Karami, a staunch ally of Damascus, invited the opposition to join a new national unity government which he said was the only way to avoid ruining Lebanon. An opposition MP, loyal to assassinated former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, said her bloc would not take part in any such government. "We will not take part in any government before our demands are met," Ghenwa Jalloul told Reuters. The opposition has demanded a full Syrian withdrawal, the resignation of Syrian-backed Lebanese security chiefs and an international investigation into last month's killing of Hariri. He said a national unity government was the only way out of Lebanon's crisis and urged all parties to join a dialogue. Hariri's assassination plunged Lebanon into political turmoil and dramatically increased local and international pressure on Syria to remove its troops and intelligence agents from the country. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has announced plans for a two-phase withdrawal of the 14,000-strong Syrian garrison in Lebanon. Troops have been moving eastwards this week, with many of them crossing into Syria, witnesses and security sources say. — Reuters.

#### NEPAL

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Nepal's security forces have destroyed a factory in southern Nepal used by anti-government guerrillas to make socket bombs and other improvised explosive devices. The operation to dismantle the factory was carried out following a tip-off by the local residents last Saturday (Feb 26) in Devitar village, Chitwan district, some 150 km southwest of Kathmandu, the Royal Nepal Army Public Relations Directorate said today in a statement. In course of the operation, the security forces confiscated more than 2,000 improvised explosive devices including socket bombs, sutali bomb, roadside bomb, 320 detonators, as well as a large quantity of raw materials, hundreds of domestic weapons and other logistical goods. Some guerrillas were arrested in the factory during the operation, the statement said without giving exact numbers.

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Government troops killed 33 communist guerrillas in two recent clashes in south-central Nepal, the military said yesterday. Last Friday (Mar 4), a joint team of

Nepalese army and police repulsed an attack by Maoist guerrillas at the centre of Arghakhanchi district, about 250 kilometres south-west of Kathmandu, killing 30 rebels.

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The state of emergency in Nepal could remain in force until the end of April according to the country's constitution, according to the vice chairman of the council of ministers in the new royalist government, Kirti Nidhi Bista. The Nepalese constitution requires the emergency to be ratified by a two-thirds majority in the lower house of parliament within three months of its imposition. The lower house of parliament, the house of representatives, has, however, been suspended for nearly three years now. It is not clear whether the upper house - the national assembly - will be convened. Correspondents say that even if the national assembly is convened, ratification of the emergency is unlikely because the majority of the national assembly members belong to opposition parties which have formed an alliance against the king. Nepal plans to relax curbs on civil rights gradually, a minister in the new royalist government has said.

#### NIGERIA

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Security has been increased around the university in the Nigerian town of Ekpoma after at least 10 students died in fighting between rival gangs. Officials at the Ambrose Alli University said only one student had been killed after days of clashes. But Edo state regional assembly member Patrick Ajuenede confirmed 10 deaths in clashes involving guns and machetes. There has been a recent upsurge in violence between gangs, or cults, as student numbers have risen in Nigeria.

#### PAKISTAN

Karachi, Mar 4 — Pakistan Railway has repaired the Multan-Quetta rail track near Kot Chutta station, 18km from Dear Ghazi Khan in Punjab province of Pakistan that was blown up last night. Police said the blast occurred at 2050 hrs. Following the blast, Chiltan Express going to Quetta from Lahore was halted at Dera Ghazi Khan. It was the fifth such incident in Dera Ghazi Khan district during the past five weeks.— Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Mar 7 — Pakistan state owned largest telecommunication organisation, Pakistan Telecommunication Corporation, has started repair work at the 1000 lines telephone exchange in Dera Bugti in Balochistan Province of Pakistan that was put on fire yesterday by unknown miscreants. As a result, telephone services in the district were cut off with the rest of the country. According to local media reports, unknown armed men also attacked a Frontier Corps (FC) check-post in Kohlu with rockets in a fresh upsurge of violence in Balochistan. It was reported that

unknown miscreants barged into the telephone exchange and torched it after sprinkling petrol in the early hours of Sunday. However, no loss of life was reported. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### PHILIPPINES

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated Mar 3, states: Seven people were wounded when their community in Pimbalayan Town in Sultan Kudarat, Mindanao in southern Philippines, came under rocket grenade attack yesterday from suspected members of a kidnap-for-ransom group, the local television network ABS-CBN News reported today. Colonel Gerry Jalandoni of the 604th Infantry Brigade said the group, called "Pentagon", was avenging their five colleagues who were killed in a military offensive last Feb 28, according to the report. The gang targeted an army base, but the rocket grenades hit a residential area. Five suspected Pentagon members were killed while two others were wounded when soldiers attacked the gang's hideout in Sultan Barongis, Maguindanao. Jalandoni said the "preemptive operation" was launched with the help of the members of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Manila, Mar 4 — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo told troops today to keep fighting Muslim rebels on a remote southern island, nearly a month into clashes that have killed over 100 and sparked bomb attacks. Religious and community leaders had called for a truce on Jolo island, where about 25,000 villagers have fled their homes to escape the fighting between soldiers and two groups of Muslim rebels. But Arroyo said she would not give the "terrorists" any chance to regroup on the rugged, deeply impoverished island. Arroyo said that evacuees could begin returning to their homes in areas that had already been cleared of rebels. Military officers had urged Arroyo not to declare a ceasefire. By the army's count, 33 soldiers and up to 100 rebels have been killed in the fighting, which started when hundreds of rebels ambushed a convoy of soldiers. Nearly 4,000 soldiers, including several hundred recent reinforcements, have been fighting about 800 militants from the al Qaeda-linked Abu Sayyaf group and rogue members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). Some members of the MNLF, unhappy with a peace deal in 1996, have forged alliances with Abu Sayyaf on Jolo, where both groups have strongholds. — Reuters.

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: At least one Abu Sayyaf bandit was killed while five others were captured following an encounter with the military in Patikul town, Sulu province today, a spokesman for the Philippine Marines said. Captain Rommel Abrau based the numbers on actual body count. However, a separate field report from Southern Command chief Lieutenant

General Alberto Braganza indicated five bandits killed. Abrau said soldiers from the Marine Battalion Landing Team encountered an undetermined number of Abu Sayyaf members in Danag. Braganza added that soldiers counted five dead bandits during the firefight, but he said only one cadaver has been recovered so far. The Patikul clash came on the heels of an encounter between the military and joint forces of the Abu Sayyaf and renegade members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in Parang town where two soldiers were wounded.

**RUSSIA**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Russian forces say they have killed Chechen rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov. Russian television has shown pictures of a body resembling that of Mr Maskhadov, but President Vladimir Putin has asked for further identification. Chechen rebels have not confirmed the death. FSB chief Nikolay Patrushev, speaking to Mr Putin in the Kremlin, said the FSB's "today carried out an operation in the settlement of Tolstoy-Yurt, as a result of which the international terrorist and leader of armed groups Maskhadov was killed, and his closest comrades-in-arms detained". Moscow has blamed Mr Maskhadov for a string of deadly attacks in Russia, including a rebel attack on a school in the south Russian town of Beslan last September in which more than 330 hostages - half of them children - died.

**SOMALIA**

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Renewed fighting between rival militias in central Somalia has left at least 16 people dead, despite a truce arranged last week by President Abdullahi Yusuf. Gunmen armed with rocket-propelled grenades and anti-aircraft weapons exchanged fire in and around the port town of Hobyo. The latest clashes between sub-groups of the Hawiye clan began on Saturday (Mar 5). East African defence ministers are meeting today in Uganda to discuss sending a peacekeeping mission to Somalia, as requested by Mr Yusuf. He wants them to protect his government and help disarm the thousands of militiamen across the country, but many Somalis are opposed to the involvement of troops from Somalia's neighbours, especially Ethiopia, in the peace force. Key warlords named as members of Mr Yusuf's government have also said neighbouring countries should not send troops. Their stance has been backed by Washington. Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti all have Somali-speaking populations and have been accused of interfering during the years of anarchy. Mr Yusuf arranged a ceasefire in Hobyo last week, during his first official visit to Somalia since being elected last October. He and his government remain in Kenya because Somalia is too dangerous. Mr Yusuf did not visit Mogadishu on his trip.

United Nations, Mar 7 — Somalia's warlords must stop fighting among themselves and agree to a cease-fire as a first step toward peace and security in the lawless northeast African nation, the Security Council said today. The 15-nation council, in a statement adopted unanimously, welcomed the progress made by Somalia's fledgling national government toward restoring central authority but said a comprehensive and verifiable cease-fire agreement was needed before feuding factions could start to disarm. Winston Tubman, head of the U.N. political office for Somalia, told the council in a closed-door session before it adopted the statement that the security situation in Somalia remained precarious. Intermittent fighting continued, fuelled by factional rivalries and extensive violations of a U.N. arms embargo, Tubman told reporters in a summary of his council briefing. The capital Mogadishu was particularly insecure, Tubman said. But the political process now under way at least pointed the way to a possible end to the crisis, he said. — Reuters.

**SRI LANKA**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Sri Lanka army troops today severely assaulted a journalist working for the state run Lake House Newspapers as restive crowds in the northern town set fire to six military points and smashed up President Chandrika Kumaratunga's Sri Lanka Freedom Party office. One person was injured when army opened fire on a crowd at Kottadi. Scores of students and civilians were assaulted by SLA troops and riot Police in several parts of the town. Four persons injured in army and Police assault and firing were admitted to Jaffna hospital this afternoon. All roads leading to Jaffna were blocked by rioters with burning tires and logs. The northern town was deserted. Hundreds of SLA troops and riot Police patrolled its empty streets. Police and military arrested 10 civilians in several parts of the town, sources said. Soldiers who assaulted civilians and students in Thinnevely attacked the main office of the International Federation of Thamils Eelam Students at the Parameswara Junction.

**THAILAND**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Two more people including a former policeman have been killed in separate attacks in ongoing violence wracking Thailand's Muslim-majority south, police said. Baharoh Buraheng, a vendor at a market in Narathiwat province's Sungai Padi district, was shot twice outside the market late Tuesday evening by a gunman posing as his customer, a local policeman said. He died later in hospital, he added. Retired policeman Sommung Kaewluan, a resident of the same district, was shot dead as he travelled

to nearby Sungai Kolok, which borders Malaysia, at about 1400 hrs, 0700, GMT, yesterday by an assailant on a motorcycle.

**TOGO**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Presidential polls will be held in Togo on Apr 24, election officials say, after a month of turmoil following the death of President Gnassingbe Eyadema, who son Faure Gnassingbe, has said he intends to contest the polls as the candidate of the ruling party. Opposition parties have agreed to contest the poll despite rules which bar their main candidate from standing. Under the constitution, candidates need to have lived in Togo for 12 months to stand as a presidential candidate. Since a 1992 assassination attempt, Union of Forces for Change (UFC) leader Gilchrist Olympio has lived in exile in Paris and was barred from taking part in the 2003 presidential elections because he did not live in Togo. Leopold Messan Gnininvi, the spokesman for the six-party opposition alliance, described as regrettable the disqualification of Mr Olympio. Opposition parties are now expected to submit the names of their three representatives to serve on the newly created National Independent Electoral Commission.



**PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Mar 4 — Sindh Police has recovered a kidnapped engineer after a rescue operation in which at least three members of a gang were killed and a policeman received injuries yesterday. The Anti-Violent Crimes Cell (AVCC) began an operation for recovering of two kidnapped persons in Mochko police jurisdiction yesterday. According to details, unknown persons kidnapped Muhammad Faisal, an engineer working in a local company and his company's driver Imran, when they were returning from work Wednesday night (Mar 2) and passing through the Hub-River Road near Karachi. The kidnappers demanded Rs4 million as ransom from their relatives. The kidnapping was reported to the police, who registered a case and transferred it to the AVCC for further investigation. On a tip off, they located the house where the captives were kept and after surrounding the house asked the criminals to surrender. The kidnappers instead of surrendering opened fire and tried to escape. Police retaliated and entered the house. During exchange of fire a policeman sustained bullet injuries and three kidnappers also received bullet injuries. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

## Labour Disputes



### AUSTRALIA

Sydney, Mar 4 — Striking subcontractors at BHP Billiton's Worsley alumina plant in Western Australia could end their long-running dispute later today. About 430 subcontractors have been on strike at the plant over a pay dispute with BHP Billiton contractors Total Corrosion Control, Downer EDI and Collex. It is understood that two of the three contractors have agreed to meet the strikers' demands, with the third still to reach an agreement. The dispute does not directly involve BHP Billiton. A spokeswoman for BHP Billiton told Lloyd's List DCN that production and maintenance at the plant was operating at normal levels. There was some delay to a \$253m capital project that 50 of the striking subcontractors are working on, she said. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers at BHP Billiton's Worsley Alumina Refinery near Collie have voted to continue their strike. More than 400 subcontractors are seeking equal pay for construction and maintenance workers on the project. Two of the three contractors who employ the workers agreed last week to pay the higher wages. However, the third contractor, Collex, has refused. Tony Lovett, from the Manufacturing Workers Union, says the union is trying to negotiate a resolution.

### FRANCE

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: France is in the grip of a one-day general strike, just as Paris hosts a team of inspectors from the International Olympic Committee. They will tour the city to assess its bid to host the 2012 Olympics. The strike has brought much of the public transport system to a halt, while tens of thousands of protesters are due to stage rallies. All the main French trade unions are taking part in the stoppage to protest against government economic reforms. The protests will take place in the east of the city, well away from the main stadium and other venues. Today, the state-owned SNCF rail network said only a quarter of commuter trains into Paris were running, while about half of TGV high-speed services had been cancelled. On the Paris metro, services varied from line to line, with some running virtually as normal, while others had few or no trains. The unions are protesting against government plans to reform the 35-hour week and are calling for action to boost disposable incomes.

### GREECE

London, Mar 7 — Ferry services returned to service on Greek domestic routes on Friday morning (Mar 4) after three days tied up in ports due to a seamen's strike. The Panhellenic Seamen's Federation (PNO) announced it was suspending strike action until April after receiving assurances from merchant marine minister Manolis Kefaloyiannis that some of unions' demands would be met. According to the ministry, dialogue with the profession is continuing but a decision to raise immediate retirement payments by 25% has already been taken, with a longer term target of doubling the present lump sum benefit. In addition tripartite talks involving the ministry of national economy will be held on the subject of lowering or abolishing seafarers' income tax, a union demand that Mr Kefaloyiannis has declared sympathy with. Reportedly the government has also promised to consider the establishment of an unemployment fund for seafarers and other ways of combating unemployment, which the PNO has identified as its top concern. A backlog of supplies for the islands and island produce bound for Greek and European markets was starting to shift as sailings resumed on Friday.

### INDIA

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Gold jewellers across India have started a strike against a proposed 2% tax on branded gold jewellery. Minister of Finance Palaniappan Chidambaram made the proposal on Monday in the federal budget. Small jewellers fear that the excise office will tax small, local brands - not just the large brands targeted by the tax. Small jewellers make up about 90% of India's \$11bn gold and diamond market. Big brand names are making rapid progress in the country, with a total of 28 brands doing business there. Both big and family jewellers fear that the tax will hit the whole gold industry. "The 2% excise duty levied on branded jewellery will add up... and will have an adverse impact on the industry in the long run," Manoj Subramanian, marketing manager at Ishi's Jewellery, told local media. Jewellers in the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Delhi have already begun to strike, local media said, while producers in Kolkata begin the protest today. Last year, the US government abolished taxes on Indian jewellery imports, leading to a rapid expansion of the industry.

### UNITED STATES

New York, Mar 8 — Top U.S. defence contractor Lockheed Martin Corp. today said 3,000 workers went on strike at its Marietta, Georgia, plant, where it builds the F/A-22 fighter jet. The strike began just after midnight after the company and members of the machinists' union were unable to conclude an agreement on a new

contract. No further talks are scheduled. Union workers, who comprise about 3,000 of the 8,000 employees at the plant, voted last week to reject a three-year contract worked out by the International Association of Machinists and the company. Lockheed said work at the plant would continue today. "The plant is operating," said Lockheed spokesman Tom Greer. "We have contingency plans and those plans are going into effect." — Reuters.

## Awards & Settlements



### ACCOUNTING FRAUD, UNITED STATES

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated Mar 9, states: Four investment banks today agreed to pay a total of \$428.4 million to settle claims stemming from a class-action lawsuit brought by former shareholders of WorldCom Inc. New York state Comptroller Alan Hevesi said in a statement that he had reached an agreement with Amsterdam-based ABN AMRO Bank for \$278.4 million. Mitsubishi Securities International PLC agreed to pay \$75 million, while BNP Paribas Securities Corp. and Mizuho International both agreed to pay \$37.5 million. Yesterday's settlements bring the total amount paid by investment banks to settle the suit to \$3.56 billion, surpassing the \$3.2 billion settlement by services giant Cendant Corp. in 2000 over accounting fraud that cost shareholders billions, Hevesi said. The WorldCom suit was brought against former officers and directors of the company; its accountant, Arthur Andersen LLP; and more than a dozen banks and brokerages that were underwriters of WorldCom bonds. The announcement came as a jury was in its fourth day of deliberations in the fraud trial of former WorldCom CEO Bernard Ebbers, accused of orchestrating the accounting scheme that drove the telecommunications company into bankruptcy. The parties that filed the suit claimed the defendants should have been aware of ongoing fraud at WorldCom, which has since emerged from bankruptcy as MCI Inc. The agreement is the latest of a string of settlements connected to WorldCom. Last week, Lehman Brothers Inc. of New York agreed to pay \$62.7 million to settle the suit. Three other investment banks each agreed to pay \$12.54 million. They are Credit Suisse First Boston, a unit of the Zurich-based Credit Suisse Group; Goldman, Sachs & Co. of New York, and UBS Warburg LLC of Stamford, Conn. Hevesi has been the lead plaintiff in the case, in his role as sole trustee of New York's public employees retirement fund. Hevesi said he remains willing to talk with other

defendants about potential settlements but is ready to take the case to court on Mar 17. Among the institutions that haven't yet settled are JPMorgan Chase & Co., as well as divisions of a few foreign banks, said John Chartier, a spokesman for Hevesi. Divisions of a number of foreign banks, including Frankfurt-based Deutsche Bank AG, also have yet to settle.

#### **ALLEGED MISLEADING OF INVESTORS, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated Mar 3, states: Bank of America has said it will pay \$460.5m to settle a lawsuit brought by shareholders in failed firm Worldcom. The bank was accused of misleading investors about the telecom giant's health before it collapsed. The bank denied any wrongdoing and said it settled "in order to eliminate the uncertainties of further litigation." This agreement could increase pressure on banks such as JP Morgan Chase & Co and Deutsche Bank to settle. Bank of America had previously said it set aside the money for the settlement. Today's agreement still needs court approval. "This is a very positive sign that one of the big underwriters agreed to a settlement, exactly along the lines of the formula for the Citigroup settlement," lead plaintiff Alan Hevesi told Reuters.

#### **CLASS-ACTION SETTLEMENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Citigroup is to pay \$75m to settle a class-action suit over its role in the collapse of telecom network provider Global Crossing. The US banking giant had been accused of issuing inflated research reports and failing to flag up conflicts of interest in the three-year-old case. Citigroup denied wrongdoing, saying it made the settlement to end the expense and uncertainty of further litigation. The terms of the settlement need to be approved by a US district court. New York-based Citigroup added that the pay-out resolves claims of investors in Global Crossing and its Asian affiliate between 1999 and 2003. In March last year Global Crossing's founder Gary Winnick and some former officers and directors at the firm agreed to pay \$325m to settle investor lawsuits. The Citigroup settlement will help to "compensate Global Crossing stock holders who lost a tremendous amount of money," said Jay Eisenhofer, the plaintiffs' lead lawyer. "Hopefully, we'll be able to obtain more from the remaining defendants." Other defendants in the ongoing case include the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce unit CIBC World Markets Corporation, US financial services company JP Morgan Chase and the now defunct auditor Arthur Andersen. The investors accused Global Crossing, former officers and directors, and advisers of falsifying financial filings to hide losses. The Public Employees Retirement System of Ohio and the State Teachers

Retirement System of Ohio, two of the main claimants in the case, alleged that they lost more than \$110m as a result of alleged accounting fraud. Global Crossing filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in January 2002 as it struggled with a huge debts and amid questions about its accounting practises. The company had built a 100,000 mile network of fibre optic cables around the world, but crashed when the internet and telecoms bubble burst. The group emerged from bankruptcy in December 2003 under the control of Singapore Technologies Telemedia.

#### **DEFAMATION, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Central Florida woman was awarded \$2 million in damages after she fought a workplace rumour that mentioned her name and sex in the office, according to an exclusive Problem Solvers investigation. Dana Blickley considered walking away from her Brevard County Property Appraiser offices, where she had worked for 19 years, over a nasty rumour. Blickley said her reputation, her marriage, her standing in the community and her relationship with peers were put at risk because of a former co-worker, Penny Farrar, the woman's mother, Bea Polk, and a nasty rumour that spread after Polk picketed county offices.

#### **FINANCIAL DAMAGE AND DAMAGE TO REPUTATION, MEXICO**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated Mar 7, states: A Mexican court has told Levi Strauss to pay a local clothes firm \$45m in damages after it was wrongly targeted in an anti-counterfeiting raid. The court said Comexma had suffered direct financial damage and harm to its reputation after being mistakenly raided in June 2001. It was later discovered that Comexma was an authorised manufacturer - a contract Levi's has terminated. The jeans manufacturer said it would appeal against the decision. At the time of the raid - which was carried out by local police targeting bogus Levi's brands - Comexma was legally supplying the US firm. The raid - which discovered no evidence of counterfeiting - was halted after it became clear Comexma was a authorised supplier. However, the operation was widely reported by the media and the Mexican firm decided to sue Levi's in 2002. Levi's said the raid was initiated by its external brand protection counsel in Mexico and was not approved by the company itself. It also argued that following its notice to end Comexma's contract, it believed the firm was in negotiations about shutting its factory. Levi's said the compensation claim - consisting of \$24.5m in direct financial damages and \$20.5m for harm to the Mexican firm's reputation - was excessive. "The company strongly disagrees with the court's decision and intends to file an appeal promptly," it

said in a statement. "On appeal the company will seek to have the judgment reversed and, if the appellate court affirms the lower court on the issue of liability, to have the amount of the direct and additional damages reduced substantially." Levi's closed its last remaining US factories last year after suffering seven years of declining sales. Despite the Mexican damages, Levi's said it still believed sales and income will be higher in the first quarter of 2005 than the same period in 2004.

#### **MARKET TIMING, CANADA**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated Mar 3, states: Mutual fund company Franklin Templeton will pay a penalty of \$49.1 million for allowing market timing to take place in some of its funds, the Ontario Securities Commission ruled today. The money, plus interest, will go to past and present investors in the affected funds. Exact payment details have yet to be worked out. The level of compensation will depend on which funds the client invested in, how much they invested, and how long they held their investment. In December, Ontario's securities watchdog approved settlement agreements totalling \$156.5 million with four other fund companies, I.G. [Investors Group] Investment Management, AGF Funds Inc., AIC Ltd. and CI Fund Management.

#### **ROAD ACCIDENT, AUSTRALIA**

London, Mar 7 — A press release, dated today, states: A 21-year-old left brain damaged and almost blind by a car accident when he was three was today awarded up to Aus\$7.5 million damages by a Sydney court. Toby Daniel Sullivan suffered severe brain injury after an elderly man ran a red light and hit his parents' car at Beecroft, Sydney's north, in July 1986. The three-year-old was left almost totally blind and with severe physical and mental impairments, and is now completely reliant on his family for care. His parents sued the other driver's insurer, GIO, in 1997 when Toby was 18 and the impact of his injuries were able to be fully assessed. GIO admitted liability for the accident. In the NSW Supreme Court today, Justice Greg James today ordered GIO Insurance pay Mr Sullivan between \$6.5 and \$7.5 million, saying he had suffered great physical and emotional pain as a result of his injuries and faced a significantly diminished quality of life.

#### **ROAD ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated Mar 5, states: Actress Zsa Zsa Gabor has settled a \$2m (£1.04m) legal action against the driver of car involved in a crash which left her seriously injured. Gabor, 88, was the passenger in a car driven by her hairdresser Jaren Millard when it crashed into a pole in 2002. "There's no amount of money that can compensate for the suffering Mr



Millard has caused," said Gabor's lawyer Ronald Jason Palmieri. Gabor was left partially-paralysed by the crash in West Hollywood, California, and now uses a wheelchair. 'Emotionally devastated' She spent months recovering from her injuries before she could return to her Bel Air home. The settlement will see Gabor receive \$1.75m, while her husband Frederic von Anhalt receives \$250,000 for "loss of companionship" during her hospital stay.

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A Worcester man seriously injured in a 1998 collision between the motorcycle he was operating and a drunk driver has been awarded more than 19 million dollars. The jury found in favour of Stephen Hanlon against Becky Sandman, also of Worcester. The accident occurred Aug 12, 1998. Ms. Sandman was later convicted of charges including drunk driving and leaving the scene of an accident, and was sentenced to 18 months in jail. One of Hanlon's lawyers, Michael Wilcox, said Hanlon suffered massive injuries, including 19 broken bones and brain damage, and had to be taught again to read, write and speak.

#### **SEWAGE SPILLAGE, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated Mar 9, states: The city of San Diego has agreed to pay California state \$1.2 million to partially settle a four-year-old lawsuit over sewage spills. The state intends to use the settlement for environmental projects in San Diego, including \$500,000 for water monitoring in San Diego Bay and Mission Bay, \$260,000 to trace the source of contaminants in Chollas Creek and \$240,000 for the San Diego River Conservancy. The partial settlement covers the city's liability under state law for 646 sewer spills from Feb 20, 2001, to Oct 1, 2004.

#### **WRONGFUL DEATH, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: A Des Plaines food service company has agreed to pay \$2.5 million to the family of an 11-year-old boy killed in an accident involving one of its trucks in Naperville in 2002, attorneys said today. Dejavonnte Moore was struck by the truck as he crossed 5th Avenue at Washington Street on May 16, 2002. Police reports said the driver, Paul G. Parker, whose address was in Wheaton, was turning right on red. He was ticketed but not charged criminally, lawyers said. In a statement, attorney Marvin Brustin of Chicago said the settlement in the wrongful death case holds the company accountable for not having adequate equipment or a properly trained driver. Attorneys for Sysco Food Service denied liability, calling the incident a tragic accident. Robert Jones of Wheaton, attorney for Sysco, said the company believed it was better to settle the case than go to court.

#### **WRONGFUL TERMINATION OF CONTRACT, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated Mar 7, states: Fired football coach Rick Neuheisel will receive at least \$4.5 million in a settlement today of his lawsuit against the NCAA and the University of Washington. The deal was announced by Judge Michael Spearman just before closing arguments were to begin in the five-week trial. Neuheisel - a former coach at the University of Colorado - will receive cash payments of \$2.5 million from the NCAA and \$500,000 from the University of Washington. Additionally, the university agreed not to seek repayment of a \$1.5 million loan. Neuheisel's attorneys also included \$200,000 in interest on the loan in announcing their settlement figure of \$4.7 million. University officials disputed that figure, saying no loan interest was included in the settlement. Neuheisel had accused the Seattle-based university of wrongfully terminating his contract and the NCAA of encouraging Washington administrators to fire him. The university had argued that he had signed a contract that allowed for his firing for acts of dishonesty. School officials have said Neuheisel was fired for gambling on an NCAA basketball pool and failing to be forthright about it with NCAA investigators. Last week, Spearman left open the possibility of declaring a mistrial because the NCAA had failed to provide Neuheisel's legal team with an updated version of its bylaws during discovery. In a statement today, the university said it agreed to settle because a mistrial could be declared. The updated bylaws seem to bolster Neuheisel's argument that NCAA investigators acted improperly when they failed to tell him in advance that they planned to question him regarding his gambling. NCAA president Myles Brand said he believed the association acted properly. "The settlement in this case is the result of restrictions placed on the NCAA by the court about how the association could explain the bylaw and defend its rightful interpretation," he said in a statement. Former athletic director Barbara Hedges fired him in 2003 after she said Neuheisel lied to her about interviewing for a job with the San Francisco 49ers and about his participation in NCAA men's basketball gambling pools in 2002 and 2003.



#### **BANCROFT AREA, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated Mar 5, states: About 20 cars on a Canadian National freight train derailed this afternoon in rural Shiawassee County. No injuries were

reported. A propane tank alongside the rail line exploded and shook homes a mile away. Authorities temporarily evacuated the surrounding area. The westbound train was carrying car haulers, hazardous materials and plastic pellets, but the hazardous material wasn't disturbed. The train derailed near Bancroft, midway between Lansing and Flint. Authorities lifted the evacuation order later in the day.

#### **BRIGHTON, ONTARIO, CANADA**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, from Brighton, Ont, dated today, states: Almost 40 cars of a CN Rail freight train derailed here early today, forcing disruptions to some of the railway's passenger service. There were no injuries reported. The derailment occurred at about 0430 hrs in the community east of Trenton and involved 23 cars at the front of the train and another 14 cars at the rear, according to CN Rail spokesman Marc Hallman in Montreal. There were no hazardous materials believed to be on board. "It mostly involves lumber, paper. There's one empty asphalt car. There are no dangerous commodities," said Hallman. Hallman was unable to say when the tracks might be cleared of debris. "We're at the scene trying to get the derailed cars removed, and at this point we cannot indicate exactly when the track will be passable." VIA Rail said in a statement that passengers would be bused between Cobourg and Belleville, in both directions, because of the track closure. Passenger trains between Toronto and Ottawa and between Toronto and Montreal were expected to depart on schedule. VIA Rail also said it did not anticipate cancelling any departures.

#### **DHAKA AREA, BANGLADESH**

London, Mar 7 — Two freight trains collided near Bangladesh's capital today, killing at least one person and injuring two others, an official said. The accident occurred in Gazipur district, about 20 miles north of Dhaka, Bangladesh Railway's traffic official Golam Mostafa said. At least six train cars derailed, disrupting train services along the major Dhaka-Chittagong route, he added. Authorities are investigating the cause of the accident.

#### **LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: A freight train derailed today in a commercial district in eastern Los Angeles County, forcing about 200 people from the area in two separate evacuations. No injuries were reported. The cause of the wreck was not known. Twenty-one of 48 cars of a Union Pacific train heading from Colton to Los Angeles derailed shortly before 1000 hrs, fire and railroad authorities said. Boxcars ended up in a heap next to several derailed tanker cars. At least one tanker spilled a grade of propylene glycol used in consumer cooking oil, said Mark

Davis, a Union Pacific spokesman. It is not combustible, officials said. About 150 to 200 people were evacuated from businesses in a strip mall; they were allowed back two and a half hours later when the spill was contained. Three hours later, however, there was a second evacuation after officials thought a crane brought in to lift the derailed cars ruptured a natural gas line, said Art Marrujo, a county fire dispatch supervisor. Instead, the emission was from two nearby propane tanks; the leaks did not pose any immediate danger. Union Pacific was working to replace 1,600 feet of damaged track and to reimburse businesses for any losses, Davis said.

**PUNJAB PROVINCE, PAKISTAN**

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: As many as five people were killed and over a dozen others injured when a train derailed in eastern Pakistan yesterday, local media reports said. The train was on its way from the Lahore, capital of Punjab province, to Narowal, in the same region. The cause of the accident was not immediately known and it was under investigation.

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Pakistan Railways general manager (Operations) Abdul Wahab Awan has suspended five officials from duty in the wake of the Narowal train accident, Federal Minister for Railways Mian Shamim Haider said yesterday. Haider said that a federal inspector had been directed to investigate the matter and those responsible would be dealt with sternly. He said that the Railways had an outdated system and the government was trying to improve it. The minister visited Mayo Hospital to inquire after the injured passengers of the Narowal passenger train. He announced Rs 100,000 for the families of each deceased and Rs 50,000 for each injured. The suspended officials are Divisional Engineer Railways Lahore Akhtar Mehmood Khataq, Narowal Assistant Engineer Saeed Ullah, Muhammad Iqbal Bhatti, train driver Muhammad Yaseen and guard Muhammad Jamil. Haider said that the divisional engineer and the assistant engineer were suspended because of negligence on duty. He said the driver and the guard ran the train for over a kilometre after the accident. He said that according to initial reports the accident was caused because of an outdated gauge of the tracks and a faulty carriage. Injured passengers told journalists that a large number of people were on board when the accident happened and some of them were travelling on top of the carriages. They said that the last carriage of the train, number 4286, started shaking soon after the train left the Sri Rampura station. The carriage went off the track and turned turtle killing five passengers and injuring many others. They added that the train did not stop after the accident.

**RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES**

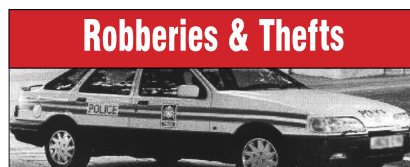
London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated Mar 9, states: It took hours for crews to move a train that jumped the tracks in Raleigh. It happened just before 1000 today off Hillsborough Street near the Beltline. The train, which had three cars derail, was a “ballast” train, which means it was a working train carrying supplies to work on the tracks in Raleigh. The derailment forced police to close the intersection at Hillsborough Street and Beryl Road. The accident could also affect passenger trains that use the rails. There no word yet on what caused the cars to leave the track. CSX officials said it normally takes three to five days to determine the cause of the derailment, which includes investigating the tracks, the train and the operating procedures. There were no injuries involved in this incident.

**SCUNTHORPE AREA, LINCOLNSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated Mar 3, states: Rail services in northern Lincolnshire have been disrupted by the derailment of a freight train. Three wagons of a coal train left the track east of Scunthorpe this afternoon. Network Rail engineers are working to repair the damage. Transpennine Express (TPE) services between Cleethorpes, Grimsby and Scunthorpe have been replaced by buses. Services from Scunthorpe to Doncaster, Sheffield and Manchester Airport will continue to run, a TPE spokesman said.

**ST. BLAZEY AREA, CORNWALL, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated Mar 9, states: An investigation is under way after 15 wagons of a freight train carrying clay derailed on a Cornwall branch line. The wagons at the rear of the 32-wagon train derailed on Prideaux Viaduct, near St Blazeys on the Newquay branch line, at about midday, today. There were no injuries but the Newquay line will be closed until the wagons are removed and any damage to the line is repaired, Network Rail said. The company said it could take a number of days for the line to fully reopen.



**Robberies & Thefts**

**PAINTINGS FROM HOTEL, MOSS AREA, NORWAY**

Oslo, Mar 7 — Thieves stole three works by Norwegian painter Edvard Munch from a hotel in south Norway overnight, adding to a list of his missing art including “The Scream,” police said today. Thieves took a 1915 watercolor, “Blue Dress,” and two lithographs — a self-portrait and a

portrait of Swedish playwright and novelist August Strindberg. “We have mounted an investigation,” police spokesman Paul Horne told Reuters after the discovery of the theft from the Refsnes Gods hotel near the town of Moss late yesterday night. “The biggest loss is ‘Blue Dress,’” hotel owner Vidar Salbuviik told Reuters. He declined to estimate how much it was worth. The works were among 400 in a collection kept by the hotel. — Reuters.

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated Mar 7, states: Norwegian police recovered three pictures by Norwegian artist Edvard Munch today a day after they were stolen from a hotel, Norway’s NRK public radio said. It said that the police had recovered a 1915 Munch watercolor, “Blue Dress,” and two lithographs — a self-portrait and a portrait of Swedish playwright and novelist August Strindberg.



**Miscellaneous**

**CARGO DISPUTE, CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Mar 8 — General cargo Ryu Gyong is still at Chittagong port. Reported by the port authority that it is to leave on Mar 13. Departure has been delayed time to time due to the question of quality of imported wheat. The wheat was imported from India by two local private rice mills. — Lloyd’s List Correspondent.

**COLLAPSE OF RAMP, CALAIS, FRANCE**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Operation Stack, which sees the M20 motorway in Kent turned into a lorry park to ease congestion, has been lifted as delays at Dover improve. Kent Police implemented the operation this morning as the port of Dover filled up due to on-going berthing problems in Calais. Several berths are still closed after a walkway collapsed last month. Operation Stack was only lifted on Sunday after four days of bad weather caused delays to ferry crossings.

**OUTBREAK OF “BIRD FLU”**

Hanoi, Mar 7 — A 26-year-old Vietnamese male nurse who tended a patient with bird flu has caught the virus that has killed 47 people in Asia, a health official said today. But it was not yet clear if the nurse caught the virus from the patient or by other means, said Tran Khac Vien, head of a district health care center in the northern province of Thai Binh, 70 miles southeast of Hanoi. “He looked after and had contact with a H5N1 patient,” Vien told Reuters. “We have been informed that he was infected by bird flu, but there might be other reasons that could cause the infection. We have not made any conclusion yet.”

he said. Vien said the nurse was in a Hanoi hospital with a high fever, a symptom of the H5N1 strain that infected his patient, a 21-year-old man from Thai Binh who caught the virus after drinking raw duck blood last month. The nurse had provided bed care to the man, whose 14-year-old sister was also infected after coming into contact with sick poultry. The Thai Binh siblings have raised public concerns about the possibility of human-to-human transmission of the virus. Health Minister Tran Thi Trung Chien said last week, prior to the nurse's case, that all bird flu cases in Thai Binh were related to slaughtering or eating poultry. There was no evidence of human-to-human transmission of the virus, which has killed 13 Vietnamese since the latest outbreaks in December 2004. Vietnamese researchers said last week initial tests of a H5N1 vaccine on monkeys were successful, raising hopes in a country hit hard by the virus that a vaccine may be ready for human tests later this year. Almost all the Asian victims — 34 Vietnamese, 12 Thais and a Cambodian — have caught it from infected poultry. Bird flu kills more than 70 percent of those known to have been infected, but doctors say victims can be saved if they are diagnosed early. — Reuters.

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven Vietnamese who initially tested negative for bird flu have now been found to have carried the virus, the World Health Organization has said. All seven patients have since recovered from the disease. A WHO scientist in Hanoi, Peter Horby, said further support for Vietnam's laboratories was needed in order to "make sure quality control is good". Specimens from the seven patients were originally tested in Vietnamese laboratories, but were then retested in Japan, where the virus was detected.

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: An 80-year-old man and a 68-year-old woman have tested positive for the H5N1 strain of bird flu virus in Vietnam, a health official said today. Initial test results at the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology in Hanoi showed the man and woman from northern Thai Binh Province were infected with the virus, institute director Nguyen Tran Hien said.

#### **OUTBREAK OF BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY, WORLDWIDE**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated Mar 3, states: Spain has detected 12 cases of mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), in the past two months of this year, an Agriculture Ministry report said. Among these cases, six were found in Lugo, Palencia and Pontevedra, with two in each place. The rest were reported in Asturias, Coruna, Guadalajara, the Balearic Islands, Leon and Zamora, local press quoted the report as saying today. As of today, a total of 527 cases have been

reported in Spain since November 2000, when the first two BSE cases were discovered in the country. The year 2004 saw an 18-percent decrease with only 137 cases reported, compared with the 167 cases in 2003.

#### **SUSPENSION OF OIL LOADING, KUMUL TERMINAL, GULF OF PAPUA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The suspension of loading oil from Oil Search's Kumul terminal, Gulf of Papua, appears to have cost the company and its joint venture partners more than K50 million. The Australian newspaper reported that the company and its partners lost about SUS24 million (about K78 million) in deferred production. This is equivalent to one tanker load from the terminal. Company managing director Peter Botten described the partial shut down of the Kumul terminal "a minor speed bump." The company said this week that loading had resumed following repairs to an anchor line that secures the platform to the seabed. The line was found to have failed during an inspection last month. The suspension of the terminal's activities for about three weeks led to the production being halted at Oil Search's Kutubu, Moran and Gobe oil fields because of pressure on storage facilities. Oil Search estimated yesterday that the interruption had "resulted in the deferral of about 575,000 barrels of production."

### Fires & Explosions



#### **CHURCH, FAWN GROVE, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire damaged a church in Fawn Grove, York County. All that is left now is brick walls and a steeple, where the Fawn Grove United Methodist Church once stood. The fire was discovered at about 0345 today at the church on Market Street. Crews from York and Lancaster counties, as well as some from Maryland were called out to the fire that quickly went to three alarms. The 140-year-old church was heavily damaged. Many of its stained glass windows have been destroyed. A fire marshal said they do not yet have a cause of the fire and they are not ruling anything out.

#### **COAL MINE, JIAOCHENG COUNTY, SHANXI PROVINCE, CHINA**

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Twenty-nine miners were trapped underground after a gas explosion in a coal mine in northern China, state media reported. The blast occurred yesterday evening when 83 workers were in a pit at the mine in Jiaocheng county, Shanxi

province, the Xinhua news agency said. The director of the Shanxi Provincial Bureau for Workplace Safety, Gong Anku, said 54 miners escaped but 29 remained trapped underground. It was not clear whether they were dead or alive.

#### **METAL RECYCLING PLANT, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: Fire erupted this afternoon in a metal recycling business. The blaze began shortly before 1300 hrs, at River Metals Recycling, just off River Road. It took nearly 40 firefighters to get the fire under control in less than an hour. No serious injuries were reported. So far, investigators think the blaze started near a shearer, a large piece of equipment used to cut metal into small pieces. Louisville Fire & Rescue Capt. Ronel Brown said that two workers said they heard a popping noise or explosion coming from the machine. When they went down to the hydraulic room where about 10,000 gallons of oil are used to run the machine, they saw a fire, Alcock reported. Brown said the machine, worth an estimated \$8 million, is a total loss.

#### **NAVAL DOCKYARD, KARACHI, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Mar 10 — At least 25 people were injured today when fire broke out on two Pakistan Navy vessels during an exercise at the naval dockyard in the southern city of Karachi, an official of a private ambulance service said. Witnesses said they saw dozens of ambulances rushing toward the dockyard. Rizwan Edhi, a spokesman for the Edhi Welfare Foundation, which runs the private ambulance service, said his volunteers had picked up at least 25 injured people. "Two Navy ships caught fire. The fire has been extinguished on one ship," he said. The cause of the fire was not immediately known. A Pakistan Navy official said routine naval exercises were being carried out at the dockyard. — Reuters.

#### **OFFICE BUILDING, KARACHI, SINDH PROVINCE, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Mar 6 — At least 250 people from more than 200 offices were trapped in the high-rise building, Mehdi Tower, at Sindhi Muslim Housing Society on main Sharea Faisal, and many of them fell unconscious when a fire broke out in its basement in Karachi on Saturday afternoon (Mar 5). Twelve fire tenders were dispatched to control the fire which erupted in an electric cable in the basement and reached to all 10 floors of the building. The most affected floors were seventh and eighth, where the offices were damaged severely. Fire fighters took almost three hours to control the fire. Chief of the fire brigade department Kazim Ali said that the people were rescued through the only snorkel available with the fire department.

Two helicopters were also called in from Edhi Foundation and the Civil Aviation Authority to rescue the people, who had stepped up to the roof of the high-rise building. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **PREMISES, FOREST PARK, OHIO, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated Mar 3, states: Members of 18 local fire departments helped put out a four-alarm, smoky industrial fire that broke out early yesterday morning at a machine shop in Forest Park. The fire started just before 0800 hrs., inside the Faxon Machining Inc.'s 150,000-square-foot horseshoe-shaped complex at 11101 Adwood Drive. Thick smoke rose hundreds of feet and was being carried by the wind in an easterly direction. Workers were evacuated safely after the fire broke out, and there were no reports of injuries, said Lt. Brian Sims, spokesman for the Forest Park Fire Department. People working at the several nearby businesses were not evacuated, but were told to stay inside because of the toxic smoke. Damage was estimated at \$10 million. The plant's first shift had started operations when fire began in an oil-treatment machine and quickly spread inside the steel-skinned industrial building, Sims said. Drilling machines are located throughout the building, and each has an oil-treatment machine, he said. Firefighters initially advanced on the blaze but then retreated because of a fear of explosions. There was one small explosion of what appeared to be an acetylene or propane tank, Sims said. Firefighters were using foam and water to battle the blaze, and cutting through the roof to let smoke escape and give them more access to the flames. Forest Park firefighters were the first on the scene and were joined by firefighters from Fairfield, Woodlawn, Springdale, Greenhills, Evendale, Sharonville, Mount Healthy, Glendale, Wyoming, Liberty Township, Lockland, Arlington, Reading, Greater Cincinnati Haz-Mat, Anderson, Colerain and Springfield townships. The Ohio fire marshal and environmental protection officials were also called to the scene. The fire marshal, the Forest Park Fire Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are investigating. It appeared yesterday afternoon that the fire was accidental, Forest Park fire officials reported. Faxon Machining is a family-owned business in operation since 1978 and served a variety of industries, including mold manufacturing, aerospace, oil and energy, automotive and medical.

#### **PREMISES, SAN SEBASTIAN AREA, SPAIN**

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire-fighters have extinguished the fire that begun at 1500 yesterday in Otaduy glue company, in the industrial park near

San Sebastian. Citizens who were evacuated due to the possible intoxication have gone back to their houses. Some technical experts will analyse the area tomorrow and will carry out a report in order to find out what is the cause of the fire and analyse the cost of the damage. The fire also reached the adjacent companies: the garage Gogor and the supplies company Beral. Colas Otaduy manufactures varnishes and glue and has sixty employees. Basque police sealed off the area as there were explosions as consequence of the fire, entries to the industrial park have been closed too. The fire caused a great toxic cloud, thus, citizens were advised to close doors and windows. There have been serious damages, fortunately the incident occurred on a Sunday when there were no employees at the scene.

#### **PREMISES, SHARJAH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Merchandise worth millions of dirhams was destroyed by a massive fire in Sharjah Industrial Area No 1 yesterday. No injuries were reported. Seventeen stores were badly damaged during the blaze, which started at about 0700 hrs, police said. "Smoke covered the area and it took firefighters more than two hours to put out the fire," the sources said. The cause is being investigated, but it is suspected it could be an electrical short circuit.

#### **STABLES, POCONO TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A fast-moving fire destroyed a Monroe County stable early today, killing the 21 horses trapped inside. More than 12 hours after the fire began, smoke still drifted from the ashes of the Meadowbrook Inn & Riding Club's stable on Cherry Lane Road in Pocono Township. Mary Ellen McPherson, manager at the inn, which was not damaged in the blaze, said the horses were all privately owned by people who boarded them at the Meadowbrook stable. She and other witnesses said the fire began around 1230 hrs. The Monroe County Communications Centre said the first fire call came in at 1237 hrs. Firefighters from Pocono and Jackson townships, as well as a state police fire marshal, were on the scene this afternoon. The stable was made of wood, Fitzgerald said, and there was a lot of hay inside. An adjacent metal building, a riding area known as the "arena," appeared to also have been damaged by the fire. As Fitzgerald spoke, firefighters sifted through the wreckage, piles of dirty, scorched hay and crumpled metal surrounded by pieces of blackened timber. Stubborn points of flame poked out of the rubble as the firefighters walked the remains of the building, spraying it with a network of hoses.

#### **WAREHOUSE, OXNARD, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated Mar 6, states: A welder's spark caused a three-alarm fire in Oxnard that destroyed a produce warehousing business yesterday evening, fire officials said today. "They were doing some repairs, constructing stuff, and it took off, and that was it," the facility's owner, J. Woodford Hansen, said today. The cold storage facility was filled with fruits and vegetables. The damage estimate was reported to be "millions of dollars".

#### **WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Damage estimates for Sunday's (Mar 6) wildfires in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, now top \$5 million. Officials said no cause has been determined, but some reported that a house fire sparked the fire. Others say someone was burning a hollow tree trunk when wind took hold of the blaze. Four families lost their homes and at least two of those families say they will not rebuild in the same place. The fire also damaged bridges, vehicles, farm equipment and fences. Officials said some wildlife was killed, including wild turkeys, pheasants and some deer. The hundreds of firefighters that battled the blazes had the help of dozens of farmers in the area. One, Gary Leighton, used his tractor and a piece of equipment called a disc, and he and other farmers put soil in the fire's path, bringing moisture to the surface and getting rid of the grass that fueled the flames. Oakland fire inspector Steve Hamilton said the equipment was essential in beating Sunday's fires. "We'd still be fighting the fire if it weren't for those farmers," Hamilton said. Firefighters don't think they've seen the last of the fire. They expect the trees along a stretch of highway to continue to flair up for the next couple days.



#### **ACCIDENT, TEHRAN AIRPORT, IRAN**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated Mar 7, states: An Airbus-310 plane from Iran's Mahan Airlines skidded off the runway at Tehran's International Mehrabad Airport early today and was slightly damaged. No passengers were hurt in the incident. The Bangkok-Tehran plane, with 77 passengers aboard, went off the runway while landing at the airport at 0215 hrs (2245, UTC, Mar 6), said the Civil Aviation Organisation in a statement released shortly after the incident, IRNA reported. Forty of the 77 passengers scheduled to leave Tehran for Duesseldorf, Germany, were later sent to their onward

destination by another flight belonging to Mahan Airlines at 0644 hrs, (0314, UTC), said the statement. The report stated that a special team from the Civil Aviation Organisation had begun an investigation to find the main cause of the incident.

#### **AP-BGO**

Karachi, Mar 4 — Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) said its Boeing 777, AP-BGO, has arrived at Karachi International Airport from Manchester this morning. A team of national airlines will conduct a thorough test and inspection before resuming its commercial operation. The aircraft caught fire at Manchester Airport on Mar 1, while coming from Karachi, and was taxiing on the runway when a fire began in the undercarriage. The Flight PK789 was stopping at Manchester en route to Toronto, Canada, when the emergency happened. The flight had landed at 0903, UTC, and passengers were due to disembark at Terminal Two. A small fire in the undercarriage was spotted and the aircraft stopped near Terminal One, where the airport's firefighters tackled the blaze. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **C-GAQW**

London, Mar 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A body found yesterday was believed to be that of one of the five people who were on board a float aircraft (C-GAQW) missing since it took off Monday morning (Feb 28) from Campbell River on central Vancouver Island. The body was discovered washed up on Quadra Island east of Campbell River, but as of mid-afternoon yesterday, there was no trace of aircraft wreckage. The MJM Air Ltd. floatplane, a white and green 1959 Dehavilland Beaver, was reported missing at 1415, Monday, after taking off from Campbell River almost four hours earlier. It was headed for two remote logging camps about 125 km north of Campbell River.

#### **C-GPAT**

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Several of Air Transat's Airbus aircraft were temporarily grounded yesterday after the rudder on one of the aircraft flying to Quebec City from Cuba nearly fell off. The pilot of the aircraft reported mechanical difficulty about 30 minutes after taking off from Varadero, Cuba on Saturday (Mar 5). He immediately returned to the airport in Cuba where the aircraft landed safely, Air Transat spokeswoman Rachel Andrews said. None of the 261 passengers or nine crew members were injured. The airline then grounded three Airbus aircraft in Toronto and two in Vancouver until they were inspected. No problems were found. The inspections caused some flight delays but there were no cancellations and the aircraft were back in operation by yesterday evening. An aircraft was sent to Cuba and the passengers were

scheduled to arrive in Quebec City this morning. An investigation into the Saturday incident is continuing. Air Transat operates 10 Airbus 310s.

London, Mar 7 — Airbus A310-300, C-GPAT, operated by Air Transat, departed Varadero, Cuba, for Quebec, with 268 persons on board. At 0715, UTC, Mar 6, while in the early enroute phase of the flight, aircraft control problems were encountered. The flight then returned to Varadero and, on arrival at Varadero, it was discovered that the aircraft rudder was missing. The Transport Safety Board sent two investigators to Cuba, accompanied by a Transport Canada Technical Advisor. It appears that the occurrence commenced over international waters. Canada, as the State of Registry, will be investigating. Cuba has offered assistance.

#### **CRASH INTO SEA OFF BELIZE CITY, BELIZE**

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated Mar 9, states: A plane crash late this evening in Belize City has left over a dozen people injured. Shortly after 1700 hrs, this evening, Tropic Air's last flight out of the Municipal Airstrip heading for San Pedro, crashed into the sea just moments after take off. Fourteen people, including the pilot Gerry Proehls were on board the Cessna Caravan when it went down in rough seas a short distance from the runway. There were no fatalities and everyone was evacuated and taken by ambulance to hospitals in the city with varying degrees of cuts, bruises and broken bones. Police quickly cordoned off the area, even as debris from the plane which still sits upside down in the water washed ashore. According to witnesses, a gust of wind at the time of take off, may have disrupted the aircraft as the pilot tried to get airborne. An investigation into the incident has begun.

#### **CRASH, ABBOTSFORD, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated Mar 7, states: Police are looking for a helicopter pilot who left the scene of a crash in Abbotsford that killed a 22-year old Chilliwack woman. The four-seat Bell Jet Ranger crashed onto its side in a farmer's field yesterday morning. "When crews arrived, they found the helicopter lying on its side and two men rendering first aid to a female victim. At this point that woman has passed away, was declared deceased at the scene," says Abbotsford Police spokesperson Const. Shinder Kirk. Kirk says the two men later left the scene, without either identifying himself as the pilot. Gregg McKinley lives next to the field in northwestern Abbotsford, and saw the accident just after the helicopter took off. "I was watching it as the engines were revving and it lifted four to six feet off the ground, and then listed to the west or to the right as the helicopter was facing south. The rotor or blades dug into the soil of the passenger (side) and threw debris into

the air as the rotors came apart, and then the fuselage tipped over onto its right side." McKinley says the man who was piloting the helicopter remained on the scene for two hours. But he says the man in his 20s was apparently in shock and refused to tell police he was the pilot.

#### **CRASH, BOLOGNA, ITALY**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Five people were killed today when their light aircraft crashed in bad weather after takeoff from Italian central city Bologna airport, Italian media reported today. Italian rescue teams said they found the charred bodies of the pilot, co-pilot and three passengers. The Cessna 340 reportedly hit a perimeter fence but managed to clear a nearby road before plunging in flames into a field. Italy's flight safety agency ANSV has opened an investigation into the crash. ANSV said weather conditions were "extremely poor" and visibility was no more than 400 metres.

#### **CRASH, CHESTER COUNTY AIRPORT, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES**

See N2343Z.

#### **CRASH, CHESTER COUNTY AIRPORT, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft crashed near the Chester County Airport yesterday, killing the pilot and his wife, authorities said. Pilot Richard W. Simons and his wife, who lived in the Malvern area, died in the crash, according to Dr. Rodger Rothenberger, the county coroner. The twin-engine Piper Aztec crashed at about 1420 hrs in a field near Route 372, about a mile south of the airport, Hudson said. Only two people were on board the aircraft, he said. Westwood Fire Company chief John Sly said the pilot had not been in contact with the airport before the crash. Simons was an experienced pilot who flew corporate aircraft out of the airport, but was not required to file a flight plan yesterday due to the size of the aircraft, Rothenberger said. Comcast-Spectacor chairman Ed Snider said Richard Simons had been his personal pilot for 20 years and that Phyllis Simons often assisted on the flights. The pilot apparently had taken off from the airport at about 1100 hrs and had returned when the crash occurred, Rothenberger said. He said the aircraft may have clipped a line of trees before going down in a cornfield. Hudson said the Federal Aviation Administration was investigating the crash.

#### **CRASH, MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES**

See N444NM.

#### **CRASH, MICHOCAN STATE, MEXICO**

See XC-COL.

**CRASH, MINA SIYAH, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Five passengers and crew of a police helicopter suffered minor injuries when the helicopter, which was skimming the surface of the water following the power boat races, fell into the sea at around 1150 hrs, barely 20 feet from the shore at Mina Siyahi. Two British nationals, a television cameraman and a photographer, suffered minor injuries and fractures. The pilot and helicopter crew, all UAE nationals, sustained minor bruises and abrasions. Two patients were airlifted to Rashid Hospital, while the other three were transferred by ambulance. Hospital sources confirmed that three of the injured would be discharged within 24 hours. The aircraft, which belonged to the Federal Police, UAE Ministry of Interior, was flying at a low altitude at the time. A witness, who arrived to the crash site later, said he saw the helicopter on its back, in the water, at what he estimates to be around 20 ft from the shore. According to Lt. Col. Hilal, the Dubai Police arrived at the site of the accident within a few minutes of the incident and emergency personnel were deployed to help the injured.

**CRASH, MINA SIYAH, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

Karachi, Mar 5 — Lieutenant-Colonel Essa Hilal of the Federal Police Air Wing of United Arab Emirates (UAE) said that the government has started an investigation on what caused a police helicopter to fall into the sea off Mina Seyahi in Dubai on Thursday (Mar 3), injuring its two passengers and three-member crew. A cameraman and a photographer, who were in the aircraft covering a power boat race when the accident occurred, and a member of the crew, are at the Rashid hospital where they were admitted after the accident. The aircraft's pilot Lt-Col Rabea Saee, who received minor injuries and co-pilot Lt-Col Abdul Razak Al Qidwee, who sustained a broken leg, were discharged the same day after they received treatment, and are recovering back home. The helicopter, an Augusta Bell 412, belonged to the federal police of the Ministry of Interior and was flying at a low altitude at the time of the incident, according to local media report. The cameraman and photographer were filming the Muscat-Dubai Power Boat Championship at the time and witnesses say that the aircraft rolled over into the water, throwing the passengers out. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

**CRASH, PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

London, Mar 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A former US Navy pilot cheated death when he was pulled alive from the wreckage of his stunt aircraft which crashed into the front yard of a home in Perth

yesterday. The pilot was flying his Robin 2160 Aerosport leisure aircraft, which had been fitted with a newly rebuilt engine, when he clipped a power cable and crashed into the front lawn of a home in South Lake in Perth's south. Stan Miller, who was sitting in the lounge room of his rented Moondarra Circle home, said today he heard a loud bang before finding the aircraft upside down in his front yard. Mr Miller said police were quick to respond in blocking off the street, which is only a few kilometres from Jandakot Airport where the aircraft was due to land. Mr Miller said the crash had done little damage to his home but the aircraft was a complete wreck. A police spokesman said today the Australian Transport Safety Bureau would investigate the crash.

**CRASH, TAMWORTH AIRPORT AREA, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA**

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated today, states: The pilot of a light aircraft has died after the plane crashed in a paddock near Tamworth Airport in northern New South Wales. The Cessna 310 crashed and burst into flames at 1330, AEDT, as it tried to return to the airport. Tamworth Airport manager Michael Debois says the pilot knew he was in trouble not long after he left the runway. "I believe he contacted the airport and told them that he had control difficulties and that he was returning to base," Mr Debois said. "That was the last communications that he had." Police say the pilot was the only person on board the aircraft. The Transport Safety Bureau says it knows very little about the cause of the crash. The bureau's deputy director, Kerry Macaulay, says investigators will be casting a wide net when gathering information about why the accident occurred.

**CRASH, TLAPA, MEXICO**

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A federal government helicopter searching for gunmen protecting drug plantations crashed into a mountain in southern Mexico today, killing all nine soldiers and two pilots onboard, authorities said. The crash occurred in the isolated mountains near the town of Tlapa, about 130 miles south-east of Mexico City. The cause was under investigation, but another federal helicopter flying in the region earlier was hit by gunfire from the ground, according to a statement from the federal attorney general's office. The pilot of that first chopper was able to land without incident at a nearby airstrip. The second chopper, a Bell 212 carrying a military officer, eight soldiers and two pilots from the attorney general's office, took off to find the gunmen. It crashed at about 1400 hrs near the village of Igualita, 20 miles south-east of Tlapa in Guerrero state, the statement said.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, BUDAPEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, HUNGARY**

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: An easyJet airliner with 105 passengers on board made an emergency landing at Budapest's international airport today. No injuries were reported. The budget airline flight to the Hungarian capital requested an emergency landing after the aircraft's instruments signalled a technical malfunction, state news agency MTI reported. Firefighters rushed to the aircraft, which touched down smoothly, Budapest Airport spokeswoman Ibolya Forika said.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, MINETA SAN JOSE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 5 — A press report, dated Mar 4, states: A Mexicana Airlines jet returned safely to Mineta San Jose International Airport this morning after one of its two engines blew out after an apparent bird strike. There were 154 people on board Flight 953 to Guadalajara. No injuries were reported. The left engine was hit a few minutes after the Boeing 757 took off at Mineta San Jose at 0945, airport officials say. The aircraft circled and then landed without incident. Fire crews were on hand as a precaution, says airport spokesman Rich Dressler. Smoke could be seen coming out of the engine when the aircraft landed at 1010, according to eyewitnesses at the airport. Mexicana mechanics and officials were to inspect the aircraft to determine the damage, Mr. Dressler says.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, PIEDMONT TRIAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NORTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dateline, Greensboro, N.C., today, states: A small jet landed safely at Piedmont Triad International Airport yesterday night without its front landing gear. The airport's runways were closed as emergency personnel awaited the plane's arrival. The plane landed shortly before 2200 hrs, as its nose scraped against the runway. The five people on board quickly evacuated, and there were no injuries. Crews remained at the scene for hours working to remove the plane from the runway.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated Mar 9, states: An aircraft carrying some 250 people to Singapore had to turn around in midair and head back to San Francisco International Airport after blowing two tyres on take-off, an airport spokesman said this morning. The Singapore Airlines Boeing 747-400 departed around midnight carrying 237 passengers and

21 crew members, said Duty Manager Don D'Innocenti. He said that the aircraft blew two tyres on the left main landing gear during take-off. While airborne, the pilot elected to return to San Francisco and the aircraft landed safely a short time later, said D'Innocenti. The aircraft is being inspected to determine if it sustained damage, and if it did not, D'Innocenti said, the aircraft should depart again at 1800. Some of the passengers from the affected flight will be making the 12-hour trip to Singapore on United Airlines or other Singapore Airlines flights, said D'Innocenti.

#### **GROUNDING OF AIRCRAFT SERVICE, UNITED STATES**

See N370V.

#### **GROUNDING OF AIRCRAFT, CANADA**

See "Emergency Landing, Varadero, Cuba."

#### **INCIDENT, MANCHESTER AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM**

See AP-BGO.

#### **N2019Q**

London, Mar 7 — A press report, dated Mar 6, states: Two people were injured when a small aircraft crashed about 12 miles east of Rochester, Minn, today, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The FAA said the aircraft, a Cessna 177, went down near the intersection of Highway 63 and County Road 21 at about 1445 hrs. A pilot and one passenger were on board the aircraft. Both were transported to St. Mary's Hospital. The FAA is investigating the cause of the crash.

London, Mar 7 — Cessna 177 B (Cardinal RG), N2019Q, operated by Carlton Johnson, with three persons on board, crashed in Rochester, Minnesota, area, at 1946, UTC, Mar 6. The aircraft was substantially damaged.

#### **N2343Z**

London, Mar 7 — Piper PA-23-250, N2343Z, operated by Bar Aviation, C/o Bruce Thompson, with two persons on board, crashed in a field at Chester County, Pennsylvania, at 1915, UTC, Mar 6. The aircraft was destroyed and both persons on board died.

#### **N370V**

London, Mar 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Federal Aviation Administration has grounded a South Florida commuter aircraft service. An aircraft owned by Platinum Jet Management crashed last month during takeoff at Teterboro Airport in New Jersey. Twenty people were injured in the crash, one critically. Today, the FAA issued a rare emergency cease-and-desist order grounding all the company's aircrafts. The action followed the owner of Platinum Jet Management refusing to turn over some documents pertaining to the crash investigation. The U.S. Attorney in Newark subpoenaed records as part of the FAA's

investigation into the crash. The FAA says some documents were turned over, but not all that were requested. The lawyer for Platinum Jet Management says the requests are more than necessary for the investigation. He added that the National Transportation Safety Board investigation into the cause of the crash is leaning toward mechanical problems.

#### **N4024B**

London, Mar 5 — Bellanca 17-30A, N4024B, privately operated, reported engine loss and attempted to land on a road 10 miles north of Shelbyville, Tennessee, at 0300, local time, Mar 4. Aircraft destroyed.

#### **N444NM**

London, Mar 4 — Piper PA-32-300 (Cherokee Six), N444NM, privately operated, crashed under unknown circumstances at Dunnellon, Florida, at 1647, local time, Mar 2. The aircraft was destroyed, the two persons on board were seriously injured.

#### **N703TS**

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: A small business jet skidded off the runway after landing at Teterboro Airport tonight. There were no injuries. The Hawker aircraft carrying two passengers and two crew members from Columbus, Ohio, landed on Runway 1 around 2215 hrs, a spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said. It wound up in a muddy area about 200 to 300 ft off the end of the runway, said Port Authority spokesman Tony Ciavolella. All four people aboard walked off uninjured, Ciavolella said, and there was no visible damage to the aircraft. The airport, which is used primarily by corporate jets, was shut down until the aircraft could be towed out of the mud, Ciavolella said. What caused the jet to skid off the runway was not immediately determined, but Ciavolella noted that it had snowed this afternoon and there were high winds throughout the day and evening.

London, Mar 9 — BAe HS-125-700A, N703TS, veered off the runway on landing at Teterboro Airport, New Jersey, at 0150, Mar 8. No injuries reported.

#### **N8382U**

London, Mar 9 — Cessna 172F, N8382U, crashed near Hot Springs, Arkansas, at 1000, Mar 9, while on a flight from Pine Bluff, AR, to Caddo Gap, AR. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

#### **XC-COL**

London, Mar 10 — Israel Aircraft Industries Westwind 1124 transport aircraft, XC-COL, owned and operated by the State of Colima, Mexico crashed following a loss of control near Sapotito, in the State of Michoacan, Mexico, at approximately 1530, CST, Feb 24. The two crew members and the five passengers were killed.

#### **YV-21CP**

London, Mar 10 — Cessna 500 Citation I, YV-21CP, operator Air Global, abandoned its first approach to Charallave-Oscar Machado Zuloaga Airport, Venezuela. As the aircraft broke through the cloud base at 800 feet during the second attempt to land at runway 28, it was not properly lined up with the runway. To avoid hitting the control tower, the aircraft turned to starboard, it then crashed and burned at 0933, Mar 8. There were two persons on board, both crew were killed.

#### **YV21CP**

London, Mar 9 — A press report, dated Mar 8, states: A light airplane crashed today killing its two occupants at Caracas airport, in Venezuela. The twin-engine Cessna Citation light-airplane crashed outside the runway, said the president of the transportation facilities, Martin Tovar. Major Javier Perez stated that the cause of the accident is not known yet, but it is attributed to bad weather in the area. Perez said that aboard the light airplane, with the registration number YV21CP, were the pilot and the copilot. The Cessna Citation had taken off from the city of Maturin.

#### **ZS-FNN**

London, Mar 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Engine trouble forced a pilot to carry out an emergency landing in his Cessna C150 aircraft near Tongaat in KwaZulu-Natal yesterday, a spokesperson for the Civil Aviation Authority said. The spokesperson said the pilot had been with a student on a training flight when the aircraft developed engine trouble. "The pilot and the student were not seriously injured. We believe the damage to the plane is extensive," said the spokesperson.

## Product Recalls



#### **DAIMLERCHRYSLER MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: DaimlerChrysler Japan Co. said today it will recall for repairs PT Cruiser cars and Actros trucks. In a report filed with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, the Japanese arm of DaimlerChrysler AG said it will fix a total of 2,118 PT Cruisers imported between April 2000 and September 2001. It said the vehicles may catch fire because improper installation of the fuel supply hose may cause the hose to crack, possibly leading to fuel dripping onto the exhaust gas pipe. DaimlerChrysler Japan also said it will repair a total of 474 Actros trucks imported between December 1997 and December 2000. Their engines may stall, as electric wires of the truck's

alternator may snap due to friction with the truck body, it said.

**ISUZU ERGA BUSES**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Isuzu Motors Ltd said they will recall Erga buses. Isuzu Motor said it will recall a total of 212 Erga buses made between August 2000 and October 2004 because nuts for driving wheels may become loose.

**METAL CHARMS, UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Mar 3 — In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Hirschberg Schutz & Co. Inc., of Warren, N.J., is voluntarily recalling about 2.8 million metal charms. The recalled metal charms contain high levels of lead, posing a serious risk of lead poisoning to young children. CPSC received a report of a six-year-old girl who mouthed these charms worn on a homemade necklace. She developed elevated lead levels in her blood that may be related to the charms. Lead poisoning in children is associated with behavioral problems, learning disabilities, hearing problems and growth retardation. The recalled metal charms were sold under the name "Charming Thoughts". Most of the charms are silver-coloured with small silver loops. They were sold in packages of two to 12 pieces. The packages are marked "The Card Connection," "Charming Thoughts" and "Hirschberg Schutz & Co. Inc." The metal charms are various shapes including small hearts, crowns, birds, picture frames, perfume bottles and a cross. Some of the metal charms have small blue, pink or yellow stones and

are printed with words including "princess," "congratulations," "city girl," "world traveler" and "life's blessings." "Insert photo here," "cherish," "love," and "honor" are printed on the picture frame charms. The metal charms were sold as decorations for place cards, greeting cards, collages, memory boxes, gift cards, scrapbooks, invitations and gift bags. The charms also can be attached to necklaces and bracelets. The recalled metal charms were sold at Michaels Stores from July 2002 through February 2005, at Recollections stores from October 2004 through February 2005, and at Hancock Fabrics stores from January 2004 through January 2005 for between \$3 to \$4. All of the charms were manufactured in China. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**SHIN CATERPILLAR MITSUBISHI WHEEL LOADERS**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Shin Caterpillar Mitsubishi Ltd., a joint venture between Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. and Caterpillar Inc. of the United States, said it will recall a wheel loader, a type of construction vehicle. Shin Caterpillar Mitsubishi said it will fix a total of 280 wheel loaders made between November 1999 and October 2004. The vehicle may stall, as its axle shafts may snap due to inappropriate processing of components, it added.

**SUZUKI MOTOR VEHICLES**

London, Mar 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Suzuki Motor Corp

said they will recall Swift compact cars. Suzuki Motor said it will fix a total of 983 Swifts made between September 2000 and May 2002. The car may stall because its differential side bearing may break, causing oil leakage.



**ITALY**

Genoa, Mar 7 — Port situation Mar 7: Genoa: One bulk carrier awaiting berth. Average delays in berthing 12 - 24 hrs. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. Savona: No vessels awaiting normal berths. Two vessels awaiting special berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Mar 4 — Durban's Island View Berth 8 will close at 0600, Mar 7, for urgent mechanical repairs to critical equipment. The work is expected to be completed by Mar 21, but an announcement will be made in due course confirming when the berth will be available for use again. During the works period, the berth will be closed for all shipping operations including bunkering.

**SYRIA**

Lattakia, Feb 19 — Waiting time is presently 24 hours at Lattakia and 72 hours at Tartous. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.



Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbott Point	07-Mar-2005	Coal: 13 vessels due by 3/4; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Brisbane	07-Mar-2005	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 1 vessel berthed; 4 vessels due by 10/4; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	07-Mar-2005	Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 48 anchored; 44 vessels due by 29/4. Up to 30 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; waiting time vary greatly due to different stem supply issues.
Dampier	07-Mar-2005	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 10 vessels due by 16/3; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 11 vessels due by 28/3; up to 6 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.
Gladstone	07-Mar-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed, 5 anchored; 32 vessels due by 10/4; up to 8 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; Shiploader No. 2 will be shutdown for maintenance for 4 days from 14-18/3. Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed, 1 anchored; 5 vessels due by 23/3; 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.
Hay Point	07-Mar-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed, 5 anchored; 10 vessels due by 18/3. 1-6 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability; Berth No. 2 will be shut down from 2-14/3.
Newcastle	07-Mar-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels berthed, 20 anchored; 20 vessels due by 18/3; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel berthed, 7 anchored; 7 vessels due by 19/3; no unallocated vessels; 8-10 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal, coal product problems with some shippers and cargo receipt.
Port Hedland	07-Mar-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 4 vessels due by 14/3; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 2 vessels berthed and loading; 4 vessels due by 13/3; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 2 vessels due by 9/3; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Westyard "D" berth: 4 vessels due by 12/3; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion, maintenance shutdowns and cargo availability.
Port Kembla	07-Mar-2005	Coal: 1 vessel berthed, 2 anchored; 13 vessels due by 21/4; CB-1: 3 vessels due by 7/4; up to 10 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	07-Mar-2005	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 15 vessels due by 24/3; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Shippers line-up is subject to change at short notice; cargo grade shortages and stockpile problems may result in ships berthing out of turn. Shippers advise that stores, air freight and crew baggage can no longer be delivered to vessels or taken off at berth. With immediate effect, all stores, airfreight and bags must be delivered/removed by launch.
<b>Brazil</b>		
Paranagua	06-Mar-2005	Fourteen vessels berthed of which 1 sugar loader, 2 fertiliser dischargers, 1 soya loader, 1 reefer loader, 2 pellets loaders, 6 other loaders, 1 container discharger; 15 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 2 pellets, 5 soya, 8 others; 36 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	06-Mar-2005	Three vessels berthed of which 2 wheat loaders, 1 soya bean loader; 1 vessel waiting in roads; 40 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	06-Mar-2005	Sixteen vessels berthed; 17 vessels waiting in roads; 109 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Sao Sebastiao	06-Mar-2005	Five vessels berthed, 5 waiting in roads; 5 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitoria	06-Mar-2005	Ubu: 2 iron ore loaders; 22 vessels waiting in roads; 9 vessels due over the next 7 days.

**Port Conditions**

<b>Bulgaria</b>		
Bourgas	07-Mar-2005	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading, 3 discharging; 5 vessels waiting in roads, of which 4 to load (2 coils, 1 sunflower seeds, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate), 1 to discharge iron ore; 7 vessels due, of which 5 to load, 2 to discharge. Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 28 February - 6 March: Thirty vessels in port operating of which 18 loading, 6 discharging, 6 discharging/loading; no vessels waiting in roads.
Varna	07-Mar-2005	
<b>Chile</b>		
Antofagasta	07-Mar-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 12 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Valparaiso	07-Mar-2005	Four vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 3 vessels anchored; 16 vessels due this week.
<b>Egypt</b>		
Alexandria	07-Mar-2005	Thirty-four vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 25 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 4 tankers, 1 containers, 1 passenger vessel; 12 vessels dry-docked; 19 vessels at inner anchorage, 8 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	07-Mar-2005	Twenty vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 13 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 4 containers; 1 vessel at outer anchorage, 6 at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	07-Mar-2005	Ten vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 1 general cargo, 8 bulk carriers, 1 containers; 1 vessel at outer anchorage.
Suez Canal	07-Mar-2005	Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 19 Southbound.
<b>Israel</b>		
Ashdod	07-Mar-2005	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 10 vessels discharging at berth (6 general cargo, 3 bulkers, 1 car carrier), 4 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 9 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (6 general cargo, 3 bulker), 7 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (6 containers, 1 tanker); 1 vessel awaiting orders; 20 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	07-Mar-2005	No labour problems. Seven vessels discharging at berth (4 general cargo, 2 bulkers, 1 car carrier), 5 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 1 tanker); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (1 containers, 2 tankers); 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 23 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
<b>Nigeria</b>		
Bonny offshore	09-Mar-2005	No vessels berthed, 1 anchored, 4 due.terminal (Mar 7)
Forcados terminal	09-Mar-2005	One vessel loading at berth, 3 anchored, 2 due.
Qua Iboe terminal	09-Mar-2005	Production at Oso platform remains low. One vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored, 4 due.
<b>Pakistan</b>		
Karachi	01-Mar-2005	Three vessels loading at berth (1 rice, 2 cement), 5 discharging at berth (2 phosphate, 1 coal, 1 sugar, 1 jute), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (4 containers, 1 cement), 4 container vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; no vessels bunkering; none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 1 coal vessel due, with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	01-Mar-2005	Four vessels discharging at berth (2 wheat, 1 fuel oil, 1 iron ore), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 wheat, 1 HSD, 1 paraxylene).
<b>Poland</b>		
Gdansk	07-Mar-2005	Four vessels loading at berth (2 coal, 1 general cargo, 1 grain), 2 discharging at berth (1 grain, 1 general cargo); 9 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, 1 tanker waiting in roads; 19 vessels due.
Gdynia	07-Mar-2005	Three vessels loading at berth (2 bulkers, 1 wood), 4 discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 grain, 2 bulkers); 17 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 50 vessels due.
<b>Romania</b>		
Constantza	01-Mar-2005	Forty-six vessels in port operating of which 37 loading (20 general cargo, 7 bulkers, 3 bagged chemicals, 7 tankers), 9 discharging (4 general cargo, 4 bulkers, 1 tanker); 2 vessels waiting in roads, both to load, of which 1 bagged chemicals, 1 tanker.

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**Port Conditions**

<b>Russia</b>		
Novorossiysk	07-Mar-2005	Seventeen vessels in port operating, of which 15 loading, 2 discharging; 16 vessels waiting in roads, of which 15 to load (1 lead/copper, 1 aluminium, 1 steel billets/pipes, 1 barley, 1 pipes, 1 copper, 1 WRIC/pipes, 1 scrap, 1 slabs, 1 bulk cement, 4 diesel oil, 1 steel billets), 1 to discharge bulk sugar; 75 vessels due. Oil terminal: no tankers berthed; 10 tankers in roads, all to load, of which 8 crude oil, 2 fuel oil; 7 tankers due, all to load crude oil.
Tuapse	04-Mar-2005	Oil products: 4 vessels berthed, all loading, of which 3 gasoil, 1 naphtha; 2 vessels in roads, 1 to load crude oil, 1 naphtha; 4 vessels due by 5/3, of which 2 fuel oil, 2 gasoil.
<b>Spain</b>		
Sagunto	07-Mar-2005	Twenty-eight vessels in port operating of which 18 discharging (17 steel products, 1 anhydrous ammonia, 1 vehicles), 3 loading (1 bulk fertiliser, 1 baled scrap, 1 cement), 6 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo, 1 vessel loading/discharging steel products; no vessels outside commercial wharf; 3 days berthing delay at present.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>		
Colombo	07-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. Six vessels loading at berth (5 containers/feeders, 1 Ro/Ro), 16 vessels discharging at berth (10 containers/feeders, 1 bulk clinker, 2 bagged fertiliser, 1 bagged maize, 1 bagged cement, 1 general cargo); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 4 vessels dry-docked; 8 vessels due (7 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement), with no delays expected.
<b>Turkmenistan</b>		
Turkmenbashi	04-Mar-2005	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed discharging crude oil; 7 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 3 gasoline, 1 fuel oil, 2 light gasoline, 1 unknown cargoes.
<b>United States</b>		
Galveston	08-Mar-2005	ADM-Farmland terminal: 2-3 days delays.
Houston	08-Mar-2005	Pilots report normal 40 ft. 0 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	08-Mar-2005	Kalama export terminal: 2 days delay; United Harvest terminal: no delays.
New Orleans	08-Mar-2005	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 2-3 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 3 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 5-7 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 4 days delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 5-7 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 5-7 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: no delays; Peavey/Paulina: 1 day's delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 1-2 days delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays.
Portland, OR	08-Mar-2005	Grain terminal: 3 days delay; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays.
Seattle	08-Mar-2005	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 2 days delay.
Tacoma	08-Mar-2005	Temco terminal: 2 days delay.

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